

December 13th,  
1944

Col. Karl F. Baldwin  
APO 924 c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

My dear Colonel:

I have in my hands your Christmas greeting, and in my heart I feel as if I had been rather negligent in my correspondence, so here goes to tell you whatever I can that may be of some interest to you.

✓ Sgt. Kollender is now out of the service and in citizen's clothes. He says that in order to take a part in war work, he has taken a job at the Sunflower Ordnance Works. He felt uncomfortable continuing in his work on the "hill" when what he had to do was seemingly unimportant. He looks well even in his citizen's clothes.

Our good friend, Mrs. Aszman, is now at home again after having been in the hospital for several weeks. Dr. Sudler had operated for a varicose vein that was troubling her, and unfortunately it resulted in phlebitis, often called milkleg, and as a matter of fact, it results from a blood clot. Evidently the clot has been absorbed so that she is probably out of danger, but is not quite her vigorous self. She has had an added trouble in recent months in the care of her aged mother who is stronger physically than she is mentally, and therefore has to have much care. In the heavy duties which fall on the wife of a minister, it was impossible to longer care for her, and so I think they have her in a home for aged people.

We had the same problem when Mrs. Simons' mother came to us nearly ten years ago, but fortunately we were able to solve it by building an apartment on the first floor for her, and hired a very fine lady of our acquaintance to be her personal companion.

I believe that Mrs. Simons and I have been blessed in being able to keep fit mentally. Although Mrs. Simons has had several accidents, her general health is good. Life is worth living as long as you are mentally and physically fit, and it is hard to tell which is worse--to break mentally while the body is reasonably strong or to break physically while mind is still acute. I have been interested in an obituary of one of my old Revolutionary War ancestors who died at the age of 102, and in which it said he was at least partly self-supporting at the age of 100.

We were very sorry over the results of our national election, but my prayers had been that God should make the decision and do that which was best for our nation. While that decision was not satisfactory to me, I still hope for the best, and I feel there has been some improvement in sidetracking Wallace and revamping our Department of State, and the renewed activity of Byrnes in his department.

While results look good on the various fronts, they are costly in men and in supplies, and there must be no letup at home, and as far as Lawrence is concerned, there has been no letup. We were particularly