

March 15-1948

Dear Son: Just finished reading your letter and appreciate so much your explanation and reasons for your stay in France. You have no idea how I fight to see and realize all that you say and ~~to~~<sup>often</sup> many times I say to myself "Oh ye of little faith!"

No doubt I am falling in line with the masses who think a degree is absolutely necessary - However, I have just finished reading "The Fountainhead" which is a story of architects and their ups and downs - The main characters were two men who attended college together - one graduated from architectural school with honors and the second was expelled from the same school because he did not hold with the teachings of the school. The first was accepted immediately in a leading architectural firm of New York and rose to his dreamed of position of note - the second met with every conceivable discouragement - However his unwillingness to deviate from his strong convictions concerning designing and construction gave him the place of distinction and success in the end and the first man went down to an ignoble end, his lifelong secret out that he had no original thoughts <sup>or</sup> capabilities and that his success had not been his but that of others who had done the actual work and he had had the power to use as his own -

to see and be with all of you at times blinds me to true conditions - It will certainly be more satisfying to Dad and I to know you are all under one roof at least. How what happened to the suburb you had been so sure you could move to that the French African soldier told you about and Cecile gave such a nice dinner in honor of? I thought you had even been told by the Mayor of the town that you were to be welcomed with open arms etc - And nothing more has been said - what happened - Was it only talk on the part of the soldier? Surely hope you can find something soon so you will be with your family and not have the probability of separation if strikes or something were to stop transportation -

Now down to the political situation again - Whether we are being fed propoganda for the purpose of getting the Marshall plan approved or whether we are being told truly what is happening one thing sure we are being told many unpleasant things - Everyone seems to be agreed that Russia does not want war and is not ready for it - On the other hand from all recent happenings our Government is getting organized to set up war preparations, even down to re-activating draft Boards all over the country. They are all ready to go into action within twenty four hours time - The heads of the Army

Navy and Air Forces were in guarded secret sessions last week formulating plans on just which body would do what etc. - Every newspaper, magazine, radio newscast and commentator has some disturbing news and speculations as to coming events. In view of these facts do you wonder that we worry over the safety of your being in a foreign country? Over here there seems to be no doubt in the minds of news men but that Italy will go Communist at election April 15 or 19 which ever it is and that France and the Scandinavian countries will soon be Communist. The papers last week reported that people were trying to get out of Italy as fast as they can now. I surely wish there was some way to know and be sure of the true state of affairs.

Last week you received from La. Engineering Society a list of names of applicants for membership. The list and your vote was to be in the hands of the committee by March 31 and the notation that every member is expected to vote. I did not think you could receive the list and return it within the required time. It came here Saturday March 13. You might but was afraid to take a chance on it so have taken it upon myself to return it with your name on the envelope and a yes vote for all on the list. If a negative vote against anyone is cast you have to write your reasons for black balling that candidate.

Glad your packages went through alright - More on the way -  
P. S. Millard P. Snyder of Shreveport is a candidate for membership - you know him don't you? He is the only one from Shreveport.  
Love  
Mather -

(3)

and I beginning to think he is not coming. If he isn't here by noon I am going to town and get materials and do it myself. The ceiling is the only thing I am afraid of. So if you don't hear from me for a week or two you will know I am too sore to move - Ha -

Margaret and Bobby are coming up for Easter - I am anxious to get that bed room cleaned up before they come. You know with all of the hem-toring that Hens and Bobby did around here the front bed room remained slighted. Really would prefer new paper as the perm-tone cracks paper badly. It is bad to have papering done - so much mess to it so decided to settle for perm-tone this time - It at least will be clean -

Cecile you know how I have tried to make rolls from time to time and always gave up in defeat - Well I have found a receipt that is very easy and makes good rolls - It only takes two cups of flour too and I like that - Most receipts are so big of course you can always cut it down but some way I never met with success -

study French in the class room. She spoke as if they might even send packages from time to time. You know that might be a way you can help little Andree and others like her and they ~~would~~ <sup>might</sup> not hesitate to accept gifts from America.

Cecile I truly am going to try and behave myself. If all we hear is just propoganda to put the Marshall Plan over I hope it is soon over and we can be given some more peaceful things to think about. I am beginning to feel that the commentators are the curse of our nation - They surely keep us in a state of anxiety and wondering as to future happening.

You should see the front bed room this morning. I have every thing but the bed moved out and am expecting a man to come and Ken-tone it - He did some work for a friend of mine and she sent him to me, knowing I was trying to locate some one. He came just at supper time last night and gave his price with materials included - Dad began asking him how much he thought it would take and he gave an estimate that was a good bit less than Dad knew it would take - Dad knows because he has done the other rooms. Well it is after tea and he has not come

Mrs. Clark is to be our Southern Literary Club president next year and she has asked me to be year Book chairman. It is a big job but one I rather look forward to as it requires study - I am casting about now for suggested program material - Of course I will have a committee and they all have ideas and suggestions - My mind is now sort of turning to Brazil and the Amazon. It has the United Nations interested and they plan a vast "Treasure Hunt" hoping to unlock the secrets and wealth of a lost world in an effort to help man in his struggle against sickness, hunger, poverty and war. It strikes me that many interesting things will come out of their research and that we in turn will follow along the educational frontiers as they are unfolded. However we may be so limited on reference material that we cannot make an entire years program on the subject.

Just received a letter from Sis - she still suffers a great deal - I am wondering if she will ever get over this arthritis - she says the Doctor is giving her vitamin shots -

Well I have come to the end of my page and run out of anything more to write so will close -

Cecile, even though I am <sup>an</sup> insufferable old mother in law, always remember that I love you and your children very, very much and that I miss you very much.

Love

'MOM'

March 16 - 1948

Dear Ceile: Your letter was wonderful and we have read and re-read it many times.

Last Saturday I called Marie Therese to come over as I knew she would enjoy your letter - she was not feeling well and had been in bed all day so I went over to see her. I read your letter to her and we had so much fun talking about the different characters in your story and deciding just which ones we liked and which we disliked. We both decided the party was quite nice and believe the guests really were sincere in saying they enjoyed. You see they have nothing similar with which to compare events as you do and, being a rare happening for them, it must have been a real occasion. Our hearts go out to little Andree - to bad she has to suffer for a parents short comings -

Ceile did you ever contact the teacher and ask if she would be interested in having her pupils exchange greetings with the pupils of Pleasant Hall school here in Shreveport? Mrs. Williams, the Principal of Pleasant Hall was anxious for her pupils to have that contact as they