

[Oak Ridge, TN, 1944?]

8 November

(And Roosevelt was elected
without my vote)

My dear Pogue:

I shall not apologize for not writing - there is really
no excuse - just haven't written anybody for months.

Life goes on very rapidly in this little burg but yet
I don't feel that anything is accomplished - at least
individually. But we'll just wait and see.

To bring you up to date on activities which concern me -
you know Dew Drop is down here with us now, teaching
phys ed of course. She is in the same dorm, and at last
Martha and I are rooming together. It is too happy a
situation since she has changed jobs and works shifts,
but we make out. She doesn't wake me coming in at 1 AM
and I don't wake her leaving at 7 and we can't get single
rooms where we want them, so we put up with inconveniences.

You know of course that Sitter (Martha Lewis) Pride of
Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky, was my roommate before Mart.
She left the 16th of August, went to Qunatico and married
Charlie Pryor. She is now teaching at home and I think
he is still in California. Of course, I think she was
crazy not to stay with him as long as possible, but then
he's her husband. She was certainly fun to have around
and all the gals miss her.

The roommate I had before her married the 1st of July,
then Sitter moved in and married in 6 weeks, then Mart
took her place. Nothing has been announced about Miss
Martha yet but she is shopping constantly and I'll pro-
bably see another wedding before Christmas. Since Charlie
expects orders at any time, they can't make any definite
plans so are not telling it - just hoping that everything
will work out.

You know of course, what I intend to do when Mart does marry -
if she does so soon - is to move into the lucky bed and

see what happens to me. I'll put the jinx on it of course, but shall give it a try.

Mart and Dew Drop went home last week and - Friday nite till Sunday morning. Of course. I can't get time off very easily and I'm not such a mama's baby and just wouldn't make that trip for that length of time. They saw the ball game - Miami I think it was and Murray won. Johnny Underwood was the only one on the team they knew. They're using Marines and sailors this year and have a new crowd every six weeks, which makes for a good team of course.

My past few years (maybe all of them) caught up with me - ill from the 5th of September till -- the doctor, after two days examination in the hospital, said my body was in good condition, but my mind had pooped out - nervous exhaustion. I stayed around the dorm waiting for them to decide what for me to do for about two weeks and he finally told me to get away for a time - till I actually felt good. So. I went to Murray for the last part of September. Was good to be there, but it is so entirely different than when we left, I didn't really enjoy it.

Jane Shultz is the only girl in town with whom we went around. Tennie and Fay are still there and you know I enjoyed seeing both of them, being very fond admirers, but when I'm around school I miss Suzanne, Charlie and Sara from Smiths office - the place just isn't the same.

Saw Dr. Wolfson and he had lost weight and he didn't know me which didn't make me feel any better. Nadine Overall didn't know me either. They said it was because my hair was piled on top of my head - I told them they were getting old and their memory bad. Had a lovely visit with Etta Beale, who has left since, and Grace Wyatt whom I think is adorable. Talked a great while with Pop Doble and he is a sad sight. The arthritis has gotten worse - his face is lined and drawn, he wears his specs all the time, walks with a cane and really looks more than his age. It simply hurt me to look at him. Mary Ed Hall showed me over the new building and it is a honey if the air conditioning will only work. Emily Wilson left you know so Bobby Mitchell is to help Mary Ed. She is another person I enjoy very much. Mrs. Hester of course is just the same - didn't get to see good ole Alice Keys.

Wrather is still the same bouncing boy and Richmond is still shaking hands. (Am I a cynic?) Didn't get to see the Lowrvs.

Guess you heard what happened in the Music Department. Think it good that they did, but hate to have the department go down, since it has always been one of my favorites. Good ole Cutch is just the same - John Miller and Stewart still as sweet as ever. Of course Gene and Ruth still have the best eating spot in town - even steaks, but I was so well fed at home I didn't get over for one.

Saw Lochie one afternoon. She spends most of her time downtown at the Ledger office it seems - is still trying to do all the work for the A Assn. without too much help. Wish I were there to help her, but afraid I'd be terribly dissatisfied there now.

We have more Murray people here now - Hugh Finley lives just around the corner from Joe Torrence. See Joe occasionally. See Paul Johnston right often. Dot and the baby came down so they have a house here too. And guess who else is here - one of the Spicelands. I must write Suzanne - you know when they came into the office, we both ducked and made Mrs. H. talk to them - we disliked the entire family and you know how prolific they were. I have never bothered to speak to this one here - he serves coffee in the cafeteria where I eat and I'm sure he remembers me from the way he stares, but I just ignore him. One of the Odle girls from Camden is here too, but you know I never cared for them so merely speak when I have to - fortunately she doesn't live in our dorm. Frances Henson came down late this fall to teach - lives just across the way, but she is so busy finding someone to date she doesn't bother us too much. When she was in school I always thought she was a rather attractive person but she is such a dyed-in-the-wool school teacher now I don't especially care for her.

Do you remember Gabbard who came down in the summer of '41 to teach the Home Ec gals chemistry and flunked so many of them? Well, he is on the staff in this office. Has in the meantime gotten his Ph D from Northwestern - with one of the outstanding men of the times in his particular field. I didn't know him there, but he seems like a nice fellow.

Don't hear from very many of the old Murray men now. Rex, so far as I know, is still in England. He finished his missions late in March and couldn't come home till after D day. then they made him training officer. In August they offered him a return trip but he didn't like the provisions, so just stayed. Mail from that section is evidently being held up - the last I heard from him was the first of October at which time he couldn't make up his mind whether to stay there for a long time or come on home and risk going to the Pacific.

All my friends in the 5th and 24th Evac Hospitals are right along the front lines now and I haven't heard from any of them since the first of October. Really worries me, but guess I'll have to learn patience in my old age.

Had a letter not too long ago from Tom Stevenson - still in Miami Beach but having to work a little more these days. Wallace Rogers is still in Miami - Ruth is working there and they're having much fun.

You know Harold McDaniel got his neck broken sometime during the summer - first I knew about it was the article in the college news, so I wrote him. He wrote immediately saying his neck was allright, but they thought his back was broken too and if so he would be in the hospital at Jacksonville another month or so, but if not, he would have a month's rest at home, then go back into the air. Haven't heard from him since. I've written but you know Mac. At that time, Dyke was just before receiving his wings and Flem was overseas. Billy Shelton was in Florida in the middle of his training.

Saw Billy Silverblatt while home. He was on furlough from U of Ark - will be finished with Med school next spring. He is married you know, and Fav told him he was the last one she would suspect of being married - that he just wasn't big enough. He asked if she thought he were big enough to be a papa - she said no, and he said that you couldn't be a doctor without being a father so he was to be in the near future. These children!

Pogue I must tell you that I enjoyed your letter very much, as well as the ones Lochie puts in her paper. We just all gather in my room - all the Murrayites and a few extras and read the things aloud - they're really good youknow. Isn't it a shame that I won't be studying history in the future; might learn a little if it were written so well.

Take care of yourself Pogue and have all the fun you can - certainly envy you such an assignment. I would be there with the Red Cross but the parents weren't agreeable so I thought I'd do the next best thing. Do write when you have time - know you must be working rather hard these days.

Must get some lunch - work to do too - same old grind, you know how it is I'm sure.

As ever,

Bettie
[Hays]