

Vera Petersen  
Bartlett Hall  
Cedar Falls, Iowa



Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen

Dubuque

Iowa

Bartlett Hall

Cedar Falls, Iowa

February 14, 1938

Dear Folks,

Gin some hot Valentine - I  
don't even get a thing for you and then  
just happened to be out when you came.  
We ended up over at the Nursery School  
before coming back to the dormitory.  
I had called Gilbert while over there  
and she said you had just left her  
place five minutes before. Then I  
called up Markussen's to see if you  
were down there - Well, no use.

Anyhow, now, thanks from  
me and the whole corridor for all  
the good food. They wonder if you

do anything besides bake and wash  
for me. Well I think you  
shuffle a few cards in between times  
but there can't be much time  
left.

I'm certainly got a stack of  
boxes to give you when you come -  
and likes what do you eat off of?

Thanks for the smock!

Helen just sent it and the blouse.

I'm so pleased with it. She  
made it so pretty. Eula sent  
a handkerchief and Jovey gave  
me one to - why its just like  
Christmas all over - except  
Miss Gilbert isn't so well, and

that makes me feel badly.

I registered today for next spring term - three weeks off. Then there will be room rent again. Bob! and I made application for graduation. I see that its going to cost me ten bucks to get out of this place. Can you beat that? & that doesn't include cap & gown rent. Well, the sooner the moneys sent - the quicker its gone - eh papa?

Well, keep your ears clear - and write once in a while and from now on ill put a sign up if I go to the B.R. so you can find me. Wed. evening ill probably leave a little before eight to go down to Dolls Dancing.

Love  
Sera

120 Mainette St.

Burlington, Iowa

February 19, 1938

Dear Folke and Oabley,

Thank you so much for the recipe file and the Dike papers. Dora sends the Dike papers to Julia so — we each have a copy — we laughed because both copies came in this morning's mail.

Glad to hear about Alfred's being prep at Y. V. C. I always thought that is the way it would finally turn out when he came to Des Moines.

Glad you liked the valentine, Mother. It wasn't much. Vera also liked hers. I sent the

smock and white blouse together,  
telling her that the material  
was from you and that I made  
it up for her.

Oh yes, thanks for the  
recipe box. Sorry you had  
so much difficulty getting it.

I don't believe I'd get that  
piece of blue print material. I  
think you could find much  
nicer ones than that for  
yourself. I'll look around.  
Maybe I can find something  
some time. Do you need it  
soon?

On your princess dress I think  
it would look best to use the  
black as a piping — not a binding.

Am sitting here drying my  
hair. That is a tea this afternoon

in honor of Mrs. White, the  
new principal's wife. That's at  
two thirty so I must get  
my hair dried in time.

Had Genevieve and Elma  
over last Wednesday night.  
Julia baked a cake and we  
had hot chocolate. Julia  
is certainly nice about such  
things.

It is snowing here today.  
The ground is white for the first  
time in many weeks - in  
fact before Christmas.

Richard has a paper route  
and had to get up early today  
to collect. His Saturdays  
and Sundays are well  
filled. He has a small route  
now but is promised a larger  
one in a few weeks. He is

a fine boy.

Marlus is working at a drug store down on Main street. He has been there since before Christmas, I believe.

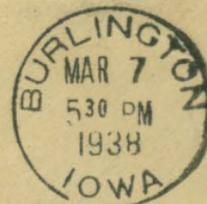
No school Tuesday because of Washington's birthday. I'm celebrating by sewing that day. May make myself a spring coat or suit in the near future if I can find a good pattern. One of the tailors here in town has some beautiful materials. Elma also wants to make a suit so we may sew together.

Love,

Helen

Helen Petersen  
120 Marietta Street  
Burlington, Iowa

Postage Due 3 Cents



Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald Petersen  
Box 5  
Dike,  
Iowa

Mrs. Anne J. Petersen IIII

Rose Hansen

Pearl Lynn

Florence Bergquist

Margaret Schmidt

Evelyn Stiles

Juella K.

Salina

Mildred

Pearl

Raymond

Mina?

Esther King

|| Salina

Mildred

120 Marietta St.  
Burlington, Iowa  
March 6, 1938

Dear Folks and Oakley:

Guess what! — I'm going into second childhood again or call it what you will but I've bought a pair of roller skates! Genevieve and I are each indulging. Today we practiced up at her place in the basement. Tomorrow evening we are skating out on the side walk. More fun! I haven't skated since I was in grade school. But I can't still stand up on them when I put them on this afternoon.

This was report card week. Therefore you didn't get the usual Saturday letter from Burlington. I was at school most of yesterday morning checking work. Genevieve and I went to a movie in the afternoon and I graded report cards until ten thirty last night. One hundred sixty six!

Genevieve's sister came from Iowa City last evening. We had a good time together this afternoon before her bus left for Iowa City. She is a very sweet girl and she looks a good deal like Genevieve.

Received your letter via Vera, mother. No, haven't bought the curtain for the dining room yet. Will do so

before I come home though. Probably will bring them with me. It's only three and a half more weeks until vacation. Can you wait that long? When are you having the hall papered? It certainly will be a surprise to see some clean paper on those walls. I shall try my best to remember Carl's and Glenn's birthdays.

