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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

January 6, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

Classes began today, and although I am not yet completely settled again, I can begin to act more or less normally - I think this is the first letter I have written since my last to you from New York.

I am very sorry to hear of Mrs. Deerp's leaving you. She has been a great help to you and I wish she would have stayed. But - if you will not now give up trying to do so many things outside I think you can manage without wearing yourselves out - her being with you has made it possible for you to expand in a good many directions - and now you must realize that you'll have to cut down. - On the other hand I rather suspect Mrs. D. will find in time that she can't stand the load of fat she has taken and will want to come back - I hope so.

It's too bad that ^{you,} Father, will have to go to
Boston for an examination, especially now
that Mrs. D. is gone. But I think you must
arrange to do so - I wish you had done
so long ago - this sort of thing shouldn't
be allowed to drag on. So do get busy with
a plan for being away soon.

I was in New York until Tuesday afternoon -
spent Sunday evening with these friends I
met in Colorado, went to the bookstore
Monday morning, had a long & pleasant
lunch with Con in the afternoon and had
dinner with Morris - afterwards going
by myself (since he didn't feel too well) to the
New York office - which were all devoted
to the war. On Tuesday I had breakfast
with Cordell from Rochester and lunch with
the Howlins - Mr. Howlin is the man I live
with here. So I had no time to shop - just
as well for I didn't have any money to spend!

I found the Tuesday's party well - especially
danced - Betty is doing in one way or
another. Spent Wednesday quietly, went
out to New York for dinner & party on Thurs-

day, and to another party on New Year's
afternoon. — The trip back was fairly
easy — had us difficulty in catching the
first train from New York and reached
Rochester at 8:30. Couldn't find Miss
Cummings, so spent part of the evening with
the Halshans. They have lost several of
their family during the past year, but
Anne & May are still here, though
the latter is rather nervously unwell —
she was away and I didn't see her.

Was informed on arriving here that
this term would be not very different
from last, but that beginning with
the Spring term we shall be on some
different basis — not too clear yet. I
have my usual number of classes & students,
and a fairly good schedule.

Had a note from Miss Boyd today
saying Eva had stood quite a bit of
hard life during the holidays without
getting too tired — that is good. She
said Eva had written me, but I have not
had the letter — perhaps it went to Cox-
sackie & is being forwarded around!

Am wondering what the army has
done about Harold - Do let me know.
Haven't had any word from my draft board
- did they send notice to Carlisle?

Am very glad I was able to get home
for so long as I did and enjoyed
every minute of it. But I repeat, I
think you are both working too hard
- not that you showed any effects (!)
but I know you can't plan on keeping
that up, especially you - so cut down!

All now - I must get to bed - earlier
this time for I have a nine-o'clock
four days a week. Lots of love,

George

P.S. Perhaps the enclosed with clarify
your obligation regarding income-tax!

Cassachie W.V.

Jan 7/42

Dear George:

Was very glad to get your
card to-day and hope you will
soon catch up on your sleep.
We had quite a snow Sunday
night and weather has been very
cold ever since - around zero
and below. We were to have
for dinner Saturday night
and then I was about all in
for a couple of days - sort of
reaction and left down. On
Monday pa went to a Grange
banquet at Dewitt Clinton Hotel
in Albany and that night
and Mr. Braugham drove to
Halcott to visit all offices - this
is the last of that this winter and
may be, for good. This after-
noon pa went to see Uncle Geo.
he is not home yet. Have not
heard anything from them
in most a week.

Have just written a letter to
you - I don't forget I'll send
it to you but return it.

Pa is supposed to attend a big
meeting of the - Causeway
is expected at the Barbizon Plaza
in New York Jan 15, 16, & 17.
Wives are also invited, so I
am going, too. We plan to stay
over Sunday to attend a big
birthday meeting (100 years of
Chinese Missions at the Double
College Church. Will also
go to Hotel Albert & may stay
there one night. - He looks
as if we will not get South
this year - there seems to be so
many reasons why we might
not go this year but we are
not definitely sure yet either way.
Pa has just come in & he is in-
censed at Henry & the existing con-
ditions down there. Many won't
with Pa but she cannot stay
there all the time - she was more
a nervous wreck. I must quit
for I have been writing letters and
reports most all day & my
hand is getting cramped. Have
not heard from Constance.

January 12, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

I was glad to hear from you on Saturday and to have the letter from Lorraine and Evva. It was good news to hear that Evva had had four good days in succession again - I am glad they came over Christmas for she always makes so much of that day.

My own life is beginning to settle into routine again though there are still some term-beginning details to clear up. I am happy in having a pretty good schedule again with reasonably small classes - not everyone was so fortunate. Skating began again last week, but it was so cold most of the time that I didn't get out after Monday until Friday & Saturday. On the latter day I got onto the river - it is so seldom the river is smooth & free of snow - not at all last year - and now we have

Had a wet snow I guess the river skating is
over for this season.

Am glad you are going to have a holiday
in New York. Apparently you will be there
several days - I hope you will try to get
hold of Cam while you are there, for I knew
she would like to have a chance to return a
little of your hospitality - the phone is
still well 4-9068.

I called on Aunt Addie on New Year's Day.
She seemed quite pleased to have us come
and talked continuously for an hour - all of it
coherent, but part of it rather incredible. I
thought she looked quite well for her age
and not very sick! I would see quite a resem-
blance to both you and Aunt Sarah, had she,
rather more to the latter I think.

Saw the enclosed clipping about a Doctor
Hallenbeck in the paper the other day - I wonder
if she's anyone you know of. Also thought the
cartoon about the mailman very good.

Keep well & have a good time in New York
Lots of love, George.





POST CARD

Jan 14, 1942

Mr. E. W. B. Van Schaack
247 Delta St.
East Lansing,
Mich.

LUMITONE PHOTOPRINT "NEW YORK, MADE IN U.S.A."

Jan. 14/42

at West...
The Wellington
ALBANY'S UNIQUE HOTEL
NEW DINING ROOM SERVICE
GARAGE IN HOTEL

WELLINGTON
ALBANY, N.Y.

Dear Geo-
Pa. I attended Conference
at this place Wednesday-We
are taking train for N.Y.
this afternoon - Capital
have a wrap your Galveston
Cold weather yet below
conditions not ugly, some
winds but sunny. We very
to keep busy most of time for
now in Red B. York. Hope
you are well - nothing to do
will write from N.Y. until he
at 13. Please say hi to Seb - Max

BARBIZON · PLAZA · HOTEL

101 west 56th street . . . central park south . . . new york

New York, Jan 17/42
Dear George:

Pa is attending the last session of the Conference and I will try to have things packed when he comes up about 3:30.

Was so glad to see Con. last night. I called her on phone Thursday at 6 + we arranged to meet her at G. C. Station 7:15 last night. Joan's husband was also there. We had a chance to visit

while eating dinner at a new by rest-aurant - forgotten name. Con looks fine and is apparently as well as ever. Had

a long letter yesterday from Eva - she seems so happy because she is improving tho she still has some very hard times. No news yet from home.

It has been very cold here these 2 days and also windy - no pleasure to walk out but we get some exercise going to + fro to stat. Traffic is terrible + I have no desire to live here permanently.

cable address "barbplaza" telephone Circle 7-7000

I have nited a good deal read & Crochet & sleep. Have a nice room overlooking the park but it is a sorry sight in winter tho' at night the lights from all the sky scrapers make a pretty sight. Thursday evening we went to the plantarium & enjoyed it so much. I have attended the meetings here 2 mornings this morning heard a very fine address by Major Le Guardian - It was not the one he intended to give, as he found he had chosen the wrong subject. He had no notes & made no blunders tho' he must have thought it all out as he went along. Pa just called me up to go down to hear a German refugee who was so good - but I am undressed partly & ready to tie down. Talked to Evelyn Thursday & arranged to meet her & Frank & Leo at Hotel Albert this afternoon - tomorrow we will have dinner at Mrs. Moore's 165 St. & then go over to Poles. Shop Monday AM. - Meeting on afternoon & evening - back to home by 7.58 Tuesday. We are very well - Pa has decided no South this year - his war work is more necessary & obligatory. I'm satisfied. Love Mother.

BARBIZON · PLAZA · HOTEL

101 west 50th Street . . . central park south . . . new york

P.D. forgot to tell you I sent for the
 card table for Pa and he is so
 pleased with it - just the
 kind he wanted. He is not very
 keen on acknowledging gifts
 as he depends on me to do that
 for him. But you know
 he is thankful for it. I am
 partially packed after having
 a good rest & spent Pa up
 any minute. So all remain -
 Yours
 W. W. W.

cable address "barbplaza" telephone Circle 7-7000

January 27, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father

Well, you seem to have had a very special
time in New York, and I'm glad you did. Can
was very much pleased with your calling her up
and having dinner with her. I knew the
restaurant she took you to - Stauffers - I
think it's quite a nice place. - I doubt Aunt
Addie is as sick as she tries to make out - she didn't
seem very sick to me - I reckon she wants to keep
Uncle Frank on a string. I was glad to hear
about the Prentiss - yes, I'm afraid Harry
may find business slack, but it does seem
he ought to be able to find something else, with
all that needs to be done. - I remember Jack Laker
- I think I had heard somehow of his having
that church in Kachereeth. Sorry I can't
do any for the writing time on the ferry!
I am up to my ears in things to do. The

Math Club banquet comes off this Thursday and I have had a great deal to do getting ready for it - you know the sort of thing. I got one of the other members of the department to design a menu & program booklet and he had quite a swank job - nice to have a good speaker from Ohio State - and all in all it will be quite an occasion.

Glad to hear you have the budget table & like it. Guess you'll find some use for it this winter, since you're staying home - so far it's not been a very hard winter, so perhaps you want mind it so much. We had ten days of shading and now nearly two weeks of quite warm weather.

This place is somewhat upset with possible changes - there will be a bigger summer school and there's talk of the Navy buying 2000 units - shipmen here to train - what that will mean I don't know. We lose another man from our department soon - I doubt there'll be any re-placement - but perhaps we won't need one - more & more boys seem to be going. Heard today of the first M.S.C. casualty - a Dutch student, here a year ago, killed in an air battle in Java - sounds fantastic. Glad you've got enough to do to keep you mind off of it part the time. Lots of love,
George.

February 15, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father

I have an appalling stack of unanswered letters from you. I have been passing through a most uncommunicative period - a word to Car now & then, a letter to Eva, and that is all. So far as I am concerned, life is just simply too complicated - there is plenty of time for everything if one doesn't waste six hours a day for himself at his desk - for that there isn't time - even with abjuring everything else - and I wage a continual fight to get around of that six hours is possible.

There is not much to report from here - snow every other day, with thaws in between - supper - day - left sailing with the crew sailing after seven o'clock - yesterday, Farmer's Week - the matchless banquet, which went off very well - no, I was not host - master, in fact, I didn't have a single word to say at it, - I was merely the prime man behind

the scenes, - had to feel in at the department
budget party last Friday night - suppose I should
charge it up to social prestige! - Saw 'I Saw
Green Was My Valley' last night - about as per-
fect a movie as one can hope for - didn't you
think the little boy incredibly good - I have
seen only one child actor to compare with him
- a little French girl several years ago.

You seem to have so much to do I don't know
how you could have gone to Florida - and I'm
sure you can't be unscrap it very much. Glad
you had the trip to Syracuse.

Also glad about Father's physical exam showing
him ok. except for headaches. But I do think
that one item is enough to make the examination
less than final. Why don't you see a good
diagnostician? There surely must be a good
one in Albany - try him - you cannot ignore
these headaches. Must you at least see a
real analyst?

This place was in quite a furor here days ago -
the Navy had been here looking the college
over as a possible choice for one of the four
it planned to take over as air-craft base

training centers. It was with relief we heard
the college had refused to be taken over. For
most of us it would have meant 'out of a
job' for the duration at least - and I don't
think the college would recover for years after-
ward. In this section, the Univ. of Iowa
was chosen - I am wondering how badly
it will be disrupted, - it is, of course, much
larger, and will probably not be completely
taken over by the navy. - So we rest more
comfortably for a while - but there is no
feeling when we hear of the navy
or the army will want some colleges, and
then will be in line again. - My feeling
is not a lack of patriotism - I just don't
think it is necessary to destroy colleges -
intelligence should be able to find some other
equally effective means for training these
cadets.

I am sorry to hear about Jordan, though
of course I expected it. Heaven knows where
he will be sent, very likely to the end of
the earth, for he is now fully trained, such

as he are badly needed in so many places.

Thanks for sending Laura's letter - it is not very encouraging, but it could be worse. I recently had a very good letter from her, quite warm - perhaps the most warm I all so far.

Well, I must get to bed. The weekend is over, with much less success than I had hoped - only five weeks of term left, and I have so much to do in them! Keep cool, don't work too hard, and do see a good amount, father! - Lots of love,
George.

THE MIZPAH HOTEL AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SYRACUSE, N. Y.



836



POST CARD

Dr. Geo. B. Van Schoeck
247 Delta St.
East Lansing,
Mich

Sydney, W.V. Feb. 7/42
Dear Mr. Van Schoeck
I am waiting for
for home. Have
had a good time - 100 here -
heard a very interesting and
serious talk on agricultural
work by our new
Kahawai Master - Prof. Lott
is very acute but the message
will do little.
Love - Master

RECEIVED
FEB 10 1942
POST OFFICE
EAST LANSING, MICH.
MAIL ROOM

Just
received
a fine letter
from you all
I appreciate it.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Feb. 19/42

Dear George:-

Buses roll around to fact and here is Thursday again. Jack wrote a short letter to me but have not heard from either of them in most two weeks. Weather here is much milder; snow is about all gone, also the ice.

