

APRIL 8TH, 1943

DEAR AFTON;

I DO APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT LETTERS. I HAVE LIKEWISE TRIED TO SEND MINE OUT PROMPTLY, BUT MAIL SENT FROM HERE TO SALT LAKE WHETHER AIRMAIL OR STRAIGHT MUST TAKE AN INDIRECT ROUTE AND HENCE TAKES LONGER THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT. AND LET ME SAY ANOTHER WORD ABOUT YOUR LETTERS. ALL OF THEM ARE WRITTEN AND DRAWN UP JUST AS I LIKE THEM. BELIEVE THEY ARE ANXIOUSLY AWAITED AND EAGERLY READ. ONLY LAST MONDAY I WAS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF THREE LETTERS IN ONE. THESE CAME AS AN UNEXPECTED BUT WELCOME SURPRISE. EACH LETTER WAS A GEM AND EACH READ MANY TIMES. IN FACT THOSE SAME LETTERS HAVE BECOME QUITE SOILED FROM BEING CARRIED AROUND SO MUCH.

NOW IF YOUR LETTER LAST MONDAY MEANT THAT MUCH TO ME, THE ONE I RECEIVED TO-DAY (DATED TUES. FROM S.L.) IS PRICELESS. THIS ONE OF COURSE IS THE ONE IN ANSWER TO MY LETTER ASKING YOU TO WRITE A CANDID LETTER ABOUT YOURSELF---WHICH YOU DID. AND SINCE READING THIS LETTER I'M THINKING I WOULD DO WELL TO CULTIVATE SOME OF YOUR FRANKNESS. POSSIBLY IT IS YOU, NOT I WHO PERMITTED THEIR IMPULSIVENESS TO OVERCOME THEIR BETTER JUDGEMENT. PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME, I AM NOT SCOLDING YOU. IT IS PROBABLY THAT VERY QUALITY COMBINED WITH ~~MY~~ AN ABUNDANCE OF MANY OTHER RICH QUALITIES THAT IS ENDEARING YOU TO ME.

IF YOU WILL NOTE THAT LETTER I WROTE LAST WAS DATED MARCH 30TH AND THEN SENT SEVERAL DAYS LATER. THAT WAS A DELIBERATE DELAY. I FELT THAT AFTER WRITING A LETTER LIKE THAT I SHOULD LET IT "LAY" AS IT WERE, AND GIVE IT SOME PRETTY RATIONAL THOUGHT BEFORE SENDING IT OUT. THIS I DID, AND NEVER ONCE DID I FEEL THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE SENT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL YOU ALL OF MY THOUGHTS, DREAMS AND ETC., ON THIS MATTER IN A LETTER. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE PROSPECT OF SO CALLED LIGHT-HOUSEKEEPING IN SAN DIEGO HAS MATURED AND TAKEN SHAPE VERY RAPIDLY. I AM TRYING, POSSIBLY IN VAIN, TO MAINTAIN A SEMBLANCE OF RATIONALITY ABOUT THE WHOLE MATTER.

FROM THE TIME I FIRST SAW YOU ON THE CAMPUS, I WAS INTERESTED. AS THE OPPORTUNITY CAME I WENT WITH YOU. PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY AS I BECAME MORE DISCRIMINATING AND AS YOU GAVE ME THE CHANCE. EACH TIME ONLY INCREASED MY INTEREST. HOWEVER IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO GIVE FULL PLAY TO MY INTERESTS AND EMOTIONS BECAUSE THERE WAS ANOTHER MATTER THAT HAD BEEN HANGING FIRE FOR OVER A YEAR. DURING MY LEAVE I LEARNED TO MY COMPLETE SATISFACTION THAT ANY OTHER POSSIBLE INTERESTS WERE MERELY MISTAKEN WHIMS AND FANCIES. AND WITH RESPECT TO THESE MATTERS I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED HAVE BEEN HURT. IT IS JUST THAT THE TRUE LIGHT AND PERSPECTIVE WAS MADE KNOWN TO US. FREED FROM THIS I FOUND MY INTEREST IN YOU GROWING. IN FACT IT SEEMED



TO DEVELOP ALL MOST ADOVER NIGHT. FRANKLY IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO GIVE YOU MY PIN THAT NIGHT. BUT I HAD VISIONS OF NOT SEEING YOU AND POSSIBLY LOSING YOU AND DECIDED THEN I WANTED SOME CLAIM ON YOU. AND SINCE COMING TO SAN DIEGO I FIND MY INTEREST BECOMING MORE INTENSE AND MY CONCERN MORE KEEN. IN FACT AT THIS POINT IT WOULD BE MERELY A MATTER OF FOLLOWING MY PRESENT INCLINATIONS, AND I'M AFRAID I WOULD SEND FOR YOU AT ONCE. BUT YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THIS WOULD NOT BE A WISE MOVE. SO FOR PROTECTION OF BOTH OF OUR INTERESTS LET US MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HANDLE THIS LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR WITH AS MUCH WISDOM AND JUDGEMENT THAT WE CAN MUSTER.

