

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Another hard week over but this one is mid-quarter yipie! But I'm ready for it, except that I'd better get another 110 inches for journalism.

My board is due tomorrow, isn't it? I've been trying to turn over a new leaf and keep track of things more accurately.

I've never had such an immense appetite before. Maybe I've relaxed since Al has finally left. I know I haven't been able to eat for several weeks. This waiting has been quite a strain. Especially when I knew I couldn't marry him and go with him. I wish I knew the answers to why things happen the way they do.

Did I tell you about our new room mate? Her name is Kay Haworth. I like her very much tho we've hardly had a chance to get acquainted, I'm gone so much. I'm afraid they're going to move her out at the end of the [rep?] weeks and I don't like it. Helen and I are having just one continuous string of room mates and its not easy to adjust to one person right after another. It makes me mad although it's Helen's problem more than mine because I'm never here and she is.

Daddy I wrote Babe [Pehrison?] a letter and sent it to the college. There you said you were getting him a job in Willmar, so will you intercept the letter when it comes into the college and forward it, please? It won't go out from here until this evening's mail. I've been going to write that guy all fall and now that I've finally done it, I'd like to have him get it! It will probably be in the same mail this is in.

Feb. 14 is the Engineer's Ball and Howard will be knighted that night into the Order of St. Pat. I think he's also going to wear tails instead of his two- oh, boy! Please send me my rose formal. If [Foundels?] won't accept the white one, please send it back to me. I'm awfully sorry, mother.

Did you see my by-line story and my sports pages in the Student? I got another theater pass for the by-line and for working so long and hard that week.

I'm working on some ideas for re-decorating the living rooms Mother? Will you please send me the size of the living room? And what colors are there in the rug? How much will redecorating cost and how much can you spend? I love that House Planning course. (Remember my hobby?)

The first house we planned was a tiny two-story minimum size Cape Cod cottage. I had a living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen and plenty of closet space. The plan we are working on now is a large one-story house in modernistic style. Minie bar, living room, dining alcove, kitchen, bath and two bedrooms. The living room dining cove, bath, and one bedroom are strung out along one wall and all have the same exposure of course- that entire side of the house is nothing but windows. The house is built into the side of a hill and is supposed to have a "view." I love it. [Ron?] says it's the "happy house we're going to have when he comes home from the navy"- in Texas overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

Foods is also fun. First of all we made tea and then coffee. Then we made fondant and I had to make brown sugar fondant. You know I've never been able to make it before but this turned out just perfect-smooth creamy- "standard product!" Maybe because we use thermometers. Then we made caramels and butterscotch and I had another standard product. Then we made fudge and divinity and my divinity was sort of messy I got too much egg white in it.

Last week we experimented with all different kinds of starch-wheat, flour, cornstarch, wheat starch, arrowroot, corn meal, potato starch, rice, rice starch-and there we made all kinds of white sauce- thin, medium, thick, very thick. My "very thick" was a [mess?] of lumps. This week we did cereals and next week start on vegetables. I like it. Incidentally, Cream of Wheat isn't a good idea as a cereal. It's just a mess of starch with the most nourishing sections of the grain removed.

Next Saturday we start sewing up our dresses in Clothing. They have to be silk and mine is going to be brown sugar crepe with white stuffed collar and cuffs. In my clothing next quarter we stuff a dress figure to our own size and make a woolen suit.

I think there was there was quite a bit of black taffeta left over from my formal shirt. Will you please send me that, too?

I must start studying Foods as I have my mid-term Thursday. Marlow was [worried?] about the brownies and say the fellows in his office have been hounding him for my address-How about sending me some,too? We are being rationed of sugar, too. Coffee has gone up to 7c a cup at the Union. We can't get coca cola from our "coke" machine at the Student Everyone is [writing?]- except me-everyone is rationing everything. All my love, Virginia -Write soon.

P.S. I have to buy another lamp for my desk. Mine's broken beyond repair.