

March. 15-43
OPENING DAY OF CONVENTION.

Dear Little Boy:-

I'll bet you wonder why I am not at convention this evening but being the first night the space in the church will have to be reserved for the delegates as we were advised that we were welcome to come but that the local yokels may get sent home if space was at a premium so I stayed home for one. Tomorrow it will be held the the coliseum in the afternoon and evening and also the next day so that they will be able to take care of the crowds. Welshons was surprised at the incoming reservations for this year and had only taken an option on the coliseum for the and day buy he has decided now that it will have to be used.

Well, we just had a good old hard gulley washer after a fairly nice day, but the weather man says that we have a freezing rain and snow coming for the northern part of the state so that you can figure we will have some colder in the morning. Well it washed the roof off for one thing but the next thing is how much water am I going to have to bail out of the basement and that will get my goat.

I did some more sewing on my dress today, didn't accomplish much because I had to do the general run of other things as usual and didn't get started sewing until two in the afternoon but I have the blue wash dress ready to put together and hem in the morning. I made it shirtwaist style. I have a cute little silk check or plaid or whatever you want to call it but a little distance from it it looks like a plain blue gray or gray blue ~~WBE~~ whichever it seems to you. I don't know just how I will make it but will try to make it just as pretty as possible.

I got my four new dresses from Monkey's and one is sure a beauty, it is the one I paid \$7.98 for but the material is swell and it is navy blue shirtwaist style. then one is a dusty pink and one a redwood tan with brown scroll braid on it. I ordered it in the blue but it came this way so I suppose that they were out of it. I want to get my spring coat now and then I will be setting pretty for even the duration. I have my new black felt hat and a new purse that I told you about some time ago but have not used but once or twice and my new black dress from Lane Bryants, so I guess that with a few wash dresses I will be able to appear in public.

Well, I notice that you too have been out shopping over to N.O. I'll bet that was a leusy trip in the truck. Well it is over and that's that. Did you do anything about the leave, that is I mean did the officer or boss of your gang go over at the same time and do anything about it or is he just plain stringing you guys.? Well, it will come in time when the Lord thinks best because he has a reason and a plan for all of this. I would have loved to had you home for the convention but maybe there is a reason most defenite which we do not see and so we will leave it in his hands. I can see a plan working out and maybe you will too when I say that we will have the lot rented and the allowance coming in because I got a notice from the Navy Department stating how much the monthly allowance would be but they didn't say that there would be any coming from the time you went in, in other words from Oct. on, so I suppose I will have to be satisfied with what ever the crooks send me. They can jerk the strings and take you right now but they can start my allowance from when they darned please. Oh, well, as I have often said about some other things, Hell was made for somebody and they are the ones who are robbing the widows and orphans and making millions more of them each day.

They cannot outwit the Lord and his plan so the big day of reaping will come and they will have to stand the judgement for all the misery and heartaches that they are causing. Hitler and some of the others cannot be blamed for all of it.

You didn't seem to be very happy about me getting the "BE card, you realize that it is for your benefit that Jack got it because it is giving you 16 gallons of gas every month counting the beginning month of March, it will soon be 32 gallons when the first of April rolls around and that is only a couple of weeks away. So, praise the Lord and Happy day for us.

I got your letter this morning and noticed that you got your ration book #2 so that you can have your points. You don't need to send your other book back because I have plenty of sugar and the kids gets theirs too and they give me their coffee stamps so that gives me three pounds of coffee instead of one to cover the span of weeks that it is allotted for. So if you haven't sent your sugar book you just keep it there. I have a ten pound sack that I haven't opened yet and they put their sugar in the sugar jar so there is plenty for us all.

I suppose that you will be moving today and I hope that you get your letters which I mailed to you last Friday, you should have had them there today. I also sent you a envelope of clippings from the Courier which you might enjoy. I hear by the news tonight that another Ottumwa boy has been killed in action but he was and aviator and was killed in his plane over on a ~~foreign~~ foreign front. Well so it is. Raymond Dial, Alfred Carmen, the Shoup boy and Benny Doup are all down at Camp McCain, Miss. I hope they can all stay together because it will be nicer for them, all east end boys, but I know Benny would be a misfit ~~with~~ with any of them especially the Dial, Carmen and Shopp boy. They are all so homesick that they are nearly crazy.

