

1381 Cleveland Avenue North
St. Paul, Minnesota

January 10, 1940

Dear Mother, dad and Oakley,

The candles and book and all came through in fine condition. Thank you ever so much! Next week my candlesticks will go into the cases at Home Economics Building.

This afternoon I didn't have any classes as I took time out and worked on my green wool dress. I think I shall be able to finish it tomorrow and wear the finished dress at a dinner party at 6:30. Doris and I have been invited to the home of two of the faculty members who have a lovely home out in the University Grove Section.

Sunday night we are invited to another faculty member's home for dinner.

School is going well. I am teaching costume designing (two classes) and advanced design. — and I have no Saturday classes this quarter. At first I thought I would have a Saturday a.m. class but later I found that the class is not scheduled to meet on Saturday. It's wonderful! — not to have to get up early that morning and be at school early. Tomorrow I'm going to celebrate by going down to the business district and go "looking" at new fabrics and

styles for women's dress.

Last nite I read Richard E. Byrd's "Alone". Its a good narration of his adventure in Antarctica.

The girl who rooms across the hall from me has just been appointed head of the "Textile and Clothing Department here at the University". She is quite young and very fortunate to get such a nice promotion.

How and where is Oakley and what is he planning to do?

In looking through my Christmas cards I find that some of yours are here too. So I'll include the one of Uncle 'niss' and the one telling about Mrs. Roubeshush.

Sincerely,
Helene

2711 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa
January 14, 1946

Dear Folks and Oakley,

Thank you very much for the lovely hose you sent me! They are exactly the color of the ones I bought when I was at home during Christmas. So you know that they were the right color.

I meant to write yesterday but I made a hurried trip to Des Moines in the afternoon for some materials for textile design class. Even in Des Moines they don't have everything I wanted, so I had Yunkers order some material for me for a table cloth I designed.

I doubt that I'll come to Dike next weekend unless

something unusual turns
up. You see I came back
to Ames this morning on the
bus so I could get a little
work done today. Just no end
to it all!

Have just about finished
my outline for the thesis and
will submit it tomorrow
for Miss Hansen's approval.
Then it must go to the Graduate
Committee for approval before
I can really begin working
on it.

Say, mother, will you please
send me my white uniform
which I bought in Burlington?
I think it's in my top dresser
drawer. Gladys needs a uniform
& I said she was welcome
to have mine. Will you send
it as soon as possible, please?

I have made out one check
for \$49.30 so far. I'll make
out another for about twenty
dollars one of the first day -
just as you know about
how much I am taking.

The little Peterson you
mentioned from Fort Dodge
was once in my art class.
She was a very sweet girl.

N. B. Oakley

I'm still waiting for you
and Wednesday to come with
my bag!!! *  see you sometime
soon, eh?
(few drop ins)

Last Sunday afternoon
the Men's Civic Glee Club of Fort
Dodge sang here in Memorial
Union. Mr. Orth, the leader
is the vocal instructor at the H.S.
I talked with him for some

time after the concert. He is giving "The Vagabond King" this spring. I hope to go to St. Dodge and see it.

Had a letter from Mrs. Bidsting. She thanks for the card you sent & wants me to greet you both from them.

Jenny got back from the hospital Friday night. She was still quite weak when I was there at the apt. yesterday. She had so many beautiful flowers from friends.

Had a letter from John Lee, the Burlington boy who won the scholarship to Kansas City Art Institute. He won a second scholarship for this year and is working under Thomas Benton, one of the foremost Am. artists - who complimented John on his work. I'm so glad for John's sake.

Much love.

Helen

P.S. Will you look for some purple wool cushion buttons for my wool dress? The buttons should be in that small purple carved wood box of

the attic
my box up in the closet

Section II
Same epistle !!

Well, today I hope I can get this off to the P.O. and get the money order.

Received your letter yesterday, mom. It surely was good to hear from you. Glad you got to hear my radio debut! By the way, you will probably have the opportunity to hear me this Friday again. as I am going to give a talk for one of the other teachers who is ill. It will be 10:45 a.m. on Feb. 7th. The number on the dial is 760 and the station U.L.B. - University station.

Yes, losing the shoes - I need them bad! It will be so nice to see you.

Had a letter from Montana University they want me out there next year - if I wish to come!!!

Too bad about Arlene C.

Madeline Stillman is in town. We
are going to the Curtis Hotel for dinner this
evening.

Greetings to Cobby on his
twentieth birthday. Drink an extra
cup of coffee for me on the
occasion. I can still remember
the first morning I saw a little
pinkish red face in a blue covered
basket in the living room. It
really was a big moment in my
young life.

Hope to see you later this
week.

I'm planning to spend ^{most} Saturday night
& Sunday in Ames & then ^{Saturday night} Sunday
and Friday night at Vera's.

Love,
Peter

P.S. Don't know when the train leaves - for sure.
I may drive down in a car instead of going by train.
If Harry Jensen can go, he wants to go to D.M.

and see some people. then I'll drive with him will let you know

2711 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa
February 3, 1946

Dear Folks and Oakley,

Thanks so much for the nice piece of meat which you sent me. We appreciate it very much.

The rust colored scarf is one which I got in Astoria. I intend using it next year for illustrative material in teaching tie dyeing. It is a piece from India and a rare thing so I got it while I had the opportunity. Please take good care of it so that it doesn't get too squashed.

If you don't come for I am and Home Week why don't you plan to come during that week anyhow or the week after. After that time I will be so very busy winding up my quarter's work. Please let me know as soon as possible when you'd rather come. I'd like to get my patterns & things all ordered so they'll be here when you come to sew - Everything is really piling up for me!

I'm getting to be a regular heathen - don't even take time off to go to church anymore.

Say, Oakley, would you mind if I borrowed your small compass from your mechanical drawing case to use for my metal work? The compass I have isn't very reliable. I'd rather not have me use it please say so, otherwise I'd like to have it now. Oh, yes thanks so much for returning my bag again!!!!

Oh, yes, thank Frankie for the meat. When are they moving into their new home?

About Aunt Jenny - whatever you feel you wish to do is all right with me. You know that.

