

APD 980-  
14 June 44

Dear Alice -

You have a sense of patriotism don't you - writing me on that "silly paper", as you called it so it wouldn't be wasted. I didn't think it was silly - it was very nice - I appreciated it.

You're wondering, no doubt, why you haven't received an answer sooner. I have no excuses to offer - I've been just plain lazy, that's all. After a certain length of time in one spot, seeing the same people every day, doing the same job, - well, it all adds up to writing the very same things in all my letters - to everybody. So maybe it's best if I don't write too often, for then, after a little time has elapsed, I can at least say I'm sorry I didn't write sooner. See? Material for a paragraph, or even more. Boring, yes, but different.

Jewell sent the book I ordered - "The Wisdom of China and India" - too deep for me in some places, but so simple in others even a child could understand it. It sets a good course - if a man could

follow its teachings he would be an asset to any community. Such simple things as "He who speaks does not know, and he who knows does not speak" furnishes food for thought that could lead into some very deep and serious thinking.

Perhaps I'd better say hello to your friend Thelma -

Why, Thelma, did you think I would forget you? After all, I once lived in Lansing - I spent, in fact, almost all, and definitely the best part of my life there. I worked in Bob's store, remember, and I used to sell you candy and ice cream. You weren't very old, you said, when I left - inferring that you're old now - or grown, anyway. I had a hunch Alice was growing up too, and have asked her for pictures, but so far no luck. Why don't you gals have your pictures made together and send one to me - Yes, we enjoyed Miss De-Havilland's visit very much - she is a genuine lady. Did you know she was born in Tokyo? And that when she reached stardom in Hollywood, a Tokyo paper headlined on its front page - "Local Girl Makes Good" - Well, they can't have her. Not this late in the game.

So long - Alice and Thelma - I'll be looking for another letter, with picture - Love  
Bill