

KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY
GAMMA PI CHAPTER
33 BAY STATE ROAD
BOSTON, MASS.

March 12, 1927

My dear Mother:

Aunt Agnes and Uncle John have just gone out to a picture show so I will have time to get off several letters before they get back. They wanted me to go with them but I explained that it was necessary for me to do some writing so they left me to do it. I have to write several for the fraternity, thus this paper.

This has been a very strenuous week for me, but I believe the spell of furious work is over for the present anyway. Last night was the first night I had left the house for two weeks. I did not realize this until I started off to a movie and then I tried to figure up when the last time was and discovered it was when I came out here two weeks ago. Time passes so quickly and the days are so well filled with work that I lose out in even a record of their passing. What jammed my schedule this week was an electrical laboratory experiment that required about

twelve hours to perform, and the time allotted in the schedule is only two hours. After my lab. partner and I had worked all one afternoon we found someone had blown one of the numerous fuses in the apparatus, which of course gave us wrong data and required that we go over the whole thing again. Some student had blown the fuse and failed to report it because he would have been hauled out and charged 50¢ for the fuse. His indifference or dishonesty, whichever it was, cost us about eight hours extra work and a very low opinion of whoever was too timid to report this mistake. That sort of thing makes me furious and it seems that I am always running into it. I hate to see anybody dodge an issue like that just to save a little reprimand from an instructor. We finished the experiment after the apparatus was fixed and got very good results. The electrical laboratories here at Seel are the most complete in the country, and the equipment alone is valued for over a million dollars. I am looking forward to the time when I can show you over the school and let you see the

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wonderful stride it has made in scientific development of scientific education. Each day I find something new over there and have to marvel again at the brains that built it up.

I am very much interested in Lorraine's selection of schools and I will do everything I possibly can to help her pick the one she wants. It is my fondest hope that she will come to Boston for I would like to be here with me and I know she will enjoy everything that Boston has to offer. The city is full of schools and I feel sure she can select one to her liking. You asked about Sargent and Sumner. I know very little of either but they are both rated as excellent schools. Sargent girls do not, as a rule, stand so high socially but Sumner is very good in that respect. As I said, I am not well versed in this matter but I will find out all I can and I will, of course, let you know. But one thing I would like to warn you of and that is College Catalogs

in general. They seem to assume the equivalent of poetic license for none of them know what the word truth implies. The college catalog is a fallacious organ to everyone outside of the school, but the crowd of last resort to those in the school, so don't get fooled by any of their statements.

Your letters are so sweet, Mother, and I look forward to them each day. Your last one, especially, gave me more encouragement to work and make my school life count for more. Sometimes I feel that I am not getting everything I should from school and I get truly discouraged, but your letters contain such expressions of faith that I know I can't fail. You don't know what it means to me for you and Dad to appreciate the little things I do and to tell me how you feel. Your praises and expressions of pride are worth more than everything else that I may derive from school.

I will be glad when I get out and can begin to build on the knowledge I have gained ~~that~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~.
hope to make you even prouder of me.

I hardly know how to express my gratitude for what Dad has done for me, and especially in the last few days. I was up against it if I were you. I have

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realized it all along that I would not have enough money to carry me through the year but I just had to trust to better conditions later. I hate to ask him for money for he has given me so much and so generously. One of the greatest feelings of comfort in this world for me is his attitude and the knowledge that I can go to Dad in all troubles. He has always been willing and seemingly eager to help me and I only hope to be able to repay him in more than money and to be able to model after him.

I received a great disappointment a minute ago. I had the radio set for W. F. D. W. and when I turned it on I thought sure I had it but the announcer disillusioned me for it was a Providence station. I expect I will have to wait until they close for they are on the same wave length, or so close to the same that I can't get a fine enough tuning to separate the two. This program is scheduled to close in a few minutes.

There are several letters that I must write tonight so
I will close now. Give my love to Dad and Lemmy and
keep a look for my dear sweet Mother.

Sincerely,
Milam

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

Letter No. 10 - 1930
March 28, 1930

My darling Mother:

When I did not receive a letter from you yesterday morning I became somewhat worried and wired you to see if there was something that you were keeping from me. Your last letter had said that Tommy had been sick, so when I did not hear anything further I became worried more than I had in a long time. I hope that the wire did not frighten you but I could not wait any longer to receive word from you. Your long letter came this morning and I will try to answer it in this one tonight.

I have just reread your letter and I find that it will take a long time to write a sufficient answer and also there are many things contained in it that I want to think about, so I will wait a little while before I attempt to answer it. I, of course, remembered all of these things from the first reading but I did not remember that there were so many things that needed so much thought.

I might go up to Hinton tomorrow afternoon as the Stevens have invited me up again. We are planning a little surprise party for Mr. Jones Sunday afternoon so that might interfere but I am hoping that the Stevens will come down for it so I may go up there tomorrow and then drive down with them Sunday afternoon. The actual construction of our job starts Monday morning so we are planning to have a surprise for Mr. Jones and get him up to the job and let him operate the steam shovel and actually lift out the first shovel of earth. After that we are going to have some eats here at the Inn and invite all of the interested people to be here. We are trying to keep it a secret from him but it is pretty hard for everyone in the village to know it

except him. We have secured Mrs. Jones cooperation and we hope that by getting her to take charge of him until then we can keep it from him. He has been working on this job for about eight years and I feel sure that he would appreciate an affair of this kind.

I wrote Uncle John not long ago and asked him to send me a pair of shoes that he mentioned and I received them the other day. They are indeed good looking and I sure did get a bargain. They are black and white sport shoes and they cost me only four dollars and twenty eight cents, they retail for about ten or twelve dollars. He has my size and can usually pick me out a pair of shoes that fit exactly.

I am sending you a check in this letter and I am making it a little larger than usual for I thought that it might help you and Tommy with your spring clothes. I wish that it could be larger and I am sure that I can continue this amount and more as the time goes on.

There are a number of letters that I want to write tonight so as long as I cannot write much on the topics you discussed in your letter I will close with the promise that I will write a long letter in a day or so and take up the other things in detail. I am out on the lounge tonight and Gladys and others are with me so I really cannot concentrate as I would like to. Give my love to Tommy and save a lot for your own sweet self.

Devotedly,

Milau

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

Letter No. 14 - 1930
April 30, 1930

My darling Mother:

When I sat down to write this letter I found a letter that I had started on April 14 in the typewriter and I was astonished that it had been over two weeks since I wrote anyone and I knew that I had written one or two since I wrote you so I checked up and found that my last letter was dated on the tenth of this month. I am very much ashamed of myself and I hope that you will again forgive me for my negligence. I meant to write you when you were at home but I did not know just how long you would be there and after I realized that it was too late to have a letter to you for Easter I just wired you. I did not mean to slight you but I have just been so busy that I have been putting off writing for so long that it has become a habit.

I hopped on Gladys for writing such a letter to Auntie and she said that when she read that letter over she thought that you might misunderstand so she added a P.S. on another sheet to correct the misunderstanding. At lunch time of the day that I received your letter she called me to show me that P.S. that she found in her desk, as she had failed to include it in the letter. She wrote the letter some days before she mailed it she said and then forgot to put in the extra sheet. I am indeed sorry that you were worried about me and I do hope that you will trust me to tell you when I am sick. I think that every time you have become alarmed about my health and I did not tell you, you have found that the informer was wrong so please be assured that I will tell you whenever I am not in the least well.

I am so glad that you like the typewriter and I hope that it will prove a help and a pleasure to you. I liked the blue model much better than any of the others and I did hope that you would like the color. I think the colored machines are so much more attractive than the plain black. Now, about the type, I think you would be making a mistake to have the spacing changed but if you wish to do it

it will be a very simple matter to make the change. I called the agent this morning and he said that you could take it to the Royal representative in Louisville and he could make the change in a very short time. I do not know whether there will be a charge for it or not but from what he said I do not think that there will be. I will be glad to pay the charge and if you want it done be sure to do it. I find that Auntie's machine is the same spacing as yours, twelve letters to the inch but she used a double spacing and it makes it look more spread out than yours. The vertical spacing on the Elite type is so much less than that on the Pica like this that it does not look so scattered as this one would double spaced. I believe that if you would try it double spaced you would like the result much better.

The officials of the company decided that they wanted some test made of the tunnel intake structure so Mr. Jones gave me charge of the work and I have sure been working on it. I am making up a concrete model of it and will pass water through it and run a complete test on it so see just how the water will act in the large or designed structure when it was built. I have had to design the model to be exactly similar to the designed structure and then employ a model maker to make it up. He has started work and is pretty well along with the forms now. I am going to Charleston tomorrow to buy some materials and equipment to build the laboratory to do the testing in. We expect to make several models and make complete tests on each one.

