

January 1, 1944

Dr. J. Russel Wickey
Belleville, Illinois

Dear Russel:

We received your nice Christmas gifts and your letter in due season and I should have written you sooner. Your letter indicated to me that you were a little down in the mouth at the time, and if that is the case, why don't you jump the train and come out and spend a week or as much time as you can spare with us here in Lawrence. I believe it would do us both good.

I remarked to a friend the other day that I sometimes felt disgusted because I never had practiced swearing, and it seemed to me that all of the oaths that had been uttered by mankind since the founding of the world, would be inadequate to entirely express our opinion of men who do not have character enough to govern themselves, do not have strength enough to meet their adversaries, and yet seek to dominate the entire world. Nevertheless, old boy, we have gone thru some troublesome times, and we are still alive and kicking with accent on the kicking.

When you consider that you were left fatherless at such an early age and had to depend entirely upon your own efforts, and now you are a daddy and a granddaddy and have always maintained a respected and active place in your community, I think you have done real well. On top of that I am still using the tooth brush in which you put my name on the handle, and it is keeping my grinders in very good shape.

I wish we could see more of each other because neither of us have very many close relatives. Give me once more the name and address of your half-sister which I do not have clearly in mind, although Gertie may have it on the address book.

Give my love to Mimi, Julia, Grace and their families when you write them providing they are not with you now.

I find a great undercurrent of dissatisfaction with things as they are, and I think this is especially true of the young men in our military service who see the great inequality between what they