

Thursday, April 20

Dear Emmett:

Again mother has gone out for the evening and I'm the writer of the evening. Mother is going to accompany Jack at the recital coming up, I think the 28th or thereabouts. He is singing the Lost Chord. Also a duet with Patsy McGinty. The prof. wants mother to accompany the duet too. I don't know whether she is going to or not. She and Jack went down to practice tonight, then Jack is taking her to see "Madame Curie" the movie. Mother was down to the USO again today--subbing for another lady this time. She has her old Monday night back. But said this evening she would be on Tuesday nights from next week on. Just changing them about. Jimmy Cawley got home yesterday morning (Wed.) and must leave Saturday for Tallahassee, Florida. He is a pursuit pilot. Just got his wings recently. Flies P-51s. He has put on about 25 lbs and looks fine. Now to get to your letter to me at the shop. You know you will have to convert your war insurance to some form of regular insurance not more than five years after your discharge? That term insurance you now have is for the war time only. And converting will increase your premium about three times what it now is. Maybe not quite so much as you will be much younger than I was when I converted. I had been thinking of your policy coming up and that it would be nice to know you had \$750 paid up and never more worry about that much anyhow, and again that the cash might be mighty handy when you get back home and want to finish school, or to tide you over a tough spell--if one follows this war. It really is hard to decide which is preferable. I told Jimmy Cawley you were expecting to be held for instructing and he said they took all the instructors out of their place and they were being given training--or so I understood him--for combat or something. We thought you were not interested in being an instructor. You mentioned it as not being desirable in one of your letters. There are a few drawbacks to your plans. For one I have taken all but three days of my vacation when I went back to see mother and the folks. And I don't think your finances will stand two of us coming. My idea as expressed to mother this morning is for her and MaryAnn to go down. As you say, MaryAnn is growing up and you will miss the experience of knowing her as a baby if you don't see her now. Her diet is serious, doctors orders, and she has a thyroid deficiency causing her to put on weight. She has lost 9 lbs so far. I know Jack would like to see you--but he will be a "good sport", as he so often is. [As for me--well, Emmett, I can live the rest of my life, though I pray it need not be, on the memory of the night before you left and two or three letters you have written me. I so seldom show my feelings. I am gruff instead of affectionate and sometimes I think Jack doesn't get the fact that I am so often rough from love instead of anger.] A heck of a way to be, eh? Guess we parents are inclined to be that way, some more than others. We are just as proud of Jack as we were of you. We are going to check up on fares, etc, and will probably let you know more later. Have not been working so much overtime this week--in fact, so far none. Have had nice spring weather--and got some "banure" and have spread it on the lawn. I spaded up some more lawn for garden. Mother has several projects lined up in the way of painting, etc. Guess I'll have no trouble keeping out of mischief. I hope to get a few fishing trips this year. I got the bug last summer from your Unc Leo, and J. B. Gergen. Had not much luck but there are still fish in the streams. Well mom and Jack just hove in so I'll close this for tonight. Love from us all.

Dad