

May 2, 1940

Darling,

Just to show you I'm sorry I didn't write you last night, I'm sneaking off the job to do so now. I just finished reading your letter.

That was too cute about Jim Cruise. The rip-off. I did see him Saturday afternoon, but damnit where was that policeman whose shoulder I was supposed to be crying on? I'm getting yipped out of my share of the fun in the tale.

The proposed plan for our honeymoon trip sounds glorious, darling. True, I'll more than enjoy the mountains I've never been in any of them, and I do think I'd love the mountains, and what could possibly be a better time to go there than in the probably hot days of late June. I've heard a lot about Chattanooga and Asheville too. I'd really love that trip. As you say it's best just to start out because we really don't have to be any particular place at any time, so we can enjoy our-selves with a more leisurely trip which we will need by then.

Darling, be glad you are not a
South Bander today or rather these days.
Monday till noon was just beautiful.
Then it rained and stormed all the
rest of the day. Tuesday it poured
down rain at ^{short} intervals all day. Wednesday
it snowed all day; Thick heavy snow
that made everything all white. Today
it is just very gloomy and wet all
over. Several applicants this morning
already have told me about hills having
such a blizzard yesterday and today.
One said there was a good 3 inches
of snow over there and that it was
snowing like h--- right now over there
and I for one hope it stays there.

Of course I'm not tired of
hearing you talk about school. I'm
very-much interested, even though I
don't comment on it much. It all sounds
very complicated to me. I just hope you
don't get sick of it.

Now I'd better get this in the P.O.
or you won't get it before you leave.
1 1/2 days yet. Can't wait to see you. The
first week is bearable - the second is terrible.
So till I see you. Lots of love

Colette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

Monday night

Dearest Frank,

Aunt Hilda stayed last night till almost midnight, so with the monkeying around that I had to get done last night I didn't write you. Aunt Hilda brought our wedding present along and showed me the monogramming that Mrs. Sargent did. Is it ever beautiful! Of course she took the set back (Aunt Hilda) to do it all up nice for us. Six weeks and five more days till the big day, 47 days, 1128 hours, 67,680 minutes, 4,024,800 seconds. The time is creeping along. Slowly but surely. I took a good deal more razzing today since people saw the license listed in the paper.

Imagine what the latest scandal is. To start from the beginning: This morning before breakfast little Margaret Regor, West 6th St., came to the house to say that her brother Harry, a former friend of Joe's until a couple of weeks or a month ago, hadn't been home all night and that her mother would like to see Joe before he left for school. Probably to find out if Joe knew

anything about Harry. When she found he wasn't with Joe she called the Police Station to see if he might have been hurt or something, and they said he had been arrested last night for stealing autos! Harry Regan, "Flash" DeMuelenaere, and Joseph Doorman! (John Doorman's son) three Catholic boys - one from St. Joe's, one St. Baro's, + one St. Monica's. They've got them down in the county jail already. They confessed to the theft of 12 autos since March 29th. That's when Joe (our Joe) quit Harry when he got mixed in with them ~~and~~ on the stealing. Last night's theft was Doc. Van Rie's car, and evidently they did something to it because Doc had to use Magrane's car all today. Remember last week Doc Verna Christophel's car was stolen. That was another of the 12. I am not terribly surprised about Harry being in on it but I do feel sorry for his mother who is a widow and hasn't been able to raise him very well. And I don't know this "Flash" at all. But am I ever surprised to hear that the Doorman kid was in on it. I feel terribly sorry for John + Edith because all of their children have been so well bred, I just can't hardly believe it. They're dreadfully upset about it. I only hope and pray that through the going on of the case we won't find that our Joe was involved in anyway.

Business was dull this a.m. but plenty heavy this afternoon. How did yours hold out today? Did you get back safe and sound Sunday night? Hope you didn't pick up any women for company on the way. I thought about you a lot and hoped you wouldn't get sleepy on the way, although you really didn't seem to be so sleepy when you left. Still it's tiresome driving a long distance alone, especially when you are used to having someone with you.

Today Charlotte Exler Top from Columbus was in the office to say hello. She's visiting her mother for a few days. She didn't know but what she would be back around the time of our wedding. I hope. Also Bud Fisher, another former employee and pretty good friend who was transferred to Gary around the first of the year. He come home to vote.

Angela just came home from her Sodality meeting and gave me the results of the election. Phyllis Dudson is their new Pres., don't remember the vicepres. Marion Wray, Secy. Mary Ellen Frank, Treas. and Helen Kemper, Sarg. Sounds like a good staff to me.