Mrs. Delp went up to her brother in Stamford Hill yesterday to stay a few days; her niece Mary (14) is in hospital in Albany after an operation & mother is with her part of time. Pa brought Jennie down here yesterday for a change and she was here till after seven; Bessie came from school. Pa's headaches have not been bad this week - maybe the February B. Fiddie's - help come.

Was very glad to get your letter Tuesday
but sorry you had to rush out
your work all the time. It was a
sueby go that the government did not
take over your College. Conditions
in the World are so serious, it gets
on my nerves sometimes - we were
too sure of victories and it does look
now as if most anything could
happen here.

Have't been out much since I
last wrote - went to church Sunday
morning & drove to Ashers that evening
to hear the new Rfd. Minister there.
Last night we attended the first Pentec
service in 2nd church - there will be
one a week till Palm Sunday.
Pa Les made two rose arbors this week,
they are ready to put together as soon as
the paint dries. Did I tell you he had
ordered 500 chickens for a caper garden
there may be some turkeys here this spring
(10-5) and summer. Much love, Mother.

Retired Teacher Is 93 Years Old Today

Miss Anna Spoor, retired teacher in area district schools, is celebrating her 93rd birthday today at her home, 2 Prospect Street, the residence of her nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bogardus, with whom she lives.

Before retiring from the teaching profession nearly 25 years ago, Miss Spoor rounded out half a century at her chosen vocation. Beginning in a district in New Baltimore township, she taught in various districts, then in the old Coxsackie Academy, later in the new building known as the Coxsackie Union Free School. During the last 17 years she taught her pupils were of the Junior High School grades.

Village people extend their hearty wishes for continued good health and happiness to Miss Spoor on her birthday.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Feb. 26/42

Dear George:

Weeks & months are flying fast
and soon Spring will be here & how
glad I'll be! It gets quite monotonous
staying indoors so much - I have been
in cloths 28 days so far this year.

Have just written to Eva - have
not heard from Miss Boyd in a long
time.

Weather has been much
milder a few days but very cold today
and some winds every day for
weeks.

Mrs Delp was away
4 days last week visiting at her
brothers in Staunton Hill & then to
Hudson on Sat & Sun as Gordon
was there again for final visit -
he did not go the other time but is to go

This week - probably has gone. A sense
that for any mother it would
times if I will have to go this it. too.
The War is almost getting on very
nerves - we listen to so much news
& then read the same thing over in
the N.Y. Times. Too bad there is so
much disagreement in the country -
We must get more united or we will
lose the war. I fear. Pa has had his
eyes opened some in his salvage drive
so many folks who are opposed to the
President criticize the program and
will not agree to co-operate.

Saw Friday Pa & Dede lunch at dinner
with Wilbur - it was the first we had
eaten there since November. Pa was there
yesterday a few minutes & W. sent me a
few cookies he had made - Very good.
No special news so my letters are short.
Hope all is ok. With love & will con-
tinue so. Much love,
Marta.

Catsack, N.J. Mar. 27/42

Dear George:

Just finished letter to Eva - I am enclosing one from Laura received yesterday - you need not return. Also had a nice note written me from Eva Saturday. Weather getting quite Spring like and we have the house cleaning fever. Have sent for wall paper and paint and next week operations commence. Pa is anxious to get thro' in the house because he will be so busy outdoors later. Mrs Delp plans to go to Virginia for several weeks in May so we want to be in good shape before then. Tuesday we had some snow and then it rained for hours so all snow & ice has disappeared. Have had no more black ants but may have any evening

Now conditions are so serious and seem to get worse. I don't want to find fault with the government but there seems to be lack of something that is very necessary. Gordon is stationed at the air base in Washington, D.C. so news has calmed down.

Wilbur keeps a going but prospects are not very bright for his business owing to the tire & gas situation. Pa has been talking about the Scrap drive here & there but there is no central place for the materials yet. This week he has a short item in Capitalism entitled "Save your scrap to stop the Jap". So many people do not yet realize the seriousness of the World situation nor of our own Country. I can't think of any real news so will quit & get to work. Hope all is O.K. with you. Much love, Mother.

Holland, Michigan
March 1, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

March has certainly been like a lamb here today. We hope that will not mean too much later on. We can not complain about the weather for we have had a nice winter without any severe storms and with no excessive cold for any length of time. The lake is still frozen over and the ice fishermen are having a fine time. In front of our house there have been a lot of them, some in shanties and some just standing on the ice. We have not tried to go but we did enjoy one mess of fish that a neighbor gave us.

Eva and I went to church this morning; that makes six weeks in succession that we have done that. I have to stay for Sunday School and Eva does not care to do that so she walks down to the hotel and waits there for me. It is a large place and there are many places where you can sit and read. She enjoys doing that and it is so nice when we can go to church together. I wish to thank you for your kindness in commenting on the life membership that the Missionary Society here gave me. I count it a real honor and far more than I deserve for my bit of service.

Our church has been busy planning to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its founding in this coming May. I have just come from a meeting of the program committee and if the consistory will approve, at their meeting tomorrow night, what we did then the program is all planned. Hope Church is the only church in town that began as an English-speaking church and that has never had Dutch services.

Eva has been feeling about as usual. Today has been a good day but we have had a lot of hard times during the past weeks. Her nervousness does not seem to depend much on what she does but rather seems to come from some physical cause which the doctors do not seem able to relieve. We are hopeful and when we have a good day we enjoy it to the full. Eva can do some things now that she could not do six months ago but her progress has not been as rapid as we had hoped. She looks fine, has a good color, is good weight, sleeps well and keeps up her strength by daily exercise of some sort. She still finds it difficult to concentrate or to do a definite task at a definite time but since those were the first indications of her difficulty perhaps they will be the last to leave her.

We too are planning for a garden because we have enjoyed the fresh and canned vegetables from our last garden and we want even more for next time. Eva canned a number of kinds of vegetables and had fine success with them all. She also canned fruit for herself and for me. Canning without sugar was an experiment and some of the things turned out well and some are not so good so we will know how to plan better another year. We had our last squash this past week and that ends the fresh vegetables. Our carrots did not do so well and we have used all we raised but we still have some that we bought and put in sand. Eva is a good planner and we have such fine meals. Her diet is restricted but we try not to mind too much, if only she could have all she wants of things it would not be so bad but that is the worst thing to think that you cannot have any more even if you want it. Eva never complains and we try not to talk about it too much.

With love and all good wishes.

Mrs. Anna P. Wheeler Will Reach Her 109th Milestone on Thursday

County's Oldest Citizen To Play Hostess at Annual Birthday Party

Greene County's oldest citizen will pass another milestone next Thursday, March 5th. Mrs. Anna Palmer Wheeler of Coxsackie will celebrate her 109th birthday. Living to pass the anniversary that few people reach, Mrs. Wheeler will have the place of honor at an afternoon party with thirty or more friends around her at the Wheeler home on Washington Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wheeler, grandson and granddaughter, will receive visitors.

Mrs. Wheeler meets the anniversary in good health and with remarkable vitality and spirit. She is still possessing good vision, reads the papers and works numerous crossword puzzles. She has always enjoyed motoring and was on a number of drives last summer.

Mrs. Wheeler is the last of eight children of Daniel Palmer and Anna Searles of Medway, also her birthplace. Her parents were Quakers and early settlers of the community. She married William Henry Wheeler, Jr., of New Baltimore. They farmed until moving to the present Wheeler home in 1805. She had been gone about 50 years. She had two children, a daughter, Violetta and a son, Clinton H. long deceased.

The last year was saddened by the death of her step-daughter, Miss Antoinette Wheeler.

Long a resident Mrs. Wheeler did not use her franchise until 1935 in a town election. The following year she voted in her first presidential election, balloting for Alfred Landon. She voted for the late Congressman P. A. Goodwin in his last campaign. She appeared at the polls in later elections.

Visiting with Mrs. Wheeler one might fill a book with reminiscences, colorful because of true experiences in early days in the back country.

The Union-News publishers are certain the entire community joins in extending heartiest good wishes to Mrs. Wheeler on her 109th anniversary.

March 9, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

I wonder if winter is giving you the farewell(?) wire hating. It rained all day yesterday so that by night the ground was entirely clear of snow - then it started freezing and by this morning there were eight or nine inches of snow and cold winds. But on the whole it has been a pretty good winter and I have no complaints. But I understand from Coe that the precipitation has been below average in the Catskills all winter and that there may be a serious water shortage.

I talked to Eva on the phone one night last week. It seemed to me she sounded the best I have heard her in a couple of years. She spoke with practically no speech difficulties, and we then hurried what she had to say and hastened farward. All in all I was quite encouraged by it. Of course, how much this represents real improvement I don't know, but

I can't help believing that if this type of improve-
ment continues it ~~will~~^{will} eventually keep her
all round.

I was amused to get the notice about Mrs. Wheeler.
It just happened last week when I had the news turned
on but was not concentrating on it & I heard the
name Constance spoken - the item was about
Mrs. Wheeler.

Yesterday I was invited out to breakfast
(at 11:30!) to Mr. Marmberis - he is the head
piano teacher here, having come here a year
ago last fall. Although an American he had
his training in Europe and, until the war had
lived five years in London. He is a fine pianist
and I believe an excellent teacher - I really don't
know how we keep him here. He lives alone
with a negro fellow for cook, valet & chauffeur,
three miles out in the country in a charmingly
furnished house, which somehow or other
he managed to find all ready for him. He
talked at length about many things, a great
deal about the work he did in London, before
he left, for Central European refugees - having
become disgusted with the red tape involved in
helping these people he gave up his own work
and started his own bureau - when he left

he was recharged with charges of all kinds, and left several of them lying in his house in London - when some of them are still lying.

We are almost at the end of term again with all its attendant work and annoyance - it sometimes seems I will never get everything done, but then I realize that somehow a week from Saturday it will be done.

The world situation is certainly something to keep us all on tenterhooks - I often wonder what another year will bring. The army would be foolish to put me in any combat work, but I'm not sure they may not want me for something. My own kind of mathematics is pretty useless as I'm trying to decide what I might prepare for. I shall probably take a foundation course in radio theory next term and may follow it up with something this summer. It may be of course that the college will continue to need me enough to try to keep me, but so far it seems not to have made any strenuous effort to keep any one and as the weeks go by more and more faculty leave, either to vital defense positions or to the army or navy.

Are you sure you aren't planning somewhat
too much work for the summer? You want, I
know, to do your utmost, but please be careful
that you don't plan more than that. After all,
you've always been doing your utmost - I can
realize how concerned Wilbur may be - although
people don't seem to realize it yet. They are certainly
going to have to stop riding so much - a lot of
them aren't going to have any time - and in the
east, at least, I believe there'll be gas rationing
- we can't go on losing tankers at the present
rate and still have gas enough.

Well, I must get to bed - during the last three
days I've got done less than half of what I had to
do and I don't see any extra time coming, so I
must prepare for extra work by a little additional
sleep. - Be careful not to get out this treacherous
month, and don't work so hard. Lots of love, Jerry.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

March 19/42

Dear George:

It was good to get your letter last week. We are having some dark and raw weather this week so Spring has not been so evident as we thought. However grass is peeping out and blue birds are around and trees are budding. Pa is plastering holes in middle room up stairs - to-morrow I must be present. It has all been a big job mostly because Pa has not felt very good. His cold developed into tonsillitis and one visit on Monday to Dr. W. made was the turning point so now his cold is over but has left him quite weak. I persuaded him to stay in all day Sunday & he did get a good rest but it ought to have been for 2 or 3 days.

Headaches were intensified by the cold
and we had several very long nights
and days. He is gradually beginning
to see he must go some where if only
for an x-ray but when? The baby
Chicks arrived Tuesday (500) and
other spring work is beginning to
be in evidence. I hope we will be
able to get Sherman some tools, but
as labor help is so scarce he will
perhaps have steady work.

Had a nice letter from Lou.
Yesterday - it was mainly on the
Topic of if every body was as con-
cerned as she is things might speed
up faster. However the appoint-
ment of the doctor in the Pacific
has been encouraging and
with more help from W. S. Gray
the things will take a turn. Let
me know your number - I wish

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

I had it to see if it was called. I
must find out about ~~the~~ Wilbur.
Hansen has certainly stepped out
lately by joining the Rotary Club
and you heard he has been ac-
cepted as a Mason, too. Both
rather expensive organizations.
We had a very severe thunder &
lightning storm Tuesday night and
then it poured hard all night - we
have plenty of water now (not yet in use)
and hope the situation for N. Y.
will be improved. There was a
big ~~the~~ snow storm before that on
Mts. and the rain would melt
the snow & run into all the streams

that supply the water reservoirs.

Dee close Laura's letter received
yesterday - also had a very nice
one from Ma last Saturday. I
do wish she could either come
home or I could go to see her.
It is a great treat for me and
Maggie a treat I shed over it.

