

May 15, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. Don Freeman
Route 3--Tree Tops
Gull Lake
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Grayce and Don:

Your letter came while I was spending the weekend in Tulsa with Blanche and family. Gertrude went down Saturday a week ago and had nearly ten days with them. They were full of entertainment of a not too vigorous type, and I know she thoroughly enjoyed her visit. They are mighty good entertainers. They have a beautiful home and it is nicely kept.

I wish that you could secure competent help, but I doubt if it can be done until things loosen up a bit. As long as girls can make \$40 or \$50 a week in war plants no matter how dirty the work nor how difficult it is to go and come, they seem to prefer it rather than to do housework. Our maid, who was with us, I think about two weeks, floated out while Gertrude was downtown just before she left for Tulsa. That afternoon she found that she had gone bag and baggage. She was little, 54 years old, had broken her leg some years before, was rather lame, and was positively the worst dishwasher I have ever seen. She could take a relatively clean dish and after washing it, you wouldn't pick it out of a gutter. Where she could find all the dirt that she spread on the dishes and glasses, I don't know. We could not and would not have kept her, but Gertrude was looking around hoping to find something better. Eula, who was with us more than a year, is spending the summer with her parents because both her father and mother are in poor health, and it is up to the girls to look after the place, raise garden, etc. I know she would like to come back next fall if conditions at her home permit. Our job is a little difficult to get filled the same as yours. We are out so far, about a quarter of a mile or more from the bus line, and it probably gets a little lonely for a housekeeper.

As the head of the family, I hardly feel that it is incumbent upon me to try to make up for the company of young men which the girls miss. Don may look at it from a different standpoint.

I noticed last night that more tires were to be released to civilians, but whether there will be enough gas and tires to make any difference this summer, I think will be very doubtful.