I got a letter from Vernon the last of last week demanding that I hurry and send his divorce paper from Clarrissa but he has the guts to tell me that he won't sign that check in Nov. Well that is all right too for I will just send it back to New York and take the credit for it and let it draw interest until it will be mine with more value attached to it that ever for I will never let him have a red cent of it. I am getting plenty fed up on his constantly demanding from us and then setting his bull head when there is anything to come this way from him. He said that he would bring that drum down to me for gas and didn't and here I could have had it practically full by now. Well I don't forget those things so we will see who plays the game in the future.

He was informing me that he had had no pay since he had been there for a month and that he couldn't get any allowance for the kids and Mable but he didn't think to send her to the Court House to get a copy of it for him, no he just demanded the original of me because it wouldn't cost they anything. All right, I have a good memory when it comes to some things and I am going to remind him of plenty of them some day.

Well, what do you think, I am going to take my driving test Thursday. Nora is coming down about eight in the morning and drive me upto the Court House and get me there for the first flight of tests in the morning and see what I can do. I will have to take my written test too so here's hoping. Say a little prayer for me if you get this letter in time.

What do you know, the church has another piano, it is not a new one but even better than a new one I think because it is the grand piano from the Lowenberg estate. Steller said the estate wanted ~~it~~ \$300.00 for it and Welshons told him that was a little too steep for the church to pay so Steller said that to help his income tax that he would deduct \$100.00 and still the board would not give Welshon's their consent to get it, so it was still at the church Sunday and it sounds beautiful as it has been tuned and fixed up like a new one and you know how one of those old timers were made so it sure sounds grand over the radio too. When he made the announcements Sunday morning that they thought it impossible to have the convention in the Coleisium due to the money which it would take, I sent into the office when he was alone after church and closed the door so that we could be alone and I said to him, I think you have been splurging a little around this place lately, sas they had the piano, and new rugs in front of the alter and up on the platform and had refinished the floor all over the auditorim, etc. and he said, yes we have, so I asked him if he was able to rent the colesium and he said that they only way that they could was to pray and trust the Lord to do it, or send the money in for it, and he said we cannot advertize the young man who is coming from Des Moines who has been given and honorable discharge from the Navy to preach, and he was in Quadicanal, Pearl Harbor, on the aircraft carrier Yorktown that was sunk and

on Tennessee, S.S. So he could not advertise that over the radio or in the Courier for the Convention. So I told him to go ahead and rent the coliseum and trust the Lord to put this convention over with a bang and to advertise the boy all he could so he looked at me so funny and then I told him that I had a tithe of \$100.00 coming in the last of this month which was the Lord's and for him to do what he wanted with it and he just gave his big knee one mighty slap and shouted, Praise the Lord and jumped up off that chair and got so happy that I just ducked out of the church before I started bawling.

He called me to one side in the evening just before the choir went up and asked me if I would mind if he put the \$100.00 on the piano because the board was pretty sore and stubborn about it and with my \$100.00 and another party who had given \$15.00 that there would be only \$85.00 left to pay and then they couldn't holler about that because they couldn't get any kind of a piano cheaper than that which would be any good. Well he asked me if I cared to put the money on that and then they would have the other money for the rent and the board couldn't beef about the piano, because ~~xxxx~~ one was sorely needed and you know that. Well, they can have it now for I told him to use the money where he thought it was needed most and that it was for the Lord anyway, not mine and I would leave it to his judgement to do what he saw best, so when the insurance money comes in you will know where the tithe on it goes and for what. I am so happy that it came at this time so that the church can have the piano which is needed so much with them on the air and all Now the orchestra has their tail up in the air and won't play when asked and some of the choir is beefing around at things that are not going to suit their little idea of things so they are all due for a good old bawling out from him before long.

Well it is almost 9:30 and Jack is asleep in on the davenport and Betty and I are writing letters on the kitchen table and Pegs is in bed and it is getting colder every minute. So I think now I will sign off and fix the fire and then light out for the roost. I don't know of any more news to send at this time, the wind is blowing a gale and we will have more mud after this rain. I guess I told you in a previous letter that Bob Kendall is in Fla. I'll bet Roxy and even Kae if she would admit the truth would like to be back in the old home in Ottumwa. Well no one could tell them anything, they would get sore and say something smart about it so now they can sit alone in Sioux Falls and think it all over.

