

July 6th, 1943

Dear Pres. and Sis. Clay;

We did so appreciate your prompt reply to our letter. We in turn answer promptly.

Your letter was read very carefully by each of us and very much appreciated. A good part of the letter we are typing and placing in our family I. P. Book. Whenever you have any choice bits like you gave us we would like very much to get them.

Please accept our belated wishes on your 15th Wedding Anniversary. I do remember well Elder Johnson and I having dinner with you on your tenth wedding anniversary. I resolved and hoped then that some day I could achieve the happiness and success that you two had. Perhaps now I have the beginning of something like it. And say your wish ~~that~~ for us to be "as completely and insanely happy as we are" is much appreciated. I could shoot ~~fre~~ for nothing higher.

I have known Afton for two years but didn't start taking her out until a year ago next month. While I was in Hutchinson on my leave I was bent on getting married---as I have been for five years---and then had the number cut down to three. Of the three I felt the warmest buzz with Afton and so went to work. She has been the only girl whom I ever felt completely assured to be the one. Also in spite of my purported fickleness she has been the only one I ever told I loved and the only girl who ever wore my Fraternity Pin. She ~~is~~ I feel

sure, is the one I covenanted with in the pre existence. I cannot possibly account for the complete harmony between us and the almost providential-~~manner~~ events that lead me to her--marry her, *otherwise.*

I do wish that both of you could see my wife and talk to her. But I suppose this will have to wait until after the war.

Again thanks so much for your highly prized letter.
And do write soon.

Both of us send our best wishes,

Very Sincerely,

Afton and Paul

Afton & Paul

P.S. Did you mean that Elder Clifford-~~Arpe~~ Merrill to be married. That is a complete surprize to me.

P. S. I am sending a Give- Clive Tenny, a naval air cadet and member of the church, to see you. I met his parents here in San Diego.

*P.S. Afton will send picture
in a week or so.*