

2413 Seenie Drive
Austin, Texas
Saturday, 4:40 p.m., Apr. 3

Dearest:

First I'll warm up on a word or two about folks. Today I had lunch with Betty, Bob, and Gene...told Bob the status of his affairs as I last knew it and he was mighty pleased. Said several of his friends hereabouts had told him the FBI had been to see them about him and he felt confident what they said would help, except he'd heard they'd been to see Coke and he was a little leary about what Coke might choose to say about him.

Gordon and Ruth asked Jesse, Louise, and me to ~~lunch~~ dinner tonight, but the most awful thing happened this noon --Gordon's house caught fire in the upper story, burned up all their winter clothes and blankets, blackened and charred the floors, ceilings, and walls, water-stained much of the downstairs. There were six fire-trucks here. I expect they'll let me take them out to dinner instead.

Mr. King asked me to a party for some legislators last night but I was already going to Senator's and when he said he would ask me again and often I accepted for future times. I also saw Benge this morning--he was beaming and said he wanted to talk to me leisurely and at length soon. Paul Bolton called me and asked me to dinner tomorrow.

But the best of all was seeing dear old Buck Hood this morning, replete with red-striped breeches and sergeants insignia, looking simply wonderful without forty-five pounds in the middle. He was so warm and friendly and so genuinely anxious to hear all about "the Chief"--it did me much good to see him. He is hear on special detail for a month, something about a "V day" program at the University.

I met the Mayor on the street and he told me a few of the city's woes, groaned some about the administration, said it had not redounded to hurt you yet but would ultimately, said his daughter Joy was to be married to John Shelton's boy Sunday week and invited me to the wedding out at their house--they're having just a small and quiet affair. If it wasn't "reaching" for a pun I'd say "Politics make strange bed-fellows!" The Mayor also said that his daughter-in-law certainly appreciated that nice letter you wrote her when her father died. (!!!)

Today in the coffee shop who should I see but Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Perry and I had a nice and very "old-time" and friendly visit with them and with their daughter Edna Belle's baby, all of which was pleasant and good.

J. Mabel Clark, former commentator on KNOW, now on our station, said her young son, who just graduated from High School, had a letter from you and he and she thought it was simply wonderful of you.

Enough of such trivia and now to business.

1. BROWN BUILDING

About eleven o'clock this morning Dudley Miller called Jesse to report that he had talked to Herman Brown. Third hand, Herman said about this: "Those are the figures, are they? Well, I have to do a little talking and will let you know." Very likely you know all this by now for he may have called John or you. Dudley did not indicate to Jesse what Herman's tone indicated or what his intentions might be, other than to let him know later.

Escoe tells me that the Wilmot estate owns the building we are in; Senator had said the Bartholomew estate.

I shall await your advice before doing anything or calling anyone.

2. TYPEWRITER SITUATION

The station has never owned any type-writers. It has been cheaper to rent than to own because of repairs and service. Used to rent from Remington Rand, then Treasury Department called in all those fairly new model type-writers, were then forced to rent older models from Typewriter Service Co., are now informed by these people that machines we are now using will be called in on May 1, and they have no idea they will be able to supply us with any at all.

We have borrowed one new typewriter from the Austin School of Business but may lose it on thirty minutes notice.

The station requires a minimum of five typewriters: one at the transmitter, two in the script room, one for the stenographer, one for the bookkeeper, Escoe himself runs around and borrows any that are not in use.

Escoe says the Durham Business College will sell him 5 1942 model machines (Royals he thinks they are but not sure) for \$70 each. Say they retail for \$125 new. The owner of Durham Business College says he is good friend of yours and would like to sell them to you, though wouldn't particularly like to sell to anyone else since typewriters are so scarce. Brought these up from his Harlingen branch of school. Escoe says even though these second-hand he understands we must have priority to purchase. I told him I had brought one portable and could get another and we would buy three and just get along on these portables until we are on our feet. He said "Fine...We could get along with portable out at transmitter and one portable plus one good one

in script room? He still stuck to 5 as absolute minimum for station.

