

Feb 2, 1929
SATURDAY.

Dear Dad and Mother:

We were mighty glad to hear this week that Dad may be able to make us a visit. Am trusting to Mother to furnish the impetus that will put him on his way. And, knowing her for a very determined character, I imagine he'll come scooting/. Maybe Mother can scoot with him, too.

I was not surprised to hear of Aunt Memory's death but was more or less amazed that she had lasted so long in the face of adverse circumstances. If I had had my way I should have mailed the Courier Clipping to Rawls or Will Peebles with the comment "That's a lie" and my signature. A cheap, inspired falsehood, the obit. was, designed to whitewash Willie the skunk. However, I have had no sympathy with either of those aunts for some time and my only satisfaction is that I have no contact with any branch of that ~~fx~~ outfit. Some day, though, I may tell Willie what I think of him. Mother is very forgiving to talk to Snow on the phone, it seems to me.

I'm not sure that Mother misused her principals (les) as she annotated on the back of her letter. Perhaps both versions were correct. I hope that member of the family is better, however, for he had much charm to recommend him. It is mighty difficult to dislike people with that much sheer personality.

Atwood's letter didn't seem sarcastic to me, but when I never understand gush. She wrote and thanked me for my offer to help her get located, enrolled or what not--a very vague extension of services on my part. I am taking up Thos. H. Uzzell's course in the short story Tuesday night and hope to be able to talk things over with Attie some evenings. Uzzell gives a 16-week course for \$60 and, in reply to my inquiry, said he knew of my work and would be glad to help me get started in fiction, if that is possible. I'm tired of artickles.

I can assure Mother that I have often felt the grave responsibility of being Some Body in my generation; it has ridden me sorely. But nothing else has been such a stimulus to me to do things as that, unless it was the natural egotism that demanded that I show myself I could achieve something. After I do a little, though, I am inclined to say that it wasn't worthwhile; I can keep sold--that seems the best word--on any work only a short time.

For a long time it has seemed to me that publishing a good newspaper would be my field rather than plain writing. I love the newspaper business and I know how a really great paper ought to be edited. If I had the opportunity Barrett Shelton has I might be quite successful, although he is that himself. At any rate, what I am getting at is that I believe publishing would suit me better than writing. I imagine, though, that ~~xxx~~ by the time I am old enough ~~to~~ to be trusted with such problems newspapers will be so highly priced that only millionaires can play the game.

In re Bob Henry's mind: Mamie mailed the Pelman booklets the other day. If he seems to like the idea I would put the course in the hands of a teacher or else withhold each book of the series until he has learned the preceding one thoroughly. That could become a great help to him; it could teach him how to think and study. But if he is not rigorously drilled in it, if it is not pounded into his head he might as well never have seen it. That should be learned like the rules of grammar or the parts of speech. It's a chance if he can take it.

Changing the subject somewhat, I am going in tonight to the Newspaper Club's Old Timers Night. You remember it attended one two ork three years ago that was broadcast over WEAF or WJZ. I don't think they will radio this one but Will Rogers, Gov. Roosevelt and a few other celebrities are on the program. Perhaps one of ~~the~~ them will actually appear. Wish Dad could be here to attend it.

I was sorry to hear that Jet Bowden was so badly broken up. Poor Jet climbed the ladder only to slip back when his luck turned; I always liked his bluff manner and breezy style.

Patton's sudden splurge into prominence amuses me. I wish you would keep me posted on the political situation. We wondered if there were any possibility of Ned getting the job.

The Democrat arrived today and I enjoyed Dad's editorial on Underwood although I was not sure about his rating Senator Morgan's mentality above Underwood's. Underwood always ~~seems to~~ seemed to be nothing else but a tariff brain, a sort of calculating machine mind. However, I know nothing of Senator Morgan for he is never mentioned in our schools. History, when I was taught it, was assumed to end with the Reconstruction. But I might get started on the subject of schools and you know what I think of them--after trying to use what I was taught as a means of making a literary living.

Well, dinner is almost ready so I'll have to adjourn this session. With love to you all,

Devotedly,

Wm