

1948

- Ghandi assassinated
- Nation of Israel proclaimed
- Truman ends racial segregation in the military
- Theodore Allen Elmer II was born March 16, 1948 to Kathleen and Hugh
- Ellen is in Saginaw, Michigan
- Gould and Virginia are in Manhasset, New York
- Geraldine is in New York
- Dorothy and Harold are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Marjorie and Ralph are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Kathleen and Hugh are in Jacksonville, Florida
- Ellen is 80, Gould- 52, Geraldine- 50, Dorothy- 47, Marjorie- 42, and Kathleen- 40.

Theodore Allen Elmer II was born March 16, 1948 to Kathleen and Hugh Elmer.

*[These two letters dated **June 1, 1948** were written from Saginaw, Michigan by Ellen to Kathleen and Hugh. She is sending money for them to use. She plans to send money for baby Allen and she tells them the latest on her health. Letters in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]*

2306 North Bond St.
Saginaw, Mich.
June 1st, 1948.

Dearest Kathleen,

I am sending you herewith the check I intended to give you at the time baby came, but I was slipping some then, I guess, and more afterward and it didn't get done. This is not the first birthday gift for Allen such as Father gave to Jacqueline and Cynthia; that will come when you write me, (as I asked in my letter to Hugh.) how to write the name on the bank book similarly to the girl's names on their books. I shall let you get the bank book, of course, when you deposit the check down there starting his account.

This check is for you to use as you wish. And if you take your vacation trip and come north as I have heard some talk of, this summer, I will add something to this.

Have you made any plans yet? Just write us as soon as you decide. I am sure Dorothy and Harold have given up going to California this year. Harold has taken a job at the Y.M.C.A. for the summer and will be here most of the time. I suppose he will have a vacation the last of the summer.

I suppose you have had an invitation from Leolyn and William Morgan to the wedding of their youngest daughter, the twin to the only son, (forget his name.) [*William Jr.*]

This is Polly's second marriage and I was a bit surprised to see it so ceremoniously carried out. We all up here in Saginaw are going together on rather a modest gift (considering it is not a first marriage) and we wondered if you would like to go in with us making it a family gift and much easier for us all. In that way I think two dollars for a family is enough. Dorothy suggested table linen which I think is very appropriate, - a table cloth or a set of place mats, or whatever we find that makes the most suitable gift. We may have to go a little higher but I will be the one to put in more, with perhaps Dorothy's help, but you and Marjorie ought not to put in more than two dollars, you know the family so little. Geraldine will want to make her own gift, as her relations with the family have been so much more intimate than any of the rest of us. But I shall help her out on that as she will probably not be satisfied to present anything that will not cramp her purse. But don't you send more than two dollars, if you decide to go in with us, - or even one dollar is enough, if you happen to have been invited. Write soon.

We are all eager to hear your plans; I wonder if you are waiting to hear anything from us. I wish I had a home to invite you all to, but I am not in that position. I think it would be possible to rent rooms wherever your plans take you. A letter from Etta says she is on a tour of visits to her sons and to Oberlin to the Cong'l. meetings. Phebe writes she and Mary are going to Oberlin but does not say from there, where. Edith is going to bring her family to the farm to keep the house and feed the animals while they are gone. They have rented the farm for the year to a Stratford man who will take charge as soon as his son is out of college. He will have a hired farmer in the little cottage where the school house was, to help out.

Phebe's letter does not say whether the renter will live in the house at the farm or not; but she writes that he "has a business or rather works at the G.E. in B-Port" but is up at the farm every free moment he has. Will send you her letter and others as soon as all here have read them. With much love to all the family.

Affectionately,
Mother.

2306 North Bond St.
Saginaw, Mich.
June 1st, 1948.

Dear Hugh,

It was a happy surprise to receive your "Mother's Day" letter, and I thank you for remembering me on that occasion with such a cheering account of family activities.

Repetition of a never failing event has led me to expect an appreciative message of some kind from each of my own children, but felicitations from my sons-in-law are often incorporated in their wife's letters. So your letter in your own hand writing was a very special remembrance. And very special not only for that reason but because it

told so much about the new member of the family about whom I am always eager for news. I too, wish I could see baby Allen now for I am sure he has changed a good deal since I saw him last. You have done well to start him on church attendance at so early an age; and I can well understand how he stirred up a Father's pride when he was taken to town shopping! And how about the Mother's?!! And why shouldn't the Baby hold the center of things in the home when you have waited for him so long? I surely would like to be there to enjoy him with you all too.