I was real pleased that he put me in charge of it for I like that sort of work and I think that if I make a good job of it it will do me some good in the long run. There are going to be some tests made by the turbine manufacturers on the draft tubes at the hydraulic laboratory in Worcester Mass. some time in the next month or so and Mr. Jones said he would probably want me to go up and represent the company at those tests. They will take about three weeks and I will sure be glad to get to go. I am not counting too much on it for there are several things that the trips depends on but I really think that I will get to make it.

There is also a possibility of me going to Cincinnati the first of next week and if I do I will come down to Louisville and spend a day with you. This trip depends on whether I can get the material I want in Charleston or not. If I cant I will try to get it in Cincinnati and probable go up there to pick it out. I will write you tomorrow if I am coming so if you do not hear from me tomorrow you will know that I am not coming.

I was glad to know that Mammur made the trip alright and arrived in Boston safely. I was a little worried as she is so dependent on other people and I was afraid that she would be too timid to make the last lap of the trip alone. However, she seems to depend on people when they are around but she gets along without them when she has to and she sure knows how to travel alright.

I was indeed sorry to hear that Lucy Belle had such a painful accident and I do hope that she is getting along alright. I meant to write to Alfred when he was in the hospital but did not so I am going to write Lucy Belle a letter before I go to bed this night. The letters from the family are a great joy to me and I hope you will keep on sending them to me. If you want any of them back please make a note of it in your letter and I will send them right back to you. I am keep all of them for I ting that they form a valuable family history that we will all enjoy in later years. The next time I am at home I am going to get all those others out and have them bound. While I think of it, I wish you would date your letters as I take them out of the envelope and file them and thus lose any trace of a date other than the day of the week on which they were written.

I asked Dr. Simmons to wire Auntie about me as I did not want to alarm you and I thought that you would understand it that way. I first asked him to send it to Dr. Woodard and then it would be official from one Dr. to another but told him to change it and send it to her.

It is getting pretty late so I am going to close for tonight and will promise to write you again real soon. I know I have left out a lot of things but will read your letters again and try to pick them up again in the next letter. Lots of love to you and Tommy.

Devotedly,

Milau

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

Letter No. 15 - 1930

May 6, 1930.

My darling Mother:

Your last few letters have come in such rapid succession that I have not been able to keep up to date as far as answering them is concerned, so tonight I sat down and read them all over again and have made out a list of the subjects that I want to discuss with you. I also found that there were a few older ones that contained things that I had not commented on. It looks as though this will be a very long letter and I hope that you will let the length make up for the lack of frequency that has been characteristic of my writing lately.

It is very hot tonight and I have been dripping with perspiration until the last few minutes, but it has cooled a little and I made up my mind to start in on this letter, but until the last few minutes I was afraid that it would have to wait another day.

I am indeed glad that you are enjoying your typewriter and I hope that it will give you even a fraction of the pleasure and use that this one has given me. I have used it for eight years and it is still in fair shape. I suppose you remember that you gave it to me for a high school graduation present. I don't think that I have ever owned one article from which I have derived so much pleasure and use. Your letters are improving in looks and I believe that if you will continue to use the double spacing and watch that period change on your keyboard, that they will continue to improve in appearance. I am inclined to believe that the Royal man's suggestion about the faint ribbon is very good. All of the typewriters in our office are equipped with the same type as you have and they all carry the faint ribbons, and the work that is turned out on them is indeed as good as any I have ever seen. The company insists on perfect typing and will not accept anything that is in the least messy looking.

I did not think that you were dissatisfied with your machine at all. In fact, I was very much pleased that you were so well satisfied for you left the selection almost entirely to me and I was might y

glad that my selection pleased you. I was inclined to believe, at first, that there was something crowded about the type spacing but that was because I had been accustomed to seeing a page set up in a little different form. The single spacing looks very nice with indented paragraphs and single spaced. After you get on to it and use it a little more I sure that you will be able to get the most satisfactory arrangement.

My trip to Cincinnati did not materialize as I found articles in Charleston that I could substitute for those that I wanted and I did not feel that the slight difference in the ones I wanted and the ones I found necessitated a trip there just for the difference. Of course, I did want to see you and I was very much disappointed at not getting to make it for that reason. However, I could not make a trip on company expenses under those conditions. If you want to talk to me I will try to get off this week end and come over to see you and talk things over. Let me know what you want me to do and I will try to arrange it so I can see you.

You have not mentioned how Tommy has been feeling lately so I just assumed that she is entirely over her little spell and I do hope that this is true. If it is not I want you to see to it that she takes care of herself and consults a doctor about it. I know it is useless to tell you that but I have been quite anxious about her.

I am so glad that she could take the trip home and I hope that it gave her the needed rest. Those little vacations mean so much and I know that she will feel much more like working than she did before. I hope that she will not take too many and impare her work for I know too that they can make serious inroads on a school routine if she takes too many days off. Dont misunderstand me and think I am criticizing for I am not at all but I do want her to get as much as she can from school for I know that when she gets a position and starts using what she has learned she will have to apply all of it and some more too and her skill will mean a great deal to her. One of the important thing about a professional school of any sort is the training the students receive in high pressure application over long period of hours. I feel sure that she will find her seemingly long hours of school will help her out when she gets into an office.

I know exactly how you feel about your move and I wish that I could assure you that the feeling is much worse than the move. I will never as long as I live forget certain days in my life and those that stand out as strongly are the ones just before I left home for Georgetown and those preceeding my leaving for New York last summer. In those two cases I did not know anyone in the school or company and sometimes I felt that I just could not go through with it. When I arrived in Georgetown I was never so lost in my life and I remember that Skinney and I were both ready to turn around and come home and I know that both of us would have gladly given up any idea of a higher education if we could have just gotten out of that town then. After that part of it is over everything runs smooth and you feel that you would not have turned around for anything. I once heard a wealthy and successful man say that he did not know of a single business, industry, or man that could be successful in one place. We must move to the centers of business and to the heart of the markets and from there branch out before we can hope to sell ourselves and our services or our goods. I do hope that you will look at it in this light and if you do I know that you will see the wisdom of going ahead and making the change. Do not let me urge you to do it against your better judgement for I want you to decide for yourself and be clear in your own mind as to just what you want to do, but I do not want you to harbor that fear of a move and feel that it is too much for you to undertake. I would want to know more about your proposition and just where you intend to be located before I gave you definite advice about moving, that is the business etc. If you go to New York there is one thing that will stand in good stead and that is the fact that you are a Southern Lady. Those Yankees look up to a well bred Southerner every time and I am sure that you will find that one feature a big help to you up there. I am not discounting your other assets for they will stand by you anywhere you go but the other is of much more value in the North than it is in the South.

Judging from what you have told me of the proposition I would say that it is a very fair one but I would want to know more about the location and prospects before advising you more strongly or definitely.

Now about Tommy, I would like for her to finish there in Louisville and have the advantages of the connections with the school when she finishes for

they can do far more for her than could the Newtons. I thought that she might be able to get a room at the same place that Cousin Anne stays for a month until she finishes and then either join you and get a position or get one there in Louisville. I do not think that she could get one in Hopkinsville or nearby that would offer her the possibilities that either of the other places would. It would be mighty nice for her to stay there at home and continue going to school but I do not believe that she would get as much out of it nor would it be as much to her in the long run. This is given on partial data and I hope that you will discuss it a little more with me before you act on anything that I have said.

My last letter was very brief and I did not get around to telling you all about the work that I am doing so I will take the time now and try to explain it to you. We are planning rather a large rectangular funnel shaped structure to divert the water from the river into the tunnel. This is to be placed about two hundred feet above the dam, that is, upstream from the dam, and will be sort of a huge mouth to take in the water that goes through the tunnel and finally into the turbines and back into the river three miles below. There is no theory to back up the design of such a structure so they have laid out several plans, any one of which might be the best, or any one of which might not be at all good. Mr. Jones has given me the job of having models made and testing these models in order to determine just which one, if any, of the proposed structures will have the least losses of capacity, etc. I have an excellent carpenter working on one of the models now, making it to a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the foot, that is, the measurements on the model will be just one twenty fourth the corresponding ones on the actual structure. It is entirely possible that the tests will show that some other design will be better than any of the proposed ones and that we will construct a design from the data and information derived from the tests rather than just selecting one of the designs already made.

In order to make these tests I have to construct a laboratory below the dam here in Glen Ferris and that is some job. I have had about ten men

working for about a week digging out the place for the concrete floor, filling in with stone, building forms for the concrete, and putting up the pipe line. Tomorrow we are going to pour the concrete and I think I can have it all finished up by Thursday night, that is, the laboratory itself. We are going to use a siphon to pull the water over the dam and down to our models. I am using an 8 inch pipe line and I am here to tell you that a steel pipe 8 inches in diameter is plenty heavy to handle and requires a lot of work to get it ready to put in place. We have it about all cut now and the plumbers will swing it in place tomorrow morning. I have been working right hard for the last week or so but I have enjoyed it as it necessitates me being out of doors and I feel lots better from it. I get on the job by seven in the morning and work until five in the afternoon along with the laborers. About all the actual work I do is supervision and getting supplies but that keeps me jumping and by night I know that I have been up and around all day. I have designed the whole works and the models too so I have plenty to do. I still have some more work to do on laying out the plans for the models as we only have now the designs for the actual structures. I am going to take some pictures soon of the laboratory and the models too so I will send them to you when I get them.