Congratulations, Oakley, on the ball team winning the district. When is the state series to be played? How I'd like to see you play. The old town must be excited and happy now. I remember when the boys went to the state last time. How we did yell! I was only a freshman or a sophomore but that was a day of real sport.

Say, why don't you write me a line once in a blue or green moon? I'd really enjoy hearing from you, you know.

Well, auf wiedersehen for this time, everybody! Hope you're all well and able to shuffle the cards as fast as ever. I know how to play two kinds of solitaire! Imagine that coming from me!!! And I play both contract and auction bridge! What a card hound I am.

Love,  
? Helen

120 Marietta St.  
Burlington, Iowa  
March 9, 1938

Dear Mother,

Thanks for the letter received this morning. Sorry to hear that Vera is ill.

I have just written her a letter telling her that I can give her the fifty each month which I would otherwise send you if she thinks she could just go to college and not teach too. You could manage all right couldn't you without it for a while if she could get some much needed rest and relaxation? I don't know what she'll say but I do hope she considers it seriously. After all, if you haven't health you can't go so far in this world.

By this time the Dike boys must be in Des Moines - seeing the sights - or what they can while they're still under training rules.

The Burlington Boys left at one o'clock this afternoon. I have one of them in a class of mine.

I'm enclosing with this letter a dollar bill. Will you please buy Vera a nice plant for it? - A Hyacinth or something - whatever you can get that is nice.

Thanks for writing. Greet Vera from me.

Love,  
Helen

P.S. Could you hunt up my old white flat heeled oxfords and send them please? They are the same ones you sent me at Fort Dodge last year. We skate and I can't keep my balance on these military heeled shoes. These shoes are probably up in the closet if I remember correctly.

Thanks.

120 Marietta St.  
Burlington Iowa  
April 9, 1938

Dear folks and Oakley,

We are just thawing out after a final touch of winter here this weekend. There was a young blizzard here about noon yesterday. The roads were so icy that the music contestants couldn't get to Des Moines yesterday for the contest. On account of the same reason I did not go to Iowa City this weekend as I had hoped.

Yesterday we had a county teacher's institute with two excellent speakers on the program. One man was the president of the University of Kansas City.

We got word Tuesday that one of my students had received a superior rating. That is the highest possible award. Two other students of mine received excellent ratings in Commercial Advertising Design. That is not so bad considering that this is a state competition and all high school students are eligible to participate.

Wednesday of this past week I gave a lecture on Renaissance Art

to two large sections of social science. There are over a hundred in each of these sections. My lecture was an hour long in both cases. The students seemed to enjoy it very much and Mr. White, the principal, complimented me very nicely on it. One boy said to his teacher that he "didn't go for art and he wasn't a sissy but I did like that!"

There are only eight weeks left now before school is out. The teachers say we will be free to leave around noon on Thursday of the last week. That leaves really only seven and a half weeks when one excludes Memorial Day. Has Vera found out whether graduation really does come on Monday as usual? I should like to know as soon as possible.

Our local art exhibit opens tomorrow at Hotel Burlington. We are going to finish the hanging in the morning. I am very interested in seeing what work the "natives" do. I'm afraid they will think my painting a very modern one. And so it is perhaps but I know it's all right.

as far as composition and color are concerned.

Is there a pair of my pajamas at home? I believe I forgot to get them along down here when I packed my bag. Send them sometime when you have time, please. Otherwise I believe I got everything else along.

How is your blue dress coming, mother? Just about done or not? Sorry I had to disappoint you in not finishing it but I'll try to do better by you another time.

I have been sewing on my pink linen blouse and have it just about complete. I found some lovely little buttons for it here at Schramm's.

Monday I returned the cranes for the curtains from the dining room. Mr. Anderson was very nice about it. He is the father of one of my best advertising design students. We talked about his son for some time. What a splendid companionship there is between that father and son! I certainly do appreciate knowing them both. They are a fine

Swedish family in my estimation.  
It does show when there is the right kind  
of family influence and attention given  
these youngsters whom we teach. They have  
an assurance and a sincerity that others lack.

Genevieve and I are still talking  
strongly about an apartment for next  
year - if we both get re-elected and if  
everything goes as we plan. There are  
so many ifs in this teaching racket!

Has there been any new develop-  
ment in Miss Hathaway's case? How  
do you feel sorry for her! Something should  
be done.

Well, I better get down to the city with  
this before it gets much later.

Oh yes! How was everyone in  
the noines? Don't be so tight with your  
letters next week, please. I do know  
that time gets through your fingers before  
you realize, however.

Love,  
Helen

Dear folks:

June 3-1938

I have taken time out to write to you and to express my appreciation for the appropriate gift. I went down town immediately and bought an easel, <sup>something</sup> that I have longed to have for years.

Oakley graduated earlier than I did - so I suppose he has already found himself a job - I'm going to try and find one - if they are to be had. That was indeed an honour that Oakley had conferred on him. <sup>perfect</sup> Attendance is very seldom maintained by students.

(2) - We had to graduate two different nights. The first night we received fake diplomas.

I won a scholarship to the University of Denver. I hope that I will be able to use it next fall, and that is why I would like to find a job, but I also have my art lessons & finish - I'm half finished. The school months slowed me.