I should have sent the enclosure I am including, before that shopping trip for a hat and bag. I have not given Kathleen the birth gift I intended to send long but at last am sending it now to her in your letter. This one is not Theodore Allen Elmer's first birthday gift from Grandpa and Grandma Beard but I will send that soon if Kathleen will write me how the names should be written on the bank book and on the check, just as Father had it written on Jacqueline's and Cynthia's. Is the word "Parent" or "Guardian" used on the book or only Kathleen Cynthia Elmer, for Theodore Allen Elmer? Kathleen please write me soon.

I have given your message of "thanks" to Dorothy for all her goodness to us. I have also thanked her too, for her good care of me in my illness in Jacksonville and here, and for her willingness to relinquish her teaching and come down to Fla. to care for me and help us out in my incapacity, and escort me to her home. I paid her railroad fare both ways and reimbursed her for the time she had to pay a substitute, giving her a check for \$285.00. Perhaps I should not be the news breaker, but possibly it is all right for you to know that Dorothy and Harold have both received their contracts for teaching next year at a salary raise of \$500.00 each over last year's figure. Ralph has also had an increase of \$600.00 in his salary and he thinks it should be more!!!! Don't tell any one I told you this, about either family.

Yes, my health has gradually improved with rest and Dorothy's good care, as you wrote you hoped had taken place. The Dr. has also had a hand in the improvement. I have been to his office twice a week for most of the time since I came here. By his prescription I am taking four kinds of pills, some of them one a day, some of them one, twice a day, another kind, two, three times a day for two days then skip one day then repeat. That, I think, makes about eleven pills a day. It takes some brain power to keep track of my schedule. At the Dr.'s office I get a shot in my arm, and Dorothy gives me nose drops at night. Don't you think I ought to get well?!!!

Yes, I have greatly enjoyed the opening of Spring here in the north; watching the trees unfold their abundant foliage has been a wonderfully beautiful sight, as indeed it was in Jacksonville, the maples, elms, birches and all the rest. One maple tree in the next yard to Dorothy's, she says has four colors during the growing season; just now it is dark red and turning to green. The lilacs have been beautiful, just now passing. Do you remember the great garden of them, over back of the water works? Just now the horse-chestnut trees, or buck-eye trees are in their glory. Iris in all shades of purple, lavender, yellow, and white are fine to look at as we drive along the streets. The flowering crab apple in Mr. Ogram's yard, next door, is in its prime now; so are Dorothy's lily-of the valley, a large silver bowl of which sits in the center of the dining table before me as I write. I wonder if you were in Saginaw in the right season to see these things I have mentioned. But you have seen them all elsewhere and it is not difficult to recall their beauty by imagination, especially with so many other local floral beauties all around you that we in the north do not have.

Harold heard yesterday that strawberries would be abundant this season and would sell, at the height of the season, as low as 25 cents a qt. basket if the dealers did not buy them all up to freeze.

You certainly are to be congratulated on being able to visit your home people so often. Kindly give my greetings to them all; I'm not sure I shall ever get to write your mother for I am still having trouble with my eyes. I am planning to see an oculist in about a week. I hope all your people in Safety Harbor are well and are enjoying good spring weather and their respective customary activities.

We all do thank you and Kathleen for sending us that box of delicious Florida fruit. It was very delicious and I think I ate the last half of grape-fruit this morning. We have greatly enjoyed it. Thank you both very deeply.

And have I thanked you and Kathleen and Jacqueline and Cynthia and Allen for the Mother's day greetings? I fear I have not, so I will send my thanks very sincere and hearty right here and now to you all for the beautiful cards and very kind greetings. If little Allen cannot walk alone yet, and cannot swim, he certainly can write his name very well, - for his age!! Thanks you, Hugh, for your very kind letter. Sincerely yours, with love,
Mother Beard.

[This letter dated July 16, 1948 was written from Saginaw, Michigan by Ellen Kinney Beard to Kathleen and family. Ellen asks if Kathleen will be coming north this upcoming summer. She tells of other family member's travels. She had recently been to Oberlin and at 80 years of age had a heart attack. She describes the Train of Tomorrow that recently came through. She received the photos of Kathleen's children and is contemplating what type of baby gift to send Kathleen for baby Allen. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

2306 North Bond St.
Saginaw, Mich.
July 16th, 1948

Dear Kathleen and all the family,

Aside from the National Democratic Convention, the question which holds the center of interest is, will Kathleen and family come north this summer?! Geraldine was anxious to know, but decided to go on her vacation trip to the High Sierras with her hiking club this coming week-end, as her last chance before she comes east to live next year; she will be gone two weeks.