It has certainly been hot here the last few days and I have gotten just about as brown as I usually get by the end of the summer. We have a right cool place right down by the river but up in the village it is scorching hot. I hope it stays that way and continues dry until after I get that concrete in place tomorrow.

I have not heard any more about my trip to New England lately, but I was not due to hear anything further. I will in all probability represent the Company at the tests of models of the draft tubes being made by the turbine manufacturees. They will be made in the hydraulic laboratory of Worcester Polytechnical Institute at Worcester, Mass. Unless Mr. Davis would rather a man from the consulting engineers office would be there I will get to go. I think the tests will be made about the middle of June. I sure hope that I will get the trip and the experience and connections with the men there but I am not counting on it too much.

Will you please come for next week and
to make no further arrangements. I will
be there for time. I would like to see
the impression account of Dublin. It may
be some show. Many times to discuss a
plan + ~~the~~ ~~plan~~ - Not necessary
but more desirable. Will you come. Will
be there. I was after you + the

63.06
37.14
25.92

76.37
12.10
10.00
3.27

49.00
9.00
3.00

RJ

If I am not mistaken the beginning of this, the sixth page of this letter, breaks the 1930 record for the length of one of my letters. I had better close before I go much further for I might want to set another record sometime and if it was much longer I have have a long wqy to go to do it.

I hope to get another letter from you in the morning as I have gotten so I look for them daily now. Do write me when you can for I always enjoy them and I want to know júst what you all are doing and planning to do.

I think that, for once, I have caught up with you and that I have discussed all the things that you have mentioned in your letters which called for comments. Let me know the details of your proposition just as soon as you get them and then we can make some definite plans. Please forget that feeling of being unsettled and uneasiness for I know that you will get over it when you get started and it will only worry you until then. It has lots of advantages and you can get a lot out of it and you know that you are not going to do it for but a little while anyway.

Tell Tommy that I think she ought to practice letter writing a little and direct some of them to me. Now that she can use a typewriter with lots of speed I want her to write me. She can practice all phases just by writing to me. And while I think of it, this would be a good chance for you to get in a little practice dictating. do it by all means if it does not interfere with Tommy's work. I have found it one of the hardest things to do but one of the greatest time savers when you learn to do it and to express yours&lif properly in so doing.

I will close by sending a heartful of love to both of you.

Devotedly,

Wilma
—

NEW-KANAWHA POWER COMPANY

NEW YORK OFFICE
CARBIDE & CARBON BLDG.
30 EAST 42ND STREET

GLEN FERRIS, W. VA.
August 2, 1930.

My darling Mother:

My train leaves in just an hour and a half and as I have just about decided that I can make it I will have to hurry in order to take a bath, shave, and write this letter before it leaves. When I wired you the other day and said that I would write I did not know that I had such a busy week in front of me. Monday night I received a wire from Mr. Schroeder, hydraulic engineer, for Col. Cooper, saying that he would be here the following morning so that meant for me to get to work and finish up the results of the tests which had already been made. Mr. Davis came the next day and I was expecting Mr. Jones on Thursday but he did not come up. The tests were finished while Mr. Davis was here so he wired Mr. Jones not to come up until later. I had planned to have them all here on last Tuesday but you know that best laid plans go astray most of the time.

Mr. Davis decided that the tests had not covered all the ground that they should have so he wants some more made and we are not making arrangements for these other tests. They will probably end Tuesday or Wednesday and I will stay up here until the latter part of the week and then go to New York and finish up the computations and write my report there, and I expect that will take me three or four days, making it nearly the end of week after next before I start south again.

I really think that it is wiser for you to go on home and let me come by there on my way back to West Virginia. You can see that my plans are still in the state of reformation and I really do not know just when I will get back south again. This sort of trip is almost legendary in our company in that they always take about three times as long as they expect when they start. When I left Sams last words were "I hope you get back for Thanksgiving Dinner with us". He went to New York for a few days last August and did not get back until just before Christmas. Of course, I will not stay anywhere near that long for I must be back before long to take up the work that I left off before leaving there, but it might be two or three weeks yet before I start back. I will come by home and stay there for a day or so if it can possibly be arranged, and it would take only a few hours longer to get there than it would to Louisville, so as far as the difference in the trip is concerned, that does not enter into it at all. I do know that it would be much cheaper for you and I feel that you would be more comfortable there with the family than you would be in Louisville, so I would advise you to go home and stay until you feel that you are ready to start in the work. I can get there just as easily as I could to Louisville so your move will not make the best difference in my plans.

I have had a very pleasant stay here in Worcester and have enjoyed it a great deal, especially since I have been able to go down to see Aunt Agnes over each week end. I wired Uncle John

Thursday that I would be down but then the work began to pile up and I thought for a while that I would have to give up the idea but I sat down and burned a little late oil and got everything in shape and now feel that I am not doing the company wrong by taking the day off and having a good time. Adelaide is down there now and, of course, I enjoy being with her very much. The first Sunday I was there she and a friend of hers came by in the morning and Aunt Agnes asked them to dinner so we stayed around until late in the afternoon and then drove to ~~Boston~~ Brockton and I went on in to Boston that night. Last Sunday she came over in the morning, or I should say that I went after her that morning, and we had a swim, then she stayed to dinner. I had to take the Sunday afternoon train back in order to get back to Worcester that night. I suppose tomorrow will be a repetition of that schedule. Aunt Agnes is certainly swweet and always goes out of her way to make it pleasant for me. Neither of them ever miss a chance to make my stay with them as pleasant as possible.

I have just about an hour to dress and catch that train so I will close for this time. Please forgive me for not writing sooner for I have indeed been on the run ever since I got started into the tests. Give my love to all the family and let me know by wire when you expect to leave for home so I can keep you posted as to my movements.

Devotedly,

Milam

P.S. I am encloseing a check and I hope it will help you along until the silver lining comes out to view.

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

September 28, 1930.

My darling Mother:

Again I am going to resort to a private note as there are a few things that I want to say to you in private.

Tomorrow is just a year from the day that Dad died and I want you to know that I will be thinking of you and that I will feel all day that God is good to us and was to him. I wish that I could be with you and to show you that I love you more and more as time goes on. I will be thinking of you and of him and will want you to know that it is a sacred day for me. Things have changed for us in the last year but we have fared well and I trust that the very near future will lead us to even better times. I know that Dad is proud of you for you have indeed shown a fortitude and strength of character that no one would and could appreciate any more than he could have. I am so proud of you - I always have been - but this last year you have shown me what you have always taught me, character, diligence, and preparedness, aside from the multitude of other virtues.

I do not like to mention other things in the same note with this but there are some others that I want to take up with you and I know that you will pardon me for doing so.

I am sending you a check for \$50.00 and I hope that it will help you a little. I do also hope that if it is not enough you will let me know.

It looks as if I will have to get me a car as much as I hate to do it. Aside from the fact that I am completely buried here without one it is becoming necessary for the business as the job is from three to ten miles from Glen Ferris and as soon as I finish with this testing I will have to be up there nearly all of the time. I hate to spend the money on it but I believe it is the only thing that I can do. I can get a good buy in a Ford so I think that I will go ahead and do it. I hope that you will not think me foolish and extravagant for doing it. For about six months I have been the only one in the company that did not have a car. I did not mind that but it goes to show that a car is practically a necessity. I remember that we discussed it last winter and you thought that I should get one but I would like for you to write me what you think at this time. I believe that you know I would not do it if it were not practically necessary and that I would not take on any additional expense if it were not so.

Remember dear, that I will be thinking of you all day tomorrow and that I will also be thankful that I have had such a wonderful Father and that I still have the most wonderful and the sweetest Mother on earth. With a heartfelt love to you and Tommy.

Devotedly,

Milam
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MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

March 2, 1931

My darling Mother:

My very hurried note written in a few spare minutes last Saturday afternoon was indeed a very unsatisfactory sort of a communication but I did not have time for a longer letter and I could not let another day go by without writing to you. I went into the hotel to wait a few minutes until I could get my photostats and snatched that opportunity to scratch off just that note of assurance. As fate would have it my typewriter is on the fume tonight for the first time since I bought it. I left the cover off when I had it down at the office last week and did not realize that there was so much flying around until I came back to get it. It was mighty dirty so I took it down to get it gone over and I think that they must have oiled it without cleaning it for it certainly is gummed up good and proper. I wanted to write you a long letter and make up for my long silence but I suppose I will have to let my hand and fingers fix the length of the letter.