Would you please send me some more blank checks - preferably a check book so I can keep track of the stubs? I've made out the following checks

Jan. 23	Biltmore	\$9.60
Feb. 3	Black's	11.83
	Yunker's	3.19

Must go to campus town and
mail this before its too late.

Hope you will be able to come
during Farm & Home week to see
if not to attend the lectures.

Let me know. — Bring my bag please,
where you come.
Thanks for everything.

Love,
Helen

P.S. Christian Petersen says the
chisels are holding up very well —
and that my Daddy must
be a good "blacksmith" —
And is my right arm ever
developing a powerful muscle!!

My roommate is —

Genevieve Lundvick thingood —

4730 - 20th N. E.

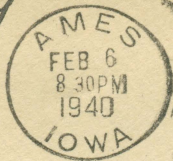
Seattle,

Wash.

Oyes - I looked
for prints for quilt -
there wasn't any
I got another
idea. I'll tell
you when you come.

P.S. Don't worry about
that black dress of
yours if you don't
get it all done before
you come. maybe I can find a pattern for you.

Helen Petersen
2711 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa



Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald Petersen
Dike,
Iowa Aug. 8

Tues. nite

Dear Folks:

Yesterday I went to Des Moines to see a Mr. Gibson about my feet. The arches have been giving me a good deal of difficulty recently - can hobble to class & that's about all. The Dr's. bill was \$3.00 so I made out a check for it. Its a Des Moines check which I crossed out & put Iowa Savings in place of bank and Dicks in place of Des Moines.

So when it comes in you'll know it really is mine.

Mother will you please send me that little plaster piece of the old lady which I did out in Colorado? I'm doing a piece in stone & I'd like to see that one for my model. Will you please see that it has good packing so that it won't break enroute? If you can send it when you get this letter I'll appreciate it because I'd like to use it Thursday afternoon.

I took Christian Pitman your Malboe book, dad, to look at this afternoon. He liked it so much that he asked if he could keep it awhile to read it - and said he'd take good care of it - I know he got a big enjoyment

out of it!

I had a letter from Mary
Bryan in Duluth, Minn., asking
me if I would be handicraft
advisor at her camp this
year up there. It is a three month
camp. I hope I can finish
in time to be able to go and
do it.

Love,
Helen

2711 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa
February 13, 1941

Dear Dad,

How goes it without
a woman in the house?

I am doing the teaching
for Mrs. Ness while she is
working on Farm & Home Week.

So that makes me do a
little hopping. I've only
been able to attend two
of my own classes which
puts me back still more -
but I have to do as Miss
Hansen asks when
she asks.

Yesterday while I
was teaching the Interior
decorator from Mc Call's

magazine came in and
observed my class with
Miss Hansen. If you'll look
in Mother's Mc Call's you'll
see her write up about
Furniture and arrangements.
She is such a lovely lady.
She gave a talk for Farm +
Home this afternoon.

I take my lunch
along at noon so I won't
have to be on my feet any
more than necessary.

Mother will probably come
to Ames Thursday to stay
with me.

Must get busy,

Love,

Helene

715 Clark Ave.
Ames, Iowa
March 2, 1940

Dear folks and Oakley,

About this time this afternoon I can imagine mother going in the direction of Grandma Henningsen's for a cup of birthday coffee. Wish I were there to taste some of the fine cookies and cakes!

Received your card and letter, Mother, and am sending the box with the pinky scissors, buttonhole scissors and blue marking chalk. Hope it reaches you in time.

It's so sleety out today that I'm wondering whether or not Vera will get to come home. The roads are quite icy in places around here.

I'm enclosing a copy of

the "Student" for you to read. On
page six is an article about my
thesis problem which I thought
you might enjoy seeing. as usual
they never get things in quite
straight - I'm the ~~only~~ one
working on this - not the applied
art Department as indicated.
I have four candlestick designs
completed in pewter and
another almost done. I'm
going to try some copper, brass,
wood and glass designs
too.

Say, will you save tomorrow's
Sunday Register brown section
that will have Grant Wood's
work in it? Also will you
save last Sunday's page that
has Grant Wood's design in
glass. There are three
designs in glass - over and
over the other as I recall.
Don't send them but please

keep them for me if you will.

I'm just about finished my jacket and have finished a table cloth design in jute fiber. Think I may try designing some draperies next. There are so many interesting things to do.

Our notebooks are due for Miss Little's Tuesday so I have a bit of work to keep me busy there.

Perhaps I'll be able to come home about a week from Thursday and stay until Easter Sunday — we should be able to get some sewing done in a week and a half — also must finish up my German translation. Will let you know more about coming later. Love, Helen

May 1, 1940

Dear Mom,

Merry Christmas! Is it snowing in Dike? It certainly is in Ames today.

Had thought perhaps I'd had a letter from you today.

If you are ~~not~~ using my Vogue pattern would you please send it to me? If you are using it, will you just cut off the waist pattern for me (out of a newspaper) and send it, please? I want to get some yellow material & make up a dress Saturday afternoon. so I'll have something when it turns warm. My wool dresses will be too warm on hot days. If you will send this out so I get it Saturday

I shall appreciate it very much.

Miss Gueding left this noon for Minneapolis where she is to attend a national Public Health Council meeting - she is an officer. She was just elected vice president of the state association too. She has just had another article published in the national magazine of nursing. So she is among the well known in her field.

Vera wrote that Joesy is in the hospital again. Too bad.

Lots of love to
you all.

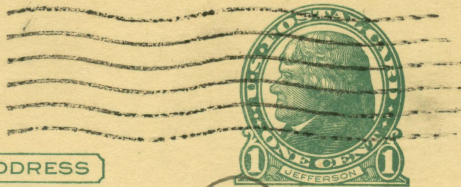
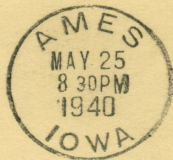
Helene

P.S. Any "snatch" baskets
this year?

Did I put some stamps
in your last letter?

I put them either in yours
or Vera's for I didn't
have them along home.

If you got them, keep
them & use them.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen
Dike,
Iowa

Dear folks & Gallery ^{sat. Eve.}

Thanks for the package.
Received it today.

Vera is here spending
the day with me. Is
going home early to-
morrow. We're having
'good time.'

