

May 24, 1940

Dear Etta:-

I was glad to get your two letters this morning. One begun a month ago on the occasion of Mamma's birthday and the other written at Rice Lake. It seemed good to hear from you and to judge by the letter you must be improving in health. That is what all of us want, is to see you well and happy.

We have been worried about you, for your condition has been serious enough to warrant the most careful obedience to Doctors orders, and taking trips out in the cold might cost you your life. There are lots of things that we can laugh off, and many others that are far too serious to be dealt with in that manner.

Dolph, who had never been sick, thought that he could fight it out and remain on the job, in spite of terrific headaches, and great fatigue, but the doctor finally put him in bed and kept him there for a month. He has been ~~rather~~ somewhat slower than we had hoped in making a recovery, and is inclined to put in more time at the office than he should, but he is constantly improving and I fully believe will have no permanent impairment of his health and strength.

Marie is feeling miserable now from having an impacted wisdom tooth removed. It had to be dug out and her face is quite swollen. She had been suffering from a roaring in her head and believed that the impacted tooth might be the cause. She is somewhat better this morning, and will probably improve rapidly from now on.

We watch the war news carefully. On the whole it has not looked encouraging, altho the work of the allies as ~~reported~~ reported this morning, looks much better. If the pincers will work and the German drive out in two, Hitler will have met with his first serious reverse. He is putting everything he has into the attack and should it fail, it may mean a different ending to the war.

Mussolini has lost his leadership and stands by waiting for the moment when he can inject himself into the conflict to some advantage. If the allies are to win I hope Mussolini will get in on the side of Hitler, so he can take his trimming along with the Fuehrer. Otherwise the allies may have to grant some concessions to him, to which he is not entitled.

We are sound proofing our office, which will cut the noise down 75%. We can already see a great difference, altho the work lacks a good deal of being complete. Bertie expects to have her leg out of the cast Monday. It will be a great relief for her. Everything looks beautiful and you should count on making a visit here. I learned yesterday that one of the Spencer twins, Mary, had died. The girls have had a hard row for many years. They have operated a stock farm and have been up against it. Their property in Lawrence has run down and no longer can attract good tenants. Such is life, and the girls have done their best.

I hope your life will be happy with Julia. Please forever put out of your life all ideas of returning to California, and spend the money left you by our brother for the purpose for which he gave it. It was to relieve you of the responsibility of having to make your own living. No fortunes are now being made, and few are even getting ahead. Lots of love and best wishes.

*Colleen*