I suppose she has been writing you periodically as she was so anxious to know if you two could meet on your vacations this year. Marjorie's family are now on their vacation trip to Canada. They will be home about the 18th or 19th. (We had a card from M. today. They have had pretty good weather I guess, mostly rather cool (Later- They surprised us by arriving home a day early- Saturday night.

Etta is now making the rounds of her children and took in the Oberlin meeting en route, Elbert and Emma are getting along alone. I thought as I reread some of Elbert's letters this morning that you would appreciate reading them and some others from the girls and Etta and relatives. I will mail you a bunch of some we have read.

I suppose you are wondering how I stood the Oberlin trip. Well, I overdid, of course, as I wanted to attend so many meetings, and do not fully realize my limitations with this 80 year old heart of mine. So, altho I got home alright, I had a little heart attack which took me to the hospital for four days and necessitated Ralph's bringing out from his hospital, the night previous, a small oxygen tank to relieve my difficult breathing. [*According to Who's Who in America 1966-67, Ralph was the administrator of Saginaw Osteopathic Hospital from 1946 to 1972. During this time the hospital grew from a seven-bed establishment to a hospital of over 200 beds. Ralph was named a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Hospital Administrators and was president of the Michigan Osteopathic Hospital Association.*]

Dorothy and Harold are taking the best of care of me and my Dr. at the Osteopathic hospital is doing his best to rejuvenate my worn-out physical mechanism, and he has succeeded better than I expected. I begged him not to start a course of treatment with the aim of prolonging my life, for I have lived my life and it is time I got out of the way of the generations following me and not be a burden and a care and expense to them. I am no enthusiast for longevity.

I have been recuperating lying on the porch swing couch on the front veranda where I get the beautiful view of the blue sky and white clouds thru the fresh tender green of the many beautiful trees up and down the street and all around here. It has been very cool for a week,- almost cold if one isn't working right in the sun shine and there has been a surprising lack of mosquitos even when we sit out evenings.

Until within two or three days, I have not been allowed to do any work at all,- nothing that requires expenditure of strength, or motion. Yesterday for the first time I wiped the luncheon dishes. When I told the Dr. he was evidently surprised and considered that I had gone beyond his permission. He said, "You won't do it but once a day will you? So you see I'm not of much use.

Dorothy wrote Gould suggesting that he call around here some time when he was going across. Wednesday night about 11:30 p.m. Dorothy received a telegram from Gould saying he would stop off and run up from Detroit Thursday a.m. Actually he did not arrive till after lunch, for lack of transportation from Detroit. It was so good to see him after so long; he is looking well. He staid with us four days, which was pretty good for a busy man. He sacrificed the privilege of being at his home with his wife and son in order to do it, almost on the date of their 17th anniversary. Sunday morning he took a plane at Detroit for Los Angeles and will get home for his visit there next Sunday.

Have you heard thru the papers of the "Train of Tomorrow"? The "General Motors" put that out for exhibition and it came here from [*she left a big blank here*] and stood on the bean elevator track for four days and happened to be here when Gould was here and we all went over and walked thru it at one time or another. It was certainly a wonderfully fine traveling outfit. The chair Car, the, the observation car, the Dining car the Sleeping Car, each had an "Astra Dome" overhead as a second story, furnished and roomy, with top and sides closed in all with a special kind of glass not easily breakable and shaded slightly gray to prevent sun glare and burn. The diner seats 18 passengers in the astra Dome, 24 in the main dining room, and 10 more in the private dining room on the lower deck. It is amazing what an amount of comfort for so many people could be crowded into one train.

Raspberries are at their prime now and we have been indulging. I wish it were possible to send some to you. Dorothy bought a crate and froze about 3/4ths of it and we ate the rest.

I think I am gaining a little from month to month but I am not strong and vigorous and peppy; but feel my age and infirmity in my step, and gait and retarded speed. My sight is rather better I think, but my hearing is a bit dull. However, I am thankful to be able to use [ends here]

We received your very interesting letter today and are much pleased with the photos of the children all of which are very good. It must be an excellent one of the baby,- he looks so tall. I hope he is not being troubled still by colic. With two such devoted sisters he ought to be a good baby.

