

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

Sunday morning
15 of 9 A.M.

Dearest Frank,

Believe it or not I'm up a few minutes before Mass time, for a change. So until such time as I have to ~~start~~ getting ready I'm going to rush off a few lines to you. Maybe if I get this in the P.O. before Mass you might be able to get it on Monday.

I've got your letter here and what I don't cover of it now I'll write again tonight (maybe). First of all, as far as that letter of the middle of the week was concerned, don't worry about it or about retracting what you said. I could see that you were just in low spirits and hoped that night that I might be able to pull you out of it with my one and only tool at present - a letter. And after all if those were your sentiments even momentarily, I'm glad you did let them loose on me. I get in those moods too as you have known before. As I've said before the first week after I've been home isn't so bad, but come the second not to

mention the third - oh boy - the blues, and the sinking spirits. So much for all that. Let's forget it.

We've had a lot of snow down here throughout this week but yesterday and today are just like spring. I don't know what to expect for Easter and my vacation up there. But I'm buying little or nothing for Easter anyhow, since I have that blue suit with the fur from last year, so it doesn't bother me.

Darling, I like your suggestion about going southward instead of north. I've been thinking the same thing since we talked about having to come back down here before going to Detroit. Then too, I've heard many people say what a grand trip it is through the Smokies. Mom was talking sometime ago about how beautiful it is in Asheville, N.C. Naomi too. It's supposed to be a wonderful vacation spot too. I do think it would be a good idea to get some info on the mid-south. Naturally we couldn't expect to make California until later - lack of time as well as financially. Then too I think we should definitely plan on coming back home on Saturday and loading up for Detroit on Sunday. As for finding a place by July 1st, surely we would be able

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move in on Sunday afternoon of the 30th of June. Personally I think it will be easier to find something in the end of June than in the earlier part of the month because other people will have moved out and started their traveling by July 1st more so than by June 1st. You know I just thought of something. Aunt Mary almost always had to do it and in renting the Schelling apt's (many of them to teachers) I again saw how it worked. You see school is out in the middle of June and very many of the teachers either go home or travel, or go away to summer school. Then those teachers who have nice apartments, most of them do, naturally can't keep them in summer without any income, but invariably when they get back in the fall someone else has gotten in ahead of them so they like to sublet if they can. If I remember rightly, when Aunt Mary sublet her apartment in East Chicago she paid \$5 of the rent while the temporary tenants paid only the remaining amount. In those three months surely we would be able to find something different if we could find one vacated by under such circumstances. Invariably teachers do have small apartments and Detroit probably has plenty of them that are occupied by teachers and probably we'll be able to find some easier than that precise

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time of year more so than any other time.

Then too many of them can't just sub-let so they have to let the place go in June and just find something else in the fall. So maybe we'll be able to find something for keeps 'till we let it go. We'll talk about that further when I see you and then see what we can do while I'm up there. Yes, I'm still planning on coming, on Thursday; and by bus. I'll have to check the schedules yet before I say definitely what the time will be. You know better than I do.

So the kids are going to Chi. on Easter. If I remember rightly I think that gang has spent every Easter for the past 3 or 4 years in Chi. I believe I also made that statement some time ago. Yes it would be great if we could go along but then you'd have to get back to Detroit on Sunday evening. I couldn't let you do all that driving in one stretch with all your late hours, work and school, too. Of course I could relieve the driving situation but that still would take care of the Detroit trip back; and too it would be a financial burden which I don't think you ought to assume right now, do you? That's right in the middle of pay days you know.

No, I didn't know Margaret Edgson. I've heard both those names before but I didn't know them. Did you know that Helen Krontz was marrying some South Bend man on June 12? I'm pretty sure that's the date she said. I can't think of his name now but he works for the South Bend Beverage Co. Katrina VandeWende and John Bellegem are being married on May 25; ~~being~~ was announced in today's paper. Did you know either of them? Jean Vogler is getting married (mixed marriage) in the middle of April. That isn't out at all yet however. I think there are only about 3 or 4 other people who know it yet, so don't say anything. Back to Kate + John Van Bellegem you'll enjoy this. They said that when they went to see Father as we did to make arrangements Father d. preached to them for about an hour and a half. That they really got a good going over - how did we rate? or - maybe we got zipped, eh? So much for weddings.

Now, I've got some of the opposite news for you. Did you know that John Dosman's mother died yesterday? She was related to you wasn't she? Mom + Dad just came back from there. They said they saw Pop + Tilla there.

