

Jan 24, 1943

Dearest:

How that long letter did rejoice my heart! This long exile from all that is dear and important to me sometimes almost gets me down-- I like to know there is somebody who loves me that I'm coming back to some day.

Since you called me Thursday Mr. Escoe has been monitoring 590 and sending the reports to Andy Ring--or at least I told him to. He reports that the interference on 590 is very low indeed. I also told Harfield to listen on 590 if he could but I believe he has been too busy to do much. I just talked to Farmer and he said he'd been listening to 590 on his own time off and on for months, as well as other frequencies, that he would write a report of what he thought of 590, 980, and a clear channel frequency that is probably verboten--1000--and bring them in to me this afternoon to send to you. He does not sound a bit hopeful on 590--says the interference is almost nil, he never hears the Mexico station, but it would require a very high tower and an enormous job of new condensers on the transmitter. The tower we have could not be raised that high and a new and very expensive one would have to be procured--probably around \$10,000, so he says. It would be a difficult and dubious job to make over our present transmitter so it would work on 590. He says 1000, though a clear channel that the commission has the policy of not giving out to other stations, can scarcely be heard here and is not listened to--it's some New York station owned by a network, I believe.

I wish there were some choice in this furniture business. It's getting to be a matter of what you can find--not what you want or what you are able to pay for. In this whole town I cannot find a swivel chair in walnut, not one. I have thoroughly canvassed the town, which means: Swann-Schulle, Karotkin's, Wilson-Oetting, Steck's, Miller's Blue Print, Shaw Furniture,...there is only one left, Von Boeckman-Jones, and today I shall look there. So, darling, though we shall have a neat and nice enough place it won't be the terrifically smart and sophisticated place we'd both like. I'm not one to give up, though, and shall keep on trying to find some handsome leather chairs and a few smart accessories.

Gene passed through Friday and offered me a ride to East Texas either Monday or Tuesday, so I'm going with her, and will return Thursday.



The letter idea is fine and just about perfect as it is! I shall have Harfield look it over and decide when he returns tonight. We'll get started on it this week.

About the sign: we must decide right away what we are going to do about the call letters before we have the sign fixed up. I have talked to dozens of people and all are in favor of changing it. What do you think about it now? The best we can think up is KCAP (Voice of your Capital City, Austin), and that is not as good as I'd like. For various reasons we had to discard: KTEX, KLBK, KLJ, KAUS (for Austin), KCVC (City of the Violet Crown), and many others. Dear, would you please have someone call the commission and ask them how long it takes to change the call letters, what are the rules governing call letters (know they must start with either K or W but don't know whether have a choice of either and know they must consist of either 3 or 4 letters but don't know if I can make it either 3 or 4 as I choose.) I presume there is a form I must fill out and I'd like to have a copy of it so I could be preparing answers in case we do decide to do it.

As soon as the bill from KRIS comes I shall go to see Tom Miller and Walter Seaholm, treating the whole matter with discretion and inconfidence, as you say.

We have gone over the remaining accounts receivable and I have told Escoe it is his chief job and the one I am depending on him to do to clear these up before he goes. If we don't collect, we may leave them on the books until the end of our fiscal year, July, for income tax purposes. There are about \$100 more that Escoe thinks he can collect--I have him working on a total of \$250 but Howard Davis, who owes \$216.60 on a Star-kist Toothpaste and has promised a check for \$100 in settlement will almost certainly never pay anything on it and that may reduce the collectible total to \$150.

Caster has written Mims Radio for an itemized statement and signed purchase order, telling them about the new ownership and our desire to pay off if it is proved to the auditor's satisfaction that it is a just debt. Mims answered our registered letter by returning it with a note scratched on the bottom that we did owe them a total of \$147.84 as stated before on numerous occasions, but offered no proof, itemization, purchase order number or anything, and just signed it "Mims Radio Co."--no name. I hear the business has gone defunct.

Saturday I talked to Ed Clark and found that Fountain, Handley's lawyer in Dallas, had written him that the money had been received, that everything was finished to the satisfaction of all concerned, and thanks for the fine cooperation, etc. So that is, apparently, finished!

I was a little put out about the TUCC situation. On hearing from Benge about last Friday, I believe it was,--or Thursday, I prepared to give him a check for the \$335.69 it appeared on our "Accounts & Accruals Payable" that we owed him. I asked someone at TUCC to check to make sure it was the exactly correct amount and it came back \$430.00!!! I was pretty darned exasperated and began to try to check and fasten onto who had pre-



sented me with the \$335 figure. It seems that Escoe had gotten it from Caster's office, or Ed Clark's, that Caster had heard it came from Mr. Clark's, that Jesse had called the Tucc and obtained that figure--it was a sort of Merry-Go-Round, from which I emerged only confused. Of course I paid the \$430 figure. It appeared that the \$335 had been for the first three quarters of 1942.

Harfield was right there during the confusion of trying to trace down the author of the \$335 figure and, after the others had gone out, I took occasion (a very fine one) to tell him that that was one of the chief objections I had to the old regime--you couldn't depend on what you were told and a difference of \$100 in a figure made a considerable difference to the one who was rounding up the money to pay the bills and besides it was sloppy. That I knew one of the reasons it had been that way was because of divided authority--Jesse and other friends taking a hand, but as soon as he got in harness I felt sure, and would expect, that it would be different from then on.

Another thing that annoyed me is that the law the legislature had been working on relative to penalties did not at any time affect us. We might just as well have paid the Tucc on February 16!! I wrote you, erroneously, that it reduced the penalty by 75%--it did sound like that when I got a brief explanation of it but when the final figure was presented to me and such a big error had been made on that (I thought it was \$335 and it turned out to be \$430) I decided to get to the bottom of this law and how it affected us. The law says that the penalty shall not be more than 25%. On delinquent taxes, a penalty of 1% per month applies; if the taxes are 50 months delinquent then the penalty amounts to 50% of the tax owed. In some cases, penalties have been as high as 100% or just as much as the tax itself. To encourage people who are way behind to pay off, this law was passed limiting the penalty to not more than 25% of the total owed. So, if your taxes are more than 25 months delinquent, then you profit by this law. Our oldest taxes (Tucc) were 13 months old, so the new law did not affect us any--in fact the penalty mounted some while we were waiting to pay it off. Anyway, it is all done and settled now.

My dear, I wish I could take care of some of the harassing worries I know you must be having now...I know you are working tremendously hard and I love you for it. Here is a letter from Mrs. Carroll. I had a pretty distressing time with her and tried to take this one off you... of course her problem is her son in law, Perry Grieder Lee, now a Lt., may be shipped off somewhere and wants to be assured of staying here in Texas. I said no, very definitely, that there was nothing we or anyone else could do about it, that the most I could get by making such a request was a stern rebuff. Nevertheless, it is impossible to get the truth over to them apparently. You need not answer it if you don't want to; I told her I would mention it to you sometime but that it is definitely impossible.

Every day that passes I love you more and miss you more.

Your wife,