Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Dear Mother,

I didn't thank you for sending all those things did I? Well I certainly appreciated them. It's been such a relief this week to have dead lines largely removed from my existence. The one thing to me my horizon is dental work. I'm having more trouble to complicate things I've got trench mouth. So they can't do anything till I get rid of that.

I'm enclosing a mimeographed explanation of our proposed trip—chance with Mrs. Stevens. What do you think of it?

The Ways & Means Committee met with the Music Committee this evening at a generally open meeting to decide about next year's concert series. They decided to cut the appropriation drastically and apply the rest of the money to the Music Library! Hooraay!

The birds are back—singing all over the place! Spring has been here several times but it is usually gone in a breath & snow comes flying again.

You keep saying I don't let you in on the things I'm doing—I don't know what to tell you. I think you must have a romanticized concept of what I would be doing. I live a very ordinary life making my morning rounds of classes (or assemblies or (coops) pinkies or something) dinner at Coops—afternoon work in library (or laboratory) supper evenings as follows: Mon. Orchestra followed by "Marking Study Group," an informal discussion group of theories of social change. Tues. Glee Club followed by Modern Dance Group. Wed. Work in Library Thurs. Glee Club usually followed by listening
to music. This work in Library and Pat. either some college function (Dance or Fall party or something) or some private form of social life - Party at Morgan house - Symphony in Cincinnati - listening to music or something. And Sunday after Rockford Circle comes Vic Concert at which I have to do the "Deans Taylor" stuff - program annotating or whatever you want to call it. The only times I have a chance to do anything different is when I have free time in the morning or when (as every other day) I have an afternoon off or when I get front work in the evening. Generally I have to see someone about something or other half of that time.
Mrs. E. S. Hildreth
North Miami
Florida.

\% to Ms. Griffing.
Dear Mother,

So sorry I didn't mention money sooner. When you sent the check I thought that would be more than sufficient but since then I've had this month trouble - I may have to ask for more at some time. Perhaps to come home with. My mouth trouble started with a very bad case of trench mouth which was allowed to reach such a state largely because I knew my other wisdom tooth was coming expected trouble. Now I have many cavities to be filled a couple extraction and still a bad case of trench mouth to be disposed of. Dentist estimating probably total fill $50.00! I am earning $7500 or $8000 a week working full time during vacation.

Spring is the say + studio are wonderful having a grand time. Photography is the only thing which moves my picture. Love Jack.
FEB. 16

SPRING 13 PM 10

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Ms. E. Story Hildreth
North Miami
Florida

To Mrs. Dana W. Robbins
Dear Mother,

It seems like so long since I’ve written. It’s been a terrible, busy week and we just finished putting on the Mikado’s Fourth of July week. I’m working full time in the library during vacation, but I expect to have more free time than now. The dentists is going to a convention next week, so I’ll get a vacation from my treatments, too. C’mon, just have to take care of them myself.

By the way, I’m coming along splendidly. I’m having a wonderful time with my orchestration of music history! I’m getting just what I need.

There’s an art exhibit going on at school now. Picture representing 79 different nations.

Love you.
Mar 19
Arrived March 21

Mrs. E. Story Kellogg
7 Mrs. Dana Robbins
M. Miami, Fla.
Dear Mother,

So sorry not to have written more sooner. I've been having a grand time working during this past vacation. I have had almost perfect freedom. I have to spend doing what I please to the collection (and listening to music at the same time) I've been re-cataloguing Haydn, Mozart & Beethoven to suit myself. I've got a long busy division or two ahead of me and I've got to get to work for with spring in the air I'm afraid I'm going to want to be out doors some of the time.

Oh well or so I ordered some of these little potted hyacinths (the same time I sent you order) and they've been beautiful.

