

[Transcription begins]

#67 11-24-1944 The day after Thanksgiving

Dear Douglas - Full of Turkey and pleasant thoughts I sit me down for a few news items for you. After much correspondence back and forth as to who would visit whom this year, Dad and I started for Carver about half past four Wednesday, arriving in time for stewed beans, thick with cream, etc. Marilyn had planned to be with us but Bill arrived Sunday for his ten day leave. Thanksgiving day was somewhat cloudy but in spite of that we were outside quite a bit getting up an appetite. Norman and Connie had come down for breakfast, but not the children for Jack Tobin's wife and little daughter are also there and Blanche felt it was too many small fry to have just for breakfast. Of course Laura, Jack, Deanne & baby Marilyn were there. But, strangely enough, at dinner there were just the four of us! Blanche and Jesse and Dad and I. Before we started to eat we bowed for a minute of silent prayer and you can well imagine whose name was thought of at that time. In spite of the small company Blanche had prepared the usual spread including turkey and roast port, all the vegetables and desserts (I took down the plum pudding) and even little favor baskets for candy, decorated with tiny native cones and pine twigs. Laura and Jack & family attended a Donner family party with so many guests that they hired Veterans Hall at the Centre! Connie had his people. Norman is out of the army, released to salvage the fallen lumber. Everywhere you look down there are huge trees down and from the description it must have been a terrifying night. Jesse's house chimney crashed and the huge tree at the side driveway fell on the house, but luckily did not crush the roof. Donald came over for a few minutes with his two little girls, Beverly and Pamela. Norman had taken a few days between army life and civilian and spent them hunting in Maine, so when we came home today we brought some nice tender venison steaks! Jesse was not as blue as he sometimes is, for he is so relieved to have Norman back so we had a very pleasant evening, breakfast the next morning and left right after that for home. What a pleasant surprise to receive your nice letter at noon, telling of your contemplated leave with double chocolate malted as the first desire! We're guessing it's Hawaii again and hope you have had a wonderful time by the time you receive this and that lots of mail awaited you. Perhaps you will be able to tell us what you did and I'm hoping perhaps you came cross a familiar face or two. There are so many we know heading out that way.

Today started out well enough but in the afternoon quite a small blizzard developed with the trees all covered and everything looking so pretty but by now, most of the snow has melted.

Mrs. Hard gave a very interesting account of her drive across the continent and back restrained & not too lengthy at the M. Waterman Club Monday night.

Tuesday night Mr. And Mrs. Jones & Dad and I went to a War Bond Rally and a premier showing of an Army and Navy Show at the Auditorium. It was excellent and the talent was practically professional. It was recruited from all branches including Waves, Spars and Wacs [sic]. It was a terribly rainy night but the auditorium was practically full and

we enjoyed the evening very much, completing it by having cocoa at the Jones'.

By now, of course, you have some of our recent letters and know that Dad was elected. Of course, Providence went decidedly Democratic again with McGrath as Governor and Roberts is Mayor, the only trouble with the latter is that he is in active service somewhere in the Navy.

You also know that I am still at home, happy as a lark and rather think my business career is a thing of the past! I'm having a wonderful time, but keep busy every minute and sleep well at night! We listen to the radio or records very little during the daytime for Daryl's chatter is enough music! But at night we do enjoy our machine in one capacity or the other. Skiing is also one of the things that I think is a thing of the past for me, but I have very pleasant memories!

I'm always interested to hear of your quartette. When you get all the meat from the books I sent you don't forget that there are four more that Roger Hard, Sr. picked up for you at the church and I will send them whenever you want them.

We loved your names for our various little runabouts! Princess Charming is just reaching what the baby books call the "stage of negativism" and it is a problem. Tonight I set her three compartment dish on her tray with her supper in it and with a sweep of her hand, over it crashed on the floor! But most of the time she is a darling. The Reluctant Dragon is most appropriate [sic]! He had a wonderful time at Carver with his country cousin, dogs and cats! The Catnip Kid is very affectionate and is always in someone's lap in the evening. The Black Panther was called on by yours truly about a week ago and seemed glad to see me. He is very handsome but still has a terrible inferiority complex.

Yes, we are promised Christmas trees this year and we certainly must have one. Marilyn is getting a lot of enjoyment out of planning for it and wants Dad not to bring the tree in until after Daryl has gone to bed so it will be a complete surprise. We really have very little idea what presents we will buy, for the variety is not too interesting and prices are high, but you know the Leaches will always have a Christmas, so we will this year. You will be missed and your name spoken over and over again, but Christmas will be celebrated in a small way, so that when the time comes that we can all be together, we will not have forgotten how to do it!

Our best love to you and wishes that your leave was one long to be remembered and will help you on your next long stretch.

Mother [Transcription ended]