We in Saginaw, (I think thru Dorothy's spoken or written word), intimated that we plan to give baby a gift of something you needed in the care of him,- like a play-pen, or baby buggy, or something else you may have thought of. We have been terribly slow about doing it. But now we have got to the point and this letter will enclose the where-with-all to purchase such a gift. We thought it but to send you the money and let you select it right there in Jacksonville where you can see what you are getting. Make your own choice of what you most need and will get the most help from. Get a good one, whatever the article is and let us know if you need more money to get it. I hope baby will like it and that it will be a great help to the whole family in caring for him.

Congratulations to Jacqueline on her outstanding success in school honors. It certainly bespeaks faithful work and superior ability. I hope she carries it thru high school without undue strain. I hope Cynthia is enjoying her school work as much as she did when I was there and she brought home her A+ spelling and arithmetic papers. I am hoping both the girls are finding lots of time to practice piano this summer vacation.

It seems to me we have had a very cool summer thus far and I hope you have had some of our cool, crisp, fresh Mich. breezes blown down to Jacksonville to cool you off. Take care of your health, all of you; it doesn't pay to be careless and become ill like me. Affectionately, Mother

Dear Kathleen,

Am sending to you under another cover several letters of earlier date from others that I thought you might find something in that you had not heard elsewhere.

To make all possible use of postage, perhaps I'll put one or two of the earlier letters into this cover.

A short note from Geraldine this morning says she is now on the High Sierra Club Hike, started the 18", "to be gone two weeks, 125 in the party, their luggage carried by burros or donkeys, all meals prepared in a central commissary"- certainly a delux hike! I hope she enjoys every minute of it to the full and keeps well all the time. It certainly will be a great experience!

She leaves Becky Haviland there in Berkeley, in a nice boarding house, studying music in the University and giving music lessons, and substituting for organists on vacation.

Could read these earlier letters when he was here and requested that they be sent to Virginia as she would be interested in them.

The ones that they themselves didn't write I was planning to send to Elbert and Geraldine.

Much love to all the family,

Affectionately,

Mother.

The photos of all were so good!

[This letter dated Nov. 5, 1948 was written from Berkeley, California by Geraldine to Ellen. She informs Ellen that she will be spending Christmas in Saginaw because she is taking a new job in New York and will be moving back east about that time. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

Berkeley Nov. 5, 1948

Dearest Mother-

It looks as though I should be spending Christmas with you! I have just accepted a job at the N.Y. Historical Society, to begin January 1. There were so many considerations of such varying natures that I have been nearly beside myself during the last six weeks,- ever since Glen's first letter came. Then I did not hear for four weeks and conjured up all sorts of reasons for the job possibly failing to materialize. And when the definite offer did come, I had to start all over again to weigh the pros and cons. It surely is a pull to decide to leave California. But

I've decided if it is so hard, I must be soft and spoiled, and need to battle some of the rigors of climate again to prove my mettle. The salary will not be much more than here at first, but I guess I can make it go as far there as here. The work itself is what made me take it. I'll be in charge of the reading room, the part of my work here I have liked the most. Meeting the readers, who are, in a library like this, and like that, all scholars doing interesting research, has been fun, and there it will be even more so perhaps. What I shall miss the most is our student assistants,- who are such nice boys,- and so much fun.

I am resigning as of December 31, and figure that I will have about two weeks of accumulated vacation so should be able to leave here about the middle of the month, or by the 20th at least. I could have nearly a week in Saginaw, and then go on to N.Y during the week between Christmas and New Years. Edna says I can stay with her until I find an apartment. I think I'll try to live as near as possible to the Historical Society, so that I can walk to work if possible. There is so much to do here before leaving that I'll be plenty busy. I should study all my spare time, for I'm rusty on what little New York bibliography I did know. And I'll have to get some winter clothes. Which leads to a question I meant to ask when I was there, and now is much more vital, than mere curiosity. Did Father dispose of the brown fur coat he offered me in 1946? I told him I did not need it then, and he did not mention it again. Will you let me know soon whether it is still available and whether, if so, I might have it?

Both Kits and Fred have been ill since they returned from their vacation this summer. Kits had a little polyp removed from her rectum, and then Fred had an attack of unknown cause, which was repeated and finally led to a hospital examination and proved to be kidney stones. They feared the kidneys were affected, but operated and found not. He is still in the hospital, and was pretty sick, but is reported doing nicely. It does seem as if they have more than their share of trouble.

Monnie's good letter came today. It will be so good to see you all again soon.

