

Charleston, West by-God Virginia,
August 6, 1940.

My dear Milam,

Your letter written June 29th reached me on July 29th, having mysteriously been posted in New York, and you may be sure it was most welcome. Am sorry you had to contract malaria before you could get around to writing any really comprehensive letters to your Charleston friends, but the nature and length of mine, and of the one to Vincent which I was allowed to read, entitles you to complete forgiveness. The afternoon after they arrived we all got together up at Barnes' joint and had Dotty read them to the assemblage, accompanied by something made of gin. It turned out later, I hear, that the Barnes also were one of the favored, but hadn't opened their letter because they were afraid it was just another bill. Seriously, we were all intensely interested in everything you had to say, and hope you'll find time and the inclination to do it again.

The "Gin and Bitters" or "Tandy Special" has been thoroughly tried out and you have been given a vote of confidence. In fact, after about three of them the other evening we were going to cable you our approval but found that the chances of you receiving our communication promptly were pretty slim. It's a darn good drink!

Unfortunately I am unable to offer anything in the way of news or information which could "hold a candle" to that contained in your letter. All I can do is to relate some of the non-routine events in our lives since you left civilization, with the hope of arousing some slight interest on your part.

Business, which as you know is rather important to me, has been very good so far this year. The plant at Glen Ferris as well as Alloy seems to be very busy, and there is much talk of an addition to Alloy. We hear from "Huey Rogers" rather more frequently these days.

Louise has just returned from a week at Ocean View, during which I played around more than usual with the Churchmans, finally getting Vincent in the dog-house, which of course was inevitable. For further details you'll have to call on your imagination. Louise and I are going over again this coming Friday to stay about ten days, during which I expect to soak up plenty of sunshine and gin, go fishing (deep-sea at least twice), and hope to be able to rent the same little sail boat I had last year. (The picture you took of same is framed and hanging on the wall over my desk). Vincent and Lizzie were over in July, staying at the Nansemond, which is a big improvement over "Gill's Terrace" and the "Rustic", and Louise also having tried and liked it that's where we'll bunk. It's that big job just west of the amusement section, and everyone says the meals, which include plenty of fried chicken and Virginia Ham, are swell.

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I guess old Father Time is catching up with me, for I now have a yen for a farm. Am getting awfully tired of living on a 75 x 150 lot with neighbors close by on each side who miss very little if anything that goes on at my place, and have listed my place with several real estate agents for sale. Just as soon as it's sold I'm going to get me about fifteen acres or so not too far from town, build a six room house on it, get a married couple to do the work, and become a gentleman farmer on a small scale. I have in mind keeping a cow, a riding horse, several dogs, and might even raise some hogs and chickens, so if business goes sour again we'll at least eat. Speaking of dogs, the Dabneys no longer have one. Mother, who lives over in Maryland, worried me to death for several years trying to chisel Patsy away from me, and I finally gave in. I couldn't get her back again for a thousand dollars, I'm sure. My brother-in-law, Garrett Fogle, has a lovely little bitch that's due to be married ere long, and I've been promised one of the pups.

Last Sunday afternoon young Mr. McVey took a crowd of us out on his yacht, which is going to cost me at least \$500 next Spring due to Vincent and myself having developed a terrific craze for a boat of our own. We have in mind one of the Hill River Cruisers, and are in hopes of being able to pick up a slightly second-hand one at a considerable reduction. It's really getting to be quite a problem to know what to do on Sunday afternoons these days - golf at Edgewood or Kanawha has been out of the question lately due to so many other married couples having been copying our very original idea of playing then. My last experience on Sunday afternoon at Edgewood was most discouraging, there having been 125 players on that nine hole pasture. The river is nowhere near so crowded, and somehow is conducive to very successful drinking and general hell-raising, besides being cool, though dirty. And a boat has other possibilities, too, I've heard.