We had Delta Phi
Delta initiation this
p. m. Christian Petersen
was one of our initiates.
We are surely proud to
have him.

Will write more
next week. Helen

Two more weeks
and were through
with school. Thanks
for the \$\$\$\$\$\$ - V.

715 Clark Avenue
Ames, Iowa
May 30, 1940

Dear mother and dad,

Thanks so much for the birthday card and the dollar bill which I received Tuesday. Everyone was so thoughtful of me that day. Vera and Jonesy each sent lovely cards and Jonesy inclosed a pretty handkerchief. Vera had given me two more sterling coffee spoons which she was up here Saturday. Miss Guldin and her mother gave me a lovely sacket ball to hang in my closet - also had me to lunch that day. Among the girls in Christian Peterson's lat. had a coffee party in the afternoon in my honor. We cooked the coffee on the electric plate and Ronnie brought cookies, cake, macaroons, mints. So I went over to the dairy building and got some ice cream cups for us. Miss Fisher took me out to dinner in the evening to finish out the day! So you see I was greatly honored. Mrs. Bidstrup sent a lovely bottle of Helena Rubenstein perfume. Apple blossom flavor - very good! Thanks for sending the card from Aunt Bessie with Odey. She says she is

leaving for home tomorrow (May 31st). So let me know if she will be here for any length of time. It is like to see her.

School is out here Sat. a.m. for the term. I'm staying on to work on my thesis. I may sneak out a couple of days when Vera has come home to also come home & have her and I do some light ~~easy~~ sewing. My blue linen dress goods finally came yesterday. I need a dress badly but don't have time to sew it now. Also got some bargain price organics in Des Moines for a journal for the Delta Phi Delta convention the 15, 16, 17th of June here.

I bought a dress at Norman Cassidy's in Des Moines last week also a pair of linen shoes. I needed them quite badly & I just don't have time to run anything up myself. I hope all this isn't too hard on the family finance.

You ask about whether I have any job as yet. Not yet - but some day. Several openings have come in but Miss Hansen thinks I should not apply until there is a good opening which

looks like advancement. I still haven't heard any particulars from Montana. Mrs. Hannon - the head of the department out there is national president of Delta Phi Delta & is coming home in June. If she is interested she is perhaps waiting to see me in person before deciding. I applied yesterday for a position in a girls school thirty miles south of New York City. This is a ~~ch~~ Catholic institution but they seem to have no aversion to hiring a protestant. at least no restrictions were mentioned. The salary will be \$1800 to \$2000. plus maintenance which would amount to practically \$3000. when you add board, room, & laundry expenses in the east. Well, I think I should very much like to have this position because it is so close to the city & I might be able to contact someone in the commercial art field and get a job designing textiles and metals. In the meantime I would be getting a salary on which I could pay back my debts. It looks like a good setup but the fool remains that I still have to get it before I'm sitting way on top of the world!!! That's about the situation at present. Will report more

events as they take place. I am sure that I have the full cooperation of all the instructors here and that means a good deal, I believe. Mr. DeLaver from Fort Dodge, for whom I have a great deal of admiration, said that I shouldn't worry if I didn't get a position until later on in the summer as he was positive that the backing of Iowa State College would get me something worthwhile with the training for boat.

The other day an interior decorator who has worked for Vina Rosenthal in N.Y.C. was visiting Miss O'Bryan's lab. & saw my textile designs. She was very much impressed and wanted me to send her some samples when she reached N.Y.C. in June. She was sure she could contact someone who would be able to use such designs. Well, I may send some if we decide it's O.K. You know one is never quite sure whether a person like that is going to sell them as her own designs or whether I really would get the percentage due. There is a

good bit of dirty work at times in the
commercial field! All of which has to
be taken into consideration. Even George
Jensen's work which sells for \$15-\$25 is copied
so nearly that people buy cheap imitations
for \$1.50 to \$2.00. Well, that's the life. But I
still think it would be fun.

What are you doing today? I'm at
the library stuck for the day and night - until
9:30 at least.

Greetings to the Struntz's and
Bestenhor. When does Mrs and Co.
arrive?

Love,

Helen

1381 Cleveland
Aug. 11,
St. Paul, Minn.
Sept. 15, 1940

Dear Mother, Dad and Oakley,

This has been a big day!
I took the street car over to
Minneapolis about eleven o'clock
this morning. When I arrived
in the business section I
got off and went window
shopping. In one store window
I noticed Peacock shoes \$10.00
for \$7.85 - so maybe I'll go
back and try a pair on - to
see if they fit - !!! When
I had looked around for
about an hour I went to
a cafeteria and had a dinner.
Then I went to a hotel and
called Gene Johnson. Then
I "street-carred" some more
transferred a couple of times,

and arrived on River Road West, where the Old Peoples Home is located, that is on the loveliest location - right on the Miss. - high up on the bluffs. There is a nice park like place around the home - it is ideal for a situation like that.

It was so nice to see Irene. Her Aunt Dagmar and Uncle Pete came for a few minutes this afternoon to see her. We had coffee with the old people - then we went upstairs and I played the piano while Irene and some of the old people sang songs - mostly Danish ones. They all thanked me as if I had given them a

Beethoven concert - or
something like that!

Mrs. Hansen who is the
cook at the home is a niece
of Thos. Juhl in C. F. She knew
great grandma Slifsgaard - had
lived across the street from her
in C. F. - Mrs. Hansen knew
some stories about the old
lady too! - I told the one
about the Kartoffele.

There certainly is a lot of
Swedish spoken on the streets, in
the street cars and everywhere
one sees Scandinavian names.
Maybe I'll be able to catch onto
a little yet later on. - I can
get the ja and nej already!

I don't say there is lots of ice-
skating up here in the winter.
I do hope I can get the chance
to learn while I'm here.

I called Miss McNeal this
evening. I am to be at the

Home Economics Building around
9:30 in the morning. Then I
suppose there will be a meeting
of some sort. School doesn't open
for several days so just what
will do I don't know. In the
meantime I'm going to sleep
and will write more tomorrow.

Mon. P. M.