After my last letter to you Mr. Jones told me that he wanted my final report on the intake tests right away so

I had to put everything possible aside and concentrate on it again. I had planned to write it in spare time and have it ready by the time the drafterman had finished all the drawings. As it worked out I had to put two more men working on it and concentrate on it myself. I could not let the power house construction get away from me so I stayed up on the job most of the day and went to the office at night. Every night for two weeks saw me there. Yesterday morning I finished it all up and submitted it and I feel like a big load has been lifted from my shoulders and a big feather put in my cap.

In addition to that two other extra matters came up and Mr. Jones gave them to me for solution. Mr. Buckley talked to a salesman before Christmas about the instrument I thought out and then he dropped the matter. We heard nothing from them so I went to Mr. Jones about it and he said to look into it, find out why the delay, and get the instrument. One week after that day, the instrument had been designed, checked, priced and ordered and will be delivered in about two weeks. It was a pure case of jealousy on Mr. Buckley's part that he did not go after it.

The other thing also was Mr. Buckley's work. His records

on the progress of the job are in a terrible shape and when I started in on the field work I was astounded at how little he knew about the whole job. I talked to him about working these up and he immediately put a chip on his shoulder and told me to keep out of things that were not my business. It was my business for I am confident that Mr. Jones suspected such a condition when he instructed me as to my new duties for he said to be sure the records were kept up in first class condition. So again I went to headquarters with suggestions. This was in the form of a suggestion for I did not wish to criticize Mr. Buckley to Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones spoke to Mr. Buckley and he reflected the same attitude he had to me so Mr. Jones called for a show-down and immediately instructed me to carry my suggestions out and work out the system we had started regardless of what anyone else said about them. Today that system went into effect, and all of the past excavation records will be revised to fit into this scheme. You have never seen anyone change as Mr. Buckley has, and as far as I am concerned he has to go to the boss.

You see my time has been taken up as in addition to my regular work, I have had to write a report on mine

months work, revise our complete construction records, and design and purchase one instrument. And believe me I am going to "test a spell." I have been going night and day for three weeks.

I was very much interested in your account of Mamma's trip and I know that you and Lounny enjoyed having them with you. I am so glad that Lounny could show them how she can do things for she certainly can do anything that she sets her head to do. She takes that after you, doesn't she? I was sorry, though, that Mamma could not get relief from the suffering of misfitting teeth.

My hand is about paralyzed so I will close for tonight. I am going to chase my little Royal about tomorrow or next day and then write you a real letter. Write me when you can and I send a lot of love to both of my darlings.

As an after thought, I was interested in the new bank building but I do hope that they did not seriously injure the financial foundation for the building superstructure.

Love to both,

P.S. Do not send this letter to the family for it is just as good to keep this company talk just among ourselves. ^{Melaine}

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

October 28, 1931.

My darling Mother:

This is the third letter that I have started since my very hurried note written in the office the latter part of last week. It looks like I have more interruptions than anyone could possible imagine and invariably, when I start writing you, someone comes in with a favor to ask or merely to talk. I have not been away since Saturday yet I have not had time to finish a letter. Saturday afternoon I went into Charleston to have some photostats made and came right on out reaching here before eight that night. Traffic was heavy and the eighty mile drive made me rather tired so I lay down on the bed and ropped off to sleep. I woke up late that night and just stayed awake long enough to undress and crawl under the covers. Sunday was a beautiful day and I could not resist the temptation to get out in the afternoon and that night Ruth Stacey asked me up there so I went and found that she is getting up another play and wantes me to take a part. I would rather take a beating than do it but I can see no graceful way out of it. Monday night I started a letter and Peter came in with the news that one of the boys from Alloy had a wreck down the road so we went out to see if we could help any and after looking around for over an hour we found his car with nothing wrong, only abandoned and locked up. He had run out of gas. That took the whole evening. Last night I drove to Montgomery and on the way back remembered that I had not reported some field information so went down to the office on what I thought would be a thirty minute job, and when I got back in my room it was after ten. That is the way it goes, I dont know what becomes of the time, I do nothing of any consequence yet seem to never have any time on my hands.

I have made a long list of the things I want to mention in this letter so it seems that I will have quite a long volume before it is completed. I have not written you a real letter in so long that I suppose you will not tire of them so far apart.

I did not mean to frighten you about my health, and I took the trouble so lightly that I guess I failed to put enough emphasis on the real insignificance of it. A change in weather will always give me a slight cold and this one was typical of the weather changing kind. I have been very interested lately in securing records of weir experiments and these records date back for over fifty years. I have been fortunate in securing these old publications at a ridiculously low price and have been buying them from time to time until I have a real nice collection and a very instructive one. I would come in at nights and sit down to read and in a few minutes I would be so stopped up that I could not be comfortable. It was that tickling kind of congestion and I was miserable for quite a time with it. I would go to bed and lay there for a while and then feel fine again and always the next morning I thought I was over the cold. That happened every night for a week and then I thought it might be the heat in the Inn which had been turned on only that week. I went to a movie one night and never felt better in my life. For some reason I did not read any for a few nights and was perfectly well and then went back to it by reading one of the oldest of the publications and immediately began to feel this tickling and uncomfortable sensation and it dawned on me what it was. The dust from these old magazines and books had irritated my nose. I told Dr. Pleasants about it the next day and he said that it was very probably the trouble and to seal the papers in a Mason jar and put them in boiling water and that would moisten the paper enough to settle the dut. I did that and have not felt the slightest discomfort since. I thought that was a very unusual experience.

Dont worry about it any more for I had forgotten that I had been feeling bad until I received your letter. The sense of fatigue that I mentioned was one of the first symptoms of that condition and I have not felt that since I boiled the old records.

Much to my astonishment I found a check that I wrote out the first of the month. I evidently failed to send it in one of my letters for the other night I found it in the desk drawer. I am enclosing it with many apologies for the delay. I will send you the one for next month just as soon as I get my expense check and a couple of checks from the boys that I loaned money to this month. I like to get these checks together and send them in at one time, and I do not want to check any money out until I put it in the bank.

We have been enjoying the most glorious weather lately that I think I have ever seen. It has been perfect, just cool enough to make a coat comfortable and clear, crisp, windy days with the leaves just the right colors to be beautiful. This lasted for nearly two weeks and all of us enjoyed it a great deal. The mountains are beautiful at this time of the year and it is such a relief after the extremely hot weather and dust that we have endured all summer. I always rather dread the winters but I rather look forward to it this year.

I was mighty glad to receive your letter from home with the good news about Tommy and you do not know the relief that it brought me. I was not so much alarmed as I was worried. All of us have the failing of not being too explicit in writing of our sickness so I was not real clearly informed as to the true status of her health. I was indeed glad to hear that Dr. Stites treated it so lightly and I feel that a real source of worry has been taken from me.

We received quite a let down about our apartments. I wrote you before that Mr. Charlton was just about ready to start them and that he had all the detailed plans and estimates prepared and the contract ready for the contractors. He told me right after that that he would have to postpone starting the work until he finished a deal that was started and that he would sign the contract just one week later that he had said originally. That week was filled with catastrophe. His deal fell through and one of his best friends was killed by the shock of finding himself responsible for a bank embezzlement of several hundred thousand dollars. This man, a banker, was a very good friend of Mr. Charlton and evidently went to Mr. Charlton for help and it seems that he received it, and then died very suddenly from what they said was heart failure. That left Mr. Charlton holding the bag so to speak and he was taken with a stroke of paralysis and it is doubtful if he will ever recover. Mr. Charlton had just reached that stage in life where he was well off and apparently fixed for life when this occurred. He sold a coal mine to the Union Carbide Company and received stock in payment and before he could dispose of the stock it has risen about twenty points. Like a very wise man he sold out all of his holdings before the crash and after it he bought only a little stock in the reliable companies. He told me this one morning when I was down there to talk to him about the apartments. When he told me what stocks he had I was very much surprised for I had thought he held a great many. He owns a piece of property about three miles down the river from Glen Ferris which he was developing for a residential site and the place where he was going to build the apartments. That piece of property, one coal mine on Cabin Creek(which he was going to sell before he built the apartments) the stocks he mentioned, and government bonds, were his investments, with, as he said, about seventy five percent of the total in government bonds, seemed on the ultra conservative side for anyone's money and safety. Misfortune strikes certainly without warning.

I was indeed sorry and surprised to hear about John Starnes' terrible accident. We hear of those things so often that they do not seem unusual but to me it was most surprising to hear that John had been so unfortunate. For these reasons: He used to never drive a car on account of his lame foot. You remember that he used to tell me about his foot and the agony he endured after his accident in the saw mill. He always said that cold weather and automobile driving were the two things that hurt his most. I think John always had a taste for liquor but I remember that he used to come in the store once in a while and be deathly sick for days after he had taken only one or two the night before and I know that for years before he left Hopkinsville he never took more than one or two drinks. I also recall that he had a rather serious operation for appendicitis and it may be that the operation removed the real cause of the trouble as far as his drinking is concerned. I certainly hope he does recover and that he will not be left in the condition described in Aunt's letter. Whiskey and gasoline certainly do not mix.

