

October 28th
1942

Dear Sisters:

I have been thinking today and previously of the terrific strain under which our little mamma suffered in that month of October long ago when papa left us. Papa died on the 29th, but as I recall, he had been quite low for a day or two although he conversed with us within a very few minutes of his passing.

Darling little mother with her five children was almost worse than alone as far as advice and help from others. What she accomplished seemed impossible and I marvel at her courage. It soon will have been twenty-one years since she left us, but I am sure she remains very much alive in the minds of each of us. I should be very happy if I felt that I were a tenth part as worthy as our wonderful little mother. As we are all much older than mamma was at that time, we cannot look forward to going thru a similar experience, for which we may be well thankful and yet probably if we had to do it, we would try our best to live as she lived and to keep the faith as she kept it.

We had a nice letter from Grayce a couple of days ago and a good letter from Etoile not long ago. It has been a little longer since we have heard from Julia and it is possible that I owe her a letter.

I mailed today nine Christmas greetings which Gertrude had made into personal letters to boys in the service. I have not seen her since I read the letter, but I shall certainly tell her how fine I think they were.

This afternoon the Baptist ladies are giving a tea at the church, and Marie had charge of the decorations which I understand are beautiful. Gertie is there at this time and I shall pick her up in an hour or more later.

We are expecting Dorothea and the boys here Saturday and hope they will spend a full week with us. We are also hoping that Janet and family can come down while they are here so that the family can all be together. The shortage of tires and gasoline will tend to recreate the old barriers which kept families apart for the years before there were roads, train service, or automobiles. In those early days, people fifty or one hundred miles apart perhaps never visited during their lifetime.

We are doing what we can and yet it seems that our efforts are so small in comparison with that of the boys who are representing us in the four corners of the earth.

Dolph's boys are coming along fine and thru their earnings and savings have each acquired \$75.00 worth of bonds.

Pat came in unexpectedly today having been away for a week or more looking after his interests at Tulsa. Owen or Pat Jr. is expected back in a few days and will probably spend ten days here with his mother and sisters before going into the service. Eileen and Marilyn are both busy girls, one in the University and the other in Junior High. We feel that we have been extremely fortunate in our grandchildren as well as in our children.