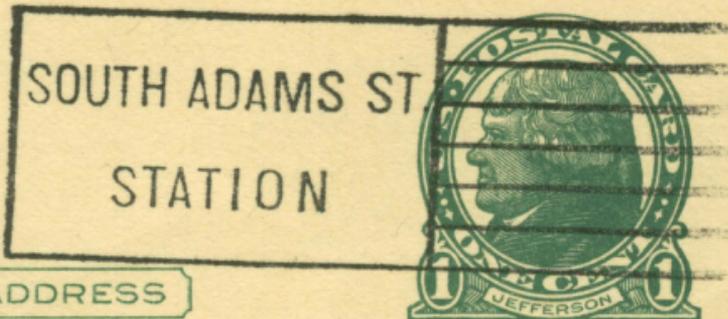
Grace and I both like our new home - it is so much larger - and a large ditch, shaded by a great number of trees, runs through our property. We have picnics down there.

(37) - I believe that I had better  
close now, but will write  
- a longer letter later -

Thank you again for the  
gift, and I wish that there  
wasn't such a distance between  
us, so that you could have  
been here. My graduation  
dress was white - and if I  
have my picture taken in  
it, I'll send you one.

Laura  
Edith

P.S. There were 138 of us  
that graduated.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

*Mrs P. Peterman  
Dike,  
Iowa*

~~Address~~  
~~100~~  
~~100~~

Dear Ma,

Sat 6:30 AM

All going fine, I  
just thought I'd  
write you a line  
being the girls are now  
visiting a little red  
school house. just  
ready to go into  
Georgia.

E. Q. P.

H. S. P.

V. P. P  
my                  unit                  clubs

1135 West 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Indianapolis Ind.  
June 5, 1938

Dear folks,

We arrived yesterday shortly  
after noon and found  
everyone O. K.

Instead of taking the road  
through Donville we came  
over a newer pavement  
which didn't bring us through  
so many towns and cities.  
We came into Indiana at  
Williamport and Attica, then  
to Lebanon and diagonally  
into Indianapolis. From  
Lebanon in there was a  
four way lane and you  
could really make time  
travelling on that. We had  
no car trouble so we can  
knock on wood for that.

We left Julia's at 4:30 and stopped for breakfast at Bloomington, Illinois - and guess what we had for breakfast - pancakes! We figured that it took us approximately seven hours to get here from Burlington. So that wasn't such a long trip.

I took all my belongings along with a few exceptions. That way we can go back by the way of Chicago if we decide to do so.

Vera really was surprised at the big stores down town yesterday. She hasn't been to any really large place like Oakley & I have recently. So Block's was really the eye opener!

She & I are going to spend a whole day down town if we can plan it so.

We were out at the airport - or I should say one of the airports for they have several here. And O'abby was all eyes & ears. While we were there two large transport planes came in. There must have been about fifteen passengers on each besides the ~~stewardess~~ & pilot & co-pilot. One was leaving for Kansas City and the other for the east.

The boy went out to a club somewhere last night and I guess O'abby really enjoyed himself. It seemed that it wasn't just small town stuff! He had to shine his shoes & we passed both the boy's dark

Suits & they really slicked up!  
No fussing that time about  
whether he had to wear that  
blue suit.

Aunt Anna has three tickets  
for a garden show this afternoon  
so we girls are going with her.  
All the big private gardens in  
the city are open today for those  
who have tickets. After we have  
seen the gardens we are to go to the  
best place for tea -

Uncle Carl & the boys are going  
to a vesper service at four  
o'clock for the graduates.

Well, enough for now.

More later - too bad you  
aren't here. Uncle Carl has  
already said that more than  
once.

Love,

Helmer



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. + Mrs. Howard Osterman  
Dike,  
Iowa

Mandag M.

Dear folks,

Vera and I had the  
loveliest time seeing all  
the beautiful gardens.  
Some were miles and miles  
square. We went to the  
homes of the Lillys - the  
medical supply people -  
their estates were fine.

Faute Anna introduced  
us to Mrs. Test.

Vi saa en gammel  
Kærest af Jap's. Kan  
du husk Hansine? Jeg  
trov du har hinnes  
bilet - Vi var vis paa  
det! Hun arbejder  
nu hos Stalhakers  
en af disse placer vi  
saa igaar. Mer en  
anden gang. Helst

Oakland, Calif.  
June, 10 - 1938.

My dear old Pal:-

Thanks for your letter and Birthday greetings. I should have answered long ago, but it seems so easy for me to postpone writing. Yes it doesn't seem possible, thirty years have passed by and so swiftly.

I planned to get home in June, but you know I am Insurance poor and have had \$110<sup>00</sup> dental work done and that is the money I had planned for my journey. Well I hope to be able to make it by fall.

I have had one weeks vacation, went to a wonderful place about 80 miles from here and did nothing but rest. I am saving my other week with pay to use in the fall when I take a leave of absence, of 4 weeks.