Well, I'm supposed to have
earned a day's salary today!
But I think I have learned
rather than earned if I
must be honest about it.

I met so many members of
the staff today. Most of them
have been on wonderful
vacation trips and had a
great deal to tell. Several of us
had lunch together at the
Cafeteria here on the campus.

The girl with whom I share
my office is so good about
telling me of everything.
She seems very nice.

She was just married this summer and is making many plans for the future.

Wednesday we are to have a department meeting. Then we will find out exactly what we are to teach. I think my classes will be Design and Color, and then a course in Decorative Needlework. That course should be interesting to teach. There is a predominant Swedish accent on the art work here. That is natural, however, because so very many of the students are of Swedish descent.

Tomorrow, I hope to get some stamps so I can mail some letters. So far I haven't located a postal station.

This evening two of the instructors took me with them to Minneapolis where we had dinner together.

I think I shall have to buy a radio - just a little one to

Keep me company in the
evenings.

Mother will you please look
in the cedar chest and see if
the belt for my purple wool
dress is there? The belt is
purple wool with some velvet
facings. I took the dress
along with me but I couldn't
find the belt at the time.

Greetings to Ann and
Bertie + all.

Love,
Helene

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, Minn.

September 19, 1940

Dear Folkes & Oakley,

Don't know just how train service
clicks from this place, so will get this
Sunday note off a day early.

As time goes on I'm beginning
to see a few lights on the situation.
There are so many new things to
learn about the University.

Now I know for certain that
I am to teach two classes of
Color and Design I and a class
of Decorative needlework and
other crafts. Then winter and
spring I shall be teaching
courses in textile design, advanced
design and crafts - at least so
the program now looks.

Tomorrow (Friday) Miss Cox
and I are going to the main
campus and visit the library,
Union, etc. Then we are
going to do some shopping

for the department.

I have been going through the files for illustrative material on various subjects the past two days. It is rather warm here. Wish I had taken some more summer clothes along but I guess it will soon turn cooler.

Have you found that purple wool belt yet, mother? If you have will you send it sometime and also that rust and green tie dyed scarf which is a piece of china silk in a square white box in the closet on one of the shelves? There is also a piece of very light pink crepe de chine - but I won't need that - just the tie dye scarf.

How is everything at home? Still canning apples? Mine some other time.

Love, Helen

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, Minnesota
September 28, 1940

Dear Mother & Dad,

This is the Sunday letter coming a bit late this time. Please excuse the delay.

Thanks for sending the belt and the tie-dye scarf. also your letters.

Well, so much has happened that it's a bit difficult to know where to start telling about it all.

Thursday and Friday of this week we registered transfer and freshman students. The registration here is much different from what I was accustomed to at Ames.

Then to complicate matters I was on the other side of the registration line so I was supposed to be able to answer questions instead of ask them!

It was interesting to watch the students coming in. A very few had parents along - sort of the the

last tug on the apron string before the break came, I suppose! Anyway, I'm glad I wasn't brought up that way. It does youngsters good to have to figure a few things out for themselves.

Today I worked on the interior lab. My first unit on Monday will be a study of interior decoration concerning a bedroom unit. So I hung several lengths of plain and figured fabrics up on the walls for consideration as to color, suitability, etc.

My needlework class will begin with a piece of Italian hemstitching - something which can be used for a variety of things. Then we will go into a variety of stitches and later in weaving processes.

So Abley is off to Ames again! I certainly was surprised. I hope he does better this chance.

Tomorrow I think I shall go to Minneapolis and hear Rev. Asberg preach. Hope to see Irene Johnson too.

I see by the catalogue here on the campus that there is a Mr. Nichols teaching debate. He used to be the debate coach in the Junior College at Fort Dodge when I taught there. Alfred always thought a great deal of this man. I presume he and his wife live here in the vicinity so I shall no doubt see them some time.

Here is a cookie recipe which I talked about once when I was at home, mother. I think it is a good one.

The other day I was in Minneapolis shopping and found some buttons and making for your black dress, mother. If you like the buttons, keep them and they'll be my Christmas present

to you for this year. I liked
them the best of any I saw.
I shall send the buttons,
ruching and shoulder pads
Monday. It is too late today
to get anything out in the
way of a package.

Greet Morrison if he is still
with you.

How is the bazaar ap^{er}on
tooth coming?

I got some lovely print at
Montgomery Ward's the other day
when we were shopping - the
print was 12¢ a yard - good stuff
too.

More later.

Greetings to all.

Helene

P.S. Your letter dated 6 P. M. Sept. 26
reached me Saturday noon Sept. 28

Just in case you want to know
how long it takes to mail me
something. d.p.

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.

St. Paul, Minn.

October 2, 1940

Dear Folks,

I have just discovered some worms in a box of raisins which I bought! So I had to inspect the raisins individually and wash them before getting down to the business of eating them.

Everything is going fine here. People are very kind to me in every way. I don't have nearly the feeling of lonesomeness which I had in Burlington as a new teacher. There is more of a western hospitality up here than I found in Burlington among the people.

My first check which should have come through October first was not sent

to me because my transcripts
had not come through from
the school. So the whole check
should come on the fifteenth.

Yesterday I went to the bank
and cashed a check on your
account for fifteen dollars
which I hope will last me
these two weeks. Hope you
won't mind too much.

Last nite I went to the
main campus with another
teacher who is singing with
the University Chorus. And whom
should I see there but a boy and
a girl I knew from Grand View.
Harry helped with camp both
summers and Harriet was at
Lake Okibojia. We were all so
glad to see each other. They
didn't know of anyone who
was going here - we had a
real visit together.

Sunday Irene Johnson
invited ^{me} with her on a picnic.

Dagmar Johnson and husband,
and a cousin of Irene's (- a
daughter of Carrie J. in Canada -
the one you went to see & happened
in on her birthday) with husband
were also there. We had a
very nice time. We went home
and had abelskiver for supper.
They certainly tasted good.

The Danish church in
Minneapolis is having a bazaar
October 16th and 17th. They serve
supper both evenings, so I
am going out to supper on Thurs.

One of the buttons is
missing on the purple dress
with the velvet collar. I wonder
if you could possibly find a
scrab of the purple wool and
send it in a letter sometime
soon. Then I'll have some
new buttons made for the
dress.

