

April 1st

Dear Ones,

I spent a pleasant evening last night; I was back in the area and asleep by 11. It rained heavily in the early hour of morning and it is still overcast and on the verge of pouring down. It is Easter, I am on guard, it is April Fools' Day.

I am glad that my various V-mails were received. I take it from your comment about Anna Blumenthal that Stanley is in one of the Marine Divisions that saw action on Iwo. You know, I really get a kick out of how you return to the topic of my getting married when you say that each comment will be the last! - but of course I know how you feel about it. As important as finding the right girl is to me you can rest assured that I am not planning to marry the moment I get off the boat or anything of the sort. Being overseas has not materially changed my ideas on that topic - in fact I think I can safely say that while my growing up has naturally seen a change in certain ideas, my overseas service per se has not given me any major new outlooks. The Bernstein-Thurman balance is a good foundation.

While I was reading "The Robe" I asked Joe Sherman what he thought of it - my comment was that it was a good story but that it did not have the religious and spiritual punch of "Song of Bernadette." He disagreed with me on the first score; he thought the story illogical because he couldn't see how a man could adopt the untried and suspect faith of Christianity at the sacrifice of his social position, his wealth, his beloved, and eventually of his life. It was a good insight into Joe - if not a very intelligent criticism - and I recalled how he had once told me that now that he was a successful doctor he realized that money wasn't everything and that it was the other values of life that really mattered; I fear that Joe has not wholly resolved the question of material and spiritual values!

I hope that the holiday preparations have not been too much of a burden this year for you. They are at least a change in the routine of home and community activity. (Some consolation, huh?!!) This leadership in Portland is really a thorny affair - looks like Edith Zolow is a rough equivalent to Margaret Payson - very rough, I guess. I still don't like the way most of the work at the Center seeps back to the desk at 184 Bolton Street; I hope that the end of the war will see a couple of new and vigorous zealots on Community Affairs to take over the many problems. It seems as though Sidney Wernick is one of the few young men willing to work - what about Bert Silverman and his crowd? - are there any new families in town to supply leadership material?

Thanks for all the clippings - I'll get to them and read them carefully for comment later on; there seem to be enough to last me through another week with no mail. Needless to say when I get one of my large mail deliveries everybody begrudges me my many letters - their prediction that a year overseas would slow my mail down to a walk has naturally not been borne out. And I think that everyone is following Terry as closely as I am! I am glad that the MJC came through with flying colors and that the Portland Community has agreed to its leadership; the campaign seems not only to be a major money making effort but a complication of political maneuverings as well! What with all the prides and feelings involved, the dislikes and the jealousies, I fear that at sometimes the basic importance of the community venture is forgotten. But that is what makes people tick and makes the world go around - this would be a pretty dull place is everyone agreed with everybody else and had the same sets of values and ambitions.

We heard the news of Adam Walsh's signing with the Cleveland Pro team and I meant to



ask you about it Daddy - even the New York Times clipping isn't clear - is Adam leaving Bowdoin for good? or is this Cleveland contract on the basis of his return when they have football in Brunswick again? Now that you have had the notice put in the paper about the promotion, I guess it is all right, although I dislike the idea of it. (Everything was right except that I enlisted in September of 1942 and that there is no such thing as an Ordnance Division.) As for the various comments you received, I do understand that there is a community importance on such things and that when I have to decide where to live there will be a very neatly arranged feather bed spot waiting for me in Portland; I will have a great many of the problems of settling into community life solved for me. ( And I will also have very high standards of community achievement and responsibility set for me.) The logic of returning to Portland is very clear. As for your comments on the Epsteins, Mother, I understand what is not to be repeated or intimated - I do get a kick out of your report of the busy spring which Aunt Sarah has before her - more and more am I in favor of small weddings!

I am glad to see that you are taking the cottage problem in stride this year. Do the Navy men who rent the cottages take advantage of the ill-famed pier? I imagine that the "patriotism" of the Brown estate opened the way for their using it. ( I have just come across another spot in one of your letters - this time with reference to Mary Stein - where you refer to "caution" etc!!) I am glad that the reaction to Upton Close was unanimous; is the concert and speech season over now in Portland? I enjoy your comment on Nashere, Mother, because my reputation for appetite out here is becoming fable; eating is a very satisfying thing!! But Joe Sherman keeps assuring me that I am a big boy and that my appetite is absolutely normal - I do wish that the weather would get suitable for volleyball.

Gardiner is certainly not bashful about letting people know that he has back in the bosom of his home state. Well, that sort of covers things for this morning - I am still a little sleepy so you will excuse the hodge-podge style of this note.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

