

Sunday, August 2, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Only three more weeks after this one.

This six weeks has been harder than anyone during the school year. There is so much to be done. I got to school from 8 to 2 p.m. every day- six days of the week. I have this report on soy bean fabrics for Textile Economics and the radio script to write. I have complete charge of the entire 15 minute broadcast. I have to write the scripts, arrange for a faculty member to interview me. Martha Duncan—have you heard of her? – she conducts the Homemaker's Hour over W01—goes on vacation next week and while she's gone give of us take her broadcasts. I go on some time next week or the week after. I'll let you know.

Meal Planning is a [consumers?] work in itself. We plan and prepare all sorts of meals on different budgets. Our first luncheon we served yesterday for 10c a plate! It was very good. We had:

spanish rice

fresh apricot salad on lettuce leaves. toasted whole wheat bread strips with butter browned into there---milk.

Then we planned a day's menu for 5 people at 40c per person. I will send you the menu. It is perfectly balanced and contains all the vitamins and minerals needed daily. By adding slightly the amounts you can just serve it at home. I'm hoster for the dinner we give next Tuesday and that means I cook it. We're having a pot roast.

My next project is planning 3 meals for my family—that means for you—for 35c a person. I'll send you the menus and also those of another 3 meals at 40c a person. There are all perfectly balanced. When I get home, I'll try to plan a couple weeks menus. Then we plan a coffee hour at 7c a person, a formal dinner and a tea. The hostesses have to plan the table decorations and setting and everything has to be perfect. I like it.

We know a little bit more about Fred's status with the draft board. He'll be called the last of August. He had his physical and was put in 1A. When he is called the last of August they'll take him to Des Moines and give him his final physical. If they put him in 1A they'll induct him, give him a uniform and a 10 day furlough. If they put him in 1B they'll send him back to Ames and not call him until the next 1B quota is sent out from the Sary County. He would volunteer for that and this get a better chance of getting into the medical division. If he is in 1B he may not be called until after the fall quarter starts and if he gets back into school he may get deferred until the end of the fall quarter.

There is a faint, faint possibility that he may be put into 1B because he has only "3" vision in one eye. And that's pretty bad. Standard vision is 20:20 and his is 20:3! He says that if his left eye were a little worse than 20 he couldn't get into the army at all.

What ever he goes into—1A or 1B—he'll be in restricted service—a non-combatant! For that I am very grateful and thankful. He won't have to carry a gun and get into the ditches and fight.

He'll be serving behind the lines. Of course he'll be sent abroad anyway and will be as close to the front as possible but to me it's something a little more reassuring to [hold?] onto.

If he is in 1A—which will probably happen—I want him to visit us for part of his 10 day furlough. And I want you to be sure and ask him, Mother. I think he will still be here Aug. 22 so you will meet him then.

We've gone together a little over six months now. There are only four week-ends left, counting the one you will be here. I think you will like him. You may not at first because he probably won't say very much. He'll listen and take everything in like Daddy does but when he does say something it won't be just chatter. It will be work listening to—like Daddy. He is very much like Daddy. He gets just as disgusted with me as Daddy and for the very same reasons. He has Daddy's principles and self-discipline. He has many faults—he's pretty hot Tempered once he's aroused, he's very self-confident almost to a point of conceit. I can't possibly describe him. You will meet him and I hope you'll like him. But it takes quite a while to really find out for yourself what there is to him. It's taken me 6 months and there are many many times when I realize I still know him very little.

But I do know this. We aren't going to wait 10 years—until we're 30—to get married. I will graduate and get a job and work. And when this war is over, I'm going to marry him no matter how many years of school he has left. It isn't sane, sensible or practical. He feels the same way about it that you do, Daddy. We won't even be engaged. But I'm going to marry him as soon as they stop fighting even if I have to work the rest of my life. Other couples have done it.

When are you coming to Ames? I am through with finals Friday noon. But I don't see how I'll have any time to pack before that. Could you possibly stay over night? Mother + El could stay with me.

Could you possibly stay over night? My desire to get home is overshadowed by the fact that, to do it, I will have to leave Fred. I would give anything I've got to stay down here so that I could be with him until he goes. I love him so much. It would help if I could just stay over even a few more days. But that initiation is the following Monday. Could you please come on Friday and leave Saturday? Then we could have Friday night when Fred could be with us. I know this is asking a lot but it means so much to me. He leaves Aug. 27 and his furlough will probably last from Aug 28 to Sept. 7. I guess I can stand it. I've got to. Please let me know as soon as possible what your plans are for coming down here.

Love,

Virginia