Gladys was very much interested in that part of your letter dealing with the discussion you had with Cousin Anne. I think that she would give it very serious consideration even though it means a sacrifice in salary at the start. She is making about \$150 now. I do not know the exact amount but from what she has said from time to time I gathered it was about that amount. She would like to get all the information she could concerning it and urgently requested that Cousin Anne keep her in mind so that if a position was vacant she could apply. She did not write Cousin Anne as she gathered from your letter that there was no vacancy at the present.

I don't know what to do about a vacation this year and I want you to tell me just what you would like for me to do. I would like to follow the same plan that I have had for the last two years but there are some difficulties this year that have not been present in the past. For one thing our staff has been reduced and all of us are kept busier than we have been heretofore, and as we will finish the testing in about another month that means that Christmas will fall during our busiest time in the office computations of the results. I could not very well leave and have anything done on it during my absence. I suppose that I could get off if you would be disappointed in my not doing so. I want you to tell me frankly just what your plans are and what you would like for me to do. You know that things can always be arranged.

I have noticed in reading your last letters that you are facing a depression that has not crept up for some time and I want to repeat the admonition of my note that you must not let yourself be swayed so much by the immediate conditions. You have suffered interruptions that have interfered with your work and possibly a normal decline at the same time but do not let that discourage you nor worry you. Every business and every profession has the temporary ups and downs that do not show up in the mass analysis of even so short a time as a month. It is a natural and favorable condition. Continued buying is not a natural condition of business and shows a stimulation brought about from outside or unnatural conditions. Don't worry about it and when things get bad like that just quit thinking about it for a day or so and then resume again. You will find that helps your mental attitude and that reflects directly in your work.

I was indeed sorry that Mammur could not get the relief that she had expected and desired. I hope though that the dentist's suggestions will relieve her of the uncomfortable features of her teeth even though it will not help the clicking.

This about covers my list so I will close tonight and as it is still not nine thirty I will drive to Montgomery and mail this so you will get it tomorrow. Mailing in Montgomery cuts a day off the time of delivery.

I fully intended to write you a letter and have it in you hands before the day that marked the second year since Dad's death but I was not able to get it to you. I thought of him and of you a great deal that day and I know that if he could know how you and Tommy have taken hold of things he would be indeed proud of both of you. He did not mean to leave us in the condition that he did and I trust that he did not realize the state of affairs at the end, for I know that it would have been a source of sorrow to him. This two years, Mother, has shown what a wonderful person you are and the character which you hold. You have taken hold and have held. You started in a profession of the keenest competition and you have fitted yourself to rank with the best of the field and I trust that you will reap the benefits and profit from your labors and study and I know that you feel the satisfaction of a subject mastered.

I did not forget your birthday either and want to send you some little gift but have not been able to find a thing that I thought you would like. Not being with you makes it very difficult to select presents and I want you to tell me what you want. I do not want the reply that you do not want anything but I really want you to tell me something that you want for yourself. This is a definite request and I do hope that you will tell me outright.

With a heartful of love for you and Tommy I will close for tonight.

Devotedly,

Wilma

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

May 8, 1932.

My darling Mother:

It seems like a long time since I have written you, and even though I am sure that it is what you will call the usual thing, it is really much longer than I wanted to wait and I am ashamed of the fact, very much so. The last few weeks have been very hectic ones for me and I hope that it will be a long time before I shall have to spend others in the same way. I have been assigned some new work from time to time and it has kept me running day and night and it is only in the last few days that I have been able to wake up in the morning and not have a thousand things staring me in the face. It is a feeling of relief to start a day and not feel that you have to do two minutes work in each minute of the day. I have missed your letters which have not been coming so frequently as has been your custom.

I have just sent you a wire and I hope that it reaches you for Mother's Day. I drove to Charleston yesterday and thought I would send it from there last night but was in a hurry to get back to Montgomery so decided to wait until I got there and I had plenty of time as I did not think the Montgomery office closed until eight thirty. When I reached Montgomery I found that they closed a half hour earlier so I had to wait until this morning and then after driving down this morning and finding it closed again I finally telephoned it to Charleston. Please pardon it being so late but you know that it carries the love and affection that it would have if it had arrived the first thing this morning. In spite of my apparent indifference on the subject of writing I am sure that you know it is not any reflection of my love and admiration for you, Mother darling. I wish I could tell me how much you are in my thoughts and how I long for the time when we will not be separated. The mere fact that I know the separation is necessary is the only thing that makes it bearable for me.

I told you some time ago that I was working on a book. Well, I realized that I did not have all the material necessary for it so I stopped until I could collect the necessary information. I wrote many letters requesting it and have had unbelievable success in securing the facts that I wanted. I have heard from professors, engineers, and research experts from all parts of this country and some foreign countries. I hesitated to write some of the people but finally screwed up my courage and one night I sat down and wrote them all and was amazed at the response I received. I have heard from men in England, Sweden, Germany and France, and the response from the ones in this country is even more remarkable. This correspondence grouped on me last week and I could not let it drop after the success in starting it. I am really very pleased at the amount of information that I have collected at practically the cost of postage. I have communicated with book stores and periodical merchants in this country and in England and Germany and have either received or have ordered almost every article ever published on weirs at only a few cents a copy. I hope that I have enough information now to allow me to continue the study and eventually the preparation of what I hope to be a book.

I have rather enjoyed the work I have been doing lately as it has been a very satisfactory combination of outdoor and office work. We finished the survey and supervision of the transmission line right of way and the clearing of it. The outdoor work was good exercise and good experience.

We have started the excavation of the site for the surge tank and I have that on my hands too. Several of the boys have been let off and several more given notice that they will probably not be needed very long so the whole organization is rather in a state of turmoil. I have talked to Mr. Jones again and he assures me that I will be retained until the end of the job at least so I feel safe about it, but for the majority of the others it is rather an unsettled matter. I have been very pleased at the things Mr. Jones has said and the confidence he has placed in me. Just the other day several of the men from the E.M. Co. were at our office and Sam and I were standing out in front of the office and Mr. Jones remarked (not within our hearing) that he would not trade those two (meaning Sam and me) for any other six in the organization. We were told about it later by one of the men to whom the remark was made. Bill Evans is one of the boys that has been given notice so I suppose that puts a crimp in the sale of the annuity. I hate to see the organization broken up and some of the boys let go at this time but it has to be done. The corporation is demanding curtailment of all unnecessary expense and there is nothing for a good many of them to do, so it must come. I am certain that I have a position for another year at least and, in all probability, longer than that in an operating capacity.

I am certainly glad that you got your trip to French Lick and am sure that you enjoyed it a great deal. I think that it is wonderful that you can make these trips and it certainly is an incentive for work. It is not only a very pleasant recreation but seems to be a way to keep in touch with the officials and successful men in the company. I certainly hope that you will be able to make the others that are still to be had. I do indeed look forward to the one that would allow you to come out here again. I don't remember whether you told me White Sulphur or Hot Springs, and I am looking forward to seeing you again this summer.

You have not mentioned your business connection lately but I hope that it has been a more successful venture than you indicated in your last mention of it. I have always thought that you would have a hard time finding anyone who could match you in ability and brains and I am afraid, judging from what you said, that the association has been a handicap to you instead of an asset. Those things all work out in the long run, however, and usually for the best.

I was indeed glad to hear that Tommy had secured a position with the Brown and Williamson Company and I hope that it is one that she will like and enjoy. She seemed so anxious to have her and I am confident that the one she has now will only be a stepping stone to a better one whenever there is an opening. I think that she is just about the smartest person I know to get jobs as she has in times like these. It is not only her brains but her charm and character combined that carry through now. I am indeed proud of her for I do think that her achievements are remarkable. I heard a thing the other day which impressed me a great deal. The vice-president of the E.M. Co. said that two years from now the best recommendation a person could have would be that they could say that they had held or had secured a position during the years 1930-1932, and I believe that what he says will be true. It is logical for it certainly means that a person must be superior in their own line in order to either get a job or to hold one over that time.

Right after I returned from Louisville you sent me some handkerchiefs and I don't believe that I ever thanked you for them. They were certainly pretty and I have indeed enjoyed them. Those things that you send me are always nice and I cannot tell you how much I enjoy and appreciate them. The hard thing for most people to see is how you can select the socks and things for me and to get ones that I will like. I usually get the box at the office and open it there and it invariably causes comment along that line. Nearly everyone says that you are the only person they ever say that had such consistent good taste, and my reply is always that if they knew you they would understand.

