

Friday, August 21, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I got a mileage map of Minnesota and Iowa and figured out a time schedule. I can't tell you where or when I'll meet you unless I have some idea when you'll get here. And it will be hard for you to get in touch with me if I don't meet you because I haven't idea where I will stay even now. I haven't any way of getting out to the Powers because their farm is 5 miles west of Ames. So you can't stop there on your way in.

I just called Mrs. Powers and told her that you wouldn't be here until after dinner Sunday night. She said that she had written and invited you out to dinner. And when she found out that you wouldn't be able to come to dinner, she has asked you to spend the night there. I explained that you might now be in until late but she said that she didn't mind at all. She wants you to stay there very much and begged to get you to promise that you will. So I said I'd use my influence. She can take care of you three and I will stay in town. I think it is a very nice arrangement. You will probably hate to impose upon her but she really she does want to do this for you and she is anxious to see you.

I don't see any reason why we won't have time to get everything in that we've both planned. I only wrote you so hastily because I wanted to keep the time element under control. It is 230 miles from Fairmont to Ames, going through Blue Earth. If you leave Fairmont at 2:30 p.m. as you said you would, travel at 40 miles an hour, you would get into Ames about 8:30. And if you stop for an hour in Blue Earth, you'll get into Ames at 9:30. I told Mrs. Powers that and she said she would plan on your for about 10. I warned her in the first place that it would be late but she insisted that it was perfectly all right.

So Fred and I will meet you in the lobby of the Sheldon-Munn Hotel between 9:30 and 10. If that isn't all right I'll try to think of some place for you to wire me.

Mrs. Powers said that she thought it would be nice to have sort of an early breakfast for you so you could have a nice visit and listen to my broadcast out there at the farm. I broadcast at 9. It is 115 miles from Ames to Cedar Rapids. If we leave Ames at 12 noon we'll probably leave Ames in the middle of the morning. And then can visit the Amanas. It is less than 100 miles from Cedar Rapids to Osage because it's 110 miles from Cedar Rapids to the Minnesota border. So, if we leave Cedar Rapids around 5, we should get into Osage about 6. This is all traveling at 40 miles an hour. So I can't see why we can't get everything in. But please don't forget about the time when you're visiting, that's all I ask.

I'm all through with finals and they were very easy. I won't get my grades for more than a week so I won't be able to tell you what I got when you arrive. However, I will speculate for you right here and now so as to sort of the rest of your minds. I remember last year when Daddy arrives in Ames. He called me and said, "Hello, Virginia, this is Daddy. What grades did you get?" So I think I've got 2 A's and a B or C. Maybe an A, 2 B's and a C. That's all I can say right now. I've fallen too short.

I haven't begun to pack and I have to finish an article for the Homemaker and some reports for Social Psych. The journalists are also planning a surprise farwell party for Fred and they are going to give him a gift. I'm not the only one who's going to hate to see that guy go. He's going to be missed more than anyone else on our staffs.

I shouldn't have much more than my three pieces of luggage to take home this time. I'm going to store nearly everything else. Helen, my roommate, has already left. She is going home to get their car and then is going straight to Chanute Field, Ill., to spend some time with her fellow. There won't be any 13 classification for Fred because they've just abolished it. Next week this time he'll either be 1A or 4F--- in other words, either in the army or completely rejected. I hope he's a complete physical mess, frankly.

I think you can wire me in care of the Telegraph office here and I'll call there off and on to check up. I hope all is this is satisfactory. You shouldn't get here after 10 and I imagine you'll get in before that. And the Powers are expecting you. We'll see you at the Sheldon-Munn Sunday night between 9:30-10.

Love, Virginia

P.S. I think Mrs. Spinner will be here, too. I just called Mary Lou.

Save this map + bring it with you, you'll have to go thru Ames- well from the college.