

Sunday

Dear George:

Guess you must think I forgot all about you. Not so; have had a busy week at the office and the evenings have been occupied with Richard and his wife. Their furlough here ended Thursday night, and by now are back in San Antonio. He is still attached to the infantry, although on detached duty in his present assignment. From your short army experience, you probably know there is no telling how long he will be where he is.

I got back to the office on Monday, and I guess the happiest person was G.J.B., for in my absence he assumed the burden of caring for most of the more important accounts. Bunny Strassburger took care of the balance, and if instead of him doing it, they took care of themselves, it would have all been better. However, I'm back on the job. It took me a full day to get acclimated for everything seemed so strange. But I finally got going, and I feel as if I hadn't been away. Have been quite busy. Yesterday I cleaned up the last of the A.D.C. business. It was mighty nice while it lasted.

Some of the stocks handled by our specialists have been in the most active group, so you can appreciate the business they have been doing, and it has had the back office swamped. Bill Fowler is still away and probably will be a while yet. Mr. Mack is on the margins, and a new old man is on stock records. Jim Burns has been out several weeks with a heart murmur, but will be back next week. Katherine, the brilliant shickser is chief steno. and next to her has been acquired a little Irish chippy who, when she relieves on the switchboard, makes the brilliant one shine like the brightest star. Otherwise, all's the same. It has been so busy in the back, that even Kelly stays down two or three nights a week, and you know how he likes that without any extra oats in it. Ruthie is still around, but I haven't hit my stride to carry out your orders. Awful inviting tonsils!

Marketwise, all the excitement seems to have been in the rails. LS. all week has been around the $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $16\frac{3}{4}$ mark. MCK. has been dogging it for weeks and weeks, but I think it may come to life soon. The liquor group looks as if it is in for a resumption of activity on the upside and this time I think MCK will participate. IT still remains a victim of the Argentine bitches. Their last offense was taking away the franchise from the United Press. Goncooven; ah finster yure tsu zey.

Spoke to Florence on Friday. She and the baby both are well. Says she hadn't heard from you since last Friday. Later in the day, perhaps in the evening, I expect to phone her to find out if you called today, and what's what. Says she would like to visit you. I can appreciate her anxiety. Somehow I have an intuitive feeling that

you may be in for a furlough soon; 'twould be nice if it came for Easter....on second thought 'twould be nice if it came sooner. I hope it to be so, for there would be much for us to talk over, and I would welcome a sight of you. When we do meet, if I forget, remind me to tell you about Max Brown's belated Xmas gift to me; his way of doing it was as royal as the amount, which was pretty substantial. Was I surprised! Which also reminds me, I didn't even get Sundhimer's cuff links; The widow was the sole and only. But we still get business from the estate.

Ken L. is inducted and reports next Saturday. To tell you the truth, I felt so lousy when I heard it that I didn't even ask what branch of the service. My nephew, who has two children, passed his physical Friday, and now awaits the army's call. At least he won't have the worry of home finances, for his substantial income will continue. Peculiar to the ears is the roundtable discussion of the draft. The Mother of an 18 year old argues "Why he's only a baby." If he's in the 20's "Why don't they take the older ones and give the young ones a little chance at life before they send them in to be killed." In the 30's he's past the age where he can stand the gaff. And now with the grabbing of the married ones with families, the cry is why don't they take the 38 to 45 single men...it's a crime to take men away from their families. That's the home front on the draft situation. And through it all I wonder why in hell they hesitate about drafting everybody without exception, so that everybody will be tackling the dirty mess and get it over with quickly. There's no use pussyfooting about it; regardless of what my physical condition may be, if I can do any kind of work in civilian life, there is certainly some kind of work a fellow like me can do in the service; and it is no different with the millions of others that would help bring about a quicker end by an unrestricted national draft. But 'twon't be done....politics....the unions won't like it, it would intrude on their racket....politics.....it would lose votes, etc.....and nobody wants to be the patsy to start it. And the only settlement of the arguments of the home front roundtable is the realization ~~is~~ that war is no good for anybody, and the quicker it is over, so much sooner will we all be able to clasp our hands and thank God for the end of an earthly evil..

Air mail envelopes are totally out of stock, and there won't be any until they print the new ones that come in March 26th, when air mail rate becomes 8¢. So in the meantime, I am sending the enclosed temporary supply.

My very best and loads of good luck.

Sincerely,

MARTHA L. PINCUS
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