Most lovingly
Geraldine



Jill, Kathleen and Cynthia – about 1948



Allen Elmer – 1948

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Nov. 7, 1948 was written from Saginaw, Michigan by Ellen to Kathleen and her family. She talks about her health and Monnie's activities. Elbert visited them in Saginaw and they toured a sugar factory. Elbert is concerned over lumps on his skin. All would like to see Kathleen's baby Allen. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

Finished Nov. 25th
2306 North Bond St.
Saginaw, Mich.
Nov. 7th, 1948.

Dearest Kathleen, Hugh, Jacqueline, Cynthia, and Baby Allen.

As I sit here at the dining-table in Dorothy's home writing, (she sits beside me writing to Geraldine), I can visualize you all, from the happy memory of days gone by, gathered around the studio couch in the living room, each (save Allen) with a Bible in hand, all reading a verse around in turn, followed by a prayer, and then singing favorite hymns. It is a very pleasant memory and I hope you will always keep up this very worth while Sunday evening family practice. The children will always remember it with pleasure and will look back on it from mature life with grateful appreciation.

How I would like to be with you again joining in these Sunday evening devotions. But Grandma's voice would not help much now in the singing; for I discovered this morning in church that even singing requires strength and my heart told me I had done enough when we reached the end of the first verse of the opening hymn. So I followed the words along and just listened to hear the congregation finish the hymn. And I rested from singing all the other hymns too, and further conserved my strength by sitting thru the entire service while the others stood for hymns, collection prayer, and benediction. My heart worked peacefully on after having given me the warning, but I thought it best to pursue a course of safety. I am taking four kinds of medicine daily, regularly, and have a fifth kind that I take "as needed", - occasionally. This last is taken when my heart gets to beating too wildly and using up too much of its strength. I make an office call at my Dr.'s about once in four weeks now. And I am living quite a normal life now, - with discretion.

I go out afternoons or evenings, occasionally, to meetings or church dinners or concerts, as one or the other of the girls invite me and is free to take me in her car. I went with Marjorie to a women's church missionary group last week and, by request led the devotions. Last week also I went with Marjorie to her Foreign Relations group of which she is chairman, in the A.A.U.W. of which she is a member. Heading this group has given her hours and hours of work, in research work in the library for her paper on the United Nations to open the year's program. More hours telephoning to members to get ladies to take papers for the meetings, or to entertain the meetings at their homes, or to be hostesses; for she is determined to make this series of discussions a success while she holds office as leader or chairman of that department of the organization. She was highly complimented for her paper on United Nations by some of the most outstanding intellectuals in this group of the A.A.U.W. Last year, under another leader as chairman, this group, foreign relations, petered out entirely at the third meeting as no one came to the meeting. This has spurred Marjorie's determination to make it a success under her leadership. There is abundant material for discussion of foreign relations, in the out-stand [?] world-wide events, in which our country is interested and involved, as indeed, there was last year; but it is difficult to get the women to tackle those great history making events and conferences and negotiations that are so involved and hard to understand as the China situation; the Palestine trouble; the Berlin blockade.

Johnny likes his school very well and is doing satisfactory work in his teacher's estimation. He has developed fast in past months, from infancy to real boyhood. He is outgrowing some of his faults and parental spoiling.

Very much love to you all, Mother

Marjorie and Ralph took me to a Violin concert by a famous lady violinist, on Dorothy's season ticket for the Saginaw Entertainment Course, which she couldn't use that night on account of another important engagement. The artist certainly was a skillful violinist and Marjorie, with her knowledge of violin music and practice hugely enjoyed it and of course got much more out of it than I did. And you would have appreciated it immensely too.

Dorothy, last week, took me, on Marjorie's season ticket which she sacrificially gave up to me for my enjoyment to hear the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, which you may some time past have hear in Oberlin, with a somewhat different personel. I once heard it there; but I think I enjoyed it quite as much in Saginaw as I did in Oberlin. As an encore after the third call, at the end, they played a piece on all the stringed instruments (without

wind or percussion instruments) without bows, by just picking the strings. The leader announced they were playing it by request.

We had a wonderfully good visit with Elbert, when he visited us arriving Saturday Oct. 23", and staid just a week. He came here at Dorothy's first [*request?*] as D. and H. would be out of school over Saturday and Sunday and they would have more time to visit with him then.