Having worn out an eraser, broken two fingernails, and exhausted my store of information which might be of interest to you, I will close by expressing the hopes that you are both well, in good spirits, and will let us hear from you again in the very near future. I might add that we shall be very glad to attend to picture developing, shopping, or in any other way be of service.

Louise joins me in very kindest regards and best wishes, and we would like you to know that you and Gladys are often thought of and missed, not only by the Dabneys but by your many other friends here.

Sincerely, your friend,

Bill Dabney

ERNEST HOWELL,
PRESIDENT AND GEN. MGR.

C. W. DABNEY,
VICE PRES. AND TREAS.

V. B. HARRIS,
SECY AND SALES MANAGER

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P. O. BOX 607
PHONE CAPITOL 22-161

COR. BROAD & SMITH STS.

CHARLESTON, W. VA. August 22, 1941

Mr. Milam Tandee
c/o Mrs. Milam Tandee
701 Hunt Avenue
Charleston, West Virginia

My dear Milam:

I was not too much surprised to have Gladys show up here in Charleston yesterday morning as I had heard only this past Sunday that you two were headed for civilization. It was swell having Gladys with us even for such a short time and all of us are very much disappointed not to have been able to see you. However, I well know what it is to be ^{too} much occupied with business matters to indulge in personal pleasures as that is about all I have been doing for the past year or more.

Our business here is really pretty much of a made house; it is no trouble at all ~~in~~ getting all of the orders we want, the truth being that we quite frequently have to work hard to avoid being given an order. It is a helluva problem ~~in~~ obtaining sufficient merchandise to service our customers' needs and things are so much more involved than during the first World War period due to the Priority system about which you have probably been familiarized during your short stay in this country. This is the darndest thing that was ever thought of by man, and it looks to me that before long everyone will have a priority rating of some sort and then we will all be right back where we started.

Due to having been so busy I have not had an opportunity to do anything material in connection with attaining the status of a gentlemen farmer but hope that by this time next year I will at least have some sort of a hut out of town where we can "get away from it all" on week ends. Gladys told me that you had designs on the largest leopard in Africa to be a rug for the living room of the Dabney's country house, and I hope you will work hard to attain this objective.

On the subject of leopards Gladys has very kindly offered to purchase and ship to me sufficient leopard skins to make a three-quarter length fur coat for Louise. I would be very grateful if this could be arranged, and I am going to leave the matter in the hands of you two and hope you will be able to ship me something very shortly as I would like, if possible, to have a coat made up for Louise in time for her to use this coming winter. I assume that you can forward the skins by boat and wish you would consign to our New York agents, R. K. Carter & Co., 66 Reade St., New York City, attention of Mr. Paulscraft. I will advise Mr.

Paulscraft to be on the look out for them and forward the skins to whatever tanner you can recommend. Let me know how much they set you back and I will place the money to your credit at any point you indicate. I tried to pay Gladys in advance but she said she didn't know how much the skins would cost and besides she thought I was a fairly good credit risk.

Things are going along rather smoothly for the Dabneys these days although I must say that I am getting just a little weary of having my nose kept to the grindstone so constantly. There is not much use of making a lot of money if you don't have sufficient leisure to permit putting your earnings to some useful purpose. Louise is on the verge of becoming a grandmother for the second time, her son Jack's wife being about ready to come across. However, I don't think Louise looks very much like a grandmother and certainly doesn't act the part.

We are spending this week end at Mountain Lake, Virginia, with the Stubblefields and next week end, Labor Day, at Craig Healing Springs with another couple. I understand you and Gladys spent several days at Craig Healing Springs on your honeymoon and didn't think the place so hot but I understand ~~the~~ ^{it} place has been fixed up quite a bit and we are looking forward to a few days of golf, swimming, and the consumption of spirits.

I had expected to find Gladys somewhat dissatisfied with her Liberian existence but she apparently likes it very much in spite of the malaria, bugs, critters, snakes and such, lack of hot water, and the high cost of whiskey. We were very much fascinated by her stories of African life and I am sure she became awfully tired before the evening was over answering our thousands of questions.

