

Wednesday, September 8

Dear Rob -

Here I am again, writing a letter to you in school - the first day of. Despite the extra class, my schedule is not bad - it is possibly even good. I still have home room and all my classes in the same room. Tom was supposed to have it, with me in there only when he didn't have classes, but it didn't work out that way. It will still be the newspaper room for him after school, however, and I envy that.

My schedule is:

Home Room

- ① Quiet Study Hall - We're trying something new. Except for lunch periods, all students with study halls are assigned to one of the cafeterias - which are called Study Halls. Those who prefer quiet for studying may ask for passes to the quiet study hall. I even for one! and a virtual free period today, and perhaps the next few days, too. In fact, that's where I am right now - the only one in the room.
- ② World Lit. - I hope they are more awake than last year's W. Lit. period. As usual I shouldn't have as many coming in late.
- ③ English 10
- ④ Free
- ⑤ English 11 Hon - Regents
- ⑥ Lunch - with Tom Mangin, Terry Claire, and some others I like
- ⑦ English 10
- ⑧ English 10

Of course, 3 English 10's may be a bit of a drag, but I'll survive - and it's just for this year.

I'm reading Lloyd Alexander and Garrett Natchez (Catherine of Aragon) now - I need the Alexander to leave the bump of Anglo-Spanish intrigue at times, though

Mattingly's style makes it all quite enjoyable. Unfortunately the other night I kept having dreams somehow involved with the dynastic marriages, deaths, births, lack of issue, etc. of Ferdinand and Isabella's offspring and in-laws. It was not particularly restful or refreshing. Last night I decided not to make it my bedtime reading. I hope I can keep up with a fair amount of reading - it makes me more content with all the work I have to do.

Thursday

Second installment of the quiet study hall - I have two permanent customers now - two nice girls who asked to be assigned regularly to the quiet study hall.

Last night I was so tired I went to bed and fell asleep before Thama even came upstairs! (And it wasn't because she had a new Gothic or mystery to read - she's read all we have, as far as I know.)

Three books came from Houlhouse-Barlow yesterday - three more of the Williams novels. Only one left, and we've read it but I ordered it anyway - All Shallow's Eve. Should I send them one by one? They are quite short and readable. I think I'll send a small package to you next week. You sound as if despite all the work you have been able to do some reading, and I know the situation of having plenty of books you would like to read - but not just now, generally because they require too much concentration. I'll try to send just fast-reading books.

Two letters arrived yesterday! I wonder - what the Momma-sans would think of much of our food? Perhaps they would react as you did to the fishy rice cake (but isn't that an awful feeling to get a strong taste stuck

in your mouth. Would you like us to send you some strong mints in case you are offered anything else?

Friday

Quiet busy again -

A pleasant surprise as I signed in this morning - the first paycheck! It usually comes the second Friday. Because of the wage freeze, it's based on last year's salary - but the social security for the year has been paid, so the actual take-home is higher. I'm going to try to be quite careful this year so that next year and library school will be as comfortable as possible and we can go back to England (and Scotland and Wales, too, this time - with a nice sturdy, reliable car and a picnic outfit) as soon as possible.

No funny answers from kids yet - but a paragraph from a note on personal reading (I asked all 10's & 11's to write me one):

"Before I go to bed I usually look for a book that will be so good it will put me to sleep and be anxious for the next night when I can pick up that same book and be able to go back to sleep."

I think I'll finish this off now - start a new one when I have something to write - and go back to Catherine of Aragon.

Love,
Jois

Saturday

Your marvelous long hand-written letter was just specially delivered at breakfast (late for me) by Jerry - it took about 3½ days!

I'm afraid I haven't even heard of Steiner and now you have piqued my curiosity - I guess I'll have to try Reader's Guide and see if Time or Newsweek had anything (oh! There's also the N.Y. Times Index and

I don't feel like getting
to end the letter I and
be good - stay well -
Ham
I don't feel like getting
chatting piece of paper just
having to add another stamp
to add another stamp

the Times on microfilm - if I can find the
time sometime) I hadn't read the
Sayers - Eustace mystery, either.

About you and Chicago - a few
thoughts, most of which I think I have
already written to you:

If you applied for the spring or summer
term, would you be able to get out of the
army early for them? (Spring would be
best for you, I would think - earlier
out, etc.) I know you wouldn't be home,
but we'd rather have you away at
school than away with the army.

Also - have you written to Jack - he could
go directly to the proper officers and ask
them for what is needed for all your
necessities - financial aid, etc. -
which might be more efficient, accurate,
helpful, etc. - since he can ask
intelligent questions and go forth - than
just sending letters back and forth.

Dalwin Library is having movies Tuesday
nights - some good ones - Cocteau's
Beauty and the Beast, Anna Karenina, Major
Barbara, King and Country, Orpheus,
Perseus, and so forth - a mixture of
dramatic and light ones (a night as the
Opera, for example). I'm going to try to go to
some at least - and with the L.I. Concert
series, opera (at fall - and I'd like to
see a couple now on my subscription)
and maybe the L.I. Choral Society (Ted
O'Leary has been encouraging me to try it)
I should be tremendously busy - if I can
do all my work, too. The 5 classes won't
really mean much more work for me -
since I have (so far) only 10 more students
than last year. Though with 3 classes of
10th graders I'm going to have to make
up some alternate lists.