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March 27, 1944

Dearest Folks,

It is an unusually warm day here in the bay area. Spring is very much in the air. As I walked from the train stop to the boarding house there were many signs of spring. All along the edge of the lake there were fruit trees in blossom. Also the grass was filled with small daisies. Remember the ones in Uncle Harry & Aunt Ann's backyard. Several times while walking along a warm gust of wind would strike my face. All in all it was a day that made me very much thankful to be alive.

Starting today I am attending the Coast Guard Drivers school. The course lasts 1 week (5 days) and when I have completed it I shall receive a chauffeur's license. The reason I am going is because I must have it before I am equally able to drive the trucks at Yerba Buena. From what my impression today was I shall have a week of comparative vacation. Our schedule

today ran some what like this 0800 till 1100 study (?) the California state drivers book - 1100 till 1330 noon show. ~~at~~ at the Coast Guard receiving barracks <sup>in San Francisco where the school is</sup> - very good. From 13:30 till 1400 we took drivers tests and eye tests at the Board of highways. Then I got the rest of the day off, so I went down and signed up to give another pint of blood. The school is in San Francisco and the class was about 15 men. Most of them from ex-

reach patrol stations. So <sup>IT</sup> as you see this week looks as if it shall be somewhat of a vacation. I wish that either all or part of the family were here to enjoy it with me. By it I mean this week. I certainly wish I could see some of you again. It seems as if I have been away much longer than only 7 months.

I received a letter from Bob and also one from Gene last week. It was certainly fine to hear from them. I wrote both of them a letter last week also. They should get them by now. I am wondering how Bob is liking the east coast. Much better than Gene or I, I hope. I also received a invitation to attend Shirley Days wedding in Tacoma. I am afraid I cannot attend altho she said she wished I could be there. Ha. My first wedding invitation and it was from one of my ex-ceremonies. Did you get one also Ruth. I imagine you did.

I spent last week working on the under water sound equipment of a 78 footer. I also did some work on the radar of one of the larger cutters. I will be glad when we can get together and share some of our experiences with each other.

The reason why I did not write this yesterday was because I had the duty and I had to stand it at Y.B. I got off at 6:00 and just made it into town in time to go to church. I attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. here in Oakland. It was really a inspiring service. Before the evening service they

III

had an <sup>half</sup> hour of organ music and also a girl song. It was really restful and seemed to lift the haze of the day away. There were only about 40 there for the evening service. Quite a few for the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary day. I certainly do miss the Sunday evenings at Colorado Springs, the glee club, Dr. Vessy and above all Dad's sermons. I remember how Audrey used to write about her missing the services so much. I certainly do agree with everything that she used to say. It seems that since I have been in I always find my self going away from church still looking for something that I did not find.

Starting next month I am going to have \$20 sent home in allotments I ~~want~~ want \$5 to go to the church and \$15 in a savings account. Just like the way Bob is doing it. Then if there is a chance that Mother can come out here and Dad also then I can help finance it. I have not spoken much about a leave for I have know little about it myself. I have put in for one but \$ nothing has come of it. One of the fellas who come out from D.C. with me got a leave last week, but only after crying on every one's shoulder. They certainly are pined at him and already his orders have been changed so that as soon as he comes back he shall be sent to sea on a freighter. So I think that it will be best to sit tight and wait for my turn to come around. Which shall be in the not to distant future I hope.

I didn't realize until I had just finished the last page that I have not used the backs of these sheets. you are wasting paper Jim.

I did not get Dad's film to him last week but shall try and mail it this week. I have it here and all I need is to wrap and send it.

I hear from Janice quite regularly and she writes of seeing each of you at church and also other places. It is strange but all the time that I have been in the service I have not had a date with any girls. I guess that the uniform has not gotten control of me as it has with some of the other fellows. I have little time to write let alone to take out a bunch of uniform girls that run around the city of Oakland. And probably every other service town.

I have taken up enough of your time now so I must quit. I leave you in God's care and know that he watches over each of us continuously.

Lots of love.

Jim.