Now I must close and I hope you get this letter promptly if those lug heads don't send it off to the wrong place. I am sure glad that your letters come thro to me in half decent time. I always send a post card or something on the days that I don't write a big letter, I sent a big letter Friday and one Thursday of last week besides the clippings and you should have them by now. I even mailed them up town. I told you too that I had got your income taxes sent in, there was no money to pay on them, your earnings were \$1312.13 and Mr. Brenneman figured it so that you wouldn't have to pay any, fine, wasn't it. He is a good scout all right.

Over.

I thought I was at the very bottom of the paper but I wasn't but just the same I must bring this to a close and get these kids out of the way and off to bed. It is just like you used to be, I have to run them in to bed. It is now getting on to ten and I am getting sleepy. Oh, yes, we have a mole run over the entire length of the back yard and the tulips are up about an inch and the oriental poppy leaves are growing, the hardy flax and the sedums are coming right out the last two days. So Spring is coming, believe it or not, and the birds have sure been singing. It is good to hear the old Robin singing morning and evening, Cheer up, Cheer up. Remember how we used to watch them follow us and eat worms over in the garden?

Now write just as soon as you can get around to it. I am waiting for your letter each day and if you don't hear from me you had better raise a rumpus because I send either a card or a letter each day. I will say Good night now, and God Bless you, and send you safe home when he thinks best and I want to have all ready that I can before you get here, somehow I feel that it won't be long until you get you leave. Over.

I have been telling Betty today that I feel that it will not be long now until you will be receiving your permission to come and I just feel that I should get busy and hurry, hurry to get things ready for that time.

We will leave it with the blessed Lord and know that he knows best and can foresee things which our mortal eyes cannot, so we will ask him again to do what is best for us and lead the way and I am sure he will not desert us.

Again, my little boy, God Bless you and keep you safe is my prayer. I love you so much, yes, more than life itself.

Lots of love from Mother and Bobby John,

Love Mother

✓
Bobby

Ottumwa, Iowa.

March 18-43

Dear Sonny:-

Hi, Ho, My dearest one how are you? Here I come fine and dandy. Bobby and I are eating graham crackers and writing to you, the kids have gone to a show and we are happily talking to you.

Convention is over, last night was the finish. I got to go both nights, the first night was so bitterly cold and I walked over Market Street bridge and the wind nearly blew me in two and froze each half as it blew. I got there O.K. enjoyed every bit of it and got you two, yest three lovely souvieneers for your own to keep in your room. One a lovely plaque of wood with the open bible on it and Jesus' face on one page and on the other the words, "Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" and a book in Navy blue which is "Strength and Courage for God and Country". Then a darling bookmark which at the top end is an open bible with a child praying and part of the Lord's prayer and then a long double red ribbon with a gold cross at the end. I also got two Pinebrook song books and in it is the song "AT Calvary". You know the one used at church so much. "Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me, there my burdened soul found liberty, At Calvary". Then I could only get one Pinebrook chorus book It has. "O say but I'm glad, I'm glad", "I have Joy, joy, down in my heart" "He lifted me up, yes up". The song, "when the world forgets, Jesus still remembers". the one you have on the record by Rhodeheaver and the song. "No one ever cared for me like Jesus". Chorus, "There'll be no sorrow there, In my father's house Where's there's Joy all the time". "When the saints go marching in, I want to be among the number when the saints go marching in". "I will make you fishers of men if you will follow me". "Give me oil in my lamp" and the words to taps. Jesus saves, Jesus saves and then some notes and on the last nine notes of taps comes Praise the Lord Jesus saves, Jesus Saves. Peace is mine, peace is mine, Praise the Lord peace is mine. and Meet me there, meet me there, In god's heav'n meet me there, meet me there.