I notice that this letter uses the last sheet of my printed stationary and that brings to my mind the question we discussed while I was in Louisville. I am rather tires of just this type of printed letterhead and I recall that you received an advertisement of some attractive ones while I was there. If you can find that circular I wish that you would send it to me and I will get some of it or similar stationary for both of us. I am entirely out, as I have said, so if you can find this, please send it to me immediately and I will get some of it. If you cant find it let me know what you want and I will get some printed through the company purchasing department and thus much cheaper than I could elsewhere.

About two months ago Gladys entered a subscription contest run by the Upper-Kanawha Times, a new newspaper being started in Montgomery. They were offering a first prize of \$700 for the person who solicited the most subscriptions, \$300 as second prize, then \$100, \$50, \$25, and so on down the line for third, fourth, fifth, etc. They offered \$20 to the one submitting the most the first week and she won that prize and received so much encouragement therefrom that she began working on it in earnest with weeks of enthusiasm and then weeks of feeling that she was not in the running. The contest was supposed to run for six weeks and then they continued it for two weeks more and it ended last night. Gladys won the second prize of \$300 and a more tickled person I have never seen. I have driven her around a little and it was with a hope of a last minute rally that I took her to Charleston yesterday afternoon. I was afraid that she was going to be disappointed in the outcome for there were so many people entered that had nothing else to do and could spend far more time on it than she could. The girl who won the first prize spent every day on it and her Mother did the same thing. They secured about twice the number of points that Gladys had and she barely oozed out on the girl that had the third prize. Incidentally, the third prize winner is a girl that works in a bank in Montgomery and had just about the same amount of time to put on it as Gladys had.

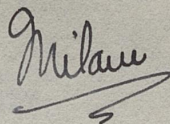
Before I started this letter I wrote down a number of things that I wanted to say so I think that I have covered most of it in this letter. Please forgive me for the length of time that I have let elapse and I promise not to let it happen again. Time just seems to slip by and I have had so much to do that I have had the feeling for weeks that I was crowding myself too close, but Mother darling I can even now see that it is and is going to pay me in the long run. I know you will understand and will forgive me. This is the first day that I have passed in a long time that did not leave me with the feeling that I had left something undone. Mr. Jones came up to my office the other day and asked me to do something for him that would require about two days and I sure had a sinking feeling when he was talking. He went out and came back in about five minutes with a sort of guilty look on his face and asked me when I would do that work and I told him that night and the next. His reply was that I had too "damn" much to do as it was. He sat down and talked a while and said that he had seen me in the office nearly every night and that he did not mean to overload me but that he had gotten in the habit of getting me to do whatever he wanted and did not realize how much he had been giving me. It was almost an apology on his part and he said that as some of the others could do this work he took it out and told one of the others to do it. It meant some night work for the fellow he assigned it to and he objected to it but it did him no good. The expression of disgust on Mr. Jones face was apparant and he came back in my office and remarked that the boy he gave it to had not done any overtime or much work during office hours in quite a while so let him squawk about it, it would do him good. I want him to feel that he can give me work and th t it will be done but I am also glad that he realizes the effort I expend.

I cannot find your letter telling me about the insurance and the amount that you paid for me but I recall that it was about ten dollars so I will add that amount to the regular check and you can tell me what the difference is so I can send that to you in my next letter. I certainly do appreciate the way that you fixed it up for me and I am tickled to death with the arrangement. It makes me feel that I am making some progress.

I have rented a safe deposit box in the Merchants National Bank of Montgomery for convenience and have placed all of my insurance policies and the annuities in that box. The rent there is only two dollars a year and it is much more convenient for me than having them in the bank at home.

I must close for this afternoon by again sending you my love on this Mother's Day and assuring you that you are in my thoughts even more today than usual. Give my love to Tommy and tell her how proud I am of my little sister, and also that I think she owes me a letter as it's been about six months since her last one.

Love, Milan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milan". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

July 17, 1932.

Mother Darling:

After writing my other note or rather letter I meant to enclose a private note for you but it slipped my mind so I will send it in another envelope.

I do not like to worry you about business matters but I must discuss this with you and get you to act on it for me. We received another cut in salary on May 1st in so much as we were all put on a five day week and paid accordingly. This is only a temporary condition but is likely to last until the staff is further reduced and it will be then necessary to go back on the full time basis. It seems necessary for me to discontinue the annuity for a few months and I wish that you would have it arranged for me to obtain permission to discontinue the annuity for say six months and if possible to allow the insurance to be continued over that period and effective. I dont know how the Insurance Company will react to this request but please make it known that conditions make this necessary and that I do not want to permanently discontinue the agreement. If after that time the salaries are not further reduced I think that I can resume it without any further trouble even if mine is not restored for I will have then the chance of being ahead and to have taken care of a few thing in which I was a little behind. I do not like to ask this for our agreement was that I was to continue this but with this cut I think it is for the present impossible for me to go ahead without getting in debt on other expenses. I have cut my expenses to a minimum and I intend to keep them that way. With a six month discontinuance I think that I can not only pay off the few things I owe but build up a reserve to help carry the annuity through until salaries are raised again.

I want to explain what the debt is to which I refer. I have insurance policies amounting to about two hundred dollars coming due in April so Harry Pirrung, an agent in Montgomery, finances this for me and that allows me several months to pay it in instead of having to pay it all at one time. So you see that the cut coming when it did left me with a note on my hands and shorted income with which to mee tit.

If you will see to this for me when you return I shall certainly appreciate it. I am sending Tommy a cppy of the other letter to you and mailing you, in Louisville, a carbon of this letter, with a note in my letter to Tommy to the effect that this is a memorandum about my insurance and to hold it for you there. In other words, I am sending a copy of each of my letters to both Hopkinsivlle and Louisville.

Again I send you love,

Milam
—

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

July 17, 1932.

My darling Mother:

My note of yesterday was written just to keep the elapsed time down to one day less than it would have been had I waited until today to write. In that note I promised to write you a long letter today and I am afraid that if I had not so promised the letter would wait another day for it is frightfully hot. I have an electric fan blowing right on me and it only seems to intensify the heat, but it I cut it off it is unbearable.

We have been having the most unusual weather that I have ever seen. It has been very hot and rainy all summer and the temperature will rise to over a hundred degrees one day and then a sudden cool snap with terrific rains, which have played havoc with the community. One day about two weeks ago I woke up in the morning with a severe attack of indigestion and was rather uncomfortable until Dr. Simmons came in and gave me something for it. At breakfast time it was raining torrents so I decided, as Dr. Simmons had advised, to stay in bed for the day and try to get the disorder straightened out, so that I did. It rained all day and about eleven that night Bill Evans came in to my room and asked if I felt well enough to go out. He said that rather dangerous slides had begun up on the side of the mountain and that the water was pouring off the hill so fast it looked as if all the houses just below the Jones home would be undermined if we did not get the water diverted. I got up and went out and sure enough everyone had moved out of the houses and some of the people at the foot of the mountain were beginning to move out. As one man went into his house down below a big chunk of the mountain gave way and practically covered his house. He was not hurt but he lost no time in getting out the front way which was away from the mountain. It continued to rain and finally undermined the foundation of Mr. Seymour's house and practically ruined three or four in the valley, the water poured off the hill for hours and filled the lower portion of the town with about three feet of water and every cellar in the village was inundated. None of this water came from the river but all of it came off the hill. I have never seen such cascades form where not a drop had been a day before. We worked until four o'clock and as everything was under water we went to bed for there was nothing else to do.

The next day the Gauley river came up and almost flooded out Gauley Bridge. For another week the weather acted very decently and then there were two or three cloudbursts around Montgomery and three of the creeks on the other side of the Kanawha river were flooded and millions of dollars worth of damage was done. Hundreds of houses were washed down the river from these creeks and some twenty people were drowned. The creek valleys were stripped of everything and there are the most barren looking places I have ever seen. The Red Cross and other organizations are doing their best to relieve the suffering but the people are pitiful. The coal mines along the creeks were nearly all ruined and if they escaped all the roads and railroads were washed out and it makes it impossible for them to operate. Times are hard enough around here without the addition of the shut down of these mines and the added

hardships imposed by the loss of their homes and gardens. Along the creeks and rivers the only place for gardens is on the banks and the floods of both the creeks and the rivers have almost ruined every garden in the valley.

Of course this had had no effect on my writing so I will try to explain why I have been silent for so long. I have been having to get up around five o'clock each morning in order to measure the length of our base lines and the other lines necessary in the determination of the transmission line span across the river. When the day gets real hot the measurements taken with a 300 foot chain or steel tape are far from accurate due to the expansion of the chain so we have to start in and do this work early in the morning when it is cool. Of course we can, within certain limits, correct the measured distances for the expansion of the chain but this does not give satisfactory results when the sun is shining on the steel. Then too, we have had to do most of the angle measurements either early or late in the day for the heat waves almost obliterated our targets at the triangulation stations. At night it has just been too hot to do much writing and I have been trying to get to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep but find that I could not even sleep before about eleven o'clock. I have just been putting it off from day to day in the hopes that I could find a time when I could write comfortable and I am afraid that my procrastination has been carried too far.