When you get this letter your party
for this term will be over. I have that
much of the possibility of you being
drafted and if it must be I hope
it may be for any thing else than to
get in the fighting. I wonder what
you are planning for spring access - too
bad if you can't come home - I
cannot understand let
why you & Ma can't be together.
Now I must hasten to the mail
before they get busy. Much love
Mother.

Holland, Michigan
March 15, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

Eva wrote to you the other day but found it quite difficult so I thought if I wrote today she would not feel that she must make the effort too soon again. She was glad to have a letter from you on Saturday as well as one from George.

Eva was so happy a week or so ago when George called her on the phone one evening. It did not make her nervous to talk to him and the little talk did her a world of good. She gets lonesome for her own family at times and wishes so much that she could see you but she will have to much stronger before she can think of such a thing.

From day to day there is small change in Eva's condition but there have been some changes in the last six months. The improvements are slight and when we have a bad day we sometimes wonder of there has been any change for the better. She looks the picture of health. She has gained a little weight during the winter but will lose it again when she works out in the yard and takes more exercise than ~~KK~~ she does now.

We went to church this morning; that makes seven or eight weeks in succession that we have gone. Today has been a good day but we had two bad ones in Friday and Saturday.

We saw a notice in our paper of the death of Dr. Hegner in Baltimore. Eva is hoping that you will send her any clippings you may see in the New York papers. She knew him quite well and was so fond of his daughter who died some years ago. If you happen to see anything about it you might send her the articles. She also heard of the death of Lizzie Kirkwood's father. He has been in failing health for some time so the event was not entirely unexpected.

We had our first blizzard of the winter last Monday but it was a real March storm and soon blew itself out. The snow is almost gone now and we are hoping that the last traces will soon leave. The birds do not come in such numbers to the feeding stations now and I suppose they will soon leave us. The last snow brought them all back but only for a couple of days although Eva saw the cardinal there yesterday. We have had great pleasure from Eva's stations all during the winter.

We were glad to have the news about Setsu and her small family. The last I heard from her she said her husband would be leaving soon for the war. I hope he may be spared in all this awful carnage. Three of Setsu's brothers were also in the fighting forces, two in the army and one in the navy. What a shame it is that we can not hear from her directly until after the war is over.

Eva sends her best love and she will write again before too long a time for I know how happy it makes you to get her letters.

Sincerely - Laura.

Catspauke, W.V.

March 12/42

Dear George:

Received your letter this noon - very interesting to hear about the Wheeler broad cast and the Plains Professor. We have been talking about it & wondering if you would be called on to help out in some way - perhaps Harold too & may be Wilbur (It says he wants to go & fight.) Well I'm not going to worry about it yet, but the future looks very uncertain. I'm so tired of the same old war news and there seems to be so much that ought to be done & isn't. Last night we were to Harold's and while there we had a black out - it was the largest in territory covered held in State - from Newport to Water town - Kennont line to most centers

of the State - lasted 20 minutes.
We have had some beautiful Spring
days - yesterday was one and Sunday
was ideal. Frost is out of ground and
not a sign of ice or snow - grass is
peeping up & leaves coming on trees.
This morning it rained but has
cleared off. Paper Langer is working
upstairs, we are leaving the three best
sweaters down over so you can imagine
the mess we are in. Pa has had a
bad cold in head & throat for several
days & is taking everything we know
of to cure him. He eats a good deal
but will not give up entirely. There
seems to be quite an epidemic of
colds in town - Mary has a severe
one & half of her children are home with
Colds. Mrs. D. had one last week. Wilbur
is quite puzzled over the tree & gets a little
at one and at times says they may have to
do up. Always problems but what can
we do about it. Had to hear of your party
in Pa - just wrote you a letter. Do you think
she would want our pictures now in a double frame?

Handwritten
enveloped letter

Cassaskie N. Y.

Mar. 25/42

Dear George:

This is quite a busy week here, so I am writing a few lines now in case I don't get time to-morrow. Having some very cold and windy weather but fair. Birds are plentiful and it seems good to hear their chirping and songs. Sherman is here to-day for the third time this month but he is in great demand. The painting, papering & varnishing of floors up stairs is completed and we are trying to get the three rooms fixed up. It is slow business as they always are so many details & one thing must wait for something else to be done.

Yesterday pa & I spent in Albany. I had appointment with Dr. Stewart to check up on my nose - it is normal again and she dismissed me in a few minutes. She admitted it might return sometime but it is not serious. Then we spent several hours shopping, mostly incidental except for hat & coat for me. When we got home we found the coat is not just right so we must take it back Friday.

Sunday was a beautiful day and we made 2 calls, one at Bob Moore's & then at Jerry's and found Melba at home. Soon after our return at 5.30 Deane Deft & wife & Patsy (K) came & spent the evening. So we had visiting company for one day.

Monday I received the enclosed letter from Mrs. Whitney in reply to one I wrote recently inquiring about her boys. Pretty tough for her to give both to the gran and not know for 5 mo. where Junior is.

I'm wondering if you are having your Spring vacation now & how much are you resting? We had the 3rd Blackout last Friday just for Greene Co. Pa & I were out at Jewett Jar. Grange and the signal came just as melting was to begin - it lasted 20 min. Do you have them too? I am wondering if you will be able to get gas enough to drive home.

Guess we are wintered at Elm Shade for an indefinite time, but we might be in some place. We had for a while an apple but no blossoms, only leaves - it must have frozen.

Working Communications very "All for now at this time" So good by - Love Mother

Enclosed in this envelope address
March 20, 42.

Dear friends:—

Your nice letter was waiting for us when we returned from our trip. Ernest & I went to Chicago then one hundred and twenty miles south to Champaign Field, Rantoul, Illinois to visit Gardner. He has been in the service three months April 6. He is studying airplane mechanics. There are about 42,000 people at Champaign Field. We stayed at the "Guest House," which is for parents only & the time is limited. We took Gardner out to the little wee town of Rantoul and we all had a nice dinner twice. Gardner is brave and full of enthusiasm but please believe me that army life is no picnic. If he stays

there he will graduate in June but he hopes to be a candidate for officer's training-school. In that case he will be again transferred. It was great to be with him for those brief hours but the saying good bye was heart breaking again. We are trying to be brave and go on as usual but my eyes are so dimmed with tears most of the time that I cannot see well. Poor Joe is far away somewhere about half way around the world by now. He called us up on the telephone about three weeks ago and said good bye saying it might be five months before we would hear from him again. He was sailing next morning at ten from San Francisco, California.

He is not on the U.S.S. Pennsylvania. We don't even know the name of his ship. He was not allowed to tell us. He rec'd all of his civilian clothes home a large box of books and his sword of a great expense. The few navy belongings that he could not take with him are in his big sandstone trunk in the navy Y.M.C.A. at San Francisco, and he sent the number in case we have to claim it. He is not a gunnery officer with a crew of eleven men under him. His responsibility is great. He was sent to an officer's training school at San Diego, California after he landed on the west

coast from Pearl Harbor about
New Year's. He graduated with
high marks.

We keep quite busy and our
trip helped us a lot. We stayed
in Chicago two days and had a
very pleasant time.

I hope Mr. Van's cold is better.
It was nice of you to write to
us. We always enjoy your letters.
Ernest is well and I am better
now but have not been as well
as usual. I get very tired so I
sleep later mornings than I
ought to. I do get up and get
Ernest's breakfast then go back
to bed. I have done quite a day's
work for me today. This is rather
a sketchy letter but I wanted to
answer yours & not put it off as
I sometimes do. Ernest joins me in
best wishes to you & Mrs. Van. ^{W. H.}

March 28, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

The so-called vacation is about over and most of what I planned to do has not got done, including catching up with correspondence. But I have done a few unexpected things largely of a recreational nature, so it has been something of a vacation.

Most of today I spent going to Ann Arbor, having been invited this week to go down for the week - it was a beautiful day and we took back country roads making the trip down worthwhile. I looked up a few things in the library and got a good week's better than any I can get around here. ~~Friday~~ day & Wednesday I had long walks on perfect spring days & otherwise worked those days. Thursday & Friday were rather largely taken up with my new bicycle which came Thursday morning. Yes, I have bought a

late - partly because I don't want to use my car and partly because I've wanted one ever since I came here, for the exercise I can get out of it. John & I went down town & ordered them three weeks ago not expecting them nearly so soon. They are lightweight models, American copies of the English bicycles - skinnier as road rods, but much easier to ride than the current heavy model.

I appreciate your concern about my draft number, but so far I can't tell you for I don't know what it is - the serial number wasn't published so I couldn't find my order number - I expect the latter will be published soon. I'm concerned about it in a way, but on the whole feel rather fatalistic, knowing that there's little I can do about it. I shall take a basic course in radio communication next term, and if I have a low number shall certainly plan to follow it up with something in the summer - if my number is high I may wait. It looks now as if I may have a lighter load next term than I had expected - my graduate course has dwindled to two members - the other two having taken defense jobs and with that few I don't think the

course should be given - despite the many weeks
I've spent preparing for it I don't want to
give it to these particular kids and I do want
the extra time for my own study.

You are getting quite used to black outs,
apparently. We have not had any here, so
I can only imagine what they are like. How
do you know one is coming?

What is this about Daniel Griffin being
dropped - I would have thought he was
just out of the first draft. With all his
training & experience he must be acting in
some professional capacity, probably with
a pretty good commission.

I get more & more concerned about your
headaches, Fadden. You simply must get
expert advice about them - there are so
many serious things they may be a symptom
of - serious at best. If you keep neglecting
them. Do please go somewhere and have a
thorough examination. I know you can't
leave the chicks, but you're surely fit to.
So there, get going, right now.

I really don't know what to say about
Jan sending the pictures to me - I think
it would be wise to ask Lamma - but I don't
know - it didn't seem to upset her to have
me call her - so if you don't want to ask
Lamma, I'd say go ahead & send them.

Thanks for sending Mrs. Whitney's letter
along. I was glad to see it - I hadn't
realized both her boys were in service. Of
course, it is hard for her, but she should be
proud too. I might feel different if I had
several sons but as it is I feel I'd be glad
to have a dozen in the army & navy.

Well, this is all news - it's after one and
I have only this night left as a completely
free one for sleeping. - Do stop washing so
hard & both if you do something about
those headaches. Lots of love,
George.

Catsackin Wf
April 1/42

Dear George -

I have stoppes cleaning to rest a while so will improve the time in this way. Your letter received yesterday and of course, appreciated. After some rain yesterday and all night it is a beautiful Spring day. Mrs Tomman is papering the "play room" so you can imagine the upset in the kitchen. Mrs Delp is cleaning the front hall and Pa is going to put down the stair carpet. There will be ^{no} holdups in rest of the house cleaning, I hope, for there will be no more papering this Spring. Pa is well started with outdoor work with Sherman's help and now he can go at a slower pace till planting time. I think

we will have to buy a lower lawnmower for we cannot depend on Sherman any more, he is in such demand and his wages are higher, too. Of course Pa could not stand it to mow all our lawns, so there seems no alternative as any help is so scarce. Pa had a severe attack of indigestion Sunday night and had to lay off next day - he is all right now. His head was very good for most of weeks but he had quite a bad ache Monday night. I think maybe he will go to the Boston Clinic some time - he speaks of it when he is in pain and then when he feels good, he just jokes about it. Had a nice letter from Eva Saturday but she never says how she is feeling or improving.

Was successful in getting money back
for my coat and bought a better one
for \$8 more in Whitney - we went to
Albany Thursday & managed to have
every running around to keep us
up thru most of day. Went to hospital
just and was dismissed as ok. in
a few minutes. I will probably lead
off thru same performance occas-
ionally.

I am sure you will enjoy your
trip and it will be good for you - Al-
most wish I could ride one, too, I'd
get out to places near by Glen. Sun-
day we drove up to Brunk's Lake and
was surprised to see the amount of
water in it - then we went to Spoon
Cemetery & pa was shocked to find

that some body had cut down
the nicest large hemlock tree -
probably for a Christmas tree.
We may now to find out who did it.
To-night we are invited to
Harold's for dinner. They are
going to Boston Friday - H. will
return Sunday & Marge stay a
few days longer. Harold is plan-
ning to have a Victoria garden but
had mainly to raise potatoes. We
are not informed about black outs but must
obey the signals from transits, valve works
and fire alarm whenever we hear them.
Glad you had some vacation recreation.
Pa has just been fussing with the pump &
now he can't get any water so is going out
after H. Red - it seems we have some
sort of a problem on land all the time.
Much love - Mother.

Don't Laugh

In Albany recently the Rev. Dutton S. Peterson opened a session of the State Assembly by reading a seven-line invocation, later asked more than a dozen members if they knew what it was. None of them recognized it: the last verse of America.

Cossackie, N.Y.
April 9/12

Dear George.

Again I am writing to you after writing to Eva. It is a dark and cold day after several real Spring days. Grass is very green and growing to beat the band. I am glad we have the power mower for I feared pa would strain his head if he tried to mow as he would have done for there seems less chance of getting help.

Harold & Marge went to Boston Friday & H. returned Sunday night. He was here to supper Tues. and Wednesday. We like to have him but the dog is awful wild, yet Marge is coming home today.

