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UNITED STATES ARMY

Thursday 26 April 1945
Hq 14th AAA Cnd
APO 322, Fresno

Bummy My Darling;
I got a letter from you today, a very nice one as they inevitably are. I also received one from Mom.

The first problem I will approach in this letter is the one you asked my advice on in this letter. You want to know seriously how I feel about you going to California to work. I'll tell you very truthfully that I don't think it would be a very good idea. I'll now proceed to enumerate the reasons why I think this way. You are displeased with your present job, am I right? What is to stop you from giving it up and looking for another one ~~where~~ in Michigan? You mentioned at least one other job you thought you could get there. There's nothing wrong with your looking into them and picking a job which you'd like, you owe nothing to the people you're working for now. What would you do in California? Get a job as a secretary, or as a worker in an airplane factory, which seems to be about the only kind of job one hears of as being plentiful there? If you think the job you have now is monotonous, I can assure you that you would not think so compared to the monotony of an assembly line or of typing all day long (but I don't think I have to go any farther into the typing angle of the thing). Just what do you intend to do if you do go there. I agree that it seems to have many charms from a distance. Something far away and exciting. From a distance it is nice, but what about the loneliness of being in a big city far from home and from all your



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friends. Sure Gummy will be there, but who else? She will undoubtedly want to go out with fellows and that leaves you with the choice of going with her or being left all by yourself. As much as I hate to think of you being alone I hate still more the thought of your going out with anyone else. I guess it's rather selfish of me and jealous, but I don't like even the thought of your going out with other fellows. I know you won't but still and all under different circumstances even you don't know what would happen. If you found yourself another job somewhere in Michigan you could still see your family over the week ends - if you are working outside of Lansing, and you'd still be near your friends. That means an awful lot. California has nothing to offer you which you could not get right in Michigan. It's just that the grass grows greener in the other fellow's yard, ~~not~~ until you get there and realize that the patch of grass you left wasn't bad after all. You say that you want to save money. You would certainly not do it in California where prices are sky high. And don't forget my Darling that we'll need every bit of money we can get when we start in on our married life because we'll be starting from scratch. This doesn't mean that I'd want you to keep your present job just because you ~~can't~~ ^{can} live at home. I'd never want you to stay on a job you didn't like for a minute Honey, but I'm sure there are jobs somewhere near home which you could tolerate. Then even though ~~you~~ you had to



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find yourself a place to live, your expenses would not be so high. I don't mean to sound like a penny pincher, what I really want is for us to have enough money to do the things we want to when we ~~get~~ are married. Our vacation and all will have to be paid for from our savings between now and that day because prior to my coming overseas, you were my only asset, I had a nice vacant space on the credit side of my ledger. It seems to me that in asking you out there Jimmy may be trying to get some company out there because I can't see how a person could help but feel very lonely and very insignificant in a strange city. Those are the reasons why I think you should not go to California to look for work, you'd just be trying to run away from a loneliness and a discouragement that is within you and which you would just carry with you. If you still think you'd like to go you will find no further opposition from me because I have a great respect for your judgment and if you're still sure you'd like to go you will have my very best wishes and my hopes that you will get along all right.

Remember the last time we talked this over? It was on a nice Sunday afternoon in East Lansing. I believe that at the time I rather hurt your feelings. I hope I haven't done the same in this letter Honey because that is the last thing in the world I want to do. You just asked me for my honest opinion and I gave it to you. It's based on what I know of you and I think that I know quite well just what feelings motivate



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most of your fears. I'll be so glad when I can get back to you Darling, your only worry then shall be that of being my wife, a position you and only you can fill most completely and most charmingly. I love you Darling, I do and always shall, and any advice I ever give you is motivated by this love for you. You are so very sweet Darling.

What's this I hear about Mom starting a little bonfire with some of my old letters from Mary? I should have burned those long ago myself but never got around to it. They are just another example of the Yankee string saver in me. I used to save all the letters I got. I believe there are some more around the house yet, if Mom hasn't run across them. If there are, you and I will build a bonfire of them when I return. Is it a date?

I will write Mac and ask him if he will add you to the list of subscribers to the "Command Car". I guess you know about as many of the fellows who were living at North Hall as any of us did, and your mother fed a great many of them at that birthday party. With those points in your favor, I'm sure that you will be admitted to the inner circle and get a copy of the paper whenever it comes out.

Today was a work day for me. Contrary to my plans, I did not have the opportunity to sketch or to write that letter to Paul Katona. I had to do a rush job which was quite tough. It consisted mainly of lettering in old English and was rather exacting work. I didn't finish it but I have to get it done by noon tomorrow. I should be able to do it way before this and am going



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to take the afternoon off since I didn't get this afternoon off.

Even though I didn't get the afternoon off I had a sketch to put in the letter. It's the sketch I did last week which I forgot to enclose in a letter before this. Your mother, with her knack of naming the pictures I draw, as evidence "The Garbage Can", will probably name this one "The Latrine", for it is that humble structure which forces its way into the left hand foreground of the sketch. This will give you an idea of what our tents are like. The lower part of the side is a wall of burlap while the upper part is screening. They have screen doors. The tent in the background, however, has no screening whatsoever. It is one of the few exceptions. Beyond the latrine, and not visible in this sketch, is the shower room from which Brill, one of the fellows in my tent just emerged, clad in a towel, to walk right into the sketch.

I seem to have committed another error when I called that card a Christmas card. If it was a big card I mentioned it was a birthday card, if it was the one with the picture of you on the front, it was a valentine. They were both very nice they.

Did you check upon those magazine subscriptions? I was just thinking of that today and was contemplating writing a letter to the New Yorker to see if they hadn't gotten something crossed up somewhere. I'll wait to see what you find out though I would like to get some copies of it and also some of the packages you have sent me. I can't understand what is taking them so long. I thought surely I'd get one today



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since a lot of packages came in, but there was no such luck. They'll probably all come in at once.

Dad is getting along fine now and Mom says he hasn't been bothered at all for several weeks now and looks much better. I'm sure your presence had something to do with it. I know it would cure anything that ailed me. It seems that as far as the Maurice family is concerned, you excite the same desire in all of us. I say this because Mom said that when you were leaving she wanted to give you a kiss and a hug, exactly what my impulse would be, only she couldn't get up enough nerve. Being given a kiss and hug by Mom when leaving her, or even having her want to do that, is a sign that you have been elected a member of the inner circle and are henceforth, and for all time, one of the clan. There's no escape Darling, you'll have to reconcile yourself to the idea that I shall love and cherish you as my wife

Forever.

Freddie