

Saturday, Dec. 13

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Dear Daddy and Mother,

My last classes of the quarter were over this noon and now come the finals! My first final is Wednesday from 8:30-10:00 – it's journalism and will be easy. I turned in 800 inches at the end of the quarter this week and it's about highest in the class. The other girls turned in 300-400 so I'm way out ahead of them. Two fellows turned in more than I – one had 850 and one 805. So I feel pretty good about that. 800 inches is the goal I set for myself. So I'll get any where from 4 hours of "B" to 6 hours of "A" as my journalism grade. Of course my other two grades aren't so definitely decided as yet. I am almost certain of a C in Costume Design. And my Chem. final will decide whether I'll get a C or a D in that. I've been working on that since Wednesday.

My Costume final is Thursday from 3-5 p.m. and chem. is my last final – Friday from 10-12 a.m. Saturday five of us – including Phyllis – are taking the Rocket from Des Moines. We have our reservations. I'll buy a round trip bus ticket from Ames to Des Moines and a round trip ticket from Des Moines to St. Cloud. Then I'll get a one-way ticket home. I think it'll be easier to take the train to St. Cloud. It'll be the same one as last year. Gets in about 10:30 doesn't it? I can hardly wait to get home. Then I'll sleep for awhile, anyway. I want to do a lot of reading and also work on getting ready for journalism next quarter. We're going to have weekly discussions and each student will be responsible for leading one forum. So I'll want to talk it over with you, Daddy, and do research work on it.

I've got to have my eyes tested again and that may involve a new pair of glasses. So I guess that's my Christmas present. Maybe they just need resting. I can see where I should have had them tested last fall as you wanted me to.

And my face has been broken out all fall, one crap right after another. I can't control it any longer so I'd like to have Dr. Goehrs look at it and really get it cleaned up for good and all. It looks so awful, it's really disgusting. And I don't want to take any chances of having bad scars. The girl next door to me had a perfectly clear skin all her life. Suddenly, last august, her skin practically erupted into a mass of pimples and it looks frightful. And that can be a definite handicap in getting good personnel reports in college and in getting a good job afterwards.

This morning in Costume Design we were trying to fix the hair of one of the girls. She had let a freshman cut it for her and the result was that her hair was just hacked up – all sorts of different lengths all over her head and her hair just stuck out in every which direction. Our teacher said to her "you've done a very very foolish thing by letting someone spoil your hair for months. Don't you know that these college years are the most important time for you to look your very best?"

This girl does beautiful work in Costume but she herself is a mess – throws on anything, uses colors that are horribly unbecoming, won't wear makeup and has a greasy face, doesn't wear nail polish, stands in awkward postures. The other day our teacher asked her why she didn't

work with her hair more and train it a certain way. She said “Oh, I don’t know. I don’t have any time for thing like that these days.”

She’ll go thru school accumulating a wonderful set of grades but as soon as she’s thrown into the personal contacts and impressions involved in getting a job she’ll be lost. People look at you first.

Yesterday I saw a copy of the personality chart each teacher has to fill out for each student at the end of the quarter and I was astounded at the minute personal details that we’re judged on. Personal appearances listed nearly 15 items:

1. Freedom from unpleasant body odors
2. Fingernails well groomed
3. Make up
4. Hair combed and attractive
5. Addicted to fads in clothes

Just everything. And it certainly made me check up on myself. I’m not always so neat as I could be. And then personality and attitude are two other important factors: “aggressive,” “shirks hard work,” “belligerent,” “shy.”

Well, this is a well-round education, all right.

We’re facing final week and our work must be finished inspite of the war: the thing we never really believed in as dangerous to us.

Marlow sent me a stamp either Daddy or boys might want. I’m enclosing it.

I’m sending Daddy’s present so don’t open it! I got the check and it is more than enough. Thank you very much. Next quarter I’m taking Foods Chemistry, Clothing (evening), Foods and Nutrition (cooking), Tech. Journalism and House Planning – 16 hours in all. – must close – Write!

P.S. What does every one want for Christmas?

Love,

Virginia