Pa has had a very sore gum boil
all week due to his plate but it is
much better now. I spent Easter
day in bed - had been quite out
of time for a week with indigestion
& Saturday I went to bed & Dr W's
came out - he said it was more
nerves than stomach tho' I don't
know why. However I followed
directions & was able to get up Mon-
day & feel very good again. We
went to Catehell Sunday - Pa
had some office work to attend
to and I made a call. I treated
myself to a small utility cabinet
for our room - I very much
needed more space for our small
belongings. Had a nice Easter
card from Con. - I love her

a letter but Louis seem to get
time to write friendly letters,
so many of other kinds
must go out from this
place - Pa says he would
resign from everything if
he didn't have me to do all
the clerical work.

This afternoon we are
going to the funeral of Weeks
Spoor (85) in Athens. Pa has
intended to see him for over
a year but did not get there.
Of course, you do not remember
the day we spent (you were about
2 yrs old) at his home - it was
the only time Dena was there.
Recently he lived with his son
& we called there 2 or 3 times

several years ago.

Chickens are doing fine
and Pa is spending time
now with the garden. His
headaches have been few
and not severe ever since
he had that bad cold.

Mrs Delp expects to go to Virginia
but maybe not till May
though she thought last week
she might go this week-end.

She is very irascible most of
the time and frequently changes
her mind. - Now I must get
busy for I will soon be home.

Hope you are helping real well
and enjoying your five years
for it just in time as paper says
no more to be sold - Love
Mother.

April 11, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father,

Guess I should write April 12 up there, for it's after midnight, but I can't. I have spent all evening and part of the afternoon working over the data I collected at my casual laboratory session this morning. Jim having lots of fun taking the course, but there is no end to the amount of work one can put into it if one can only find the time.

The chief item of news here is that Mrs. Jewison died a week ago Thursday. When I went out Wednesday morning she seemed the same as usual and had been feeling & looking better for several days. When I came back that night I found a note saying she was in the hospital, having been taken violently ill that morning. I didn't go down to see her for the doctor said I'd better ^{wait} a day. I did go down Thursday night. I found her asleep and breathing heavily - I thought she was dying - and in fact she did die ten minutes after I left. Fortunately

she had a niece (-in-law) in town and her excursions were known so often on her's confusion all went smoothly. I was asked to be a bearer at the funeral held Saturday morning from a local funeral home. It was a good enough funeral, I guess, but I was appalled at the eulogies delivered - I had never heard any. It was a beautiful day and there were quantities of beautiful flowers. - The poor old soul is gone and it is just as well - I seemed to have been the only living soul who profited by her continued existence - and she was pretty unhappy these last months - she had given up the desire to live and I rather felt she wouldn't last long.

I saw one of the excursions last Monday to ask him what he intended to do about my living here. He said he would be glad to have us stay on until the end of the year, since he was sure Mrs. Jewison would have wished it. I am greatly relieved that I shall not have to move during the term. But I do wonder what I shall do next year. I wish I could buy this place - the house isn't so much, but it's a valuable location, and it's nice and quiet here - it is so well separated from other houses.

I talked to Eva again on Wednesday night. He had

a very nice chat although she did have more diffi-
culty than a month ago in speaking - I have heard
from her since that she hadn't slept well for the
two previous nights and that she was in need of
food when I called her. She was quite a bit of
low she feels & low she reacts - which is rather
unusual - and seemed for the first time really to
feel that she is making some progress

I was glad to get your letter yesterday and glad
to hear that Father has not had so many head-
aches lately - but that must be no reason for
not doing something about them - now. I
trust your little episode in bed last Sunday,
Masha, was just an episode - don't work so hard.
I'm sorry I didn't get any message off to you for
Easter, but Mr. J.'s death rather put that out of
my mind. The day here was the most
beautiful of the spring. The people upstairs - recent
arrivals from Hungary, whom I have got to know
quite well, - invited me up for breakfast, and
in the afternoon we three went for a walk,
finally sitting down on the athletic field in the
warm sun and talking for some two hours.
They are both very intelligent and interesting, have
studied & traveled quite a bit and talk very well
on a variety of subjects. They are not refugees, al-

though they did leave Europe just before the war because they feared what was coming - he had fought in the last war and didn't want to fight again on the German side.

I have been frightfully busy since I last wrote, what ^{with} the beginning of term again, etc. - what I would have done had my graduate course not folded up I don't know. I wish I could find more time to be out doors - but this week the weather has been so bad there was little invitation out - I did go for a longish hike walk after dinner tonight - you know it's to be here until 8:30 now - how we shall get the students to do any work through May I don't know.

Well, now it is very late and I must go to bed - I shall sleep late. Fortunately except on Saturday I have no class till eleven, so even if I sit up late I can sleep in the morning. Lots of love, Gray.

April 16/42

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Dear George

Was very glad to get your letter
but surprised to hear of the death of
Mrs Jensen - You seem to have un-
expected problems thrust on you fre-
quently but you are always equal to
them! You know that has been our
experience, too but we usually pull
out some way. Mrs Delp started
South on Saturday last. She had an
opportunity to drive Mrs Perry of Catskill
home from Lake Worth - the man she de-
pended on was a Southerner & is too ill to
come north now. So it seemed best
for Mrs D to start right off and make
her visit en route as well as get to Florida

By May 1st - leave for home May 4
Having expenses all paid means a big
help to her tho' she did want to be in
Virginia in May. She stopped in N.Y.
with Dan Saturday night, was in Pa
next day and to morrow goes to
Washington to see Gordon then on to Vir.
It will all be a change + a nice trip
but I know she will come back tired
out. We will not attempt to finish
up the house cleaning till she returns.
As there will be no more papering and
little painting - it will not be so serious.
I have ^{been} working in store rooms a little
at a time - it beats all how upset and
full of trash they get in a few months.
Pa has collected quite a heap of crap
from the out buildings + is waiting

For the higher ups to send the
trucks for collecting that they
have provided.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Milk's work on his apartment has
been delayed by H. Blosson's serious
illness - real carpenter are few & expensive!
Jessie boards the couple that expects to live
there and Monday their first baby ar-
rived. They are very nice people and
it will be o.k. for Jessie to have such
a nice companion.

Have not seen George in two weeks
have called twice but H. answered
both times. We went out calling Fri-
day afternoon - that is all I've been
out since Sunday morning. I will
be glad when weather is mild enough to
sit on porch. - Henry Casa Woman

to help but he at once took a dislike
to her and wants her to get out and
she will not. Poor Uncle George
is failing from lack of good care
and the whole situation is pitiable.
Pa has not been there in about 2 weeks -
he says it is very unsatisfactory to go.
Sunday there were 23 boys left for Camp
from Camp - the previous night this were
given a farewell in hose house - 4 buses
full went from Greene Co to Albany &
from there no one knows. Among them ^{were}
Hoyd Sherman, 2 Brandons, Burton Deane and
others. Glad you like your new course.
I wish some times I were younger so I ^{could}
could do something. Recent news does not
seem so good but surely in the end the U.S.
will come out on top. Love, Mother.

April 23, 1942

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Dear George:

We are having some wonderful weather after several days of cold wind and showers. Pa + I went up to Jewett on Monday - it rained going up the Mts. and snowed coming back. - To-day Sherman is here (also was yesterday) so Pa is getting more odds & ends of work done. The place looks quite slicked up and everything is beginning to leaf out. The chickens are growing fast and eat more than you could guess - feed is high too, so chickens ought to be high to make anything out of them. The 200 others are expected Monday. Last Friday Pa + I went to dinner for supper and was so glad to have Mabel eat with us. Sunday Miss invited us to dinner. Tuesday evening

Harold & Marge came to see us - had
not seen Marge since we had dinner
there the week before Easter.

The gas rationing is going to be quite
serious - Wilbur is afraid he will have
to close diner & go somewhere to get work.
He has 2 carpenters now finishing up the
apartment. - I enclose letter from
Laura received yesterday - it is a long
time since she wrote before - somehow
her letters make me feel so blue - much
more than Eva's do. Pa & I think Eva
ought to go somewhere to a nerve specialist.
What do you say? Have you consulted
with the doctor yet? He ought to have us
through over Eva to get her to consent to see
some one who may be able to find out
what causes these nerve attacks. We
do not go out much for pleasure but next
Tuesday we are invited to a banquet at
Hotel Paulsough Catchell by Rotary. I find
house work very tiresome & guess we will all
have to have help. Love, Mother.

Holland, Michigan
April 19, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

I am going to write the letter this week for Eva is so busy with her garden that she finds it hard to get the time she needs to write a letter. It is such an effort for her to write that I like to do it for her as often as I can even though I know it makes you so happy to have a letter direct from her.

I do not know what to say about Eva's condition. She has had a very bad time for the last two days and it is hard to see that she is making very much progress toward the ultimate recovery for which we are all so anxious. She looks very well but this extreme nervousness seems to come upon her with no apparent cause and it wears her out completely. Her diabetes is under good control and she manages the insulin very well but what causes the nervous condition we do not know. She tries so hard and is usually so cheerful and sure that she will be really well again some day. We get on very well together and it is a real pleasure to have her here even when it breaks my heart to see her suffer so.

Just now she is busy planning the garden for this year. We are not going to plant as much land as we did last year so we are trying to plan to use every corner of the plot we have to use. We ordered the seeds and most of them have come so all we need now is warm weather and showers. Last fall we had the brush cleared from the steep bank which leads to the lake and Eva planted all kinds of bulbs there. Now we are having lots of blossoms and feel we can cut as many as we wish for the house for none can see the bank except from the lake. Later we plan to plant flowers there so as to have cutting beds for all summer.

I can see no reason why Eva would not be delighted to have a picture of you and her father. She often gets homesick for a sight of you and for the old home. She craves affection and anything you can do to show her how much you love her and how much she means to you will be a real help to her. She is always so thrilled when George calls her on the phone and when her friends send her small gifts. Eleanor is very good to her and sends her cards and little gifts very often as well as numerous letters. She was so happy when Jessie wrote to her some weeks ago and again at Easter when Harold and Marge sent her a card.

I hope you do not find the work too hard while you are alone. Do you have your house cleaning done? We are in the midst of ours but it does not make us much trouble for the same woman has done it for years and she goes ahead and we keep out of the way and say nothing. I am having a new Olson rug made for Eva's room and we are going to paint the walls so it will be fresh and pretty. She is trying to choose the rug now but they all look so pretty in the catalogue that it is hard to choose.

Eva wishes me to send her best love to each of you and to her brothers when you see them. You are much in her thoughts.

With every good wish

Lovingly,
Laura -



Dining Room - Wellington Hotel - Albany, N. Y.



BIRTHPLACE OF GROVER CLEVELAND, CALDWELL, N. J.



POST CARD

Dr. Geo. S. Woodworth,
247 Delta St.,
East Lansing,
Mich.

THIS SPACE FOR THE ADDRESS

POST

Dear George - April 30/42

It seems a long time since
we've had a letter - hope you are
well & happy and not ill. I
have been on the shelf a
few days but have been up and
around today. It's a goodly much
help yet. Now having beautiful
weather - talking + discussing ac-
tivity in the garden. Love to you
and mine very much. Love, Mother.

May 3, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

I'm terribly appalled at how long it is since I wrote you - or seem to have, according to my record - it almost seems I must have failed to make a note of my last letter for I had no idea it was so long. However, it's all of a piece with this term in which I seem to have been more disorganized than I can remember for years. In some ways Mrs. Juntson's death isn't to blame for it, but it seems to have started with that and I get farther & farther behind every day. And this frightfully hot spring has not helped matters any - it has been so hot day after day that even in the lightest of summer clothes working afterwards has been something of a trial. Have you ever seen such a spring - before April we gave the elms, even, were in full leaf and lilacs were blossoming - that's three weeks early at least. But it has been dangerously dry - a heavy thunder

than this afternoon was only a drop to what
is needed. I'm so glad you got the power mower
- if there's ever been a year you needed it it's this
- but still I hope you're not letting it drag you
about too much, Father, - it can be a master as
well as a servant.

The course I'm taking has been rather checked'
as we say. A week ago Friday just before the
class with the professor committed suicide
in a little room of the classroom - a very tragic
case - he had not been well, was greatly over-
worked and had a strong inferiority complex. I
hope it will be a lesson to the college that it can-
not press its staff too far.

My bicycle has been a great help these last days
for it has enabled me to get out into the country
a little without making the hot walk to get
there - and I have seen quite a number of
wild places new to me - largely, I suppose be-
cause I'm not used to getting out so early.
- I finally bought the car again last week.
I had been told because of the collapsing, and
I'm not sure yet there'll be much point in coming
out in it. But I decided that as long as I
had that amount of money tied up I may as

will have the use of it for those things which
are so much easier with a car than without - for
one thing, missing at the end of term. Though
nobody here seems to mean to I don't know - knowing
for certain that one is getting to quiet place is
so difficult - and rooms & apartments here are
so very scarce - this is a defence area and every
available house, apartment & room goes to the
highest bidder - and he usually bids high.

I do not know what to say about Eva - I am
sure there are doctors who would help her if
she went to them, but I don't know that
she can be helped until she goes voluntarily.
How soon she may do so I can't even guess.
Somehow I must contrive to see Mrs Boyd
if she will see me - I'm afraid she won't though
for she promised Eva not to do so without
telling her. But I shall go down to see the
doctor, and try & find out if there isn't
something he ^{in her} can do - I had hoped he
would build up enough confidence in him
so that he could influence her - perhaps
he thinks he is doing so - I hope so.