Don't believe I know of any other news tonight. The weather was just beautiful today even tho the forecast said rain this afternoon. And it's midnight or very ~~near~~ near it now, and it still hasn't rained. The weather really doesn't bother me a whole lot though. If it's nice I just miss you more than ever because I'd rather be going places & doing things with you than trying to keep my mind on my work. "In the Spring a — — — — —". Da da da. Then on the other hand the nice weather makes June seem nearer.

I hear the folks getting up to investigate the light that's still on, so I'd better start to say goodnite. Especially if it should take me as long to say goodnite as it did on one certain night of last week. Bad girl, Collette, if you don't watch out you'll go to h--- and take your fiance with you. Good that is more than enough out of me. Goodnite.

yours,
Collette.

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

May 7, 1940

Darling,

Talk about tough luck I guess Joe must have had his share of it this past weekend. That's a shame. But golly, how glad I am that it wasn't your car.

I'm surprised to hear that you have been having stormy weather up there. He haven't ever had the rain that was forecast yet. However I'd better knock on wood and cross my fingers; we'll probably get it tonite because I said that. No it'll probably wait till Thursday to make the shower a double-header. Tomorrow night I'm going to "ditch" the Wednesday night school in favor of a movie with Jean B. I didn't go last week as I'd wanted to.

It's good to hear that your vacation is definite & now. Not that I was worried about your not being able to get it there, but it is better to know that it's definite and you can depend on it.

Speaking of the devilment in the making, seems to me they're working overtime from the hints I've been getting here, there, and everywhere. Saturday night in particular.

Yes I remember Leonard Hosinaki from the time of Joe Sanders dance, and I think it would be a good idea to give him the business. You'll probably get a better deal from a friend than some strange salesman. They're always out to hook a bridegroom on his business, just as they do the brides. They'll hook you right and left; I know.

Can't imagine Joe being such a sleep hound. Why, in our gang he would have to start for home before the fun ever started. He can't take it.

Isn't it funny how we cross our information in letters? After mailing my letter to you this am. I got yours and coincidentally I had figured out the records and so had you. Neither of us have done so in the past week or so, then we both do it almost the same time and cross in the mails. Also I had asked you if you had picked up any women on the way, and before you got my question you answered it by telling me about the fellow you had picked up. What do they say about wise minds running in the same channels? I hear.

Now I must say goodbye, don't work too hard, and if you are too busy with this last lap of school work I won't mind if you miss my letters occasionally. I'm thankful for the consideration I've had for, knowing how busy you are.
So for tonight - - - Love + kisses, Collette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

Wednesday night

May 8, 1940

Darling,

My office gang could have had some great fun this morning but they didn't. Your letter came from the P.O. unsealed. You could see where it had been sealed but the paste didn't hold.

Striking on the subject of the office, I had it out with the manager today. Straight forward from 5 after 4 till just about 5 of 5! I really spilled my mind on the proposed changes, and some of the people involved. He took it beautifully and really gave in a great deal. I told him I'd take any job in the place; I'd do all the floogie work; that frankly I even liked all those odd jobs and small fry clerical work; that I'd take any job, even be Oatley's helper, but I wouldn't take the job on the general reception desk, that they had me slated for, and that I'd quit before I'd stand there on my feet every second of the 4 1/2 hr. week and drive myself nuts with that work just before the wedding. Every argument he had I

agreed to his side but then threw three or four other sides to it. I had him stumped. He said he never thought I was that way or that I had it in me. Said that he'd always known me to take everything that was given me and take it right in my regular stride and most good-naturedly. I said "yes, on the surface; but enough is enough and the pot's boiling over now". He thought I was just upset or in a bad mood so he told me to think it over tonight and sleep on it and talk to him tomorrow again. When he finally left he made me promise to come up and see him in the morning. Now I'm itching to go. Don't sure he'll find me in quite the same mind. More fun. Two-thirds of the rest of them are with me but can't afford to act. I'd be most happy to quit anytime if it weren't for that piece of paper that is monthly involved. Don't so fed up with the outfit. Anyhow I need a good healthy fight every now and then and Angela has the fighting business monopolized at home, and I don't have you to fight with so the I.S.E. will have to be the goat. By the way, before our little conference was even over I already reaped some benefits from it. The mgr. told me I wouldn't have to attend any more of

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meetings or training school sessions unless I wanted to. That's plenty satisfactory to me. So I already skipped tonight's. Little did he know I had planned on skipping this one anyway. So much for that joint. They say that the only way to keep from getting stiff in the joints is to stay out of the joints; so I'm staying away from there as much as possible.

