

Lancing Tenn.
Nov. 20, 1944

Dear Russell,

Please forgive me for waiting so long to answer your letter. Guess you have heard from home by now. Bill wrote you a day or two before he left. Time sure is getting away from us. I believe the past 30 days have been the shortest of the whole year. That's the way it always seems when any of your children are home. I sure hated to see Bill leave, although I don't think he really minded so much. It is so different here now with all the boys away.

No. I didn't worry about your flying. I am sorry I couldn't have gone with you to Knoxville that day you left, so I could have been with you longer. However, it probably was a little easier on me the way it was. Then I thought it would make Dorothy ~~and~~ more lonesome.

Bill left on no. 3 Sat. Daddy called up and got them to stop it here for him. We all went down to see him off and Bernice got his picture from the train steps. Dad Roberts was on

the train. He called to us and asked if that was our boy getting on. He said they would take good care of him. I imagine he talked a lot to Bill. He is always asking about you boys every time I see him.

I am rendering hard today. Daddy killed one of the pigs Friday. Ernest Howard helped him. We got it cut up in time Sat to cook some ham for Bill's dinner. ~~The~~

The hams weighed 17 lb each. so you can guess about how big the hog was. It wasn't so big but alright to make good meat.

I meant to watch the sky - the day you left for your plane - but had company about the time I should have been listening for you which made me forget. Gertie Melton came in just after noon and stayed an hour or so.

Our pretty weather has changed. It was nice most of the time Bill was here. A little cold part of the time but not much rain. It rained here all day yesterday and most of last night. Today it is still cloudy but several degrees colder. I hope it doesn't snow just yet.

Don't worry about the tires. It ~~would~~ was worth two or three tires to get you home - even if it was a short visit. Bill changed tires on his way back

He probably told you about it. I haven't heard daddy say anything about it. Don't know whether it is past fixing or not.

I imagine Bill told you what news there was. I have to go to town this afternoon and around to Mary's - so guess I had better close. Daddy went back to work again today. He worked four days last week. I didn't want him to work the last week Bill was home but the extra man was away so he had to.

Will be glad to hear from you again when you have time to write. Sure wish you could have stayed home longer. I would like to see you again before you leave the states (if you do leave)

Lots of love,
Mother,