

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I'm sorry I haven't written for so long again but I've had laryngitis this week and no voice! Remember how I suddenly lost my voice during Christmas vacation of my senior year in high school? Well, it happened again 3 days ago and hasn't come back yet. It was sort of fun at first but now it's annoying. I'm doctoring it and have been to the hospital so don't worry. It will wear off.

Your long letter came yesterday and I enjoyed it so much. I'm sure looking forward to Christmas. A month from today I'll be home. My finals are over Dec. 15 or 16---one may be changed. Should I try to get a reservation on the Rocket for Dec. 16 or 17? Tomorrow or Friday we have to report to the registrar our time of leaving Ames and general route to our destination so the railroads can make arrangements to accommodate all students who wish to get home for Christmas. Otherwise, all other transportation may be frozen. I think I'll tell them I plan to take a train north from Des Moines to Minneapolis on Dec. 16 or 17. If I go on the Rocket I'll have to make reservations at a specified time in the near future. If I take another train I'll probably have to get my ticket at a specified time anyway. Everyone is all excited about this transportation problem. I guess we'll just do as we're told.

I hope that Fred can come up to St. Cloud, too. and so does he. We've talked about it several times but have planned to do many things that fell through at the last minute that I hesitate to count on anything. He's in the army now and there just isn't any way of planning things in advance. I never know when he's coming up to Ames until he's actually on the campus. He usually knows a day or half a day or an hour in advance that he can get away but there isn't time to write because it takes 2 days for mail to get from Camp Dodge to Ames. He didn't come up for the Home Ec. Ball so I went to the show with Bob Jess. We had fun but I was sort of disappointed. However, that's the army. It would be nice to write him anyway sometime the middle of December when he knows if he's going to get a Christmas furlough or not. But it's a long trip to St. Cloud and expensive and even worse from St. Cloud to Rock Rapids and I couldn't take him to Olivia so he'd have to go around through Minneapolis. And then, too, he probably won't have much time and his family will want to see as much of him as possible. Well, it may work out, I hope. It would be pretty wonderful if he could come but I hate to get my hopes up. He looks so well groomed and clean cut and solid---like the soldiers you saw on the train. He's a different person physically and mentally from the fellow you met in August. Just now he is somewhere in the United States taking a troop to its destination. I don't know just what he does. Had a letter yesterday saying he'd be gone for awhile and couldn't tell me where he was going or how long he'd be gone. Hope he can get back for Thanksgiving.

How is Daddy's arm? I hope those treatments help. I'm sending a copy of the special edition of the Student that we put out last night. It's celebrating the publication of Dr. Ross's history of Iowa State---he's Ron Ross's father---it is a very interesting book and I read proof on it this summer. I think you'll enjoy the paper very much, Daddy. We went downtown to the office of the Ames Tribune and got some old wooden type for the headlines on the front page and spent 4 days rounding up the old cuts for the issue. It was a lot of fun putting it out. You might have Eleanor show it to Hod. I'm also sending up one of my own issues of the Student---I am sort of

proud of the front page make up on this one so you might take a look at it and see the type of work I do. El could take this over to Hod, too. One bad feature of the front page is the headlines in the lower left hand corner---a box like head like "Bond Replaces Decorations..." should never be run directly under another two column head like "Noisemakers Replace Torches..." But it was unavoidable that night. And a long story like "Alta Masterson Wins Sweepstakes" should have subheds in it but there wasn't room for them. You also might read "Mine Kolumpf" on the edit page (page 3) by Dick Roberts who is Fred's and my friend. It's pretty clever and also a good system, it seems to me! Oh, yes, and I don't like the front page banner "New York Pastor..." it's got no verb in it. But my managing editor likes it very much and we had to set it up three times before we got a banner that wasn't too long so it was mostly a case of desperation.

It's almost time for class. Oh, yess, I knew there was something unpleasant that I had to bring up. My board is due again---\$22. That leaves a bad taste in my mouth. As soon as I can talk over a phone again I'll try to call Mrax Powers and Mrs. Springer and Mary Lou. Phyllis Gough was over for dinner Sunday and told me Virginia Lewis had given up her job, etc. The only solution for women now is to join the army cause that's where the men are.

Love, Virginia

P.S. I like the blouse very much and thanks---it's a little bit too big, tho, so I'll have to have it taken in---

P.S. Could you send me another nylon brassiere---a white one, please? And I need another pair of silk panties they're called "briefs" and please don't send me any longer ones. The weather has been very mild---can wear suits without coats.