Have you gotten the
box with the buttons in

it? As the should pads fit O.K.?
Hope so. I haven't worked on
my black dress since I came
here. When I get my machine
I hope to get at the sewing
when I have a minute.

How is Oakley getting
along at Ames? Where
is he working?

Tomorrow is one of my heavy
class days so I'm off for
bed.

Love,
Helen

P.S. And I have to throw
away half a box of raisins!!!

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, Minn.
October 10, 1940

Dear Mother and Dad,

First to answer the questions -
The Vogue Pattern which Mrs. Hay has
on your bill is mine. I got your
pattern and mine that same
day - so when I get paid, I'll
send you the dollar for my
pattern. I probably didn't make
it clear about charging the
patterns to our separate accounts.

I don't know for sure what
metal the buttons are made
from. The middle part is plated
with chromium as dad thought.

I haven't had time to go to
Montgomery Ward. I was at
Sears yesterday and looked at
dignity but there was nothing
suitable for your purpose. And
I won't be down in the
City soon enough to help
you out on the apron deal.

The grapejuice which is canned must look nice. It will taste good next summer in cool drinks.

Monday night the Goldsteins had the all staff out at the Auto Club - sort of a glorified country club out southeast of Minneapolis. We had a lovely dinner. The chicken was so well done.

Tomorrow night there is a faculty-student reception at the Farm campus gym. I'm to help with the refreshments. Saturday afternoon Irene Johnson is coming over to see the Home Economics building and see what we are doing. Then we'll go over to the main campus and see the new Union. Saturday evening the head of the Home Management Department is having the faculty at her house. And there goes the weekend!

I finally got a loom set up for weaving today and worked out a pattern for a belt.

We changed the things in the Related Art showcase in H.E. today. The Goldsteins asked to have my draperies put up for exhibit so there they are.

Has Pitts brought back the candlesticks as yet?

I think I'll come to Iowa this weekend, Nov. 9, 10, 11. We don't have classes on Nov. 11

so that will be my only chance to come home between now & Christmas. I thought I'd either go to Des Moines from here, then stop at Ames & then to Dike Monday & then up here from C.F. or else come to Dike Saturday, then to Ames & Des Moines, and back up here on the Rocket.

I'll have to see about the train connections. I know that you will be in Clear Lake on Sunday Nov. 10 but don't

change any plans on my account.
I'll make arrangements to be in
like on Saturday or on Monday.
I'd like to take my candlesticks,
my flower prints, and some of
my quilts up here to show
the students in my classes
this quarter.

I've gotten the crafts lab.
nicely cleaned up now and
hope we can make a few
improvements from time to
time on the looks of the place.

Greetings to the Struntzes
and Bestemon.

Love,
Zelen

P.S. Will you please send me that
scrab of purple wool so I can
get a button made for my
dress ???

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, Minn.
Oct. 16, 1946

Dear Mother,

Received your letter this
noon. Thanks so much. In-
cidentally, it doesn't really pay
to send letters air mail to
me because they get here
no sooner than those letters
sent via rail. Just thought
you'd like to know. Your letter
was stamped 6:00^{pm} Oct. 14 and
was received here this morning,
Oct. 16. So it takes two days
regardless.

Don't look any further
for the purple material. I'll try
to get some purple velvet like the
belt for some buttons.

And about the soup
spoons. I think the oval shaped
bowl is the better one for

most purposes. The round
bowl spoons are used more
for cream soups and boullion
than for any other kind of soup.
So why not get the oval bowl
and then they will be
usable for small dishes of
vegetables at times too - when
a tablespoon may be too big?

enclosed is the dollar
bill for that pattern of mine
which was put on your bill.

Had a letter from Oakley
today. He doesn't say very much.
Here's hoping the bazaar
was a success.

I'll look for a card to
send Elsie & Minnie. I looked
for one yesterday but couldn't
find one that was just right.
I'm going to Minneapolis Friday
and will look there.

Love,
Helen

1381 Cleveland Ave.
St. Paul, Minn
Oct. 31, 1940

Dear Mother and Dad,

Before you do anything else
will you please send me my
dark blue sheer skirt which has
a ruffle at the bottom and
which has a taffeta slip attached
to the skirt at the waist?

I believe this skirt (it's a floor
length one) is up in a box on
a shelf in my closet with some
other formal stuff.

Tuesday nite is the president's
reception - on main campus. -
every faculty member is expected
to be there. It is a formal occasion.
I have my green slippers and
am going to look for some
material for a blouse tomorrow
and make up something Monday
evening & Tuesday - That
day is a holiday because of

election - so I won't be teaching.

You might send that white half slip that we made ~~over~~ for the organdie dress this summer. If its cold I'll wear the white slip under the blue skirt.

Perhaps you better send the package special delivery - I'm not sure there will be a mail delivery on Tuesday, although I don't see why there shouldn't be one. But I don't want to be minus a skirt when I have ~~forgot~~ ready.

Monday night the faculty had a dinner for the graduate students out at Sibley House, the home of Minnesota's first governor. The house is out near Fort Snelling.

Tuesday night, the Goldsteins had me invited for dinner and a lecture. We went to a place where fish of all kinds is served. Guess what we had! Sungenese Crab. One used a nutcracker to break the shells on the pieces - oh, yes - and the waiter came and put bibs on us! I'm not kidding! We wore these big bibs while we were eating and cracking our crabs. It took us fully over an hour to eat the two courses.

Then we went to the Art Institute and heard a lecture on Carl Milles, the great Swedish sculptor. Maybe you have seen some of his pieces in Stockholm, dad.

yesterday afternoon I took a class of mine over to see the interior decoration in the new Union and in a modern type dormitory which has just been ~~opened~~. While I was over there on the main campus Harry Jensen asked me over to his home for the evening, the occasion being his 23rd birthday. Harry, you know, is the fellow who was in D.M. this summer at Grand View Camp.

Well, I had a grand time. We had the best "Abel Kage" with whipped cream along with several kinds of cookies and some good banana nut bread sandwiches.

Tonight I am rather tired - can't take all these

"nights out" in a row.