Now my Pal if <sup>you</sup> couldn't confide in me I would feel terrible and I can fully understand all. I think as we grow older our strength lessens and our courage must increase to keep the scales balanced and it's not always an easy task, continue your faith in the Lord Almighty and you will come forth with flying colors and Victory. You know Marie while I was at Sartori's a Drug Co sent out monthly calendars with a picture and a proverb or something of the kind. One continues to stand out so clear in my mind. A picture of a mountain stream with trout struggling about in the rapid stream with the inscriptions underneath. "Only gamefish swim up streams." When I become discouraged and depressed when not feeling well, I say to myself. snap out of it old gal, life would be dull if we were allowed to drift with the stream.

so old me gets busy. Jesus Life was up stream for his 30 short years on this earth and how difficult, but he conquered, so lets join hands paler dear, and I'll boost for you with all my heart + soul and I hope with the world being stormy as well as ones life, that ere long all will be victorious and much joy will abound in a certain spot that I know so well.

I hope you can have yourself taken care of its no fun to have surgery done but no doubt its the only salvation for you.

I always thought Vera did love Korea, but she didn't seem to be of that opinion at that time.

Marie it has taken lots of fluck to rear a boy in a town like Dike, in fact I think its an injustice to boys, <sup>I mean the town.</sup> and there is no doubt it has to take lots of keen judgement, supervision and the utmost confidence and companionship especially between father + son.

Today its been windy + cold in fact we have had lots of foggy weather lately. not much sunshine.

The state is busy making great preparations for the fair next year. June 17<sup>th</sup> will be given over to the danes. (Denmark day) they figure it will cost at least \$10,000 for the program for the day a lot of money to raise.

Our hospital has had 5 sets of twins in less than a months time.

Do you ever hear from Florence and what does she do, the same as before?

Well Marie the Menopause has begun to make its appearance with me, have been taking extracts

for sometime, it gives me some relief.

I have had my varicose veins injected and my Hemorrhoids taken care of. and with the dental work I should be <sup>at</sup> pretty well reconditioned old car don't you think so?

Thanks to God for being so good to me, really I think my life has been spared from lots of mod gang. cannot think of the english word, but I fully appreciate it.

Write to me soon, I love to hear from you regardless, hope I can always be your best Pal.

As ever,  
Din Fatter ==

Harold + Elma will be married June 15<sup>th</sup> so Elma wrote me, would liked to have been there.

*Cable*



*Mrs Rowald Petersen  
Dike,  
Iowa*

Tues Noon

Dear Ma,

Having a swell time yesterday I was out and saw the speedway. Quite the thing. I wouldn't mind being in that race myself.

Havin' everything in Dike? I hear that were going to have another saloon is that correct or what?

I'm coming home with the girls this weekend. It's not that I can't find a job, but just that I don't like it here. I'd a thousand times rather work on a farm than live in this town.

We're going to Cicero today if we find some time.

By the way the tailor isn't going to cough up. I'd sure like to put the pressure on him.

I asked Pet & Francine if I could have a job with them but they haven't answered yet so I don't know about a job as yet but I'll sure find one. Hoping to see you soon.

Oakley

IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE,  
Placement Bureau,  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA.



Miss Vera Petersen

Dike, Iowa

PLACEMENT BUREAU  
IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

M Vera Petersen

6-18-38

Make application for a position to Supt. W.G. Donley,  
~~Municipal Schools, Hobbs, New~~  
Mexico  
as teacher of Grades 1 and 2 Salary \$1140-1380

The Placement Bureau has recommended you and HAS MAILED your credentials.

Kindly inform the bureau AT ONCE of your action. Also, inform the bureau AT ONCE, if you obtain this position.

We need more photos at once. Sent the last one with this nomination.

Selection of teacher will be within two weeks. Please make your application very complete - give full information regarding training, experience, personal characteristics, etc. etc.

Helen S. Petersen  
700 South 7th St.  
Burlington, Iowa



Mr. Oakley Petersen  
Dike,  
Iowa

to Blackmore Del  
75 flow  
31 Parson  
Ddard

Clark  
Hardenus  
X.F.T.A  
Del Rev  
Tex

700 South 7th St.  
Burlington, Iowa  
September 19, 1938

Dear Oakley,

By the time you get this you will probably be the "Sunday orphan" if mom and dad go to Des Moines as planned. Keep your ears clean while they are gone!

Glad to hear that you are feeling better and also that the wood pile is no more. I am sorry that you did not get it done before I left, however, because that was what the bargain had stipulated. If it had been completed then I should have given you the money before I left for school. As it was, because you didn't have it done I went to Waterloo and paid my bill at Black's and bought some things that I needed rather badly for school. So I spent some of the money I had promised you. This I would not have done had you gotten that woodpile cleaned up.

Upon coming down here I find that we must pay our monthly rent in advance and that comes due the twenty-fifth of the month which will be before we get our September checks so I will need some extra for that.

So I am sending you the thirty-one dollars that I kept for you this summer. You gave me thirty two but got one dollar back. Remember?

I hope that this will help you. Can't you talk to Dad and come to some agreement about borrowing some money to start out on? It's not so unreasonable if you have a little patience and meet him halfway. Then when the end of the month comes I'll give you a little more so that you should be able to make out if you are very conservative at school. You know I'm for you and I will help all I can.

If you can't find any way out this fall perhaps you better try picking up what work you can in town + during corn picking and save your shakels till after Christmas and then start out at Ames at that time. Then you should have a little bit saved up to help things along.