Love,

John
Dear Mother,

I've just been figuring my expenses for the future and no matter how I trim them I'm not going to be able to come out with enough to come home with. I don't know how much my dentist bill is going to run but I expect the estimate of $50.00 won't far off. I have already paid $20.00 and paid $10.00 board which leaves me $25 indebted to a room mate with a dime in my pocket — the $25 was to see the play whose program I'll include — Langston Hughes — "Don't You Want to be Free" — it was at least folk music. — Spirituals, blues, most unrefined, spontaneous thing I've ever seen in the theatre.

Well, to get back to finances I have to pay during the next division $50.00 board — coop, $37.50 room, approx. (might move to a cheaper house but there aren't many cheaper & I'd hate to move), and approximately $30 dollars for the dentist which totals $117.50 and even figuring at $8.00 a week rent not only $120.00 and there are $20 for bus & other expenses besides the $20.00 to come home with if I come by train. If I hadn't had this dentist bill I could have made it through the year on just my pay & the generous checks you have sent. In fact I feel that I have lived rather luxuriously, I've spent for music, made contributions to numerous "worthy" causes, been to concerts & several worthwhile movies. I've taken life to eat in the evening frequently and bought presents more than usual. Since dentistry I've completely cut back on the evening & other "luxuries." I still have some music on order and I do want to buy some more.
I know no hurry about sending anything & it is not necessary to try to cover all expenses at once time. The lending trust me free. I feel sort of ashamed for having to come out this body.

Speaking again of music: I've been having a most wonderful time with my orchestration course. I've been doing some work for a small chamber ensemble which meets Sunday afternoons. It's the biggest thrill to have them actually play the things I've arranged. My roommate wants me to write a few duets (or something) for viola & viol for him and his girlfriend to play. (I said write - Compose! Hasn't forgot that?)

I'm totally ready to see vacation over. It was so much fun working full time again. But it's nice to see everybody back on campus again.

The boys are all going to bed & I guess I better follow their good example.

Love Jay
Dear Mother,

I going thru my desk yesterday I found all three letters, finished & unfinished and a discription sheets which I know I have said I was enclosing in one of my letters. I don't know how I can have been so thoughtless as to write & leave them all un mailed - writing has been on my conscience since you have seemed so worried in your letters.

My dental work is almost done.
One small filling in a front tooth & one in a rear left. He has already drilled out the rear one but it was just behind the tooth he pulled so he couldn't fill it till the place was healed. He did the drilling so he wouldn't have to use novacaine (how do you spell it?) again.

I'm due at a class now - Orchestration with Mr. Frieden.

Love, John

P.S. Mr. Frieden is sick so I can't have my class so I just got your letter. When I go to the dentist I take a music book & study. All those things I haven't told you I think are in these "related" letters.
The summer trip is just an idea -- I have so many things I want to do. Yes, I have to pay for dental treatments, medical fees, X-rays, and various other expenses. "You have to be on your own." The trouble is not with the wisdom tooth that obscured the starting of the other trouble till it was too late. The trench mouth is almost "conquered" now and I have left only the long extended treatments to keep any last vestige of it from popping up again. I have no more pain or anything else to remind me to use the peacetide. When I would get some relief from using it, it was easy to remember but now it is easier to forget -- but I think I shall always keep brushing my teeth better than I would have had it not been for this long educational process.

I haven't bothered with face treatments as yet. They are a little on the "luxury" side and since I'm a student I can't possibly afford it. It isn't at all essential anyhow -- if you folks are pressed for cash don't be thinking of it -- I can get along for great lengths of time as is. I will let a few of the bills slide and run on a narrow margin, but I can get by right up to almost the end of school if necessary. And as for expenses alone, I would appreciate the experience of hitchhiking if you folks could stand it.

I have just been elected to the Steering Committee at the Co-op. One of the most important positions a member can hold -- must close now.

Love, John.
Mrs. E. Story Hildreth
B o t 603
North Miami
Fla.
Dear Mother,

Reached here, Tues Am. Hi.

It rained last night & this morning everything is green. Some had been green before but now, just overnight glass on every lawn has come to life again. Crocuses & snow drops are in bloom & the sky is blue with big fluffy clouds.