YOU SAY IN YOUR LAST LETTER THAT YOU WERE AFRAID THAT UPON READING YOUR LETTER I WOULD BE MORE MIXED UP THAN EVER. ON THE CONTRARY YOUR LETTER HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO MAKE SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS. IN THE FIRST PLACE I WILL NOT ASK FOR ANY DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT UNTIL AFTER I SEE YOU. IN THE MEANTIME I SHALL MAKE EVERY PREPARATION TO RECIEVE YOU WHEN YOU COME JULY, AND CONTINUE TO SPEND MY EVENINGS WITH MY RECORDS AND CHAPLAIN BOUD. INCIDENTALLY YOU WILL LIKE LT. BOUD VERY MUCH. HE IS NOT MUCH OLDER THAN I AM AND IS BEGINNING TO ENTERTAIN THOUGHTS OF MARRIAGE HIMSELF. TOGETHER NEXT JULY WE CAN GO OVER THIS BUSINESS OF LIGHT HOUSE KEEPING. THERE WILL OF COURSE BE MANY FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHICH JUST CAN'T BE HANDLED IN A LETTER.

IN THE MEANTIME LET ME GO ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT A GIRL IN SALT LAKE, NAMELY WARDEN HARRIS'S DAUGHTER, HAS GIVEN RISE TO MORE HONEST AND WARM AFFECTION IN THIS OLD CALLOUSED HEART OF MINE THAN ANY DAUGHTER OF EVE HAS YET.

THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS TIMES THAT I HAVE WISHED YOU WERE HERE. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS ONE CAN DO HERE-- WITHIN HIS GIRL OR WIFE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN TO SAN DIEGO OR NOT, BUT I SHALL ASSUME NOT AND TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT IT.

NORMALLY--THAT IS IN PEACETIME--THE POPULATION OF SAN DIEGO IS ABOUT THAT OF SALT LAKE. IT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN KNOWN AS A WEALTHY PEOPLES-BEEHIVE HAVEN AND RETREAT. LOCATED AS IT IS JUST OFF THE OCEAN FRONT AND FAR ENOUGH SOUTH TO ASSURE YOU OF A PERPETUALLY WARM SEASON IT MAKES AN IDEAL ENTERTAINMENT AND RESORT TOWN. HOWEVER SINCE THE WAR THE POPULATION HAS TRIPLED, NOT TO MENTION THE ADVENT OF SOME 85,000 SERVICE MEN. THIS TREMENDOUS INFUX OF PEOPLE WITH SCARCELY THE FACILITIES TO HANDLE THEM ALL HAS IN MANY RESPECTS MADE IT A VERITABLE BEDLAM OF CONFUSION AND PANDEMONIUM. YOU WILL BE ASTOUNDED AT THE NUMBER OF SERVICE MEN--THE GREATER NUMBER OF WHICH ARE NAVY AND MARINES. THERE IS A NAVY HOSPITAL THAT HOUSES LARGELY MEN INJURED FROM BATTLE ZONES. AT PRESENT THERE ARE SOME FOUR THOUSAND MEN IN THERE. I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND A GOOD MANY OF THEM L.D.S. MEN.

LAST SAT. NITE I ATTENDED A CONCERT GIVEN BY THE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PAUL WHITEMAN. THE GUEST ARTISTS AND SINGERS WERE BING CROSBY AND DIANA SHORE. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT WAS WONDERFUL. YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED IT I AM SURE. F



I BELIEVE I HAD BETTER STOP THIS PRATTLE. I AM STILL MIGHTY SLOW ON THE TYPEWRITER AND ALREADY I HAVE SPENT NEARLY HALF OF MY SHIFT WRITING THIS LETTER. I DO HOPE IT MAKES SOME SENSE TO YOU. JUST REMEMBER YOUR GUY IN SAN DIEGO IS MIGHTY PROUD OF HIS GIRL IN SAL LAKE AND IS GOING TO MARK TIME UNTIL SHE COMES TO SAN DIEGO.

AFFECTIONATELY,

*Paul*

*P.S. I am sending this air mail & special delivery so you will get it by saturday.*

P.S. I WAS JUST CALLED INTO THE OFFICE AND TOLD I WOULD BE GOING OUT TO SEA FOR TWO WEEKS COMMENCING THE 15TH. THIS HAS COME AS QUITE A SURPRISE. I AM QUITE SURE IT WILL BE ONLY A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT. THE VESSEL I AM GOING IS ONE OF THE FINEST AND LARGEST ON THE BASE. GEE AFTER THESE MANY WEEKS I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT. I'M AFRAID IT WILL MEAN THAT WHILE I AM OUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO WRITE YOU. HOWEVER I WILL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT IN MY NEXT LETTER.