Have you found out
when Tittle is having that
ephibit using my candle-
sticks? I am wondering
if she will be done with
them the early part of
the month so I can take some of
them along when I come
home on the ~~eleventh~~.

I'm so sleepy I can
hardly finish this — will
you please see that the
skirt and slip are sent out
right away?

Howt is everybody in Dix?
Hope you are all well.

Sincerely,

Helen

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS

Nov. 5, 1940

Dear Mom and Dad,

Tonight is special — so it gives University of Minnesota stationery!

Yes, tonight you would have been proud of me if you had seen me!!!! Don't I sound egotistic though? Well, I went to the president's reception wearing a new black gown — floor length — yes — I've been sewing frantically all day today to get it done (as I usually do when I have to go somewhere special!!) (Same old stunt). I decided that I better get something else than the blue sheer for a winter party and I'm glad I did. So I bought some material on sale — but it still set me back \$16.00. Anyway, I've got a grand dress — here's a sample enclosed.

Thanks anyway for sending the blue skirt and slip so promptly. I'd appreciate it immensely.

I don't believe I'll come home this weekend after all. That black dress has knocked my budget a little flat and I won't be able to get the candlesticks, I know. Tittle says the exhibition is Nov. 13th. I do hope you'll go in and visit the Women's Club that day if she asks you, mother. She says she was going to do so. I'm going to try to get a couple more drapery designs ready to send to her. Instead of coming home I need to work on some of my school dresses — I still haven't had

time to work on my new black one or finish my blue one and I really need to get them both done soon. So its best I stay here.

Oh, yes, I got my new radios Monday. It's and R.C.A. Victor - \$16.95. I tuned in on W.H.O. the first thing yesterday when I got the radio connected. This morning I had W.O.I. on while I was dressing. Almost as good as being right on the campus at ILL. again.

Did you know that Holsts are using one of my designs for the cover of *Jelegrauen* this year? I am anxious to see how it looks. Hope they won't be disappointed when it comes out.

Saturday night I was at the Young People's Home for a Danish play. Irene was in the play - it was good. - about some "gamle jomfrue". We danced afterward. A week from Sunday there is a Danish play to be given in "Danish Hall" in Minneapolis. Irene and I are going to take that in too.

Sunday night I was invited to Rev. Asberg's home for coffee after we had heard a lecture about the Santal mission at the church. Rev. Dipen, Mr. Christensen (president of Augsburg Seminary) and wife, A Reverend Helland (missionary in Santalistan) and a sister of one of the missionaries, not Sigrid Ostergaard but someone else, were there. It was an interesting group - everyone had had such varied experiences. We drank coffee from kongelige porcelain and had Danske "äbel-kage".

Here's my bonus - bringing the grand total down to \$1875.00 - mange tak !! I'm sending the rucking too.

Love, Helen

1381 Cleveland Ave. Rath
St. Paul, Minnesota
November 12, 1940

Dear Mother and Dad,

I have just gotten to Minnesota in time to be here for the worst storm the state has ever had! Yesterday the wind blew at a rate of 47 miles an hour and the snow blew right along. I was at school sewing in one of the clothing labs so I was nice and warm all the time. I surely felt sorry for any people who didn't have good shelter. The radio reports so many hunters frozen to death out on the lakes in the state. In one farm house there were 100 people for the night, last night. 35 cars

had gotten stuck at a certain point out in the country and consequently the people had to get to shelter. It's really been terrible here - The people who work down in the loop couldn't get home last night because streetcars and busses couldn't move. Hotels were jammed - people slept sitting up.

This morning I went over to school and two students came for my first hour class. They went over to the library to study. I worked on a ring I had started this summer but hadn't finished. One student came to my afternoon class - so I "dismissed" her and worked some more

on my way! About three -
thirty I came home and did
some more sewing. About that
time I was ready for a cup of
coffee. So I packed up again
and went out to eat enough
to last me until morning!

Not having any mittens
I'm busy making some for
temporary use out of some black
stuff I have along. Believe me
it's cold in this country!
I'm glad I have a good home
and a nice warm room to live
in. The Archers asked me to eat
breakfast with them before
going out in the storm this
morning.

I doubt that there will be
many in class tomorrow.
The street cars are not all
running even yet and the
state highway commission

has urged motorists to stay off
the highways in the state. That
means that students who
went home for the holiday will
~~not~~ be back even tomorrow.

I think I'm pretty lucky in
not having gone away this
weekend - It's much safer
to be inside!

How was the party in
Clear Lake? Tell me about it.

Tonight Helen Jepson and
Richard Crooks (who sing over
the Firestone Hour) were to have
given a concert here at
the University Auditorium. The
concert has been "indefinitely
postponed" as has everything
else here in the twin cities.
So I'll probably get to hear

the singers some other time.

Saturday I listened to the
Minnesota-Michigan football
game. It was splendid! What
a team Minnesota has!
Everyone is still talking about
it.

How is Oakley? Haven't
heard from him for some time.

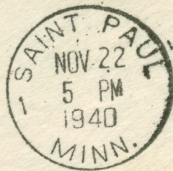
I had a special delivery letter
from Adella Frazier Saturday. She
has gotten a job as Miss Fisher's
assistant and was thrilled
beyond words. I'm so glad she
has that opportunity. —

My writing is getting
worse & worse so I'll quit —

Sincerely,

Helen

Helen S. Petersen
1381 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, Minn.



RED CROSS
ROLL CALL
JOIN



Mr. & Mrs. Thorwald Petersen
Dike,
Iowa

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.

St. Paul Minnesota

November 21, 1940

Dear Mother and Dad,

Today is Thanksgiving in Minnesota and I do have so much for which to be grateful! We are so fortunate to be living on this side of the Atlantic in these days.

I have been over at Irene's all day. Went this morning - took some mending along to do while Irene was helping Mrs. Hansen get the dinner ready. We had a lovely meal - Turkey, dressing, cranberry, salad, red cabbage, mashed potatoes, pickles, rye bread &

hot rolls and the best mince
pie with whipped cream I've
ever tasted.

We had some wonderful
Danish coffee cake for coffee
this afternoon.