The first night a young man who has been discharged from the Navy to preach gave the sermon and there was a bible reference contest from the different churches and the ones representing the church who read the most references first got the Overcomers banner and so it was won by Calvary church in Des Moines. Last night we had movies in colors sent back by the Lorells and Out-houses from South America and they sure were good, just of themselves and views of the beautiful country down there. They are building a large mission house. Then there was a talk about Cuba and the people there and the possibilities for missionaries in that country by Brother Frank Smith of Des Moines and DeWeese and his wife sang Pentecostal fire is falling and then the sailor preacher. Bro Hemlin gave a firey message. Bonnie Price had the children to call me up early in the evening and invite me to go with them and come home with them and the night before they brought me home, so it has been wonderful and precious to me all the way thro. I didn't help in the kitchen or go during the day but I sent ten quarts of tomatoes and three gallons of dill pickles and two quarts of the peper hash. Edith Clossen was here as it was her birthday and she was celebrating so she went over with us but left before it was over. Tonight the meetings continue on at the church and will for a couple of weeks or maybe three with this sailor preacher and maybe you will be here before he leaves. He is a whiz and a wonder. I would like to go every night but that will be impossible for me. You said that Cartwright apologized to you, for what? you didn't say, Was it because you was kept in on Sunday with the rest? however I am sure glad that you got to go to church with the bunch in the evening. I will have seven new dresses if the one I ordered from Lane Bryants summer catalog today comes, and the old blue one, the blue one I had last summer light color, and the powder blue one I just made, two black ones from Lane Bryant, and two Navy blue, one dusty pink and one redwood tan from Montgomery ward and then I have a wash dress in the making and one more silk one to make. Hows that for coming out with my fine son?

I suppose I will be hearing from the Metropolitan soon and then I want to order a new spring coat. I wanted to get a pair of white shoes with my #17 stamp but I didn't know whether they could be worn down there in the summer very well or not. I will have to use it by June 15th. I have two old pairs of oxfords for rough and scuff and the heavy pair I got to wear to work this winter and then the suede pumps from Lane Bryants and the black pumps which I got last summer. So I think I have enough black ones and would like to get a pair of white. Also a white purse and gloves. I will if the Lord is willing.

Betty and I have been wondering who the young man was who has been in and out of Loomis's so this afternoon late as I sat hemming one of the new dresses and she was writing a letter to her mother a lady came roaming down the sidewalk in a nice fur coat and scarf over her head and came to the door and asked if we had a phone and I said yes and she wondered if she could use it so she told me who she was and she was Mrs. Knight of the Knight garage at Eldon. They had come to Ott to take back a repossessed car and there wasn't room for her to ride in the tow truck so she wanted Akerman or Espy to drive her home and they charge her plenty so as Jack had just come in I said that I would take her to Eldon for that amount so Jack and I drove her down thro a heavy snow storm. Believe it or not it is really snowing in this man's country tonight. It is now about six inches deep on the level. So when she was talking here she told me the Loomis son has been hitting the booze and a few other things so he has been fired from the railroad and his wife with two daughters has left him, so that is who he is, she described him and when we took her home she handed me six dollars when she got out of the car. Nice goings, eh?

Well, what do you think? Nora couldn't come down today and drive the car to the Court house for my driving test, so I go by myself without the car and took the written test and I got 94%. What do you think of the old lady now? So the traffic officer sent another fellow out with me to the house to take the driving test and he said we would just drive around the block and so we went up to Tacoma and North to the Carmen home and across to Carrs and down Waverly and into the Garage to put Jennifer away and I got into his car, went back to the Court House and had my receipt given to me to drive. Ha. Ha. what do you really think of the old girl now? You will have to take your hat off to me now. I was afraid that I would have to go to town and drive and park and all that stuff but if I had I wouldn't have been afraid because I was out of the Court House by 8:30 or nine and there were hardly any cars on the streets at that time in the morning. Well it is done. I now have my driving license.

Well I go to take my lesson in the morning but I am not going to drive as the snow is so deep and it will be so slick getting up East court hill that I won't even try it. And then the car has had enough exercise for the time being.

You had better lay ~~away~~ off of those eats, you are getting too fat. You will not have anything on your Mother, believe it or not if you continue.

I didn't write you either after you said to hold up my writing until you got to Vicksburg or to some other place, so I didn't write for 2 days either but I am now. Well I am so sleepy that I can't hardly keep my eyes open to write, what do you think I should do about it? Well, I guess that I will. I am getting tired so that I can sleep and dream of you. So one of your pictures was silly was it? Well that is all right for you do say but don't let me hear anyone else saying it, get me? I am going to church tomorrow night if the weather is anything like fit. I presume this snow will all go off in one grand thaw and have mud, mud, mud again. It can't stay on long this time of the year. March has marched over half away already. But I am glad I have made my test and have that all over now. Hurrah.

Well, my precious, I am going to take my little doggie and go to bed as it is
 ex 10;30. I'll be seeing you soon. Goodby and God Bless you my dearest one.

Write soon - Love - M. J. & Betty

I haven't heard any more from the
Allotment only the notice last week
that it would be ^{of} 37.00 a month.
Beth said I would surely receive it April
1st.