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AIR MAIL

Mrs. Victoria Thomas
17457 Filer Ave
Detroit (12), Michigan

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20148
VER

Alaska

Oct. 3, 1943

Dear Mom + Harry:

I am afraid that you are wondering by now what's happened to me. Without wanting to, I allowed several weeks to pass by without writing.

Since I wrote you last I received 3 from you, Mom, 2 from Harry and one from Izzy. I guess before this letter reaches you I'll be receiving a chain of inquiries from you as to my ^{letter} writing blackout.

I've been pretty busy for the past week, sometimes working overtime, and ^{during} whatever time I had left over, I guiltily went to a show or played checkers knowing full well that it was time to write again.

Even though I wanted to write home + tell how I am doing I just couldn't help trying to put it off because it seemed too much like work, especially

when I had to write by hand.
No typewriters are accessible right now
because they are locked up for
the night at the office I work in.
The last couple of times I wrote, the
I went to the office at night
& was able to use the typewriters
since at that time they were not
being put away for the night.

No doubt you've noticed the
mimeographed paper I enclosed.
I am sending it to let you know
what our newspaper is like.
Let me know what you think of it.

Now I'll have to refer back
to some of your letters to see that
I don't miss any of the questions
you've asked.

The first letter is yours, Mom, in
which you give me first-hand
information on your Victory Garden.
It's too bad you didn't get any
plums which was the best part
of the garden crop outside of sweet

corn. Your reference to sweet corn brought back the good old days when I ate it at home off the cob with pure butter.

You ask if the meals are any different in Alaska. I wouldn't say they are any different than they were in the Army back in the States except that we get more meat + deserts. The milk here, of course, is received in the form of powder which is mixed with water and seems to taste something like fresh milk but I guess it's because I forgot how fresh milk tastes. Most of the eggs are whole (cold storage, naturally) + some of it is powder. The whole eggs ^{with toast} make up the best breakfasts I have here. They taste fresh ^{depress} for the same reason the milk does.

I can only make a brief answer to your question about my work in your I can't say anything concerning it other ^{2nd letter}

than that I'm at present working in an office.

It will be interesting for me to see Gertie + Gene's baby when I get back. There will be a big difference between what I saw bundled up in Gertie's arms + what I shall see standing on two feet when I get back. I shall probably say to him, "I knew you when you were a baby", and he'll probably answer, "Are you kidding, stranger? I never saw you before in my life."

You told me that you went to see a stage play "All for All". I'd like to know what it was like. Tell me about it in your next letter.

In your 3rd letter you told me how hopeless it seems to get the razor and films I want. I wouldn't go thru any extra trouble to find these articles but if by accident you do come across them, don't hesitate to

buy & send them to me.

Izzy seems to be quite a salesman. She can sell \$1,000 worth of bonds like a grocer can sell a pound of butter.

Now I'd like to get to Harry's letters. I was glad to get more news regarding our platinum ^{platinum} mink and the situation that's cooking in connection with our ^{coming} purchase of a Black Cross male. Your reason, I understand, for buying a male is that we shall be a year behind if we buy a bred female. Would this be true even if Gladfelte should not want to handle more mink than we now have. Supposing we do buy this male & Gladfelte then said it was impossible to increase our herd. Of what advantage then would the male be to us? In a case like that we'd spend \$300 more for the male & then would not be able to get any better results

than with a bred female as we'd be restricted to only a certain number because of Gladfetter's inability to handle more mink. Maybe your solution is to ranch out the extra Black-Cross to some other reliable fur ranch.

If this can be done I'd say go ahead & buy the male because it will mean a bigger herd of Black-Cross with which we could start after the war.

In your 2nd letter you say that I ought to have a chance to see some real Yukon Alaskan mink. That reminds me of what Stanley told me in his last letter. He wrote that I ought to have a chance to do some placer mining. I can't make any reply to that for the same reason I can't say why I haven't any

chance to see Yukon minks:

The films I asked ^{for} is for a camera another boy has who lives in the same hut with me. He's already used some of his film on my account + I told him that I'd try to repay him by getting some film from home if possible. The pictures already taken haven't been developed yet. As soon as they are I'll see if I'll be able to send some of them home. I asked for both types because I wanted to use one for cloudy days + the other for bright days.

Richard Barrigan has written me + I've already answered him. I'll tell you what he wrote in my next letter. I'll also tell you about Stanley's.

You wanted to know what P.I.R. means. It's Provisional Infantry Regiment.

8
News

The Detroit^{News} has been coming in right along in bunches of 2 to 10 at a time. They are from 3 to 4 weeks old when they reach me. Right now I have about 10 copies unopened which I haven't had time to read. I may look some of them over after finishing this letter.

So far 2 copies of the American Fur Breeder have reached me. The Ullman Brokerage Co. has asked me to send a request for this subscription to the American Fur Breeder to comply with some postal regulations. Since you've canceled this subscription I'll forget all about sending in this request. I am enjoying this magazine & was glad to hear that you personally have renewed the subscription. Are all the other fur magazines you mention

intended for me or for you?

If you^{at times} don't hear from me for quite a while, just assume that I'm pretty busy.

I am glad to hear that both of you are enjoying fairly good health + I am also glad I can say the same for myself.

So Long

Eddie

P.S. Mom, I just rec'd another letter from you. That was good news about the films. I suppose they are now on their way. My address is not changed. The APO number + PIR should not be left out. If they were omitted in my previous letter it was a mistake.

This letter was held over until Oct 4 so that I could enclose an \$80 money order.