In reviewing this letter it doesn't seem to me that I have offered very much interesting information but, as a matter of fact, it is highly unusual for anything exciting to happen in these parts. Knowing how someone far away from home enjoys receiving letters I would have written you regularly except for the fact, as above stated, there never seems to be anything very much to write about other than ordinary routine stuff. On the other hand your life offers much that is unusual and interesting and I hope you will find it possible to write more often in return for which I will be very happy to reciprocate if letters such as this one will be acceptable. I also want you to feel entirely free to call on me at any time for cooperation of any sort whatsoever, including the purchase of any little necessities which, as in the case of the leopard skin deal, I will be glad to put on the cuff.

Louise joins me in wishing you the very best of everything and we hope we may have the pleasure of hearing from you soon.

Mrs. Virginia Browning, who is now serving very ably as my secretary and who is transcribing this letter, will no doubt have something to add to it. (I wish I had had the pleasure of hearing Gladys' account of what was going on over there beyond the sea but perhaps when you both come back you can have a lecture or sumpin. I suppose you and Gladys knew the Churchmans are now living in Norfolk and it seems rather strange without them but know they are enjoying being near the sea shore.)

Bill Dabney

*P.S. Know Ephie would like to be remembered to you
both - W.B.*

May 13, 1942

My dear Milam:

First of all, please accept my thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me a letter via the first Liberia-U. S. air mail trip. Having been forewarned by Gladys, who arrived here several weeks ahead of the letter in question, that the stamp and envelope would bear some value as a collector's item, I opened same very carefully. It might be of interest to you that your letter, which was post marked February 12, arrived here only about two weeks ago. I hope this is not typical of the air mail service between Liberia and these parts.

We were very glad indeed to see Gladys, who spent several days here about a month ago. She looked very well but seemed to be somewhat depressed because her big handsome hero was so far away.

Generally speaking, all efforts in this country seem to be directed toward whipping Hitler and the Japs. It was noted that your letter contained no mention whatsoever of the war which, I suppose, was intentionally omitted for censorship reasons so I will confine myself to the above remark, supplemented only by the statement that doing business under war-time conditions is a terrific headache. Quite a few of my friends in the business and professional fields have given up and joined either the Navy or Army I am beginning to believe it would be a nice vacation for me too.

Don't concern yourself too much, Milam, about the leopard skin situation. Naturally Louise is very anxious to deck herself out in a leopard skin coat with a personal touch, but I can easily imagine that you have much more important things to occupy your mind. You asked me to again give you the name of our agent in New York: R. K. Carter & Co., 66 Reade St., Attention: Mr. Paulcraft.

Outside of a little golf, ping pong, and elbow bending, all of which have been on a somewhat curtailed basis due to my having ^{had} to go to work, Louise and I have been doing little or nothing. Week end before last we, with another couple, took our first short vacation trip which is the first we've had for a right smart piece back. We drove up to Hot Springs, Virginia, on Thursday afternoon, returning Sunday evening, and practically wore out the Cascades golf course. A party of ten of us are going back for a long Fourth of July week end, provided we can get enough gasoline together and see our ways clear to wear a little more precious rubber off our tires.

The tire situation in this country really is tough, and I wish you boys in Liberia would step on the gas and ship lots more rubber over here. *Still plenty of whiskey, though.*

Gladys indicated the possibility of your returning to this country in the near future, but I am wondering if she is not overly optimistic as it would seem to me that in view of the high defense status of the Firestone Plantation you will not be let go without a struggle.

We see very little of the Churchmans these days. They, on rare occasions, come to Charleston for a day at a time but we have missed connections with them during their last couple of visits and, needless to say, I am not going to wear out my tires driving to Norfolk, or anywhere else that far away. In case you have not already heard, Vincent's father passed away several months ago.