Well, it is dinner time and I am hungry -

though that it'll be satisfied by what I'm
likely to get I rather doubt - food goes up
& up in price & down & down in quality.
However, I manage to get enough to eat
and the selection is so small I don't have
to exercise a choice, so that eating is
more or less mechanical - fortunately
there is always a pretty fair crowd of
people I know to eat with.

So all now - do stop working so hard -
I know you'd like to win the war all by
yourself, but you must let some of
the rest of us help! Lots of love,
George

May 7/42

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Dear George:

I meant to write to-day but could not get time so I'll send this air mail. They were glad to hear this help call up on phone a few minutes ago from Catherine - she drove up since Thursday morning - just 4 days - we will go for her to-morrow morning. I am just so tired out from all the work I will be glad to slow up & rest more. My cold seems to hang on so I am tired of blowing my nose & coughing up phlegm - I think when I get out doors more I'll feel much better. To-day we got our sugar cards - three of them had some extra in house & have been using some so as to have only 6 lbs. left according to the ruling. I made quite a batch of sospits, some stewed pie plant, a popple sauce, pie

and 7 glasses of orange ade. The gas rationing will be the limit, and I guess it will mean very little riding out for me. Well it is not as bad as the soldiers over seas must endure.

We were so glad to get your letter on Tuesday but sorry to hear you are so rushed and also of the tragic episode of the professor. You surely are in a predicament over your car and your moving. Isn't there any chance that you might be able to stay there another year? I wish we could help you out but I don't see how we can. We are quite concerned about Milburs predicament - they are losing money every day - so little travel on the roads and it is only the Marting a week or so & the diner will have to close. Just what M. will do I don't know. - Last week he went

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

to N. Y. taking Jessie & Florence with
him - they were away 2 days. Just be-
fore starting home we & while the
girls were in a stone he had a bad
spill & finally fainted in the car.
The girls drove home & he was all
right the next day but went to see
Dr. Wray - We all thought it must
have been a heart attack but the Dr.
said he could not find a thing,
the matter with him except he is
very much over weight. So he is now
on a very scant diet to reduce - We
think the attack must have been
acute indigestion - his whole body
was numb at first & he had a dreadful
pain in stomach. It was a miracle
he came thro all night. On Apr 24
Harold had a narrow escape from a

serious accident - White Mage was
over here for a few minutes; he started
to take down the storm windows
and the first one fell on him and
the glass went right over his head;
he was lucky to have only one cut near
the ear & a few on his hands. It hap-
pened that the policeman was passing
& took him right down to doctor. He was
paled up a few days but is ok now.
It has been coal now several days -
last night we had a very acceptable
rain. Our place looks nice, garden is
started, Blossoms are out (the apples
trees were wonderful Sunday) - Chick
doing fine but it all helps pa moving
about all the time - he is very glad to have
the power however it does not take long
to make the lawns look nice. We expect
our climbing roses froze to the ground;
I was laid up all last week & that was a
great big chance to the out door work. When
does your college close? We are settled to
the fact we must stay home for the duration.
Now we are going to bed and get ready for
another full day to -morrow. Love, Mother.

Catsackie N.Y.

May 14, 1942

Dear George:

Sorry I forgot to put the arrival
on last letter. We are having nice
days now but still too busy most
of time to sit out doors. - I had
to finally see Dr. W. G. for I was
tired of blowing my nose & pain
in throat. After an examination
he said I had an attack of Catarrh
from the cold I had had. So
I have been taking + taking various
things since Monday & I am
much better. I am in very good
shape otherwise but have lost
appetite & sleep - really will re-
turn when I get our doors more.

Pa keeps going but is very
well tho he is quite tired.
His head aches are few & slight.
We have our sugar rationed &
each one of us has a separate
bowl which we use only for
breakfast. Can't use for
anything, I guess, when necessary.
Our place looks so nice now
& we are eating asparagus, radishes,
and onions.

Yesterday we took storm sun-
days off + also such covering
chickens grow fined all lots
of work but some pullets
will go (some of them) + with
wheat twillers go to market.

Pa is going to lay for gas said -
He has talked + worried over
it quite a bit - He means to be
very patriotic + economical
so thinks he will get C and B-B.
He intends to cut out all un-
necessary driving (even grange)
and I am destined to be im-
mured for the duration un-
less I go when the car does my
business. Sunday we took
a nice drive over near
Hts. the first in months
and probably the last for
longer months.

Had quite a storm yester-
day + both the elm trees
north of house were struck
by lightning - one very slightly -
the other quite bad - May want
to get expert to fix it - pieces

of bark were here + there on
the lawn - we'll have to get
the same folks to doctor it -

Had a nice long letter
from Ma Saturday - she
must be improving for
her letters show progress.

At last I found a picture
frame for our photos - after
scouring Albany + Catskill
I bought one down town here
in the Main Store. I only
got one just I was not sure
it was the right size. I'm
going to get another one for
you - do you want me to
send it to you?

We had a big washing this
week so have not started
yet to resume the house clean-
ing. Mrs Delp was very tired
after her trip but feels O.K. now.
We are wondering how you
are coming out on the gas
situation. Thank you to much

For the lovely card you sent
me for Mother's Day - the
verse on it is wonderful.

Harold & Maize were
here Sunday night and
Melba & Jessie came late
in the evening.

Pa is getting ready to go
with Henry to get the gas
ration cards - Pa thinks
he is entitled to an X but
doesn't want it as there
is too much fuss about
it. Now I must stop
and do some thing - there
is always plenty to do.
Much love

Mother.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELM SHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

May 22/42

Dear George:

This is our third cloudy day and we had plenty of rain fall so we need not worry about water now. Yesterday we cleaned the living room and now we are watching for the sun to come out so we can clean the rug. You can imagine how upset we are with the hall porch and dining room cluttered up with furniture & odds & ends. Miss D. & I are putting fresh water in the pond and as soon as it warms up we will put the fish in. The two we kept all winter are very lively & tame and the other day we were in Catehill and bought 7 small fish and 2 snails - they are much more expensive than last year. The lilies lived thru the winter and we gave some away & for the white in creek by Patten's - Still we have one

ones left in the three tubs. Pa lines in
overall most of the time but soon
a large part of the chickens will be
sold + that will mean much less work.
The garden is nearly all planted and
growing and the place is slicked up &
looks fine - I don't know what we
would have done without the power
mower. Yesterday the Dairy Ins
representative was here to examine
the large elm that was struck by
lightning last week. Can't tell
how serious the damage is for three
weeks but if there are no signs of
dying by then, it can be repaired
for \$40. That is a high price it
seems, still we do not want to lose
the tree and it would cost \$50 or
more to have it taken down if it did
die. It does seem as if we have a
continuous array of things to get on
to fix and cause us to spend money.

P.S. - Pa's headaches have kept very much - he could not work as he does if he had to suffer as much as he did. We are inclined to think the Val. B. tablets have helped.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK

ELMSHADE

COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

The diner is open now only from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. and just the chef & the two girls & Milbrun run it. At present Jerry works there so Milbrun can finish up his apartment. He has made a pretty cat in as a welder in several places and so may be called away to work somewhere most any day.

We have been quite confined to home for some time on account of work and gas rationing, so there is not much news. Sky is getting brighter and perhaps sun will shine soon. I will enclose Mrs. Bayd's letter received yesterday - I do not hear from them only about once in two weeks. I know you must be

They very busy and that is why you
do not write. Haven't heard
from Cass. in a long time. Do
not see Harold & Marge very much
but they were at a supper in my
Church Wednesday - they are both
well & busy. Dr. W. Pratt recently
examined H. & told him he was
in excellent shape & there was no
reason why he could escape the
draft. He does not want to go but hopes
the suspense will soon be over.
Henry has just called up and wants
100 chickens Monday. They are selling
now for 70¢ - that is pullets - they are
all very fine chickens & if nothing hap-
pens to them will be worth something.
Feed has been very high & we doubt the
cost when added up will be staggering.
Now I must get busy - I am getting they
good now but get tired soon.
much love, Thomas.

Sent from Mother
with May 22, 1942

Holland, Michigan
May 17, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schack,

I am writing for Eva today because she finds the writing of letters so difficult that it does not pay for her to attempt it very often. She would like so much to write to you but it seems foolish for her to use her little bit of strength on a task that we know is too hard for her.

Eva spends the greater part of her time in the garden now. We have had some nice rains and the frost has held off so we are hoping that we may have produce before too long. Thus far onions and radishes have been our only crops. Of course, we have a nice lot of asparagus but we don't count that as coming from the garden. We have been eating rhubarb too, at least I have, but the sugar ration has rather interfered with that. We are trying to use only my share of the sugar and save Eva's for canning but we do not know yet how that will work out. None of the fruit trees seem to be very full this year and perhaps it is just as well for people will not be able to can very much unless the extra amount is increased.

We visited an agricultural green house one day last week and saw them raising tomatoes under glass. The owner was a friend of my father's so he showed us about and let us see all he had. He raises tomatoes, cysanthamums and melons. He showed us one house where they had ~~27,000~~ small melon plants started. It was very interesting to see and we hope to have some of his melons after a time for Eva can eat them and so they form our most common dessert all the time they are in market.

Our next door neighbor has sold his house and we are feeling rather badly about it for they have lived here all the time we have and we hate to think about them going away but the man expects to be called for the army and his wife does not drive so she does not want to be left here in the country alone. This war makes many changes.

The new rug for Eva's room came this past week and now we wishing that we had worked harder and had all the painting and varnishing done in the room so we could lay it at once but we have peeked in at one end of the roll and think it is pretty so we will work hard for a couple of days and then we can lay it.

Eva sends her best love to you and her father and says to tell you that she hopes the gas rationing will not make you too much trouble. We are hoping that it may not come to us very soon.

With love,

Laura.

Every camp I saw too generous about
the number of plants
12,000

[not attached with letter]

Holland, Michigan
November 2, 1941

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

Eva and I listened to the concert this afternoon and that has made me a little late with my letters. We try to get the good concerts on the radio but sometimes the static is bad but today everything was fine and we both enjoyed the music so much.

The calendar says that this is November but we had a fresh bouquet of Mexican zinnias on the breakfast table that Eva picked this morning. We think that is some sort of a record. We have had frost this past week which has spoiled the vegetables so that there will be no more beans and tomatoes this year. Eva has brought in the root vegetables and has canned so many sorts of fruit and pickles as well as vegetables that I am sure we will still be having food from the garden when the time comes for another garden.

There is nothing new to report about Eva's condition. Much of the time she is so nervous that she is able to control herself with difficulty. The doctor was here last week and started a blood test which will run over a period of some weeks to determine the hormone content of the blood. In this way he hopes to find what she lacks and then they will try to give her that. She is taking one of the new hormones now and we are hoping that it will help. It is very discouraging to see Eva suffer so from this nervousness for in other ways she seems fine. When she takes bromides for several days she cannot sleep well but otherwise she sleeps well and her diabetes is under good control although she takes a lot of insulin when she is nervous. She has her menstrual periods regularly and we hope that will bring relief. Eva is nearly always cheerful and tries so hard to get well that I feel sure she will be rewarded some day.

We went to Grand Rapids one day last week to eat dinner and then to see a comedy put on by the Civic Players there. We had a good time and I think such little outings are good for her if we do not go too often and if we go alone. People make Eva very nervous especially if it is someone she has known. She does not mind strangers.

Eva has been wondering who the Dr. Holden is who is a new member of the classis. She has seen his name in the Intelligencer. She has been wondering too whether Jennie is still working in Pittsfield and how are Aunt Boil and the rest of them at the Pierce's. You see Eva thinks a great deal about all the home folks and friends and is interested in them all. She wants me to thank you for the letters which come so regularly each week. They mean much to her. George writes often and so do several of her Baltimore friends. I do the best I can to write for her because writing is still too much of an effort for her.

She sends her best love to each of you.

With love,

Berna

May 26, 1942

Dear Mother & Father

Very glad to get your letter yesterday and to hear how everything is going - apparently fairly well considering these upset times. From your description the place at home must look very beautiful now - what a change there has been there since you moved in thirty-five years ago! I'm sorry to hear about the elm tree and sorry it will cost so much either to get it fixed or to get it removed. If fixing it costs the same or less and if it can really be fixed I think that is the thing to do - it would be a shame to lose the tree. - I'm glad to hear the chickens are coming along so well, and that soon you will be rid of a large number of them. Just think, it is still only May - it hardly seems, with all the fine weather we have had, that we yet have the whole summer before us.

I had not realized that perhaps Harold would be called to the army, but I suppose at his age and with Marge able to take care of herself he could be taken. And as long as the threat hangs over him he will be up to - will the suspense be over soon? I have finally found my own number - 1252 - about the middle, I believe, in the February draft. So far I have had only my occupational questionnaire. Whether my number will come up this summer I don't know. I doubt very much I would be put at combat training, but I might very well be set at some teaching job or other. If I could pass the physical exam I think I could get into the navy as a mail instructor, but at present I think I'd be refused on the score of weight. Not for any other reason. So I'm going to sit tight for awhile yet. If I'm not called until next fall the college would probably ask to have me deferred until June.

The gas rationing will certainly change your way of life. But I think you are foolish to be

over-patentistic - I don't know what all the numbers mean, but I don't know why you shouldn't have a classification giving you the maximum ration, although not the unlimited classification. After all, how are you going to keep up with all the government work you were doing - in fact, I should think the government would see that you had an X card.

