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Dear Dad:

I hardly know to whom to write first: you or Janie, as her letter was written first but arrived a day later. That frequently happens, as some of the mail is sent by very slow boats. It would speed up the transit time quite a bit if you can get a list of fast mail boat sailings from the post office, and then write the name of the appropriate ship on the front of the letter. The sailings are listed in the eastern newspapers, like the N.Y. Times, but I hardly suppose you would find it in the Advocate.

I was very sorry to hear that you had had so much trouble and expense with the car. I should think it was about time to trade it in on a new one if it is acting so badly. Of course the car is not responsible for the stupidity of the garage men, however. I hope you will have good luck with the grapes this year. We certainly have not had much luck in the past few years with them compared to what we did a few years ago.

I am beginning to wonder if it isn't about time to investigate the possibilities of shipping a boxful of goods out here. L'Heureux gets boxes of stuff all the time and says the cost is not prohibitive. In the first place, the time is coming when I will need my winter hats, which arrived home too late to be brought along. I have already pretty well ruined the nice light hat I bought just before I left home by wearing it out in the rain all the time. A hat like that cannot be bought here. Then I also need a large bottle of Fitch's shampoo, to help keep my dandruff in check. I thought that I bought a new bottle before I left home, but when I arrived I found I only had about a half bottle that I brought from school.

Another thing I need and cannot get here is my favorite brand of ink: Parker's Quink. As you recall, my job consists of writing my name several hundred times a day, so that I use up ink pretty rapidly. Last year at school I tried another brand of ink in my pen, but found it unsatisfactory, so have decided to stick to Quink if possible. I think you can get it in large quart bottles for not too much, and that size would probably be the most economical in the long run. I will keep the small bottle I have and pour ink out of the large bottle into it. Another thing I am running low on is razor blades. I have been told that I can probably buy blades to fit my razor over here, but if you decide to make up a box

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it will not cost much extra to ship a few boxes of blades with it. One package of five blades lasts just a little over a month.

In the hope of varying my breakfast a little I have recently ordered several jars of orange marmalade, strawberry jam and raspberry jam from Hamburg. The price is quite reasonable: 20¢ to 25¢ for jars containing a pound. I also ordered some canned orange juice, pineapple juice, grapefruit juice and canned grapefruit. This will not only lend a little variety to the invariable sameness of the breakfast roll with jam, but will also be good for my health. I forgot to say above that I will send you the usual withdrawal slip in payment, as soon as the stuff arrives and you tell me how much it is.

It is rather hard to write consistent letters these days, as I spend so much time hopping up to listen to news bulletins on the radio that the letters are apt to be a trifle disconnected. The radio that Frau Kohler, my land lady, has placed in the room is a very satisfactory one in almost every respect. I am able to hear America every night when the conditions are at all favorable, although it does not seem to me that American stations are received with anything like the volume that European stations are in the U.S. This may be due partly to the radio, and also partly to the fact that most of the programs I hear are broadcast while it is still light in America, and thus are naturally not so loud. Still it is surprising how much better the South American stations come in, in spite of their lesser power. Last night I heard Cartegena, Colombia, on the 31 meter band with great clarity, and also several other stations which I think were the familiar Havana stations, although I did not actually hear the announcement. This was at about one o'clock - 7 o'clock E.S.T. I also heard the last part of the Alabama-Southern Cal. game, which sounded very funny at one o'clock in the morning.

The General Electric stations at Schenectady seem to be the best American stations; I get pretty good volume with them - good enough to understand the news bulletins, anyway. I have also received W2XE, the Columbia B S short wave station, and W8XK in Pittsburgh. I hear the latter only under the most favorable conditions, and it seems to me that more ought to be done with directional antennas to increase the volume of reception in Europe. Of course the time situation is very much against America, as it is so late here by the time the good programs come on. I have never heard any yet.

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The loudest stations on the short wave band here are not London and Berlin, but Madrid, Salamanca and Lisbon. The first is particularly interesting because they broadcast anti-Nazi propaganda in German twice every night, at eight and ten o'clock. I understand quite a lot of people in Germany listen to it, as they realize that what they read in the papers is not accurate. However, the Madrid station is probably just as inaccurate on the other side, so I doubt if they get a very well balanced view.

Another very interesting station I have heard several times is the illegal German Communist station. Its exact location is unknown, although it is generally supposed to be located in France or Switzerland, just over the border. They broadcast every night from 10 to 11 P.M. on the 31 meter band. They do not stick to any set frequency, thus making it difficult if not impossible for the Germans to "jam" the broadcast. Two nights ago they announced that in spite of the Gestapo, the secret police, they were broadcasting from Frankfort am Main. This is generally supposed to be a lie, however, as it is not thought that they would be able to move their equipment around fast enough to keep ahead of the police. The propaganda is of the most violent kind, and the speaker shouts all the time, making it rather blurry and difficult to understand. The announcer said that in one town women had flung themselves across the railway tracks to prevent the departure of troop trains, and that in another the men had refused to come out, but I do not believe this at all. Along toward the end of the broadcast I can hear them trying to get the interference going, but apparently they could not get it adjusted just right, and it stopped just a tiny bit beneath so that the speaker was still audible.

I am also able to hear the English newscasts on the regular wave band, and I believe they are the best in the world. They are complete and as nearly unbiased as it is humanly possible to be. The Strassburg radio also broadcasts news flashes three times a day in German and has a wide following in Germany. I have heard that several years ago the Germans tried to jam Strassburg, but had to give it up. I have been having a light cold for the last week, but I am glad to report that it is nearly over. On one or two days I thought I was going to have sinus trouble, but the doctor attached to the Consulate suggested something which kept the sinuses draining until the danger was passed.

Well, give my love to all the folks, and best regards to Mrs. E. and the boys at the store. With love, *William*