

13 February 1943

Querida Madre,

I've contemplated all day a leisurely period this evening in which I could write you a long letter, but here it is 1045 as I start. We are paying the men today and have been working on the payroll tonight.

Today I am in receipt of the candy which is very good – two copies of the illustrious Echo – The editor should be run out of town for such invariable ignorance - & the pair of socks – Its been some time since I wrote you a letter – just the card at Reno

Reno: - smaller than San Angelo, and filled with nothing but night clubs – bars & gambling halls – ranging from rat dives to pretty exclusive night clubs – Three of us went – Lt. Smith – Lt. Balter, from Texas & myself – Saturday night we traveled from place to place without experiencing a hell of a lot of adventure – I finally escorted a [illegible] looking creature who was supposedly awaiting her divorce decree – went to mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in the morning when I heard a scintillating 45 minute sermon on the meaning of the Mass by an Irish Priest. Met Msgr Connors of this Diocese & talked about 15 minutes with him – The church is beautiful inside with frescos (is that correct) all over the ceiling – The altar is nearly as pretty as any I've seen – a gift of some old gambler – no doubt- money flows like mad – mixed drinks would break a millionair [sic] & they put darned little alcohol in there you can't imagine how many joints there are in Reno – even the back alleys are flooded with neon lights – Sunday night a women from Herlong – took us back & we slapped & danced until 11pm before leaving – went riding with her some Monday night & she stuck her car in the sand as she went to turn around, and we had to walk back four miles to the Post – Had to loan her my overcoat & damned near froze to death – My lips were so cold that I couldn't talk intelligibly

Tell Ed to listen to this – Max Baer referred a boxing tournament last night & I got to meet him & talk to him for about 30 minutes – He even punched me on the jaw demonstrating a punch – invited me up to some place – I think he was [illegible] where to drink some whiskey with him sometime – we talked about all of his fights – even the one with Louis in which he was knocked out in the 4th round – he was more inclined to talk about the \$200,000 he made out of the fight than the fight itself – His favorite fight: the one with Schmeling – Baer whipped him – just before Schmeling whipped Louis – his hardest fight: Tommy Farr – his opinion of Louis: not as hard a hitter as Schmeling, but a faster hitter – He is a hell of a friendly fellow & his bragadocious [sic] is not bothersome; is genuinely friendly – wonderfully built – Ed probably remembers reading about his having an excuse in the Louis fight – a bad hand – well he showed it to me – the top of one hand is darned near deformed – showed me all his battle scars – He is a Private in the Army – At some Post in California – May return & put on some sort of exhibition but with his brother Buddy Bear

Six of our company's negroes fought 6 of the other company's won 4 & tied of the 6 – 2 won \$7.00

Despite the fact that I am taking ten times as much exercise or I have at any time in the last year, I am developing a big stomach – My appetite knows no bounds – For breakfast this morning: Big bowl of oatmeal, 3 pancakes, jam – two cups of coffee topped off by a after breakfast cigar

The weather has been beautiful lately the atmosphere is so invigorating that one can't keep from exclaiming about it all the time

The mountains assume so many different shades of color – that is close shades from a blue base that one anticipates looking at them – sometime it is a smoke blue haze all along the base & half way up them with the snow suddenly putting out the haze – at other times a deeper blue – at other times – a pale brownish blue that looks cold – occasionally clouds envelope them completely & one sees only a plaine [sic] surrounding

Herlong is not a town – only warehouses – garages – ammunition igloos & offices – It was built – starting sometime last March – Herlong – merely the name give to the Post – I said once that the place in which it is located [illegible] sections in size – [illegible] much near a thousand sections

No one seems to know just what range these mountains are but I think they are the Sierra Nevada's as the Sierra Madre are further down

Am sending (when I can get to the Post office – probably 3 or 4 days money order for you to deposit for me in the bank also \$10 to you - \$15 to Sr Q (shall send it direct myself) – was paid today for January but haven't gathered my travel money yet – Keep the ten I am repaying and don't deposit it with my other money

I may make an allotment to the bank & check for my needs

Figure on putting in for savings – around \$120 when I get my travel pay

Johnnie Stevenson got married in Dallas last month – is a flight instructor in Florida – Bro Bill Brown – My last moderator at Chaminade Hall was found dead in his bed last month – So Bro Duffey told me in a letter – Have had lots of letters since I've been here – 2 & 3 a day including a very good one from Mary Margaret.

Am going on a 8 mile hike tomorrow

Well tis 1130 so to bed & another letter shall come forth Sunday

I love & adore only you – Glad to hear the shower at the farm

The [illegible] of Sage brush I gather, pulverized – Am sending a part of it for the scent

Your loving son

J. Harrod

Did you see my picture in the Aberdeen School book – the one on page 57 – am sitting down looking back over my shoulder – taken the day as war commanding officer of the day

The boy Harris in 3rd Platoon – who looks washed out – was my best friend; the one next to him Harmon whom I visited.