Whatever you do, think it through well and don't get discouraged if things don't seem to work out right immediately. If you want a thing badly enough and strive toward it, it will come when the time is ready for it. So keep patient and things will come your way.

Please let me know what you do because I am anxious to hear about it. I do hope you will find it possible to start to Ames Thursday. It is a fine place to go. No one can appreciate its value until attending.

Sincerely, your sis

Helen



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Osterum  
Dike,  
Iowa

2711 Lincoln Way  
Wednesday noon

apt 8

Kære forelder, ! ! ! ! !

alt ting gøres findt!  
Jeg er meget glad at  
jeg bestemte at komme  
tilbage til Amesfor  
skole.

Jeg har disse klasse:-

Sculpture - Chr. Petersen  
Weaving - Miss Fisher  
Textile design - Miss O'Bryan  
Painting - Miss Kitt  
Advertising Psychology  
Bibliographical Research

mer sener! Morske  
Jeg gøres til d. m. jaa  
Lørdag. Hilsen og tak.  
Helene

101 Wilmoth  
Ames Ia  
Sept 29

Dear Folks,

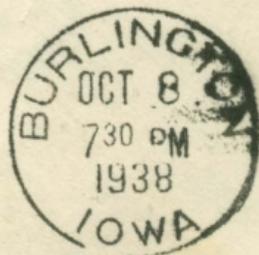
Glad to get your letters & the laundry bag, you must have it by this time. You could bring it with you to Des Moines Sunday. You don't need to come to Ames unless you just want to.

I'll be in Des Moines for dinner ~~on~~ before. I'll meet you at Verd's place. By the way thanks for the Candy Bar, it really tasted good. Could you find some book ends or a book rack to take down to Des Moines I need one quite badly as I have

so many books to take care of.  
The subjects, especially algebra  
are really hard, I really don't  
know yet if this is the life  
work I am really fitted for, but  
I hope it is. At least I am  
going to stick it out this  
year if I can. You don't know  
how it feels down here. A  
fellow feels like he's never  
had or has a friend in the  
world. To tell the truth I am  
a little homesick. Don't  
worry though I'll try to get  
over it. Well I'll be seeing  
you Sunday

Lots of Love  
Oakley

Helen Petersen  
24 Spring Street  
Burlington, Iowa



Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen  
Osike,  
Iowa

201 Spring Street  
Burlington, Iowa  
October 8, 1938

Dear Folks,

Thanks so much for the letters which I surely have enjoyed. Received the yarn and the snake plant which arrived in fine shape. Think I'll take it down to Nadine's brother who has a florist shop and have him pot it for me.

Did I tell you that Nadine is in town? She is in partnership with her brother here. We had a fine weiner roast last Sunday. She has invited me to Sunday dinner tomorrow and then we will go for a picnic later on in the afternoon. Genevieve is at Iowa City this weekend for Homecoming. I have been at school all morning sewing on my black wool dress. It is the first chance I have had to do my sewing since I came to B. this year. Busy — I'd say!!

Last night East Dodge Junior College played East Dodge Burlington J.C. The score was 13-7 in favor of Burl. I knew so many of the H.D. players that I was more interested in having them win than our own boys. This morning I saw Mr. McKinstry - the J.C. Coach on the street. They were going up to one of the hospitals where a player was recuperating after a bad blow during

the game. Mr. Mc Linsty used to coach at Dike  
years ago. Do you remember him?

I'm having a little interference here - Mary  
is busy asking questions as only a three year  
old can do! So I'm not able to think  
coherently.

Surely wish I could be home when Essie  
is there. Give her my love. I never shall  
forget all the nice things she has done for  
me. How long will she be in Iowa?

Had a card from Julia Andersen yesterday.  
She and Marius moved to Washington, Iowa  
where Marius has a job in a Retail  
Drug Store. Richard likes the school there  
very much.

Am returning Oakley's account and  
his letter. I must write to him too. So  
many more letters this year, it seems.

He could almost have a round robin!

Has Esther Jepsen's baby arrived and  
was it a boy or a girl?

About the baggins and an apron  
for it - I'll try to see what I can do. If  
I possibly get time to get some material that is  
nice I'll try to make up something for you. I  
I'll send it Wednesday - the latest so you will  
be sure to get it in time.

Must close. Love to all. Greet  
Annie from me. Where is Bernice? —

Sincerely,  
Helen



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Peterson

Dike,

Iowa

Lördag afton

Kære fælder,

Jeg skal lige nær  
i byen og spise.

Jeg sender en pak  
til dig, moder. Det  
er for din fødselsdag  
neste aar. Jeg tænkte  
at maaske di vil  
blomster omkring  
den tid. Haabe  
at du vil li dem.

Paasener er mørket.  
Tulipaner er rød og  
mørke rød. Crocus  
er gule.

Mange hilsen,  
Helén

*Helen S. Petersen*  
RAY H. BRACEWELL

Principal High School  
and Junior College

Burlington, - Iowa



*Mr. Thorwald Petersen*

*Dike,*

*Iowa*

Art Dept.  
Wed. Eve.

Dear Dad:

Thanks a lot for the card you sent. I really appreciated it. And I still have the letter you sent me too.