I saw Geraldine Sheffield today; she offered to let me use hers, which is now in ~~Waco~~ for indefinite time, but said she might want it when she made up her mind what she was going to do.. Don't think that would do us much good.

Dear, I suggest that you have Mary see if priority is needed to buy second-hand 1942 machines, and if so see about sending us forms or getting mill running, and I tell Mr. Durham we want to buy three of his best ones and arrange to get them before May 1. The Army can and does take over all it needs, Escoe says, and might take these if they knew Durham had them. Think we ought to act on this soon.

3. ASCAP and STANDARD LIBRARY contracts.

Escoe has not signed either contract yet. Says it requires a trip to Dallas and with Rembert's engineer coming down Tuesday and plans being drawn for new studios until far into nights until Thursday night there just wasn't time. He had to advise and discuss on studios. Since that is in temporary abatement, I suggested he go up to Dallas on train Sunday, get the two contracts attended to Monday morning, and come back that afternoon. He is going. He will sign the ASCAP contract, about which you know all. About the Standard, I recommend that he find out what Associated costs and unless it is considerably lower than Standard, go on and sign Standard. If Associated is much lower, he can come back and talk it over with us and we will act later. This one can be signed by mail.

I have studied a bit about Libraries and find out this: (am I boring you, darling? If so, skip.) Standard is by far the most popular library. Of the 50 day-time commercial stations, 19 use Standard, 7 use World, 10 use Lang-Worth, one Standard Radio, 6 Thesaurus (the NBC product--our present library), and 8 Associated. Only 8 stations have more than one library, and nearly all of these have Standard as one of theirs. This percentage seems to hold throughout the 900 odd stations in the US, daytime and night-time.

Escoe says Standard has greater fidelity in its recordings than any other library he has heard, affords a wider range of artists, and sends twice as many new discs each month as Thesaurus did (doesn't know about Associated.) Says also Standard gets out with the new tunes quicker.

I went in and examined our present library, so I know what the physical object looks like, and read the contract. To begin with, Standard send station 2500 musical selections, on 16 inch discs that take 15 minutes or thereabouts to play each side, with about 8 to 12 selections on each disc. There is popular music, Hill-Billy music, classical, waltz, Mexican, religious--the whole works, with a card index. In addition it sends a "bonus" of around 1000 ~~records~~--may be some duplicates. Then each month

it adds to this basic library 100 new selections and 20 hours of program continuity. Thesaurus adds only 50 new selections. The first \$100 is paid on starting date. (I forgot to say the service costs \$100 per month. Thesaurus is the same.) If you sign a two year contract, it costs \$95 a month the second year, or a saving of \$60. I suggest we sign the two year contract, because even if we get a network it seems we need a library (most but not all network stations do have them); and I guess we would go plumb broke for two years. Our present contract is written out for one year.

Incidentally, this Standard contract also has a "notice " clause like the INS, but it says must have two months, not six months, notice before date of expiration date--otherwise will assume that contract is in force for another year.

Of course, all transcriptions are leased, not bought, and may be called in at end of year or end of contract.

Will write you tomorrow such opinions as I have formed of personnel and plans for programs discussed with Escoe. You must be reeling from this avalanche of stuff.

4. Handley Judgment

This almost sounds like good luck--brace yourself. Everett answered Senator's call, said he had heard from Stuart, and others, said they had about decided to pay it off now if they could get it cut down, that Stuart was writing direct to Handley and should hear in a few days. Looney said if he didn't hear further from Stuart Monday he would write him again. I hope to Heavens they do pay it off now.

And so, darling, I will close this tome. Partly, it is not for you alone, but to familiarize myself with the heterogenous jumble of information I have picked up--about libraries, etc.--writing it may make it stick in my mind, like a sort of lesson in school.

All my love, always,