Yes, indeed, do send me the photo-frames for I'd like to be able to have your pictures out in sight. I'm glad you were finally able to find them.

The year here seems to be ending along rather fast - it will be over three weeks from this coming Saturday. I am not down for summer school but there is a chance the enrollment will be so large that I'll get a job to last until August. So far I've done nothing about looking up a place for next year and shall probably leave the whole matter of that and of moving until the exams are over, taking my time about getting out.

Had a rather heavy social day Sunday, being invited out to both dinner & supper - two very large & delicious meals. The first was at Prof. Kraushammer's - had for an teacher here - he has a charming place out in the country and a most excellent veges cook. In the evening the affair was a buffet supper at the Revere - he is the librarian. There were eight other guests, and after supper we read a play, each of us taking one or several parts. It was quite fun, but not exactly relaxing.

Well, this must be all news - I have a heavy week ahead - but it ends with a holiday, and I'm thinking of taking those two days - Sunday & Monday to make a trip over to Lake Michigan to see the dunes and some better scenery than there is around here.

Do keep well, and don't work too hard.
Lots of love, George.

Serial No. 1252 was drawn from the gold fish bowl 3rd draft No 3113 making high no 13113 less the highest serial no. than the highest in local board.
N. Y. Times

May 28/42

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

Dear George -

Was pleased to get your letter yesterday - you ought to have received mine last Saturday with air mail stamp. Have not heard from you in long time. Aunt Addie is in a Convalescent Home on Long Is. I think but only temporary - she is determined to come up here but the folks are keeping her from doing so - I do not want her near my to bother me - I have my problems now. Wilbur has been to G. E. in Schenectady twice this week & may have a pt soon. He talks of selling the diner but the cook wants to continue - he is the only man now besides W. and Florence & other woman are there - Jessie takes Wilbur's place when he must be away. The nursery school has been small lately owing to so

much sickness among children in town.
Tuesday we went to meeting of Historical
Society at Brook House & Maye went
with us. H. M. recently joined but
H. could not go as he had a jury
trial at the Justice's place down town.
You may know how we have cut out
our riding when I tell you in the last
two weeks the car registers only 100 mi.
compared to from 300 to 500 a week in
former days. Many days now Pa does
not take it out of garage. He had a B3
Board which means 57 gal gas before fully
1st. - We have bought so far only 11 gal.
but had some in the tank to start with.
Pa says we make about 15 mi per gal.
He could have had an X card but
with that the car cannot be used at
all except on business - there are many
of them in County & much criticism
about using cars for everything.
This week we had a big wash so Lane drove it

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

more cleaning. To-morrow we expect to do the dining room & next week kitchen & bath room. After that I in between Mrs D. can help pa some with chicks and flowers also veg. garden. Pa has been annoyed because his early planting of garden was a failure for some reason seeds did not sprout & garden must be made over. The seeds were perfectly good but ground has been cold. - have not had one warm day this month and to be at all comfortable in house we must have fire in fire place. Not trying to run furnace even with wood as pa has more to do than he can do. Sherman was here Saturday but this week is at Lawrence's. Another year of like this

one, we will have to give up either the
chickens or the garden. Harold
seems much interested in his garden
& really gets up early some days to
work in it. He had 4 teeth out last
week and expects remainder of upper
ones (5) to be pulled soon. It's really
a serious procedure for him for it
seems so hard to stop bleeding.

Henry bought 100 pellets Monday and
later will take another hundred. As
there seems no prospect of our leaving
home this summer or very winter
we will keep about 200 or so, as
as they are fine chickens & eggs will
mean some revenue. According to
news reports no knowing what future
will bring - high prices & taxes & financial
drives of all description cuts a set income
more than the high wages so many are
getting. Now I will go to Mail but to hope
I've got it Saturday. I am quite well now but do as
you get it Saturday. Love to see you & na. Love
Mother.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. George B. Van Slesack
247 Delta St.,
East Lansing,
Mich.

Cathartes III

June 3/42

Dear George -

This is a full week - R
& I are going to Albany to
morrows Lot 2 deep at
General Depot - it may
not come so near us for some
years again. Cloudy & raining
for a week - Sat, very hot
but we took no holiday - came
to Cemetery at night. Glad
to get your letter - I hope you
think you will be home?
If you get a chance buy & send
E. a pair of good scissors -
she has not got to stores & wants
one. Am sending photo frame -
but I could find, sorry not
better. Caught 100 C. this Am
in market. No special news.
I must close this week. Hope
you are not rushing too much
these last days. Love
Mother

Mr. Dalpé's journey to Hudson
to-night till Sunday.

Catskill, N.Y.

June 11/42

Dear George:

I am enclosing Laura's letter re-
ceived yesterday - we think it quite en-
couraging. Weather very warm and
very dry again. Pa finds much to
keep him busy but is letting up some
and getting more. He has quite a new pro-
ject to supervise this month; I suppose he
received a letter from State Salvage Com.
that he has been appointed Chf of County
Salvage. Nothing was done definitely all
morning as the Chairman did work-
ing & then resigned. The New Board of which
Pa is Chf. was supposed to help the
Salvage Com but the latter made no
definite moves. Last night we attended a
big meeting in Catskill & went to several ^{houses}.

Learned little that was new tho' we had
no speakers from Cornell Agriculture
Group. Flowers are beautiful but
not many just now as many are gone
& new ones only just budding.

Caught & locked up, so more broilers
to-day as house was too full - they are
as fine chickens as we ever had - pa
hopes next week to finish up sale of
broilers. The Elm tree has been repaired
two men worked on it all day Thursday. Pa
& I had a nice time at Synod Meeting
Thurs. & Friday but we were widely sep-
arated as the men were at St. R. Church
on Pearl St. & we were upon the hill.

Now I must get busy - always something
to do - haven't read a book this spring.
Wilbur says he is going to join the Navy.
Dinner business is about dead - he is in a hole
but still is optimistic. Love, Mother.

sent from Mother
with June 11, 1942

Holland, Michigan
June 14, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

Eva was so pleased when your letter came yesterday telling about the meetings in Albany and what a fine time you had had there. It was so good that you could go and enjoy all the talks and meeting so many people whom you know.

Our past week has not been too good. On last Monday we went to the picture show to see *Gone With the Wind*. Eva had not seen it when it was in Baltimore some years ago and wanted to see it because she had read the book and had heard so much about the picture but it was very long and she must have gotten too tired even though she did not think so at the time and we had such a good time. The next three days she was so nervous and upset and it was so hard for her to control herself or to get anything done. She has been better now for two days and we hope we may have some more good days such as we had a week ago. There is no doubt that Eva is much better but she is still a long way from being able to lead anything but a very sheltered life. Just this morning she, "In the last two months I have gained more than in the six months previous." I am so glad to be able to give you some encouraging news after such a long time when there was so little good to report but we must not expect too rapid gains and for the present do not say anything about it to her.

The garden is flourishing due to Eva's good care and the frequent rains. We had green peas on June 10 and have had them every day since then and have given away some. We had kohlrabi today and yesterday Eva canned two pints of spinach. We picked such a lot that we thought it would make more than that but it shrinks so much in the cooking. Tomorrow we are having the first beet greens. Peas count rather high for Eva's diet but by planning the rest of the meal right we can arrange it so she can have a big dish of peas and it always makes me so happy when she can have some of the good things that come from the garden.

I think I forgot last week to thank you for the check which arrived safely and has been put in the bank. Eva has not bought any new clothes this spring except every day clothes for she goes away from home so seldom that we will make the things she has do but she will need socks and such little things from time to time. She does appreciate the generous checks and hopes she will some day be able to earn money again so she can once more be independent but that will be some time far ahead.

Eva sends her very best love and hopes it may not be too long until she will be able to write more often.

With all good wishes,

Laura -

June 18, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father,

Here I sit in my last exam - in another hour, so far as the students are concerned, the term will be over. But I shall still have two sets of papers to mark for my three exams have come these last two days so far I have made no preparations for coming - it is highly likely that I shall get a summer school job here, but that won't be definite until the session gets under way next week - I'm not so anxious to teach but I am anxious to have the extra money - next year is going to be a lot more costly than this one past. I can't imagine where I shall live - at the present time there are no apartments or pseudo-apartments available which I feel I can afford - and I don't want to go into just a room if I can help it. By fall

it is expected there will be another 10,000 workers
in this area, - where they or the rest of us are
going to live I don't know. Parking-up is a
more immediate problem which I dread -
I have accumulated here, as everywhere, but
I have not accumulated parking cases & carts -
and neither of these can now be obtained.
One can get parking cases made - at more than
\$5 a piece - imagine it! I am going to try
to make some myself, although the lumber
alone will cost \$3 a piece.

Very glad to get your letter last week -
glad you were able to knock off a couple of days
& go to synod. - I shall enclose Laura's
letter which you didn't say not to return -
I got one very similar to it a day or two
after I heard from you. There does seem to
be some progress, although it is slow. I'm
hoping Dr. Peelen may get there more often
this summer - sometime soon I must
go down & see him - till now I have
been going in so many directions I've
just kept putting it off.

This letter looks rather messy, I'm afraid, but the paper seems so damp the pen doesn't write well - everything has been damp here for nearly three weeks - we had a picnic towards at Memorial Day time and since then many very violent electrical storms - curiously, as with you, lightning struck the biggest elm on Mrs. J. Smitavi lat - we didn't have a telephone for three days. I'm sorry you had that experience with the elm tree, but you did right to have it fixed - it would have been a shame to lose it. - I'm glad the chickens have gone so well this spring and I hope you have made a good thing out of them.

Thanks for the picture frames which came through o.k. with all that good packing. Our running out of ink & exam is nearly over. Best wishes to you both for Father's Day, and lots of love, G.

MRS. M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

June 18/42

Dear George:

Just wrote a long letter to Ma-
will enclose Laura's received for letter day
and it was good to hear of excellent im-
provement. I know you are well & will
too hope to hear some thing from you
soon. We have actually finished our
house cleaning so now we can enjoy
some time outdoors. Last few days here
been cold, dark & showery - to-day started
in bright but has clouded over. Straw-
berries are about gone - garden doing fine.
Walter has a job in General Store
in Schenectady - works from 11 P.M. 5-
7 A.M. - goes up with 2 other fellows.
The Dinner closes Friday - I will be a
relief to Jessie as she is tired out from
working there several weeks. It almost

looks as if they will lose all machinery
unless they can sell Diner. Diner has
lost one to paunchy - guess he has
stopped dieting - he is much thinner
but seems to feel all right.

Pa has plenty of business with his
two important jobs of Pres. of War
Board + also Salvage Committee.
Have been trying this week to educa-
tise the Rubber Diene. There are many
details + some corrections + you
know I must do the latter + help with
the former. Pa had a telegram Sunday
about the Rubber etc more words -
another half as long every day. Next week
I am over for U.S.A. - Pa has done 7 a
part of Cay + township. Sold 150 bottles
Monday. Pa is not working as hard as re-
cently - we have a new crop of etc + in-
itated it Tuesday. I am feeling very well
now. When do you think you'll be home. Pa
has 3 prizes in flower show. Love, Mother

July 16, 1942

Dear Mother + Father,

I know you will be very much pleased to hear that I am going to Halland tomorrow to spend Eva's birthday week-end with her. I had made all my plans to go to Ann Arbor for this week-end to visit two different couples I know down there, but last night I had a special delightful letter from Eva asking me to come to Halland. I could not, of course, refuse to go, and besides I was delighted at the chance. I hope it won't upset her, but she says that both she + Lauer feel it will certainly do her more good than harm. I shall get there for dinner

tomorrow night (Friday) and shall stay
until late Sunday afternoon. - And a
week from today I am to go down to
Halauwago to see Dr. Peelen, after which
I hope I shall have some report to make.

After nearly a week of summer school
was over it was finally decided to
give me a job. I got sixteen hours - two
classes - 8 to 10 every day except Saturday
and 1-3 three days a week - a pretty good
schedule and quite small classes. The
weather has not been very hot, but it
has rained a lot & been rather humid - I've
not had too much extra energy. Part of
the rest of the time I am working on a new
course I must give next fall, and I am
also practicing piano two or three hours
a day - having started early in June. So
what with a rather more social life than
in regular term I keep pretty busy. - I
was down in Ann Arbor for the July 4
week-end, and last week-end I spent

parking. I am now pretty well packed up, but
shant have to get out until the first of
August.

I got my service questionnaire last week
and should have my classification in
another few days. It could, of course,
be 1 A, but I doubt it will, for the
college has asked for my deferment
on the basis that I am needed here and
replacements are practically impossible.
So I rather expect it will be 2 A. If
it is not, the college has instructions from
the American Mathematical Society to
report the case at once to Washington,
by telephone!

Thanks for sending the list of Cassin's
boys in service - it seemed a rather large
one for so small a community, - and
how they are scattered over the face
of the globe. But as things are going
at present, there will have to be many
more of them going - I fear it will be

a frightfully long war.

Your own lines seem to revolve very largely about the war. I am proud you take so much initiative in all those activities, but I do wish you'd cut out some of the regular work - you could have both a flower garden and a victory garden! Please!

Well, it is very late and I must get to bed, for the week end will probably be rather strenuous, but very pleasant.