The last student has just left and its now exactly five o'clock. I bought a roll of film for my camera and one of the boys has helped me take some time exposures of some of my exhibits here in the room.

I'm taking them down to have them developed. Hope they will be good!

I called the bus depot and the agent said that the 5:20 bus arrives in Waterloo at 11:40 in the evening. So if all goes well I'll arrive on schedule.

We are having the best Open House this week. Over 1600 people were here last night.

alone. They are really seeing  
some wonderful sights at these  
exhibits. The Physics and Chemistry  
departments alone are worth  
the evening's time. Then of course  
the art department isn't to be sneezed  
at either!!!

---

Must quit and go down to  
eat and then home.

See you Friday.

Sincerely,

Helen

H. Petersen  
201 Spring St.  
Burlington, Ia.



Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen  
Dike,  
Iowa

THE WEATHER  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Cloudy; not much change  
in temperature.  
Day's record, page 12-A. Radio,  
page 6.

# The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon

PRICE IN DES 3 CENTS—VOL. 90,  
MOINES NO. 316.

DES MOINES, IOWA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1939.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES

Ben H. Fletcher Accused of Lending \$17,000 to Self—

# JAIL CASHIER AS BANK CLOSES

# OFFICIAL SAYS LOSS AT DIKE NEAR \$60,000

## No Federal Deposit Insurance.

(The Register's Iowa News Service.)

GRUNDY CENTER, IA.—  
The Dike (Ia.) Savings bank closed Tuesday after investigators uncovered shortages totaling approximately \$60,000, according to Anton P. Lorenzen, vice president.

Ben H. Fletcher, 49, veteran cashier, was arrested on a county attorney's information charging that he committed embezzlement by lending \$17,000 to himself.

This loan, made Mar. 17, was not authorized, officials said.

### Estate Funds.

F. C. Jacobson, Cedar Falls, Ia., attorney and a director of the bank, said between \$38,000 and \$42,000 of the shortages involves bank funds and about \$18,000 concerns estates and other funds handled for clients.

It has not been determined, according to Mr. Jacobson, whether the bank or some of the clients will be required to stand some of the reported losses.

### Funds Partly Protected.

The estate funds are partly protected by the American Surety Co. and by the United States Fidelity & Guaranty Co., Mr. Jacobson said.

Mr. Lorenzen said the bank Tuesday went under the provisions of Senate File 111, an act of the 1933 legislature providing for orderly liquidation of distressed banks.

He said deposits were not protected by the government's Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., but that Fletcher's bond undoubtedly will cover some of the deposits.

[Federal deposit insurance is optional with banks, except those affiliated with the federal reserve system, which includes all national banks and some state banks. The federal insurance costs about one-twelfth of one per cent of the deposits insured.]

The bank had capital of \$20,000 and on Mar. 31 reported \$356,866 in deposits.

Fletcher's bond as cashier was provided by the American Surety Co. of New York, N. Y.

### Recovering From Illness.

Fletcher was arrested at the home of his brother-in-law, Harry LeFranz, at Hudson, Ia., where he was recovering from a heart ailment and nervous disorder. He recently had been in a Waterloo, Ia., hospital.

Sheriff M. G. Mamminga of Grundy county quoted Fletcher as saying, "I want to get it over with." He said Fletcher was divorced about a year ago and has one son.

Fletcher has been with the Dike bank 20 years, nine years as assistant cashier and 11 years as cashier.

### \$20,000 Bond.

He failed to furnish a \$20,000 bail bond fixed by District Judge George W. Wood of Waterloo, and was taken to jail. He is to be arraigned before Judge Wood here Thursday morning.

Mr. Lorenzen said Tuesday night that a new bank is being organized to replace the closed one. The new bank may, he said, take over the closed bank's assets and assume all liabilities.

The proposed new bank would have more than enough money to meet all the reported shortages when the stock is sold, Mr. Lorenzen said. Deposits are to be insured under the F.D.I.C.

A group of workers has obtained subscriptions amounting to more than one half the sum necessary to open the new bank under federal provisions, he said.

The group is attempting to sell 250 shares of stock in the proposed new bank at \$125 per share.

[Dike is 14 miles northeast of Grundy Center.]

# BANK AT DIKE REOPENED ON LIMITED BASIS

Depository for New Checking,  
Savings Accounts Only;  
Fletcher in Jail.

BLAMES "HIGH LIVING";  
PUTS LOSS AT \$16,000

*(Courier Special Service)*

Dike, Ia.—The Dike Savings bank opened its doors Wednesday as a depository only, for convenience of the community, while investigations of the alleged shortages of Ben H. Fletcher, cashier, continued, with community leaders already hard at work to set up a new banking organization.

Fletcher, in jail in Grundy Center, was scheduled for arraignment Thursday.

S. C. Jacobsen of Cedar Falls, a director of the bank and its legal counsel, said Wednesday that the bank's losses will approximate \$40,000 to \$42,000, with \$18,000 known losses in estate funds.

The bank opened under senate file 111 Wednesday morning, in charge of Lee Chandler, Holstein, Ia., acting for the state superintendent of banking.

#### All Assets Held.

For the present, all of the bank assets will be held intact.