About next weekend, I agree with you about Friday night since you're getting in so late, and it is Good Friday and all. But let's do plan Saturday afternoon together. I work only until twelve. You could meet me then. Oh and one thing I don't want to forget on Saturday or Sunday. To go see Clara about Catherine Ann for the wedding. I saw them at Church Wednesday and was going to ask them then but I had to find Dad and catch myself a ride home because I hadn't gone to church with him and didn't know where he was parked. No, that was Friday night. So I didn't ask her then and I thought too that I might as well wait till you get back and then go out to see her about it. Don't let me forget it, will you? We went shopping again yesterday afternoon - Tilla, Ang. & I. We got a lot accomplished. But we haven't decided anything yet.

So McConkey got married on \$3 a month. And look at him now whoo ee. It's nice of him to encourage you about your job that much, isn't it? That means a lot. But then after ^{all} look whom he was talking too! He knows a real man and talent when he sees it.

This started Sunday morning, but it's ending Sunday evening in the middle of "Jack Benny". I didn't get enough of it done to mail this a.m. So till later darling, bye, bye

With lots of love (but no houses on those
lots)
Clette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

3-19-40

Dearest Frank,

A short letter tonight because I'm fresh out of news. Worked straight through till 7:30 tonight. Then at eight took Aunt Hilda out to Mrs. Sargent's to pick out a monogram which Aunt Hilda is having her put on a gorgeous tablecloth set for me - our wedding present. So my evening was pretty well shot. We just got back and it's going on ten.

Jim came home today. Funny thing I called home about 6:30 about whether or not I could have the car to go to Sargent's and after I finished talking to him and was ready to say goodbye he said "Guess who this is?" I said "Why it's Richard isn't it?" He laughed and then I guessed Jim, but I was so busy I didn't even notice or think about the voice over the phone.

So I've got somewhat of a dirty face? Isn't that just natural though? You ought to see me now. I pondered my nose at

noon today and haven't cleaned up a bit since - 12 noon till after 10 P. M. - I look like something the cat dragged in.

I'm anxious to see you in your new glasses. Are you used to them by now? I should change that to "I'm anxious to see you; period"

Jim's home; you are coming home; and Eleanor's coming home for the Sr. Prom next Monday night; and Saturday noon is the beginning of my vacation. What a wonderful world; and what a grand weekend it is going to be. Oh by the way - one of the main things I wanted to write you about - Isabelle called me yesterday and said that she ~~was~~ was having your dad and Tilla up for dinner on Easter and wanted you and I too if we didn't have any other plans. Tilla called about it too. I knew you would like to go and I too for that matter so I told her o.k. unless you had some other plans. we could come back in the afternoon and Mom wants to have a nice supper for us in the evening. What do you say to that?

I guess I don't have any other news; so I'd better say so long.

Lovingly
Catherine.

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

March 20, 1940
First day of Spring

Darling

The first day of spring! This morning the ground was covered with at least an inch of snow and throughout the morning it snowed off and on. Then at noon it was just like spring in that the sun was shining brightly and it was clear and warm; and then believe it or not by the time the second shift came back from lunch it was snowing pitchforks and niggerbabies! Then it cleared awhile again in mid-afternoon and at 5, rather 6, when we started for home it was cold and snowing again. It's still fur coat weather here though without a doubt.

We just finished coloring several dozen Easter eggs. Even if we can't wear Spring suits on Easter we can always eat Easter eggs. We didn't have as much success with them this year as before I don't think.

We had our meeting from 5 till 6 this evening and then I had supper at home and was in church

by 15 of 7 in ~~the~~ order to be able to beat the rush for confessions. They were really rushed too: with three priests handling the lines.

Honey, I'll see you in front of the office within a few minutes after twelve o'clock Saturday noon. I may have a bit of shopping to do then which you could help me do - otherwise we'll figure out something to do to spend the time together.

I picked up a cold in the head the other night and I'm going to kill it by this weekend, or "bust". Bothersome things.

It sounds like the U. is giving you a work out as far as studies are concerned before they grant you a week's vacation, doesn't it? You are going to need it badly by the time next week comes. I just can't wait for my vacation to start because I have fifty million things to do; and over that time I intend to get wedding plans in full swing. Thrill, thrill! It won't be long now.

So dearest, with 2 1/2 more days and 3 more nights to wait for you, I'm going to turn in and start the time moving on till then.

Love and kisses

Colette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

March 25, 1940

Dearest Frank,

Are you there? Did you arrive safe and sound? Good; I knew you would. Now stay that way till Thursday. Dosh I cant wait. Even though you were right here only last night that seems so far back and Thursday seems so far away.