About the florists. I'm going to ask Mable Thallner the name of the people that she gets her flowers from. She's a flower-friend you know, and always gets them very cheap from some country florist. Mildred got her wedding flowers from the same lady and got a very good deal on a lot of perfectly beautiful flowers for her wedding. Then of course I still intend to see about other places to deal with, but I haven't as yet.

Darling, I'm keeping my fingers crossed so that you'll make it this weekend but I'm not really planning on it and if you can't I'll understand and not be too disappointed.

We had our rain + storm last night -
good and proper too. Then a little rain
today; not much tho.

I took an hour off this morning
to go see Dr. Sandoy. I'm turning my
skin over to the specialist. I give up
trying to keep it clear. I suppose you
noticed how dreadful my face looked
last weekend. He's trying hard to make
me at least half way beautiful for
my big day. Doctor says he has a
warm spot in his heart for June brides;
He had one some number of years ago.
He was married on June 18th.

Received a post card from
Jean + Ralph Clark in Munich today.
Since he's down there he finds it quite
a break - the transfer. She said that
they got some poisonous food somewhere
and they almost died of it Sunday night.

Now it's 12:30 so once again
it's goodnite.

Most lovingly

Colette

p.s. I love you much.

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

Monday night
May 13, 1940

Darling,

Believe it or not I'm writing with a pencil! Such etiquette! Emily would turn over in her grave if she would know it and if she were dead and had a grave to turn over in. But I forgot to put my fountain pen in my bag before I left the office and now I don't want to go downstairs after a straight pen - I'm afraid of the dark house and hate to write with a straight pen. So I guess this will have to do.

Did you have a nice trip back? I hope so. It certainly was a nice night to be out. But not a nice night to be in. I had the dishes all done up in an hour after you left. Right about in the middle of the job Mom, Dad & Aunt Wilda stopped back on their way from the dinner party at the hotel and on the way to the reception which lasted till 2:30 a.m.

Tom & Dad however, came home
around midnight. All in all I
guess it was really a celebration.

You know darling, I was
thinking today that if you don't come
back in two weeks but in 2 1/2 or 3
weeks, that that will be the last
time I'll have to say goodbye to you!
Gosh it's a nice thought - only one
more goodbye.

The weather was 88° today!
Regina said it was 89° at noon.
It really felt plenty hot all day though;
sunny too. Rain & storms due tomorrow
night. I suppose you are having
them now.

Our wedding gowns are all
set to go up the aisle now. Grand
feeling. Only the gowns are so tho.
The hats shoes, etc. are not. One
thing at a time tho I guess.

Now I think I'll say goodnight.
I'm pretty tired tonight. The usual heavy
Monday along with my starting to "fall off the roof"
which of course means a few weak days until -
So I'm going after my rest.

Goodnight dearest, lots of love. I'll kiss
your picture, and close my eyes to dream of you
Love Collette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
1201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana

May 14, 1940

Darling,

Another very, very warm day is past. Nothing exciting or even newsworthy happened today.

This evening I did a little shopping around on Mom's dress situation for our big day and also made the final check on my gown. It is now put away till the day before the wedding. Bertilla is going in tomorrow for the final O.K. or hers. Then an meeting her + Angela and we are going to see the milliner again tomorrow.

I didn't get a chance to call any florists yet however. And so on into the night - the plans are still in the making.

Oh darling, I must tell you a most embarrassing moment I had to cope with this evening. Lane Bryant dress company specializes in dresses for stunts. So tonight

I stopped at Benton's who carry Lane Bryant's and saw a dress I liked for mom. The clerk suggested I take it out on approval and show it to her. She said I would have

to open a charge account but then I could return it without any cost if I didn't keep it. When she had filled out the charge card and checked my rating, (by the way she asked if I was single and I answered "yes, for another month") anyhow after checking my rating she told me that my rating was perfect but that they Credit Bureau reported me already married! on May 7th!! I blushed 16 shades of red and showed her my notebook with all my wedding plans date and all, & my drivers license, and she looked at my ring. I asked her who reported that and when she said the Credit Bureau, I became very indignant and said:

"The Mishawaka Credit Bureau? Esther Jessup? Esther Scheibelhut Jessup?" she said "Why, do you know her Esther?" and I said "Yes, I know her very well, have for a long, long time, and used to do a lot of business with her, and I'm very much surprised at this!" I then told her to call Esther back and tell her that I like to know a little more about my wedding, where was I when it was going on, etc. The girl even gave me your name and address as my husband, as of May 7th! Anyhow when I told her to call Esther back she looked at me rather astounded.

and I said "Go ahead and call Esther, and ask her if she doesn't want to talk to me, too." So she picked up the phone and while she waited for the connection she asked if we had our license as yet and then the light went on - our license filing was in the newspaper on May 7th. ~~She~~^{So} she hung up again and gave me the dress.