Lots of love,
George.

July 29th, 1942

Dear Mother - Father,

I have very good news of Eva. I was with her for forty eight hours, and during all of that time she talked easily, showed little nervousness, did not seem tired, and, most significantly, I think, she showed us no fear. I feel very much encouraged and believe she is on the up-grade - she still has a long way to go, but I believe she really wants to get well now, and that she is happy in trying. She woke me the second day after I was there, which shows she cannot have been overtaxed by the visit - and Laura wrote that although Eva was tired and nervous on Monday & Tuesday, she was much less

so than before I came on an many pre-
vious occasions. I saw Dr. Peelen last
Thursday and he too is much encouraged
- he says he really believes now that she
will become ^{again} as normal again as she was
years ago. Even now, she seemed to me
much more like her old self than I can
remember for several years. He started
her with a new medicine last December,
which should not show any effect be-
fore May - and just then she seemed
to show marked improvement. And she
is now using the old type insulin, taking
it just before each meal - a more in-
dependent measure, but ever so much
easier on her nerves. Her nerves, too,
seems to have needed almost entirely -
when I asked her about it she said
she had forgotten she had it.

We had a delightful week-end together.
Saturday evening we went on a picnic
to the beach and went swimming in Lake
Michigan - the water was quite warm -

Another item of news you will be glad to learn is my draft classification - I have been put in 2A - occupational deferment for six months from July 22nd.

Last week and I spent in Ann Arbor with the friends I made of before. Friday night we saw a very brilliant play, Saturday night had a party, and on Sunday a picnic and a swim in the Huron River.

On the debit side I had a miserable piece of luck today - somehow or other I lost my bill fold - I think I dropped it on the bus or my pocket was picked. Fortunately it had practically no money in it, but it did have all my licenses, my ration card, auto tax stamp and spare car keys - a frightful & expensive nuisance to replace all these - but I am still hoping it may be returned - I had an ad in the paper - and it may be advertised tomorrow.

in fact, just right. On Sunday she & I
had a long walk - in which we found
an orchid new to both of us, and apparently
unreported so far in Michigan - and then
drove to Langatuck to discuss, after
which we had another walk on the beach.
And I saw all her large and very flourishing
garden. She has done a really fine job
of both vegetables & flowers - she has
loads of tomato plants any gardener
would be very proud of - some dozen or
fifteen different kinds, all way along to-
ward bearing - and a dozen other vegetables.
In addition, an herb garden, a wild flower
garden, and lots of other flowers. -

Laura suggested to me she thought it
might be nice (if the doctor agreed) and
possible for her & Eva to go off on a
holiday for a week or ten days - and be-
fore I left Eva said she agreed. Laura
must not stand this expense and I am
sending Eva some money for it.

The worst idea is losing the car key & license
together - I hate to have them floating
about.

Now I must get to bed. With lots of love,

George.

P.S. Despite the good news of Lou
I think it is best yet not to say any-
thing to her about it, for the same
reasons as before.

August 5, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

Have at last made practically all of the rather long journey out here - in fact Hooyan tonight - about seventy miles east of Denver - near enough to have seen Lays' Peak as the sun set - a dominating peak nearly a hundred miles away.

Spent all day coming from Hockings - over three hundred miles of semi-arid country, many miles of treeless wastes - I'll write you of it in more detail later. Illinoi & Iowa were beautiful and we had cool weather, but today was very hot.

Was sorry not to have word from you at Hockings, but expect there wasn't time and shall look for something at

Greeley. For the present my address
will be Estes Park, Colorado, just below
- if I don't stay there I'll have a for-
warding address.

Now I must get to bed, for I'm rather
tired. Mr. Mauldin doesn't drive so
I must do all the driving. Have from
the coast, and lots of love, George.

Catsackie, N. L.

August 8, 1942

My dear Jay -

My heart aches for you
in your latest dilemma (Maybe
this isn't spelled correctly) and the
news of all your recent trouble
could not but upset me. I am
not going to say much now but
can talk better when I see you. I am
so sorry for both of you but feel
just now I could not really en-
joy a visit from you under the
circumstances. If either of you comes
I will treat her well - We always
felt she tho't a good deal of us this
was really was good to her more
for your sake than her own - We
did admire her for many qualities
and enjoyed her visits ^{with} you.

As says he will write to you to-morrow. It took us several days to really digest the news & being very busy too, with the continued work here, we found it too late to write to either address you gave us. We were glad to get your letter to-day and hear about the trip and know you arrived with no trouble. It was a shock to me to hear you were not coming home for I have so looked forward to your coming ever since the middle of June.

We are glad you have been deferred & hope it may be a permanent one unless you really want to go. Mrs. Deep had a shock yesterday to hear Gordon is to leave Washington in a short time - they are packing up to

more - He does not know where but
 thinks it will be to Ireland. Pro-
 Roman has been on edge for several
 weeks on account of Wayne's act-
 ions and Gordon's marriage - the
 former trouble is still unsettled.
 So we have all been upset for some
 time. We did take a day off last
 Saturday + drive to Plimbeck - it
 was a beautiful day + seemed so
 good to have a real ride again.
 Pa can have 8 gal. gas a week but it
 is not for pleasure - the 4 gal. is for
 his work.

We have about decided to go to
 Maine on the 19th for 2 weeks. The
 Salvage Dive has been postponed
 till latter part of Sept. so as Pa has
 all plans completed, he feels he can
 be spared for 2 wks. Mrs Delp will

Stay here to care for the Chickens
(over 200) which are beginning to lay.
Pa has just completed fixing up the
Chicken houses + putting in nests, so
now they can be locked up - that is
the older lot - the others have a few
more weeks to run around. We must
go to Maine via Bus or Train + so far
we have not received the information
of some Tables etc. I am not at all keen
on going without the Car but it can't
be helped - we will be able to take
just absolute necessities - nothing to
use on the beach. We will be in "the Cuties"
The friends + atmosphere at O.P. will be
the best tonic we can have. I will not
get around very much as my feet
have not been first rate this summer
+ I cannot walk much at a time.
Weather has been cool, nights + not very
hot in daytime. So for my feet cannot
enjoy our beautiful flowers and
whistles & all of the vegetables.

I also regret you will not be here for John's birthday this week. I had hoped all summer this was just the time you would be here. I had little heart to plan a gathering for the occasion but concluded it would not be fair to Wilbur & Harold to leave out this annual get-together. We shall think of you and wish you could be with us. We will probably have a picnic supper on the lawn.

Your letter telling about the visit to the doctor was very encouraging. Had a nice letter to-day from Ma. I trust she does not know about your trouble for I fear it would ~~surprised~~ ^{worry} her as to put her improvement back ward. I am longing for the

time when I can either go to see her or she can come home. Her illness has been a big loss to me but I will not push a visit either way till doctor thinks it nice.

Now I must get ready to go to town with Pa to do our shopping. We were in Catchell yesterday. I did some shopping while Pa was at a meeting in office. We must now buy groceries here as we trade in our eggs at Webbs.

I hope you will write often if only a postal card. Do not lose hope of your being home at all before college opens? Tell me!

I just spent the ink & have had a nice mess to clean up.

Goodbye - Be good. Love
Mother.

Chippita Park, Colo.

August 8, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

I was very much disappointed to have no word from you at Greeley - but we did pass through there a day earlier than we expected so perhaps your letter is being forwarded. But it must go through two other addresses first, for after a look at Estes Park, northwest of Denver, we wandered on to Palmer Lake, north of Colorado Springs and then to here, just west of Colorado Springs.

We are in a cabin-house high up on the side of a valley, with cliffs a thousand feet high on one side and cone shaped peaks on the other - behind the cliffs lie Pikes Peak. The elevation up here is 8100, a little

unwaking of feet, but I think I'm getting used
to it now. We shall stay here some time as
the above address is semi-permanent.

The trip here was very interesting. Illinois
& Iowa are beautiful rolling hills, very
green this year with all the rain - corn fields
everywhere as far as one can see - I measured
one as having rows eight hundred of a mile
long. Nebraska is much flatter - very flat
in some places, semi arid, almost desert
for miles - and very few trees about. At
one place, on a slight rise, to the horizon
we saw nothing but unbroken fields - no
houses, no trees, only waste land - some of
it badly eroded. By and large we seemed
to miss the wheat fields, except in eastern
Colorado - and where there were fields the
crop had mostly been cut so I didn't get a
chance to see a big combine in action.

When still a hundred miles from the mountains
we could see Long's Peak - 14000 feet high. We
made first for Estes Park, at the foot of

Larry's Peak, driving up to it through Big
Thompson Canon, a thousand feet deep.
The spot is marvelous with great peaks
all about, but the settlement is like
Old Orchard, with no place to stay offering
any quiet or seclusion. So we went on
at once to Palmer Lake where we knew of
a house, which proved very disappointing
in itself & its position. One night there was
snowfall and yesterday we came here. This
is a private untraveled settlement, this parti-
cular cabin being on the highest level and
rather isolated with a gorgeous view - and
within a few miles there are the Garden of
the Gods, Pikes Peak, Crater Lake, cones,
etc., etc. Mail leaves only once a day and
very shortly now, so I must stop & get
this off in order for you to have it on
Monday. - I do hope everything is all
right and that I'll hear from you soon.
Lots of love, George. [P.S. My pocket book was found
& forwarded to me!]

The spur is wired sage from the back door.

M. B. VAN SCHAACK
ELMSHADE
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK

aug. 9/42

Dear George -

Sunday night & time to go to bed but I just want to write a few lines. So sorry I forgot to put my letter yesterday in the envelope - I put an air mail stamp on so you'd get it as soon as possible - I did not find out my mistake till I was going to bed. I addressed the envelope & put in the blotter while pa was reading the letter & left the envelope on desk. We started for Coxsackie and at Juncus I remembered I forgot to bring letter to mail. So we drove back

home for it and I grabbed the envelope of the deck and sealed it.

I'm sure you will need some messages from home and I'll try to write as usual. My heart aches for you and I hope this will be the last of such troubles for you.

Now I must get to bed - the others are in bed already. I will think of you all the time and pray you may be comforted and strengthened.

With much love,
Mother.

August 15, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

I was so glad finally to have word from you again yesterday and especially such sympathetic letters. Your letter containing the blotter was received on Wednesday - to mystify me for a moment until I realized what must have happened - your other letter & card addressed to Greeley, Estes Park were forwarded alright, and today has just come your card written Wednesday. - I am sorry I could not be at home for Father's birthday - but I thought of you & the probable party you were having - and I sent a telegram which I hope you received that evening.

We have been here a week now and have
settled into this place so that I think
we shall probably stay right here until
about the 12th of September - certainly
Mr. Maunheim will for he has had a
picnic stand in and must work steadily
from now on to prepare his programs
for next winter. I shall regret very much
not getting home this summer, but this
climate and the holiday are doing ~~me~~ so
much good I think I should stay right
here until I must return to East Lansing.
I am getting a lot of sleep - out on a
sleeping porch, under four blankets - warm
or less sun and exercise. Sunday I
climbed quite a way up the hill back of
the cabin - the next day we had had a
small climb on the other side of the
valley and the following day a real
climb going to the top of the hill behind
the house. This last was not the
highest I have ever climbed but I think

breakfasts - to the top of Peter Peak and
to the Garden of the Gods, respectively.

I am very glad that you have decided
to go to Maine, even for so short a
time and even if you must go by train or
bus. It will do you both a great deal of
good - and if you don't have the con-
jugal probably get more rest, which I
 reckon is what you need most of all. I
shall write your next to the Curator.

I did tell Eow this matter of Can & me
when I saw her in Hallowell. I reckon, of
course, that it upset her somewhat,
but she is so astute that she must
surely have suspected it sooner or later
and for me not to tell her would have
upset her more.

Well, if you are to leave this before you
leave I must put it in the mail this
afternoon. A safe & pleasant journey to
you. Lots of love and many thanks for
your good letters. George.

it was the hardest and steepest - much
of it at this angle / in rather loose
granul-dirt - but the view was worth it
- across to Pikes Peak, seemingly near enough
to touch, to the west the high peak at
Leadville a hundred miles away and to
the east Colorado Springs and the great
glaciers to the horizon. Since then we've
had no hitting for the weather has been
quite rainy and cold - yesterday the
region had a very severe hailstorm -
a lot of hail here, but not far away,
a great deal, with pieces as large as hen's
eggs doing much damage to roofs &
automobiles. - So far I have been away
from here only twice - to Colorado Springs -
Saturday evening to attend a dance recital
and Wednesday to see about the papers
and to pick up a few necessary items.
But soon we must get out in the car
and take a few of the marvelous drives

August 27, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father,

I was glad to hear you reached Ocean Park safely and in not too bad shape after the long train ride to Boston - and to hear that the Curtis is so much improved. It is nice that Grace is there for while you know quite a lot of people there now none of them can be such an intimate friend as Grace. Do remember me to her, as well as to any other of the people I know there, - Mrs. Boston especially - though I wonder if she is there. Why don't you try to stop off on your way back & spend a night with Miss Hayes - she would just love it, - and so would you.