However, the bank is acting as a depository, accepting deposits for checking accounts, with those funds segregated from those of the old bank, Chandler said. New accounts were opened by deposits as soon as the bank opened. As a depository, it will make no loans and pay no interest on savings accounts.

Bank officials emphasized that all reorganization plans have been abandoned, and that the business men are seeking to set up a new institution.

They expect the old bank to be liquidated by receivership, they said.

#### Approved by Governor.

Reopening of the bank under senate file 111, law passed in 1933, was approved Wednesday morning by Governor George A. Wilson.

Heaviest hit of the estates, it was said, is that of the late Chris Larsen, with the loss expected to amount to \$11,000. Tho Mr. Larsen died many years ago, the estate was still under administration, with Fletcher handling much of its business affairs, it was reported.

Two other estates are said to have lost \$3,000 to \$4,000.

#### Admits Loan Wrong.

In an interview Wednesday, Fletcher told the Courier he believes time and accounting will reveal the shortages far less than the current estimates. He thinks the bank loss should not exceed \$16,000.

He admitted a \$17,000 loan to himself was technically wrong, but asserted it was made on good collateral.

He blamed "high living" for his troubles.

But part of the shortages he blames on methods used in pulling the bank thru the depression.

The man who was alert and cheerful in his previous role as one of Grundy county's best bank-

troubles.

But part of the shortages he blames on methods used in pulling the bank thru the depression.

The man who was alert and cheerful in his previous role as one of Grundy county's best bankers was haggard and tired from illness and worry in his cell in the Grundy county jail Wednesday.

#### **Mortgage as Security.**

Of the \$17,000 unauthorized loan charge he faces, he said that he had given a first mortgage on a 240-acre, well-improved farm northeast of New Hartford, along West Fork creek. The farm is worth the mortgage, and the examiners' figure of \$9,400 as its value is far too low, he asserted.

The \$17,000 item is wrongly included in the \$40,000 shortage, he asserted. So, he said, are a few other items.

He traces the beginning of his manipulations of funds to unusual efforts to pull the bank thru the depression. In the beginning, he said, it was all directed toward saving the bank.

#### **Induced to Return.**

In 1933 he had resigned to take a federal land bank position, which he handled for a few months, but directors did not accept his resignation, and induced him to return in September of that year.

With a banker's distaste for the phrase, "unsound banking," Fletcher demurred at a question of whether there had been unsound methods used in the depression fight.

Some "extreme" steps were taken—but they were not necessarily unsound, he said.

Some of what appears to be a

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## **Dike Bank Opens on Limited Deposit Basis; Cashier Held**

(Continued)

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shortage is traceable to that, he said.

#### **No Stock Gambling.**

"But I went wrong in the last several years, and I'm waiting to take my rap," he said. He denied stockmarket gambling, blaming only high living and matrimonial troubles.

There was pathos in the arrest, at a relative's home in Hudson, for it was made by an old friend, Sheriff M. G. Mamminga.

Their acquaintance dates back to Aug. 15, 1918, when Mamminga, then a bridge contractor, saw a stranger sweeping the bank sidewalk. The stranger was Fletcher, formerly of Reinbeck, who was beginning his work with the bank that morning. Fletcher became cashier 11 years ago, was a leader in Grundy county business circles, and was regarded by other bankers as being a highly capable man.

Of the arrest by his old friend, Fletcher said, smiling bitterly:

"George couldn't help it—it was his job.

"But I could have helped it, several years ago—and I didn't."

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# SAVINGS BANK AT DIKE CLOSES ITS DOORS TUESDAY

**Ben H. Fletcher, Cashier,  
Facing Prosecution in  
\$60,000 Shortage.**

By **FRANK B. ALLEN**  
Courier Staff Writer

Dike, Ia.—The Dike community Tuesday faced a bank embezzlement that may run to an aggregate of \$60,000 or more, and Ben H. Fletcher, 49, veteran cashier, long prominent in Grundy county business circles, faced prosecution.

An information prepared by County Attorney Ernest W. Ruppelt Tuesday charged Fletcher, cashier of the Dike Savings bank, with having made an unauthorized loan of \$17,000 to himself on March 17. Ruppelt said the information would be filed in district court Tuesday afternoon.

### **Business Paralyzed.**

The Dike bank did not open its doors Tuesday morning.

The closing all but paralyzed the town's business, for virtually all the money business men had for Tuesday's transaction consisted of small sums in cash drawers, registers and safes.

It was a blue day in the town, for the bank was not a member of the federal insurance organization.

Fletcher's bond is only \$10,000, far from sufficient to meet the shortages believed to exist.

Meeting adversity with grim determination, community leaders said Tuesday that immediate steps will be taken to form a new bank, with federal insurance on deposits.

### **Abandon Re-organization.**

Attempts to reorganize the old bank, started several weeks ago, were abandoned when auditors revealed more and more shortages.

The old bank was capitalized at \$20,000 and on March 31 had \$356,866 in deposits. The new bank must have capitalization of \$25,000 to meet the federal insurance requirements, it was stated.

An attempt will be made immediately to establish a temporary institution, to serve only as a depository, it was stated, to be followed by organization of a bank. The depository may be established this week. Procedure of bank organization will take longer.