The being married didn't make any difference it was the rather obvious lie. She was going to take the account anyhow, she admitted my rating checked perfect. But it was very embarrassing and I really got quite indignant about it. Now tomorrow I'm going to call Esther and give her h --- for throwing monkey wrenches around in other people's business. I almost walked out on them but I was too curious to know how and where the misunderstanding came from, and I did.

Honey, this is nothing definite, but if we have any free evenings sometime when you are home, Elizabeth's Wenita has a (hearsay) new suitor who is a foreman or department head or something like that at Drewry's. He's supposed to be a fine fellow and she wants me to meet him and

thought maybe we could double sometime if we can find the time. Maybe we can arrange something for the future; we'll see.

I'm getting my point dress made. I think I mentioned it last weekend. If I like it well enough to serve the purpose, I'm going to put it away for my "going away" dress. It's got everything from tulips to deserted islands trees haystacks, and Chinese bridges on it. Can't wait to see it made up.

How's school going now? ought to be about the last link now, isn't it? Probably getting well into the exam season, not? Good luck! I'll say a little prayer for you and your exam grades.

Now I must really start in on those prayers and then get some shut-eye.

All my love, sweetest

Colette.

Here goes my last personal envelope.

The next ones will have a different name on them. OK?

Colette R. Gerstbauer
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Mishawaka, Indiana

May 15, 1940

Darling,

For the past forty five minutes I've been sitting here thinking over all our plans and arrangements for June 22nd.

It's so thrilling and exciting I hate to ^{to think} of going to bed tonight even. I'd like to go right on thinking about it all night. And if I hate to go to bed now from the excitement and thrill of it all, what will it be on the night before the wedding? I'm getting to be just one big bluff at the office. I'm just letting my work string along; what gets done, gets done; what doesn't, just doesn't; and my conscience doesn't bother me in the least. I just can't keep my mind on my job anymore, so I just don't try very hard. I've got bigger and better and nicer things to keep my mind occupied with now. And so it goes.

Today was a very "nasty" one. Rained and drizzled all day with a very strong wind, and a very, very cold, damp wind.

Tilla + I had a lot of fun while in South Bend this afternoon between 5 and 7. Angella had to leave us to go to a meeting.

Talked to Larry today. He called for some help for Kasdorf.

Tomorrow night is a Players' Club meeting - election of officers. I'm not going. I'd rather use the time for other things. I would like to know how things go though. I'll have to ask Tilla. She's going.

How do you like the situation abroad by now? It looks like we'll be in it plenty soon. It gives me the creeps to even think about it, so I manage not to think about it. However you can't help but get it right and left wherever you go.

Anyhow now's the time to get to bed for me, so goodnight

Love

Bobette

May 17, 1940

Darling,

Here I am rushing a letter again
It's terrible. Rush - rush - rush -
even when it comes to you! Gosh.
but I'll be glad when the day
comes when I can put all this
hustle and bustle behind me and
put you first. You will be first
you know, darling. Of course
by that I mean as long as you
stay reasonable. ha ha. I say
"stay" reasonable because I have
yet to see the day when you are
unreasonable.

I think it is unnecessary the
way we double up on our letters & thoughts.
Again it happened. I write about
how hard it is to keep my mind
off you, our plans, etc. and on my work,
and then the very next morning read
your letter with the same ideas
and thoughts in it. I'm afraid that
when you drop your thoughts of school
for three months, and when I drop all

thoughts of work and junk like that
there, that there will be an awful
noise because I can't wait till
I can drop all that with a bang.

Sorry to hear about you & Joe
getting gyped out of half of your
meal tickets. That's a swell trick
isn't it? One good way to get rich
quick. That's a shame.

About the tea - I spoke to Kay
and Doty and they said they would
arrange it for the 26th instead of the
2nd. I haven't heard anything further
but I think that will be more or less
definite. Then about the spinster dinner -
that is scheduled for the evening of June 1st.
Now he's the thing. I he wanted it to
be on a Saturday night & have the
fellows have a stag on you the same
night and then come back & join the
girls. Just between you & me and if
I may be catty - I don't like the idea.
In the first place I think your stag should
be up to Larry to dictate when and how
long if he's planning the stag. Then ~~to~~ there

is no earthly reason why you fellows should have to break up your party to take no "dames" home. We're fully capable of getting ourselves home safely just once. Next I think you probably would much rather stick to the old tradition of having a really big stay as a last thing therefore you would want to (and I would want you to) be able to stay all night and get as drunk as you want without watching the time to come get us. Eh what? So I don't really know anything about the plans, only the dates.