Then after coffee, Irene
and I went to a show down
town. We went window-shopping
afterward. All the Christmas
decorations are up in the
loop and the store windows
are just like picture book
illustrations - grand fun for
the kiddies and there
were so many there with
their mothers and daddies.

Archers asked me to have
dinner with them today.
I had promised Irene first

so I couldn't accept the
archers' invitation this time.

Last night I worked in the
office until 11:30 p.m. I
really put in my time
yesterday. At noon yesterday
twelve of us were invited
to a luncheon honoring Mrs.
Shiras who is with the
Household Finance Corporation.
She is the one of our main speakers
here for Far and Home Week. We
were making plans for
the occasion with her
yesterday.

The new card club sounds
good. That group is a jolly
bunch and I know
you will have some fine
times together.

Well, another month and
the university will be closed
for the Christmas vacation.

Are you planning to invite
anyone for Christmas Eve
this year? If so, we better
get our bid in early, don't
you think?

Deene says that Tug Wood
died - too bad. Where was
he buried? Does Heinie
have a steady job there,
then or not?

Greet the Strungzes
from me, also Bestemon.

Yours,
Helene

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.

St. Paul. Minn.

November 17, 1940

Dear mother and dad,

Here it is Sunday once more!
How the days and weeks do go
fast. Won't be long until Santa
Claus will be here again.

This past week we didn't
accomplish very much in class.
There were so many students
absent because they were snowed
in at home. This was especially
true of the people who live up
on the iron range - or "up on
range" as they call it here.

But we won another football
game yesterday against Purdue.
How these Minnesota boys

can and do play football!

Yesterday afternoon I went to Minneapolis and bought a pair of black suede pumps and a pair of overshoes.

Then I had dinner and went to a movie in one of the big theatres down town. I saw Cecil B. DeMille's "North west Mounted Police." The picture had its setting in Canada - the scenery was wonderful, especially so since it was in Technicolor.

Minneapolis is so crowded with people on Saturday nights the stores aren't open but there are hundreds of people on the streets and in the theatres.

Tonight there is a Danish play at "Danish Hall" in Minneapolis, so I am going to see it. — I still can't get over the fact that there are so many Scandinavians in this place.

The Archers are gone this weekend. The house seems so very quiet without anyone here.

Have you heard from Vera and Oakley lately? I haven't had a scribble from anyone for some time.

Enclosed is a money order. Mange tak! My grand total is now only \$1825.00.

Sincerely,
Helen

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.

St. Paul, Minnesota

December 1, 1940

Dear Folks,

Thanks so much for the candle molds, Dad. I surely appreciate your making them for me.

Vera has been here and left on the Rocket at 12:50 this noon. I hope she had a good time. I enjoyed having her here. Friday night the Goldsteins had us to dinner at the Curtis Hotel. Then they gave us their symphony tickets for the evening and also took us over to the auditorium.

Don't you think I have some wonderful people for whom to work?

This afternoon I poured at a tea at one of the Home Mgt. houses. It is always considered an honor to be asked to pour, you know.

Tomorrow night we have our annual Ag. Campus faculty dinner at 5:30.

I intend going down town and will get the hanky for Vera. I might just as well send it direct from here to Des Moines.

Classes are over Dec. 12. Then we have exams for a week - then vacation.

Don't know yet when or how
I'm coming home but will
let you know later.

Here is the semi-
monthly payment.

Manage take! Grand
total now is _____

Yours,
Helen

P.S. and I didn't write
any check on you this
weekend.

H.S.P.

1381 Cleveland Ave. N.

St. Paul, Minnesota

December 16, 1940

Dear Mother and Dad,

enclosed is the semi-monthly check
for \$50.00 bringing the grand total down to
\$1715.00. Marge tak for lon! (spelling??)

Received your letter when I came home
from the office tonight. First to answer any
questions —

about asking Tobe and Hazel for Christmas —
I wouldn't think that that would be just
exactly the thing to do when Thorwald's own
parents are living so close. Doesn't the
Andersen family get together in some way
on Christmas Eve — or not? I don't know
but I am just taking this for granted that
they would. What does Vera say??

Answer no. 2. I'm in favor of having a
real Christmas tree — a green one that really
smells like Christmas. These artificial ones
can't beat the "real McCoy"!

Answer no. 3. Can't say just what time
I'll be home — probably Sunday, Monday or
Tuesday sometime. I have a good deal of
school work to do, a Farm & Home Week job to
finish up and look for material for my
radio speech Jan. 24th — and do all
my Christmas shopping before Saturday!

I'll have to have a day to recuperate after all that and get my office straightened up a little before heading for home. Will find out about bus schedules later in the week and drop you a line giving more definite time of leaving and arriving.

Thanks for getting the candlestick from Pitts and sending it to Ames. I received the Christmas cards from Ames today so the job was done up in short order.

Also received some copies of "Julegaven". Did I tell you they asked me to do the cover? Well, at least it's different from the usual thing.

Yesterday (Sunday), Boris & I made Lingebread cookies for Christmas for the W. L. Staff. We did some fancy cutting & decorating with dough, raisins and nuts. Then I went to "Kanebo" in the afternoon and played for the Church services that Rev. Gabeig had there. Then after supper June and I went to a show and thence home and to bed.

This afternoon we had the annual faculty Christmas party. I was (as usual) busy making decorations for the tree and for favors. Everyone from the Head of the Division down liked it so I was happy.

I am making similar favors for the Tables
at "Lanebr" for their Christmas Eve dinner.
It's to be a surprise for the old people —
so please don't tell anyone !!!

Well, It's about my bed time —
and I must get up early tomorrow to
check some final exam papers. I have
two more finals Wed. — one from 8:10 and
the other from 10:30 — 12:30. I'll be as
glad as the students when it's all over.

So long — and in the meanwhile
mom — don't be "peevish" at Cobby about
the laundry — life is too short & the
laundry "aint" worth it !!!

Yours,

Helen

P.S. We had another big blizzard
here today! I'm going "bear hunting" if this
weather keeps up — to get myself a nice
warm coat.

P.D. — 2nd Now about asking Bertha, Ole, Genger Helen
and the girls ?? — for Christmas, mean!