Louise and I are both in fine shape physically and, although Louise is a double grandmother which makes me a grandpappy of sorts, we do not seem to feel our ages. We have given up the idea of the "country estate" for the duration as prices on this sort of thing have gone sky high. However, I still have the idea in the

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back of my mind and after this war is over and we can settle down, maybe we'll do something about it. In the meantime we have fixed up our old joint here and there and we will be in swell shape to put up you and Gladys when you are back in the States and can come to Charleston.

I agree with you that the air mail service would be a much more satisfactory medium of correspondence and you may be sure that your letters are the most welcome things in the world.

Louise joins me in sending our very best regards to you and Shakey, or "Mr. Dubney" as the case might be.

Sincerely, your friend -
Bill Dubney

Dear Milan:

I have been informed I may add something to your letter if I wanted to - so that I'd tell you something "Mr. Dubney" forgot and that is how longingly I have been looking at the beautiful First Flight envelope your letter came in. However, he is guarding it very carefully, much to my regret.

Our old friend, Ephie, was married this past week to Claudia Winfrey Samworth. She is also a widow with a little boy about four. I might add she is a "grass" widow. I have seen her only once and that was at the Junior League Top Knot Ball about a month ago and she is very attractive.

Best regards,

Virginia Browning

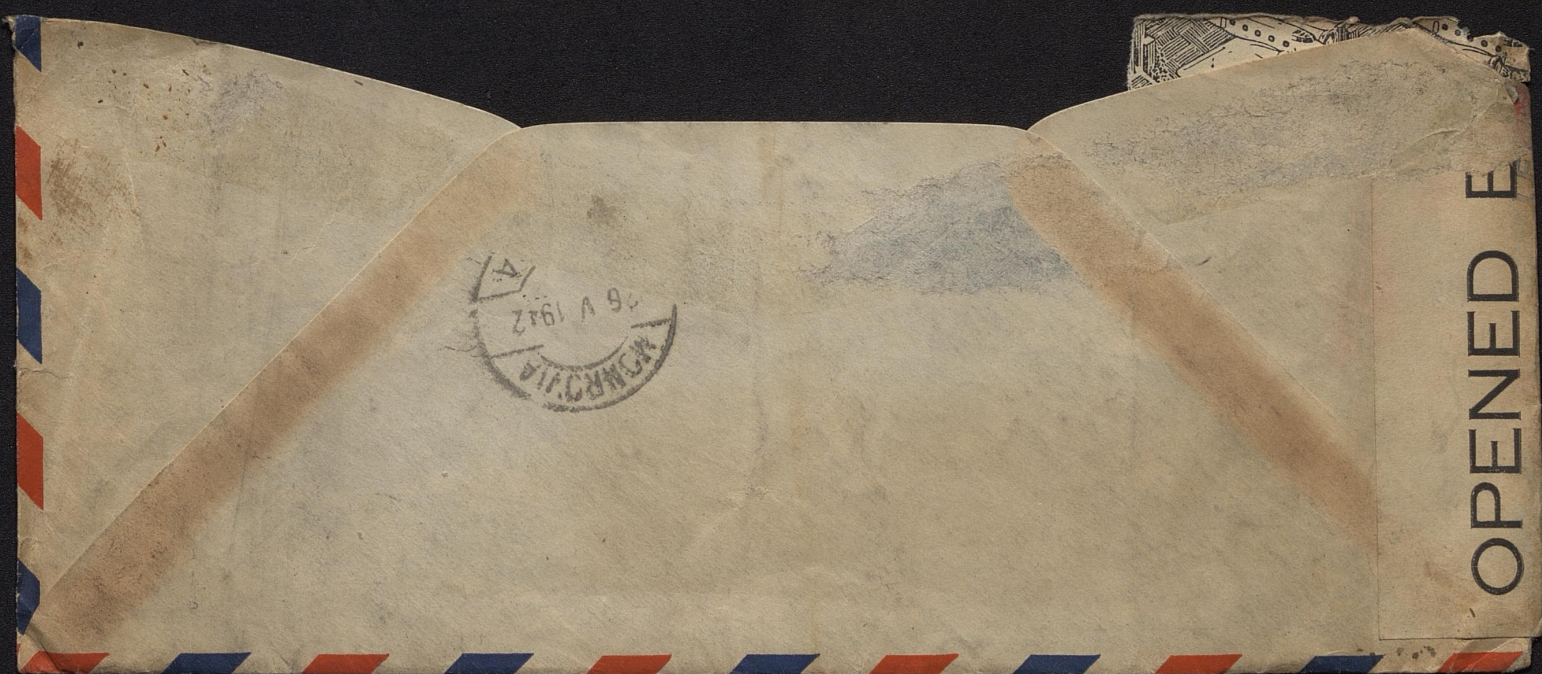
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P. O. BOX 833
PHONE CAPITOL 22-161