There are so many things I want to do but don't have time. How is Florida & how are you and Press?

When you want to know what I'm doing I don't know what to tell you. Perhaps if I asked more specific questions I could answer. We are studying about Buddha in Soc. Sci. Class. What do you know about his teachings? And they authentic? Do you think?

To be Jay
Dear Mother,

Please don't feel that you must help me immediately—I can get along alright. I was so glad to get your letter—oh, oh, about Alice. Where is this house she is planning to buy? How big? I'll ask her for details as don't bother much. The Buchanan st girls' club is wonderful. I wish you could hear it. It's so much fun. We ask for all you've got as much of the time! The folks are putting on a puppet show here. Pierre Lumiere or something. It's very amusing. Have you ever read Edna St. Vincent Millay's short play, "Anni de Capo." I just read that for the first time today. I'm so enthusiastic about it! She's considering getting that or for puppet show. It is such a musical thing! It is in poetry anyway—here are a few of the first lines.

Columbine: Pierrot, a macaron. I cannot live without a macaron.

Pierrot: You are so intemperance! Is it Tuesday, Columbine?

Columbine: It is Wednesday, if you must know... Is this my apple box?

Pierrot: Oh, Columbine—so it mattered! Wednesday... Will it be Tuesday, then, tomorrow by any chance?

X X X X X

Later on.
Corydon: (to himself) Wouldn't I be a fool to spend my time
watching a flock of sheep go up a hill
when I have these to play with? — when I have these
to think about? — I can't make up my mind
whether to buy a city, and have a thousand
beautiful girls to bathe me, and be happy
until I die, or build a bridge, and name it
The Bridge of Corydon, — and be remembered
after I'm dead.

I know there was something now I wanted to tell
you but I can't think what!
Spring is here, all over the place — but my
nose is running! (just a slight cold, don't worry)
I've been listening to skillets... do you have any chance
to get extra reading or listening or music done? You ought
to get some books of poetry from the Minne Abryan — I
trust there is one!

Love

John

Fri - Apr 5

Are you there? I do — I put this letter in a notebook I was using and didn't find it again till now. — About summer plans I don't know. I'll make a note of that for my next letter.

We've already finished Buddhism and started "Xianic" but what I mean with how much of what is "Christian" attitude to Buddha did he really say how much is from the people around him? Oh well, what does it matter. It's most how come from somebody. What does it matter if Shakespeare didn't write his plays but somebody else with the same name living at the same time?
Revd. E. Story Hildreth
South Royalton
Vermont
Such a lazy life - and yet I don't accomplish as much as I think my day-to-day-up at 6:20 quiet breakfast. Both dishes, read mail, sit out in sun and read papers - fare turns for dinner and prepare food. Dinner dishes, rest 1 1/2 or 2 hrs. Sun myself on upstairs verandah in bating suit - go down and sit with callers and play a game or two of Chinese checkers - get supper - eat - dishes - write cards for mail.

Now we'll mail them, see the Rensens a few minutes - come home to read or write - We listened to Fred Hoey (Marion Anderson) last evening - her voice is wonderful. Warn anxious to know if Mentz writes you promptly - and to hear about Sunday sermon, and choir - Hope League goes O.K.
Mrs. E Story Kellner  
Box 603  
North Miami  
Florida
Dear Mother,

I guess I've been neglecting you again. I've had a letter on my desk to Alice all week and hence when ever I sat down to write I got sidetracked onto that at least side tracked as far as you're concerned. I hope it hasn't been too long since I wrote. It's been as interesting hearing about her house - what little I've heard I still want to know how off it is. What color paint how long the lawn & how close a far the trees etc. Is Alice good friends with Mabel Whiting? They'll sort of be neighbors won't they? When you speak of a Church wedding you sound as if it involved a lot. But really as bad as all that? How big a thing is it going to be - about what kind of thing do you expect wedding presents to be like?