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS

Saturday evening

Dear Mom and dad,

Once again the week has passed and this week has been different from the rest - with the declaration of war and all. Everyone here is quite concerned about the situation. Many of our men students will not be back next quarter because of being called. I was talking to a fellow who has only twenty credits left toward graduation - or only a quarter's work. He won't be able to finish that even. Too bad.

Enclosed is a check for fifty dollars. Many thanks!

Today I gave two final examinations. I've corrected one set and averaged the final grades and I have one page of the second set of papers left to grade. That is the page where they lay out a floor plan with furniture for a living room. Guess I'll wait till Monday to correct that one. I'm not too wide awake tonight to do it.

Tomorrow morning I'm invited out to breakfast at nine o'clock. Gosh it isn't snowing. We've had the loveliest snow fall a couple of days ago. The trees and ground are just covered. The temperature has been between two and twenty degrees above zero and not too windy. Good Minnesota weather!

The other evening I certainly was honored.
Enclosed is a clipping about the "Oil Can".
Well, each year at Christmas the student council
of the campus invites certain outstanding and
well liked students and some faculty
members to be on the stage for the Christmas
party. Each person on the stage gets a little
good-natured ragging in the way of
some clever poetry and then after that
they usually get a silly gift. So I was all
set to be "ragged" with the rest. But instead
I received a lovely bouquet of a dozen
carnations from the Home Economics
girls with a very nice little verse which
Dean Freeman read before presenting
me with the flowers. Was I tickled! The
only other woman faculty member there was
the professor who is national president of American
Mus. So it was quite an occasion.

Last nite was symphony again. As usual
it was good.

I've got my Christmas cards started. I'll
send you one when I get them finished.
Have you heard from Vera? I haven't.
And I wonder how she is by now.
Greetings to all.

Sincerely,

Helen

P.S. Did you get a box of Fanny Farmer
for Thanksgiving? I ordered one sent but I
wondered if it had it come to you.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS

Tuesday morning

Dear Vera,

"How are you? I am fine and hope you are the same!"

Will you do something for me? Tanks kid! Dat's swell!!! Here's what. — I'd like a collection of potholders for my talk. Do you suppose you could round up between mom and Ann's collection about 8 or 10 varieties — good and not so good included? And do you suppose it would be at all possible to get a hold of some Sunday, Monday, etc. dish towels? I certainly could use 'em — not really — but for my talk.

Then — do you remember a doilie — its white with a bright yellow orange border — the doilie is crocheted so that the edge is terrifically full — well, I think this piece is up in my chest in the hall. Will you get it out and ask mom to do it up real special and send

it to me? I believe there is a crocheted
doile - a heavy one in a star shape - that
Alma gave me once - also in the chest.

Will you send that too - and then
there is the set of three doilies - in a varigated
yellow which Aunt Beitha gave us
- I think that's also in the chest - yes,
I'd like that too, please.

And if you see anything else
that - you think would make a point
I'd be so glad to get it.

In the mornings I'm working on
the reports and in the p.m.'s I'm
working on my tale. Last night I
got a good sketch done on a net
dressee scarf. Next come a bannage
of place mats & table covers - then
mittens, etc.

Love and thanks,

Helena

Then I wonder if you will bring along the two army blankets when you come. I can leave them with someone here until I come back on Tuesday. We are to furnish our own blankets for camp. Will you also send a couple of single sheets and a pillow case? Friday night we had the senior dinner everyone had the best time. We had a very nice group at our table. Afterward we danced when the tables had been cleared from the floor.

Sunday morning Genevieve and I entertained ten teachers at a breakfast. We just decided that we couldn't leave Burlington without repaying all the people who have entertained us the past two years. Then I went to church. It was "Ovisea". O'Donnell's had invited us for dinner. It was so good. We stayed for supper too. One of their daughters graduated from high school, the other from junior college this week. I bought a lovely pink satin nightie for each of them. Their parents have been so nice to me this year. In the evening I went to Bancalaureate and sat with the rest of the faculty.

Genevieve gave me a lovely compact. Mrs. Bidstrup sent some stationery, Millie

cream. We were eleven in all. So we really had a meal!

Thursday is graduation. The art club is helping decorate the speaker's platform in the stadium. That is our final act of the year!

I have also been busy giving my room the final cleanup of the year! I was at school until 7:30 last night!

I can't remember the questions you asked me to answer, mother but will find your letter which is at school and check on them before I send this.

Goodnight,

Helen

Monday - 3:30

Well, I'm just about ready to start in on my final grades. So here goes —

I don't know what could be the matter with the angel foods — are you using the same beater? If so, it must be the cream of tartar.

I think winding up your toast with the school is a fine idea.

sent a couple of lovely handkerchiefs
and Vera sent me a copper vase. So, all
in all it was a very nice birthday.
Incidentally - I practically decided
that I'm going to N.Y. to school next
year. It seems the best even though
it will cost more.

Miss Hoblen, the art supervisor in
the grades schools, came to see me yesterday.
She brought me the nicest little pewter
dish and wished me all kinds of nice
things. I hate to think of leaving her. She
has been so very nice to me.

Today the art club and I went on
a picnic out north of Town. I think we
all enjoyed ourselves to the utmost. We
fried bacon & eggs for breakfast - we left
town at 6:30 A.M. - then played baseball
in the water. The boys & girls went swimming -
and I waded to my waist - cause I
didn't have my suit along! We climbed
all over the rocks - It's a place similar
to the park in Borne. There are several
caves which we explored. One of these
goes back into the bluff for several blocks.
We had dinner. I brought 3 qts
of strawberries and a gallon of ice

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS

Mom. Eve.

Dear Dad,

Once more its payday so here's the
check for this time bringing the grand
total down to \$1270.⁰⁰ manage tak.

Hilseu till all.

Sincerely.

Hilseu

Sat. nite

Dear Everybody —————

Passed my German
exam this a.m. just
like nothing! now on
with my thesis. Oh my, oh my!
I can't come home next
Sunday — have to go to D.M.
Saturday for an interview
with Mrs. Setzer.

Had lunch with the national
officers of Delta Phi Delta today.
Lots ahead next week.

Greetings to Uncle Nick
if he has arrived. More
news later.

Love, Helen