

Athens, Tennessee

Feb. 19, 1940

Dear Mama-

Send one of the girls to the kitchen and make yourself as comfortable as possible, because this is going to be a long, long letter.

First, I'll tell you about my trip to Knoxville. Mr. Wolff couldn't make a go of a large chorus because some of the boys couldn't sing so well and wouldn't be - well, I'll say cooperative, so he has organized a special chorus. Fred Jenkins and I sing bass, we have two good tenors, and about 12 or 14 girls. We practiced every evening all last week. We were told that we would make an all-day visit in Knoxville. As you know, I neglected to send my laundry home, and besides had loaned one of my white shirts so I had to wash one - I did a fairly good job. I washed it Sat. evening and ironed it that night - after a ball game. My shoes came Saturday morning, but they must have been a different style than Daddy ordered because, ^{I think} even he wouldn't have worn them. Well, I absolutely had to have a pair so I talked a dry goods merchant here into selling me a pair on credit. They cost \$5, but I believe they are well worth it - they are supposed to last a year without repair.

I will return the other shoes and you can send me the difference, if there is any. I promised to pay him within 10 days. I don't think you are going to mind this debt as badly as you think at first — I have been working in the Kitchen almost regularly since Elrod left. (More of this later — I was supposed to tell you of the trip to Knoxville.) We left here Sunday morning at 7:45 and sang three numbers in Park City Methodist Church at 9:30. About 10:30 we sang the same songs at Trinity Methodist in addition to the regularly scheduled hymns — in other words we took the place of their choir in leading the hymns. We stayed here for the sermon, and, as Mr. Wolff said, "That is the longest sermon that I have ever heard". The pastor had been away two Sundays, and said he wanted to make up the lost time. From there we went to the U. S. Cafeteria for dinner. We were to sing again that night at Second Methodist Church — we had a whole afternoon with nothing to do. Since Fred Knowles Knoxville, I followed him all the time, (I was driving Pres. Robbi's car part of the time and James Robbi's "the other part.") I followed him to his home but his folks had gone to his brothers to show

some movies of their vacation in Florida. It was very interesting. One of the girls had a brother at U.P. so we looked him up. While there I looked vainly for Gerald Woods' name in the student directory. Then, at 5 o'clock we went in the Penn. Theatre with Billy Barnes and listened to his organ melodies. He can really play an organ. At 6:30 we were at Second Church. Mr. Robb and Mr. ~~Myers~~ Myers took charge. Mr. Myers gave a lecture along with some slide pictures of our campus. You see, this is all for the interest of the Forward Movement campaign. Mr. Robb made his appeal while we were standing and I thought I would croak. Well, we got away from there at 9:30, stopped at a drugstore for sandwiches, and came back. I drove Prexy's car back in a downpour of rain, and didn't get to bed until 11:30. I felt plenty tough all day Monday too. We are going to Chattanooga next Sunday and will probably sing over the air. All I know now, though, is that we are going. "Only that and nothing more."

The boy that got the job in the Kitchen, fractured his wrist after working just about a day, and I have been working since. I have worked about a month (\$5) and will probably work another week or two. This is the reason I thought you could afford to pay \$5 for my shoes. I believe it is best in the long run anyway as they will last so much longer.

I spent 40¢ in Knoxville Sunday. I just couldn't get by on nothing. I wish you could send me about a dollar this time. I may need a little in Chatta.

I will try to mail my laundry this p.m. I will have to borrow a little to do that I guess. I think I'll keep back one shirt and wash it myself, because I will need one before you could get it back to me.

I just happened to think - if you ordered my shoes on credit Sears can't refund any money. But I needn't worry. I can borrow the entire amount if necessary. (for the shoes)

The chorus may go back to Knoxville this Thurs. night. I don't know where

we'll sing if we go but probably in one of the churches.

Did you notice the picture in the Journal last week of Irene Hall? She is from London - the paper told of her birthday, high scholastic standing, etc. Well, she is the girl I told you about who offered to loan me \$25 when I quit school.

I hope I have not asked too much of you. I felt rather guilty in making the \$5 debt, but I thought, on the other hand, they were worth it if they last like the man said they would. The \$2 you sent me went in a hurry because I had \$1 worth of cleaning done and had to use part of it to pay the paper man - sometimes the boys don't pay so well. When they do it comes in such small bits that I can't keep it ^{in credit}. I had to buy a \$1.50 shorthand book, at the business office too, but that can always wait. I don't know whether I told you or not, but I owe nearly \$5 at the bookstore for books bought there the first quarter.

(11:30 - I must go to the kitchen)

That debt can be paid most any time - no rush.

I have been busy since I went to the kitchen at 11:30 - it is 3:15 now and I have to go after my papers right away (which isn't worth much to me) and go to chorus practice from 4 'til 5, so I may not have time to get my laundry off.

I know you must be tired ^{of} reading ~~of~~ all my troubles by this time anyway. If I don't close now I am liable to think of something else I need money for, ~~so I'll close~~ I haven't caught up on my sleeping yet so I can't write so good.

If I ~~found~~ find out anything definite about my trip to Chattanooga, I will let you know by card.

I hope everybody is ok.

Love
Bill

Tell Caroline again I will write if I ever find time. I am looking for a letter from Alice - I hope she isn't sick.

There are lots of things I could tell you yet, but that would be too much. I can write it next time - maybe.