He had just been having exray treatment for the lumps which you have heard he has on his arms and legs, which treatment had taken his appetite away, and his pep and ambition, and had made him feel rather debilitated; and he asked us not to arrange any picnics, or parties, or feasts for him, for he could not eat much and did not feel like going about much. We had arranged to have one family get together at Frankenmuth for a dinner; but when we saw how he felt we gave it up, and all got together at Dorothy's for a dinner and social evening, and again at Marjorie's for dinner and a social evening. We got permission to show him the Sugar-best industry and Marjorie took her car and drove Elbert, Johnny and me to the plant where beet sugar is made. It was very interesting and I have wanted for a long time to see it. But I fear Elbert didn't half put his mind on to seeing the processes and hearing the description, for he was so worried lest the walking about the big building and climbing the long stair-cases, and going thru the hot steamy machinery rooms, should be too strenuous for me. He said to me repeatedly, "This is no place for you." But I stood it very well and suffered no harm from the trip. We cut out the third stair case, to the top floor out of consideration for his anxiety. It was interesting to see the five lb. bags filled with granulated white sugar ready for market, and stitched across the top for closing and the extra length of the paper bag trimmed off the top all by machine, almost automatically. This machine was tended by only two women, placing the empty bags under the five pound measuring hoppers that delivered exactly 5 lbs. to each bag then shut off automatically. At the press of a button, the 6 filled bags moved off on a moving belt and were cared for by an attendant and another group of empty bags was placed under the filling machine. We also saw, similarly filled and stitched, 10 lb. bags, 50 lb. bags, 25 lb. bags and 100 lb. bags. We also saw them loaded on to freight cars, right on the tracks beside the ware house.

On Saturday, just a week after he arrived, there was a ball-game at Michigan U. stadium at Ann Arbor, and Harold had tickets so that Elbert could go with his party. They invited him to go and it appealed to him as he had not seen a big ball game for many years. Harold told him he would drive him to Detroit for his train to Cincinnati from where he would take a bus to Hamilton to visit Fulton, which he had arranged with Fulton by correspondence. He had told his Putnam Dr. to write Fulton fully about his case (the lumps) and he hoped to get from Fulton more fully the real facts about his case than the other Dr.'s would be willing to give him. He will write fully about his interview with Fulton when he gets home and I will send his letter to you. I think he fears the Dr.'s diagnose some of his lumps as malignant. He thinks he has two kinds of lumps. And my Dr. says there are three kinds. He had to drive 30 miles to Willimantic hospital, for ten minute treatments by exray, every day for ten days. He also went thru a clinic in Putnam which was conducted by two experts from Providence and N. Y. and at which all the Dr.'s in Putnam were present and examined and felt of his lumps.

Perhaps you have heard that Elbert has changed his heating outfit from coal to oil, so it is very easy for Etta to manage the heating during his absence. He has fixed up a nice room in his cellar around his oil heater, and whitewashed the walls, and finished the floor in some way, hung pictures on the walls, hung curtains at the windows, refurbished some old furniture in the attic, chairs, tables etc. and put them down there and they found it a very cool place to sit in the hot weather.

Elbert has aged considerably since I saw him last, both in looks physically, and in the temperament, - interest, and aggressiveness. I think he suspects some, at least, of his lumps are malignant; and the feeling that he is on the down-hill road affects all his thinking and his out-look on life generally. But he is trying to face it courageously. I await Elbert's next letter with interest as he will probably detail his physical condition, in the light of his interview with Fulton whom he believes has exact information from the experts at the Putnam Clinic, and his own physician in Putnam, and from the Willimantic hospital where he took exray treatments.

I have a few things that I plan to send to you soon. Could you use my white wool coat next spring? I have had it cleaned. I bought a pair of panties which are too small for me; perhaps Jacqueline could wear them. I have a book of poems that the pupils of the North Junior High school wrote and the school had published. I have read my copy thru and perhaps Jacqueline and Cynthia would enjoy reading it. I will send it to them. Some of the poems are very good, for children of that age- about Jacqueline's age. - I will wait about sending the white coat till I hear whether you want it or not. If you don't want it I can send it over seas. If you want it, but would rather I would keep it up here till next Spring, I can do that!

Thursday Nov. 25: - I took Thanksgiving Dinner with Marjorie's family as Dorothy and Harold had driven to Galesburg to spend Thanksgiving with his family. Marjorie comes over to spend the nite with me as I do not like to crowd Marjorie's family by going over there as much as would be necessary.

Wish I could be with you all this winter, but do not think it best, everything considered. Wish I could see little Allen now. Dorothy said the other day she so wanted to see baby Allen now as he is, that she was almost tempted to go down at Christmas vacation.