I hope you have been having as good weather
as we - ~~weather~~ to interfere with perfect
weather aside from about one thunder
storm a day - afternoon or evening - apparently
a regular thing here. Last Saturday we
visited the so-called 'Cave of the Mounds' -
limestone caverns high up a mountain
side - interesting as the first I had ever
seen, but not very exciting for it is
all so commercialized - nothing harder
to do than climb an easy stairs, - and I
must prefer the beauty outside to what-
ever they call it inside. Tuesday evening
we went to a vantage point east of here
where we could see the plains, in the
hope of seeing the moon rise with the
eclipse to come almost immediately. But
there were clouds on the horizon - however
the moon soon rose above them and
we saw the beginning of the eclipse -
the rest of it being obscured by the
daily thunderstorm. - We have had

two weeks this week up the same
marvelous canyon - valley, which points
directly toward P. kee Peak and from
many points of which we had wonder-
fully framed views of it - the second
trip was to take the camera & get some
photos - I hope they'll turn out well for
some of them promised to be very good.

Today we are hance-hance - waiting
for the plumber - the hot water tank
sprang a leak yesterday afternoon
and so far we've got no satisfaction
from the management - the only way
I can keep the tank from leaking and
at the same time have water is to
keep the water running full hot with the
outlet pipe - it's now been running nearly
twenty-four hours.

All for now, for I must get a number
of other letters written - I haven't begun
to do as much letter-writing as I shall

Hoped. - Oh, yes, one thing - you wrote
that you had not written to Con and
didn't know what to write. I can well
understand that. Under the circumstances
I rather feel you don't have to write
anything - I told her angrily, that despite
the difficulty I hoped it would be pos-
sible to remain friends - her reply to
that was that it was impossible and
that the break must be complete - if she
really feels this way, I think the
best thing to do is just not to
say anything - however, you know
what you want to do, and there's
no reason you shouldn't do it.

Love of love,
George.

Chipita Park, Colo.
September 8, 1942

Dear Mother + Father,

I guess you must have decided I've fallen off a mountain! These last days have been rather more full than the earlier ones, now that I've rested enough to get about a lot. We leave here on Friday morning to drive to Canon City and Leadville where we shall stay overnight. The next day up to Estes Park again to do the Trail Ridge Road - about twenty miles, all above 10,000 feet - and Saturday afternoon back onto the plains to start our journey eastward. We expect to reach Hastings Nebraska

late Sunday (address of Mr. Dean E. Shaffer, 1126 North Kansas Ave.), stay the night there and drive to Ames, Iowa on Monday. On Tuesday to Chicago and on Thursday to Lansing (address M.S.C. Wash Dept).

We have had two remarkable drives since I last wrote. One the Gold Camp road - an old railroad right of way skirting the mountain tops between Colorado Spring + Cripple Creek - incredible views all the way - we made one hike enroute to the top of a peak overlooking a vast area of humbled mountains. Cripple Creek is where gold was discovered in Colorado. At one time it had 60,000 people in its area - now only two or three thousand - a forlorn and desolate place - the hills around it are bare and rock-marked with

mining shafts - thousands of them
- we ran into two of the oldest in Colorado
who told us several tales.

Our other drive was made of here to
a rocky jagged peak called Devil's Head
from which we had the best views of
the Rockies so far. They are well called
the Rockies, for everywhere there are
great towering masses of rock rising
a thousand or more feet, often with
sheer sides.

The weather now is beautiful - clear
skies, warm sun in the daytime, quite
cool nights - it seems hard to believe
that in ten days we shall be back
where the nights may still be very hot.

I'm glad you had such a good time in
Moine and trust that you reached
home safely - no word from you -
and that you found everything at

have in good shape. - I wouldn't
take Miss Boyd's letter too seriously
- apparently Eva will have a hard time
after I was there, but not as bad
as before in some - that she can
continue to write is significant.

Have had news on their letters from Daniel
Lahly. His mother is feeling fast - she
will not eat, her sight is going and
her nervousness increases - it will be
a mercy for her & for them if she does
not live long now. - I have heard
from the Bolints - the friends who
lived over me last year - that they
are moving to Chicago where he has
a new job. That makes news couple
I had counted on who have left
East Lansing this year. And news of
the best department heads have gone to
the army & navy - all news - hope all
is well & that I'll hear from you before
I leave. Lots of love, George.

Sept. 23, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

This is not the letter I promised to write you soon - I've not had time for that, and this is only a stop gap. Since the card from Chicago I've not written a single line of correspondence.

We reached here Thursday evening from Chicago to be plunged into the midst of a most frightful housing situation. Literally hundreds of people don't know where to find a place to live. I have spent nearly all my time since arrival on my aspect of that problem. There is not a single apartment of any kind to be had. There are at most a half dozen rooms vacant I'd even consider living in and so far I've not been able to bring myself to take

anyone of them, though within a day or two
I must take something at least temporarily,
for while I am welcome here for a time
at Dr. Maubert's it is as far in the
country that I can't operate from it very
well. The one possible good solution is
to buy a house and convert it into two
apartments - but there are very few houses
at all, not to say convertible ones. So far
I have not found anything near ^{what I want} enough,
nor a good enough value - one can spend
so little on conversion these days. For many
- to begin with, anyhow, - would be fairly easy
for there is such a demand, and rents are
way above prices of houses. - To add to the
picture we have had the most abominable
weather - cold, very cold, and dampness & rain
- at the moment the place has no one to take
care of it and we rush into it cold & from
there to bed. - But somehow I feel some-
thing will turn up - Just now I must get some
sleep because my advertising begins in the
morning now later & lots of loss, George.

626 M. A. C. Ave
East Lansing, Mich.
October 4, 1942

Dear Mother & Father,

As you see I have a new address. I gave up the idea of buying a house. No suitable one seemed available and the coming term promised to be so heavy that I wouldn't want to be bothered with fixing and renting one anyway. I have taken a room in the house of one of the English professors. He lives alone and this is the only extra room in the house, so, since he is himself a very quiet person I shall be assured quiet, the one major ~~thing~~ I had to find. But the room is not very large - about the size of the larger of my ^{two} rooms last year - so I shall have to leave some of my things in storage, and shall have to sandwhich in the rest rather lightly.

Hawaii, the rent is correspondingly small, only \$15 a month, including garage, and there is a Steinway grand piano which I can use. All told I think I shall get on very well, and save some money.

I have been very glad to receive your frequent letters since I returned - with all you seem to have going on at home I wonder you find time to write. The war is certainly creeping into your lives, isn't it? You have not been explicit regarding just what Harold is trying to do. Is he trying for a commission, and what kind of a one in which branch of the army? I think he is doing the sensible thing if he feels sure he will be taken anyway. How about Milton - I suppose he is still in III-A - is he doing work for which he may be deferred? Am glad to hear Father is having good results with the scrap drive - he ought to be out here, I think he could fill his garage from the basement of this house alone, it's so full of junk! How does he keep track of all his jobs?

Our registration here turned out considerably larger than last year, with a tremendous

increase in mathematics - and a smaller staff. We all have heavy loads. I have the heaviest & least interesting load even - a great many freshmen, most of them very badly prepared. The high schools have certainly deteriorated in standard these last few years.

Have had two nice letters from Eva since I got back - apparently her severe nervousness of August has worn off. I am sorry to hear that Dr. Peelen is going away - I don't know what we shall do for a doctor now. But I rather think he may have done about all he can for the present - he has strengthened Eva out in several ways and has started her on the road to recovery - rather well, I think. I believe she has progressed far enough now really to want to get better and to have learned some of the important techniques of doing so. I shall write him and ask him if there would be any point in my taking his time for a conference and whether he can suggest anything for the future.

Congratulations on doing so well at the flower show - wish I could have been there. Guess all your flowers must be gone now,

If you have had the severe frosts we have had. It seems too bad, for it may not freeze again until the first of November.

Well, this must be all over, for it's late - live washed most all day getting things thawed away, and tomorrow is another week. Had word from David this week that Bernice's stroke is all with coronary thrombosis, but will recover. And don't tell you that Raymond Tracey had an attack in August - he too is recovering and expects to go to work (some over-work in Nashua) before the end of the year.

Lots of love,
George.

P. S. (with double 'caps') - I note now the date, and realize that Thursday will be your fortieth anniversary. I do wish we could all get together for a celebration. I trust you'll at least have Mabel & Harold with you and Eva & I will be there in spirit. Heartiest congratulations and all best wishes for the next forty years, - may they have many pleasant surprises and not too much hard work. Much love,
George.

October 13, 1942.

Dear Mother & Father,

Glad to have your card last week-end and hear that you were going to have some festivities on your anniversary.

Life here has more or less settled down to routine now, although I am not settled yet - I shrink from the job of getting things out of storage & storing them away here - but presently I shall become tired of the mess in one corner of my room and get busy. My classes are such that they cut up every morning and every afternoon except Saturday & Sunday so I'm not getting much work done except teaching. And the students are so difficult this year that when the week-end comes I feel like taking it off. I spent a large part of Saturday pushing a lock on the garage door here. My understanding of how to cut the door wasn't what it should have been

and I was several hours doing what was a rather simple job. - Our weather has been really fine now for several days and on Sunday I had a rather long bike ride. I certainly struck it right to get a bike when I did - a week later it would not have been possible - and I do use it constantly.

The latest news from Danack is very distressing. His mother lost her mind to such an extent that she became completely unmanageable - at times quite violent - so they have had to put her in a special hospital near Hartford. It must have been a frightful ordeal for all of them. She seems to have become calmer now that she is away from home, but of course there is no hope that she will get very much better. It is an undeserved end for her, poor soul, - if only she could have stopped worrying.

I suppose you have read of the proposed income tax - it will shake you pretty hard, won't it? Me too! - something over \$400. It seems almost unjust as regards those of us whose incomes don't or can't go up. But I reckon will survive. - All day - I hope you're keeping well and not getting too tired with all your try to do. Lots of love, George.

Cassockie Ky.

Oct. 2 '31/4 2

Dear George:

Just a let up for a little while as I'd just scribble a few lines. If you have heard of the National Bank situation the questionnaires to be filled out by all bank owners. Vol-untaries for helping owners to fill out the most complex and ambiguous reports ever got out by the government. Pa is County Chairman and I was with him ^{4 hrs} on Thursday at a class for instructions at Holt in Galshill - there were forty present - ten of them women. (Had to stop here to make out our report) Yesterday, to day, to morrow are the days when bank men (farmers) can get help to fix up their questionnaires. There are one or more places in each township and Ellettsdale is one of them. The questions are very complex & if we had had no training & no book instructions we could do nothing. As it is it is a headache but we are holding up etc.

Mrs Depp had word yesterday that Gordon Castle Wash-ington for parts unknown - maybe in this County & may be in the far East or Ireland etc. - She was & is pretty well broken up.

Leaves have fallen so the ground is well covered. So far this week we have cleaned our room, dining room & living room. Most of outdoor work is finished but chickens & eggs are ever present. We have good egg markets & proceeds are a great help when every thing is so dear. Taxes higher and dividends cut. Had a letter from Anna yesterday - with welcome. Haven't seen Harold or Milton very much lately.

and we do not seem to have time to go & see them.
I think soon you will have a desk in Cabotville
office & will have to be there part of time. He
does much for nothing but does get some
thing for some trips which pay for his gas
about. If this cruel war could cease what
a relief it would be!

How are you getting on? Not too hard, I hope.
Sorry to hear of Mrs. Muddy's condition - it
is hard on all of them.

I hope to hear good news from you ~~soon~~
some time soon.

Now I must get busy again on
another blank - so good-bye & love.

Walter.

P.S.

I saw in paper that Young March
is to be married in E. Lansing.

Holland, Michigan
October 18 1942

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

Eva and I went for a short ride this afternoon because it was such a beautiful day and we have not yet started to have the gas rationed here. When that starts we will not have any extra because the ration of four gallons will not be enough for me to go to school each day even if I only make one trip. I shall ask for more gas when the proper time is here and shall not begin to worry until my request has been refused. Our tires are in fair shape and we hope they will last a long time yet.

Last week and we spent at Mrs. Godfrey's cottage where we had a fine time on the beach and in the near-by woods where Eva collected stones and fossils and fungi. She felt so well while we were there and it was such a fine rest for both of us but the past week has not been a very good one. It is hard to say why but for one thing Eva tried to write a couple of letters and that always tires her out for some days afterward. She was so anxious to send you one for your anniversary but it was so hard for her. When you write you might tell her how much it meant to you to get the letter and any details you can remember about the dinner. She has been waiting so anxiously for the details of the party. You need not say that I mentioned this.

Eva hears from George rather often and is glad for his letters. He seems to be nicely settled for the winter and we hope the new room will prove to be a pleasant one.

Eva's garden is about done now although we still have some lettuce and winter radishes. Yesterday we started to clear away the dead vines and leaves and rake off the old beds. We made a start and hope to finish while the nice weather lasts. Eva pulled the beets yesterday but we shall leave the carrots in the ground a little longer. Our fine garden will provide much food for the winter as well as the summer thanks to Eva's ceaseless work.

Eva has been thinking about you this week when you had the missionary ladies to entertain during the conference. We hope you were not too tired to enjoy the meetings and are sure you would have some fine speakers. We had our conference here this past week and the speakers were so good especially Mrs. Brinig. It was the first time we had had a chance to hear her and we enjoyed her so much. Did you hear her in New York? Eva did not feel able to go to the meetings but she was much interested and wants to send you one of the programs I brought home.

With love from both of us,

Laura -