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OCT - 5 1942

September 9th 1942.

Dear William:

Sarah wrote to you about the first day were were at Vandalia and before we left the letter came back as we had not done the job properly, I did it over and I hope that it is well on its way by this time.

Well, we had a terrible accident in Newark yesterday and very close to home. A medium sized bomber plane got into trouble over Newark and after doing quite a bit of circling dropped into Jane Weston's home at the corner of Wyoming and Hudson. I had not left the store, was just ready to go when Sarah called me and told me what had happened. She was so frightened that she could hardly speak. I went as soon as I could get in the car and lost some time getting through the amber lights. I could get and as far as the B & O freight house and had to leave the car, as the car and people were just too thick to get through. The plane went through the roof of the house just south of the corner and headed into Jane's house and nosed three or four feet into the basement floor, striking the north wall of the cellar. It took off the whole of the part of the apartment that faces on Hudson. The gasoline exploded and was burning as far north as Aunt Rob's house. That part did not last long, but the Weston house and Dr. Jones's building across Wyoming was set on fire. During all this it was raining as hard as it could, which probably helped in a way to prevent the fire from spreading more. The parts of the plane came as far up the street as Dr. Gressle's house and we had a few bricks on our porch that came from the Weston house. The other houses were damaged some and quite a lot of glass broken out.

Mrs. Weston had just gone into the house a few moments before the crash and they removed her body as midnight last night from the basement. Two women were cleaning in the house at the time and from what I can hear I believe that they will recover. How they ever escaped it will be hard to tell for it was a complete wreck. There were six men in the plane. One baled out near the B & O station and was killed. Col. Douglas M. Kilpatrick, baled out over Dr. Mitchell's office and went through the roof to the floor of the apartment on the second floor. All six were killed, as was a lady by the name of Campbell who lived on Wyoming and was in front of Weston's when the crash occurred. The crowds were tremendous. They blocked off Hudson Ave. and all alleys leading to it and had troops there early yesterday afternoon to look after things. This accident happened at about two minutes of 12. I never saw anything so completely wrecked and torn to bits as was this plane. Herman worked until three o'clock this morning and helped dig out the wreckage and he told me that there was just nothing left of any of those in the plane. The army truck have been there all day digging up the wreckage and gathering up all of the pieces, they were still there this evening when I came back to the store. I wish that I could send you a paper and I think that I shall try to send a picture of the Weston house from the State Journal of this morning, this is the part that faces on Hudson Ave.,

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Your glasses got back to Newark the day after I left for Vandalia, I mean the new glasses which Dr. Hatch ordered. He decided that he had better have them in a frame for you, so as to avoid any further trouble. Bernie called me on the phone at Vandalia and I gave him instructions for sending them to the State Department to have them forwarded to you. They were sent on August 21st and we had had no reply from them, so hope that they are on the way and shall arrive safely.

I do not have your letter of August 2nd as Betty still has it, so I do not remember just all that you asked about. It came through in good time as I told you came through the Army P.O.

I would imagine that your trip to Accra was quite interesting and I hope that you are back in Lagos again where the quarters are more pleasant. By the way, Janie just sent me your letter of June this past week.

Had a long letter from Janie last Saturday, first for quite a time. They are planning on moving into a new apartment the first of October but did not give the new address. They think it will be much more private than the one they have. I am going to send her things as soon as they more so that can fix it up as it is not furnished. Norman was to go to Louisiana for maneuvers but has heard nothing further about it to date. I hope that he will not have to go.

The grapes are just about ripe and I should have gone down tonight but just had too much to do. Bernie is off on his vacation and I have his work to do plus the balance. We have a good crop of grapes, but the trouble is the sugar. Have sold around 150 bushel and will have more unless the rain that we are having spoils them. The apple crop is quite light with us this year and help is very hard to get. I do not know how Penick will come out with them.

Uncle Cary is quite sick and I doubt very much if he will ever be up again. I was down to see him last night and he seemed quite weak. He will be eighty seven in November, not a bad age at that and I hope that he will not have to linger and suffer.

Sarah started back to school on Tuesday and it will be a time before she gets used to it again. Melody is going to Denison this year. She will go back and forth on the bus.

We had a very large shoot this year, biggest in history, they all thought it would be the last and that they would attend. I handled over \$146,000.00 during the time of the shoot and we sold over a million shells.

What have you heard from Philinda by this time, hope that all is progressing nicely. Let us know all of the news. We enjoyed the letter Janie sent very much and hope that you can give us more of interest. We do love to hear from you so much.

There is possibly a lot that I should have written, but the accident of yesterday put all of us in rather a flutter, so I shall try to do better the next time. Write to Grandpa if you have any chance. Love and best wishes to you. Remember us all to Bud if you see him.

COPY Yours, *Sladdy.*