I slept till 10:30 this morning. Got up just in time to make dinner. Had good Porterhouse steaks for dinner. Then this afternoon I got a load of dry cleaning done besides a lot of odd jobs; not to mention a lot of mending and altering. I hate to use cleaners' naphtha and I don't think one can ever get the smell of gas out of the clothes. I had mine on the line from early afternoon till way after dark. Since it was gas and not water in the clothes I saw a chance on putting them outside although today has been plenty cold; in fact freezing. All in all though with all the things I sent to the cleaners today, those I cleaned myself, those I'm mending and altering and those that I've got

lined up to wash tomorrow I'll be able to get myself a new wardrobe. My wardrobe has been waiting a long time for some such attention. Tomorrow I'm going to get an earlier start, and then in the middle of the morning James & I are going shopping and in the afternoon Mom and I are going to shop on wedding day plans such as the place to have our wedding breakfast; and who will give us the cheapest job of printing invitations, etc.

I can truly say that not once today did I think about the office or my job. It seems funny not to have work, job, office, office, work, job, on the brain all the time. But right now it seems like weeks since I went to work last.

Jim Cruise called tonight. He was surprised to see my picture in the paper. He said he didn't read Sundays paper until tonight, and he had to rush to the phone and call. He said you & I should remember that he's living in Sokeend now and that sometime when you are home to drop in. That his address was The Silver Tower and he's always home. 'Sounds like Cruise, doesn't it?'

Well, darling, time really isn't any news since last night so I'd better sign off with all my love
Collette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

March 26, 1940

Dearest Uncle Hank,

My name is Virginia Louise.
I was born at 9:15 P.M. today.
I weighed 9 lbs. and I'll be at
home at Frankfort, Kentucky, just as soon
my mother decides to go back to her
husband.

Lovingly
Your niece

P.S. I'm a GIRL. (Goody, Goody).

P.S. I look just like my mother.

FLASH — The above is a transcribed
reproduction of a phone call received
at 1201 at 5 minutes of twelve P.M.

Darling,

Isn't it wonderful? Now you have another niece to add to your collection. It is now 12:10 and I'm just going to bed and my letter is always my last act before prayers and sleep. So, fortunately, the news came just in time to make tonight's edition. Jimmy called and he said that Mildred is doing quite well, and everybody is just tickled to death that it's a girl. And I just couldn't wait to tell you. Funny thing; during the day today Mom said no less than a half a dozen times: "I've got Mildred on the mind". "I'm worrying about Mildred today for some reason", and other such statements. Once I said "Oh, you'll probably get a telegram tonight with some good news in it." Then tonight out of a clear sky and right in the middle of Bob Hope Dad said: "I'm thinking about Mildred. She's on my mind tonight more so than usual". He said that as I said about the middle of Bob Hope's program and he's on from 9 till 9:30 which means Dad said that around 9:15 which is the time it happened. That's a real coincidence.

Colette R. Gerstbauer
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So much for the baby.

Thanks for the nice letter today. It seemed so funny to read it with my breakfast at home instead of at the office. That's the first time that ever happened. Glad to hear you had a nice trip back for a change. I imagine you were plenty tired for a day or so. After all you didn't have any rest over the weekends hardly at all.

Your suggestions for the weekend sound just too, too grand - Can't wait to get there. I kept good and busy this morning then spent the afternoon first at the dressmaker's then shopping with James. Mom didn't get to go today because she's been having such a terrible sore throat. She wants to go tomorrow so if she's feeling better we'll get together on our arrangements tomorrow, otherwise not till next week. Then tonight I set down's hair and then spent about three hours (no, more yet than that) ironing. And now even though it's 15 of one and I got up at 8 and had no rest at all today

I'm still just bubbling over with ambition.
I could work a couple more hours tonight
I'm sure. There's plenty of it I could do
too - but I'm not. I wonder if it could
be that bottle of bock beer that I had
a little over an hour ago? Maybe.

Today I received by-mail Emily Post's
pamphlet (12 pages) on "Etiquette of Weddings".
I don't think she'll answer personal
letters anymore. She'd probably just send
you a copy of this same pamphlet to
cover your questions. I'll bring it with
me - Thursday - It won't be long
now. I'll be leaving here at 9:26 A.M.
our time, and am due to arrive there
at 3:45 your time.

So dearest, till then - I love you.
I'll be seeing you soon and - I love you.
Goodnight for now and - I love you.
I'll be dreaming of you and - I love you.

Yours always
Colette

P.S. It snowed today. No fair. Hope it
doesn't tomorrow.