Yes, indeed I do remember the circumstances on last Memorial Day. How could I forget? I suppose this year's picnic will be a cold one. We've got to plan something to do on that holiday, don't we? I haven't heard anybody mention it yet. Too early, I s'pose.

Yes, I do have some addresses missing, and I've asked Tilla to get me a few that I couldn't find. The precious little white cardboards are on order but not ready yet.

I've got your other letter this morning
already but I'm going to write you
a really decent, unrushed letter
this weekend so I'll answer it then.
For now, dearest, oceans of love
and kisses till I see you again

Sincerely

Colette

Colette R. Gerstbauer
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Mishawaka, Indiana

May 18, 1940

Darling,

What could be worse than this - a lonely, rainy, Saturday night, without you, and after a half day of work, another half day of fast and furious shopping followed by much too little housework done, and me off the record and feeling punk. But I'm happy; plenty happy.

Let's see now, where do I begin.

I have so many things to tell you. James comes home tonight for Joe Jacob's first mass. He's going to be the master-of-ceremonies or something again. Then he'll have to go back tomorrow evening. Everybody is really making a big affair out of this first mass day. I'm anxious to see it. It's probably the last chance we'll get to see such an occasion until James gets there. I

I saw Johnny tonight and told him what you said, and he said that he had written you just two days ago so that must have been esp. (extra-sensory perception) I haven't seen Larry recently but last night I spent the evening at Karjo's with Dotty there

too, and Kay said that Mr. Elberhardt was still in bad shape and would be in bed a long time yet.

Tomorrow afternoon the Amigos are having a picnic up in Minch somewhere. Johnny is taking Angela. They're out together now.

Thursday night last, the Players' Club met for election of officers with these results: Johnny, President!!

Don't know who is Vice Pres. Angela, secretary (but she's going to refuse it; too busy) and Alberto Heintzberger, a new member, as treasurer.

I don't know of any other news about town, so on to our big subject, and I do have a lot of news on that.

Today we got Mom's dress and got Regina's. I still haven't contacted the florists and now I can't for a few more nights but I shall soon. The invitations are on order but not through yet. I don't have the faintest idea when they will be either. I think I got by alright on those. They cost me 10¢ each, including the invitation, the reception card enclosure, two envelopes, tissueing, folding and inserting. Which isn't bad. As for photographers - I haven't done much pricing but the Dennis Studios which used to be the Nemeth Studio (they took the pictures I had taken before Xmas - the one you have)

have been sending me a lot of correspondence. They claim that they handle a lot of wedding party business and their prices run \$10 a dozen up. But of course there are always variations and set-ups involved. So I really don't know much about what we're in for ~~there~~ in the line of picture-taking. About Naomi's garage - I haven't said anything further simply because even though we work less than 10 feet apart from each other we don't get 5 minutes to talk about personal things. However I happen to know that her good-for-nothing brother unloaded a whole houseful of furniture into her garage and then went down to live off the folks in Boulder for the summer. I imagine she would still have a parking place in it but I'm not sure. However, last night Kay asked me if we wouldn't like to use their center garage. She brought up the subject and sincerely promised me that it would be perfectly safe, and that she would have her dad hold the key and they wouldn't tell a soul. Dotty also offered to help us through a smooth get-a-way. She said in all these weddings of her friends & relatives they usually can depend on her for a faultless get-a-way. They both maintained that the dirty work played on the get-a-way was almost unforgivable, and

promised me faithfully that if we wanted to let them help us, that bribes or none they wouldn't let us down. Let's decide on that the next time you get home. Also we want to discuss the thing about guest accommodations. Both Mom and I have some suggestions on that but it is a thing that should be arranged on your next trip; so don't let me forget. By the way - that's too bad about Ruth missing her visit to Detroit. She don't know what she missed if it would compare with the visit I had. Frankly I don't think it could compare. I hope for Joe's sake tho, that she'll be able to make it soon anyhow. Her being sick reminds me that I didn't answer your question about how this week's events stack up for the wedding day according to the little blue book. Well, today's the day and four weeks from today will be exactly one week from the wedding which will make it just perfect. Couldn't line up better. However, who knows what changes may happen this last month. It usually does. Now then - near the end - the old maids coffee clotch is still scheduled for June 1st; the tea spilling ordeal for next Sunday afternoon 20th I believe; the locality seniors are giving me a little party and a madonna picture on Monday June 3rd. Helen Kravitz big day will be celebrated at the same time June 3rd cause our dates are so near together. Now it's way past bedtime. Goodnight with all my love
Colette