### **With Hudson Relatives.**

Fletcher, staying with relatives in Hudson, was to be served with an arrest warrant by Sheriff George Mamminga of Grundy county as soon as the information is filed.

The veteran cashier, with the bank for 20 years, was regarded as an able banker, and was one of only two Grundy county bankers to reopen his institution immediately after the bank holiday six years ago.

An early report placed the bank loss at \$20,000, with further shortages amounting to \$40,000 in estates and other funds handled for clients.

### **"Will Be All of That."**

Asked if those figures were accurate, bank officials said gloomily that "it will be all of that."

The estate shortages may have existed as long as 10 years, but the shortage of the bank's money is recent, officers said. There was a suggestion that there may have been manipulation of accounts to

restore funds to estate accounts from bank moneys.

The making of an unauthorized loan constitutes embezzlement under state banking laws, County Attorney Ruppelt said. Fletcher is alleged to have failed to get the approval of the board of directors for the loan, and the amount is in excess of what may be loaned to an individual, Ruppelt said.

The offense carries a penalty of 10 years imprisonment, he said.

### **Divorced Year Ago.**

Dike residents shook their heads Tuesday over "where the money went" if the allegations prove true.

Bank officials said they have been unable to find any evidence of stock market or board of trade speculations.

Fletcher was divorced, on grounds of cruelty, about a year ago, it was stated. He is reputed to have been using liquor during the past several years, but never was absent from his work, and never appeared intoxicated, according to business acquaintances.

School officials are said to have raised the first question about the bank's status, having noted a manipulation, it was stated. The school fund of \$8,000 is safe, officials reported.

Carsen Plaehn is the bank president, and Anton P. Lorenzen is vice president.

# SEEK MONEY IN BANK SHORTAGE

## Dike Residents Can't 'Figure Where It Is.'

By Donald Grant.

(Register Staff Writer.)

GRUNDY CENTER, IA.—Ben H. Fletcher sat in his Grundy county jail cell Wednesday smoking cigarets chain fashion while over at Dike, Ia., all 450 inhabitants were talking about the re-

ported \$60,000 shortage in the Dike Savings bank.

One thing not even Fletcher's son, J. H. Fletcher, Dike trucker, can figure out, is what became of the money.

"I don't know where dad could have put the money, if he did take it. He wouldn't tell me a thing when I saw him at the jail Tuesday night," the banker's son said.

Fletcher, meanwhile, denied to reporters that the shortage is as large as reported.

He said the only shortages he knew about were \$18,000 in funds of various estates handled by the bank and \$37,000 in the bank's

funds—including an unauthorized loan to himself of \$17,000.

The loan, he said, was secured by a 240-acre farm which he owns in Butler county.

Fletcher was arrested Tuesday on a county attorney's information accusing him of embezzlement by making a loan of \$17,000 to himself without authority of bank officials.

He has been with the Dike Savings bank 20 years, nine as assistant cashier, and 11 as cashier.

Fletcher refused to discuss where the money went, other than to say "it went so fast . . . I don't know."

He said he will be "glad when

it's all over," and ventured the opinion that "I may have to serve some time before this is cleared up. I'm in and it's me for it."

"Not Again."

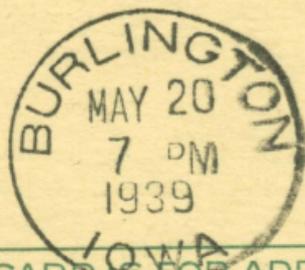
If he had it to do over again, Fletcher said, "I wouldn't do it. Would you?" Then he smiled, lit another cigaret.

A hearing before District Judge George W. Wood of Waterloo, Ia., is scheduled for this morning.

Although friends of Fletcher are unable to account for the spending of such large sums as are involved in the bank shortage, they said the banker had

been known as a "generous spender."

They said he would buy meals for as many persons as happened to be with him at lunch time, always insisted on buying drinks for the house when in a beer tavern and sometimes held parties for his friends at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen

Dike

Iowa

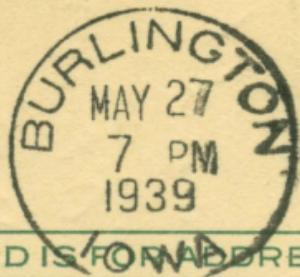
Sat. P. M.

Dear folks;

Tak for pengene! Jeg fik dem ligesom. Jeg trov at jeg ~~og~~ ville kom hjem til solo brullupet. Kun is kom til Burlington Thursday efter middag? Jeg bliver ikke ferdig til at rejse for klokken sex. Men jeg kun lige at kom hjem den dag.

Jeg har været til en "party" i efter middag. Det var meget fine.

Bill er her i dag og igen is morgen. Jeg ser vi at "see"!!!  
Hilsen, Helen.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mr + Mrs. Thorwald Petersen  
Dike,  
Iowa

11111 m.

Dear Folks:

many thanks for  
of prasing! Iq wil  
oben den i morgen

~~Iq are lidt trett. Ni~~

havde den beste  
tid i aften. Iq vil

ting soa pdddt!

Vi skal til O'Donnell  
for dinner i morgen

den og maq goer  
til show me.

Vil skrive mer  
i morgen.

many kilsen,

Helena