I want to tell you again how much I have enjoyed the presents that you and Tommy sent me. I am afraid that you became very extravagant in my birthday gifts but I have indeed enjoyed them every one and I hardly know how to express my appreciation and thanks. There is nothing I enjoy more than nice pajamas and those certainly qualify in every respect. That linen bathrobe is a joy. I can take a shower, put that on and come back to my room and even in this hot weather I feel like I have had a bath and not just ready to take another one.

I certainly did enjoy seeing Aunt Agnes, John and Alfred in Charleston. The whole party was such a surprise to me. Aunt Agnes called from Clarksburg the night before and even though I had been wondering just how she was going I had no idea that she would come through Charleston without coming down through Virginia and that, of course, would take her right through Glen Ferris. I don't know when I have enjoyed a day so much as I did that one.

I thought that when I sat down here I would write you several pages but my news seems to have run out with the exception of one item and that is a question. What shall I get Tommy for her birthday? I have been racking my brain to think of something and have made two trips to Charleston to find something and could not think of but one thing and when I started to get that I did not know whether she had one or not. I started to get a nice week end bag and then hesitated in order that I might write you and find out if she needed or wanted one. Please let me know what you think of this and make any suggestion that you can think of for her birthday is past and I have gotten her nothing. I would rather wait and get what she wanted than to jump in and send her something that she neither wanted nor needed.

I will close now as but my subject matter and myself are about exhausted. Give my love to all the family and I send a great deal to you.

Devotedly,

G. Kilau

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

December 5, 1933:

My darling Mother:

This is a long time after Thanksgiving and as I promised to write that day I feel very much ashamed at having waited so long but things have happened so fast and I have felt so badly that it was next to impossible for me to get anything done. I will start in at the beginning and try to write all about events since my last letter.

Two weeks ago Monday I received a telephone call from Knoxville and the upshot of it was that the Tennessee Valley Authority offered me a position as assistant hydraulic engineer at \$185 per month. As this was after office hours I was talking from the home telephone, which is neither more too good nor too private, so I had rather an unsatisfactory conversation and I explained that I could not give a definite answer at that time. I called Mr. Jones and he was very insistent that I not accept a position at that salary. I had promised Mr. Bowman, with whom I talked on the phone, that I would come to Knoxville to talk with him. The next morning Jim Patterson, Jack Rountree and I started out and reached Knoxville late that afternoon. The next morning we

all went over to the office, they to try and get a job, and me trying to decide whether to take this one or not. I had a very satisfactory conversation with Mr. Bowers, the hydraulic engineer, and after discussing the matter I decided to decline the offer and he agreed with me that I was making a wise decision. I think that I impressed him for he seemed anxious to have me and assured me that he would make every effort to use me later on in the development if at that time I wanted a position. He was, by far, the most satisfactory person I have seen in the entire organization.

Aside from the assurance Mr. Jones had given me about my present position and the salary reduction I would have to accept in the change, Mr. Bowers could give no assurance of the possibility of advancement in the organization. It is a cut and dried organization and each man is supposed to fit into a notch and remain there. He admitted that the contract which they would offer would be temporary and would give no permanent contracts until after Congress met. All of them are afraid that Congress is going to call a halt in the proceedings. Mr. A. E. Meyer has antagonized the political interests so thoroughly by refusing to permit political influences to sway him in the selection of his personnel. He is, of course, exactly right but he has been too ~~truth~~ toothless in expressing himself.

Mr. Davis came to Blue Ferris while I was gone, and, as is his usual procedure, he went around the office to speak to the various ones there. Usually on his visits here & see him frequently so on his tour over the office he commented on my absence and asked Mr. Jones where I was. Mr. Jones told him that I had gone to Knoxville to discuss the position they had offered me and then Mr. Davis went straight up, according to Mr. Jones, who told me about all this when I came back. Mr. Davis said they could not let me go as there was a great deal of hydraulic work to be done here and it would be a serious inconvenience to have someone do it who was not familiar with the job. Mr. Jones said that he discussed it at some length and seemed really disturbed over the idea of me leaving. He said further "I don't see no need to be concerned about securing a position and I hope you will do everything you can to discourage him unless the new position will be a marked advancement to him"

Needless to say, Mr. Davis' concern about my leaving was very pleasing and reassuring to me. He is the "big boss" and his word is law not only in our company but in practically the entire corporation. Mr. Jones drove him to Huntington the next day and he told me that Mr. Davis commented favorably several times on my work and seemed to be still concerned over the possibility of my leaving.

To get back to my narrative, we reached Blue Hill early Thursday morning and, of course, I slept most of the day. I went to the office to find a note from Mr. Jones to meet him there that night. This silicon business has flared up again and there are about a hundred new suits against the company. The first cases were pure fraud and there are so open-faced that it is ridiculous. We must defend them in court even though I think the plaintiffs and the lawyers are only bringing suit in the hope of getting a compromise. The first compromise was brought about because of the nuisance value of the cases and not because they had any merit or that the companies had been negligent.

That very week and J. E. Little, a consulting engineer in Charleston came out and asked me to design a small dam and make some hydraulic calculations for him. This was a possibility to make some extra money and I could not decline it so until Thanksgiving day I was busy about 18 hours each day. I worked on it most of Thanksgiving finishing it and also somehow contracted one of these colds which hit me so hard. I woke up Friday morning feeling miserable and if I had not had so much work before me I would have stayed in bed but it was a beautiful day following a very miserable one, so I got up and went to work. I was miserable all week and

stayed in bed as much as possible. I was feeling better Monday
but had to drive into Huntington on business so I stopped in
to see Dr. Shepherd, who gave me such relief the day you
left Charleston, and his treatment was just as effective this
time. Dr. Simmons' pills and powders had not helped
me in the least but that treatment made me feel like
a new man. I felt better right after the treatment and
yesterday I felt no ill effects from the cold except
the rather unpleasant reaction to the laxative Dr. Simmons
had given me with. Today I feel fine and have no feeling
of cold at all. These things hit me suddenly and leave
me just as quickly. I am delighted to be over that cold for
it had me thoroughly miserable for a few days.

A few months ago Marie ~~Shum~~ bought
a construction kit for a model airplane for his son, Wally.
Wally tried to build it but he was too small to do it
Marie so realized so he started to do it himself. He had
not worked on it but about one evening when he sent Wally
down here to tell me to come up there "real quick". Wally
was so out of breath when he got here he could only tell
me that "Daddy wants you real quick". It scared me to
death and I ran up there as hard as I could to find Marie
sitting by a table and holding this plane in his hands
afraid to let go. He had tried to do something and then found

that he would break the whole ship if he left go of it and he would not explain to anybody what to do so he said for me. I would have killed him but I sat down to help him and worked with him until after midnight. I was telling some of the fellows about it the next time I went down to see Gladys. After supper we heard this knock on the back door and Gladys opened it to find about half the yard full of kids to ask me if I would help them build planes. Of course I agreed so we got the planes and materials and I showed them how to do it. They have built some real nice ones which fly. Gladys moved back to the Inn after that and the unfinished one I had been building I brought back here and finished it in my room. All the boys here come in and watch from time to time and very one of them became interested. Now every room you enter you will see a group of boys working on a model airplane. Incidentally, the one I made flies like a kid. Gladys made one that flies in a circle and moves about as fast as a bullet. The thing has taken on all the earmarks of a fad and the better the completed models fly the more interested the boys become. The servants are raising the devil for they have a basketful of paper and shavings to carry out every day.

Love, Melvin

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

December 6, 1933

Mother darling:

The other letter I did not finish yesterday and have not had time to work on it until now - nearly supper time. I had many interruptions yesterday and it is such a jumbled affair and as I had reached a good pretty place I thought I would start a new one. That accounts for the rather abrupt ending.

I hate to have to discuss money further since your last letter but it is just necessary that I do so. Your letter seemed to be a mild reprimand for me. I thought you would see my position and I am disappointed that you think, as you indicated, that my shortage is due to extravagance. It is not and it is accounted for by the things I had to have which my salary did not include. I have made every sacrifice I knew including moving into a room which costs me $\$2$ a week less to make both ends meet and I just cannot seem to pull out. I don't know how to select words to show you except to say that the $\$30.00$ which I spent on the trip to Knoxville was a two months allotment of "extra money"; meaning money which I had not a definite purpose for. I have made

some progress in clearing up my debts this year and have paid of more than the \$300 shortage but they were more pressing at the time. Right now I am in need of this money and I need it badly. You know I would not ask you to help me if it did not jeopardize my job by being sued.

