

Sunday, Nov 1, 1942

Dear Grandma,

Thank you so very much for the birthday dollar you sent me. I spent it immediately for something I've wanted for quite awhile and didn't feel I could treat myself to it—a gold chain to wear with my sweaters. I think of you every time I see it and thank you.

I hope you and Mother had a nice trip to Michigan and I hope Mother gets a good rest. I'm leaning the meaning of the words "There's no rest for the weary!" Right now I'm busy writing and trying to sell articles to magazines like Better Homes and Gardens and Country Gentleman for a course in journalism. I've decided to write under my own name because I don't think I can improve upon it so Virginia Brainard will be my pen name for the rest of my life whether I change my name or not. And I'm leaving out the middle initial, too!

I had pictures for applications for jobs taken last week and they weren't very good of me. I looked so tired and haggard! However, I may not have to use them because nearly all the journalists get jobs in Chicago and they go into Chicago to make personal applications. It is so exciting to be in my last year of college and to be looking ahead to getting a job in journalism.

Fred is liking his work at Camp Dodge very much and comes up to Ames about every two weeks. He's been promoted to corporal already and has been in service only two months. He thinks he'll be in Camp Dodge for the duration. I hope so—

Love,
Virginia