COR. BROAD & SMITH STS.

CHARLESTON, W. VA. December 21, 1942

Mr. and Mrs. Milam Tandy
212 Mayflower Apartments
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Milam and Gladys:

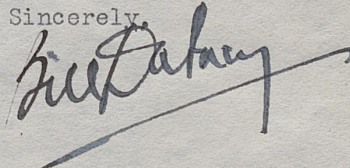
Louise and I were very much pleased to receive Gladys' recent letter advising of Milam's home coming, and would have replied sooner but for the fact that Louise's mother passed away last Thursday afternoon after a prolonged illness which took up most of Louise's time and quite a bit of mine, in addition to being unusually busy at the office.

Naturally we are very anxious to see you again and hope you will find it possible to come to Charleston in the near future. For the next two weeks I will have to lead a strictly Christian life because of the many details incidental to the winding up of our annual company affairs. However, any time after the first week in January I will have more leisure to entertain you should you come.

As previously stated you have a standing invitation to stay with us when you do come.

Looking forward with pleasure to seeing you, and with the compliments of the season in which Louise joins me, I am

Sincerely,



ERNEST HOWELL,
PRESIDENT AND GEN. MGR.

C. W. DABNEY,
VICE PRES. AND TREAS.

V. B. HARRIS,
SECY

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P. O. BOX 833
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COR. BROAD & SMITH STS.

CHARLESTON, W. VA. March 10, 1943

Mr. Milam Tandy
Mayflower Apartment Hotel
425 W. Ormsby Avenue
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Milam:

Louise and I were both very much pleased to receive your letter and, as a matter of fact, we had been wondering if you had forgotten us.

It is too bad that you have had so much trouble with cold and bronchial trouble since your return, and I am not surprised as I can easily imagine the extremely high Liberian humidity and heat being very unkind to one's breathing apparatus. However, your trouble will probably pass away after you have been here a while longer.

Louise was very much disappointed on the outcome of the leopard skin deal but I don't think you should censure yourself too severely because I can understand how the war would create manifold complications in forwarding goods from Liberia to this country. As you and I were partners on the deal, I must insist on assuming my share of the loss; there is no reason in the world why you should have to shoulder the whole thing, and I wish you would let me know how much I owe you.

I suppose you are not too eager to get back in harness, but if you are still interested in a commission, I am wondering if you have considered applying to the Navy. I understand that their physical requirements are not as exacting as those of the Army, and by comparing reports from friends of mine already in the two branches of the service, I have reached the conclusion that the Navy is not as hard a taskmaster either. I am enclosing some information which reached me this morning from the local Naval Officer of the Procurement Office, from which you will note that they are especially interested in applications from technically trained men. I wish to heaven I could get away from the Capital City Supply Company and get into the service myself as I can tell you that there are many headaches in doing business under present conditions, even though we are making some money out of it.

Louise and I would like very much to come down to see you and Gladys, and I am wondering how it might suit for us to drive down some Friday afternoon and stay over until Sunday afternoon. I rather imagine that with all the construction work in and around Louisville hotel accommodations are pretty scarce, but if you think you could find a place for us to bunk, we might make the trip sometime soon, with the understanding that you would play a return engagement here a little later on.

Sincerely,

Bill