I do not want to take anymore out of the insurance money unless it is absolutely necessary. I thought that if we could borrow from them with the agreement to pay it back at the rate of \$50⁰⁰ per month it could be done without being a personal withdrawal. It distresses me to have to keep writing to you about it and it makes me feel like a very poor excuse for a son, and if it were anything less than necessity I would not do it. I have tried to borrow the money here and cannot do it without someone endorsing the note and I don't know anyone I could ask to do that. I had thought that a possible solution might be to borrow from a bank in Louisville and I would much rather do that than to touch the other if such a procedure would be possible.

I do wish that you would not feel that I would not pay it back. I know the past has caught me on a declining salary but it has been raised now and I am confident I will have no trouble in paying it back as agreed. I don't think you realize that for eighteen months I have had, after deducting your rent and insurance payments, less than one hundred dollars a month to cover all of my expenses.

When you consider that my actual living expenses, board, room, laundry, drugs, etc are, at the lowest about \$10 a month, ~~and~~ there is not much left for clothes, dentist's bills and the extras which always arise.

I am worried sick about the situation and having to appeal to you does not ease it any for I would rather take any sort of embarrassment than worry you more. I may be a poor manager and a failure to you, mother, but I have done my best and failed. ~~so if you~~ That's an awful thing to say about yourself and I should rather suppose you would know it than you but you must know it. It has been my ambition for years to provide for you and the result is that I have to call upon you for help. I think you misunderstood my letter about the living future expenses. I did not mean to imply any such thoughts.

The supper bill has run up so I must go. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Love,

Dutane

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

February 1, 1934

Mother darling:

This must be somewhat of a hurried note as I am writing in the ~~and~~ office prior to leaving for the day. I have tried each day for the past week to write you but I have been out of town so much that it has been almost impossible.

I was so glad to hear that Tommy was improving so satisfactorily and that she took advantage of her opportunity for a rest. I do hope that she continues to improve and that she will watch her health very closely. I think the Parthenon in the winter is the only place for both of you.

Your wisdom is certainly reflected at all times but it is unusually apparent in your influence to persuade the family to keep Mamie's home for a while. I think you did exactly right to have the sale postponed for, as you said, a year can make a lot of changes. I suppose you also looked at it from the angle of desirability. If it was put up for sale now everyone would be inclined to take whatever was offered but if the sale is delayed someone will probably solicit it, and that difference in the attitude of the buyer sometimes makes a great deal of difference in the size of the offer.

I have not heard from you for some time so I assume that Maxine is improving after her operation.

I am enclosing a blank affidavit which I wish you would fill out and return to me just as soon as possible. It will have to accompany my application for another policy with the Mutual Life Insurance Company. The original policy was either lost or destroyed in the office here or in my room. You have no first hand knowledge of the loss so you will probably not be able to answer these questions except just to say that you don't know. I sent the policy in to the company to get an extension on the premium. It was returned to me on or about October 1, 1933 and I think the office janitor must have accidentally destroyed it. Please note that it must be notarized.

Will close with the promise of a longer tonight.
With lots of love to both of you,

Sincerely,

Malcolm

MILAM F. TANDY
GLEN FERRIS, WEST VIRGINIA

February 1, 1934

My darling Mother:

Fate seems to time mishaps to the minute. Right after breakfast I came to the office, ^{and} the first thing I did was to write you a note - a very brief one - but a note just the same. I was going to Montgomery in a very few minutes and I wanted to mail the letter there so it would reach you this afternoon. On the way down I saw the morning train to Glen Ferris held up on the road by a slide from the mountain side. The train later in the morning brought me your letter telling me that you were in Hopkinsville but, of course, I did not receive it until after I had mailed my letter. Your letter was mailed the twenty-seventh of January, Saturday afternoon and I received it Thursday morning - it was misrouted to Glen Jean a town about 20 miles from here but two days distant by mail routes. A queer twist of fate's string.

I was distressed to read about Lorraine's condition but was glad to know that she could get the leave of absence. I hate to think of her being so far from well and I hope you will make her settle every minute for rest. A certain amount of freedom of movement is necessary for complete relaxation but then regular sleeping hours and the old regime of early to bed are also necessary. Please let me know how

she is getting along for I shall be quite concerned until I know she is much better.

It has been terribly cold out here and I, for one, have been very fortunate with my car. Nearly everyone has had trouble starting, with frozen brakes, broken axles, frozen radiators, but mine has pattered right along. I am real proud of it. The only trouble I have had is a frozen speedometer. It was three degrees below zero the other morning when I started out and about the time I had driven ~~two~~ feet this awful screech started right in front of me - I cannot remember when anything so startling has happened - and after the fright I discovered the source and disconnected the cable. I had to get a blow-torch to thaw it out, the oil had frozen.

I was mighty sorry to hear of Miss Corrie's illness and I hope that she will get better after the message was sent to you. Much John has certainly had his share of illness or rather in his family and among his friends. It is needless for me to say how glad your assurance of Maumie's improvement made me.

I hope the Puritan will forward my other letter to you. In fact I will write the manager a note and request that he do so. It will be safer as you would not get it for some time if you had to write back to Louisville for it after you receive this note.

I will close by sending my love to all of you,
Sincerely,
Melvins

P.S. The socks come and they are a delight to me. I truly believe that Stewart's time their sales to fit their customer's needs for each time you send them I am on the verge of buying some -
Many thanks.

NEW-KANAWHA POWER COMPANY

Unit of Union Carbide  and Carbon Corporation

NEW YORK OFFICE
CARBIDE & CARBON BLDG.
30 E. 42ND ST.

GLEN FERRIS, W. VA.

March 5, 1934

My darling Tommy:

Now that you have been "under the weather" for over a month I am getting down to writing you. I am really quite ashamed of myself for not having written you sooner but I do have the false knowledge that you consider my letters to Mother as intended for you also. Mother's recent letter telling of your improvement was indeed a relief to me and I sincerely trust you are, by now, entirely recovered and that you will not suffer from a recurrence. Now, let me give you a bit of brotherly advice - keep the doctor's orders and take care of yourself.

I thought several times about asking you to come out here for a while but the practical difficulties, ~~the~~ finally decided, would more than outweigh the relief that the change might offer. Food for an ailing person is rather hard to get and the days that you would spend alone would have worn you out. I do want you to come out here some time but I did not think the time was doing you recuperative.

After I came back from home I continued to smoke "Kools" and at first experienced some difficulty in getting them. I persuaded the Company stockholder to stock them and now, after only two months, they are almost his best seller. A number of people here are smoking them regularly and are delighted with them. I have saved up

enough coupons to get some cards so the other day I mailed them
in. The cards came this morning and I am very pleased with them.
Incidentally, what do you do with your coupons? If you don't save
them for yourself how about sending them to me.

In my last letter to Mother I mentioned, or rather gumbled,
about the weather out here. We have had terrestrial rains now for
days and the river is at flood stage, in fact, it is so high that
we will have to take the train to get to Charleston tonight.
The road is flooded in several places and completely blocked. Pete
Jefferson went up the river for the week end and a bridge
washed out so he will not be able to return for several days.
A good part of the water you now see in the Ohio river passed by
our place about a day before.

I suppose I had better close for today and do a lick or so
of work. Give my love to Mother and you know that I send a
great deal to you.

shortly,

Brother -

P.S. I have, at this late date, taken up the malle game of legs,
much to my own confusion. I enjoy it but somehow I can't seem
to remember the right rules at the right times.

Glen Ferris, W. Va.
July 29, 1935

My dear Mother:

This will have to be just a note as I have only a few minutes before the mail leaves and I want to get it off this afternoon. We are having a very busy time and in most uncomfortable hours so I could not get at writing you earlier in the day.

I believe Shelby wrote you yesterday that she was sending the silver as you had requested in your letter. The reason I mentioned it on the telephone was that I thought Tommy might like to sell her five dollars father or that you could let us use some of your husband's silver while you were away. As you know, all our silver is heavy and not so convenient for general utility, but we could not see any necessity of your buying over the usual store ware, which would amount to a sizable sum if bought in sufficient quantity to qualify as a completely furnished apartment, when we could get along without ours.

We have not yet succeeded in getting the desk and chair crated for shipment. You know Montgomery is our nearest job of work and we have to depend on a dealer there with whom we have done very little business so this is really a favor to us and hardly gives us a chance to demand immediate fulfillment. At first it looked like a poor economy as we thought it might be cheaper to buy a desk in Hopkinsville than it would be to ship this

one but we found it could be created and sent by freight for about
two dollars which is only a fraction of the cost of the one piece.

We hope that you and Jimmy can find it possible
to come by here for we should like to discuss the important
matter under consideration and it seems both awkward and unwise
to use it as a subject of correspondence a long distance trip.

The power has gone off and a 'rain storm' came up so
between the lack of light and fog it is almost impossible to
write. Let us know more about your plans when you can.

Sincerely,

Michael