

Saturday afternoon
Feb. 20, 1943

Hello folks.

Greetings from Florida. - sunny Florida, I might add. - tho if you see the sun these days you are damn lucky! - It's been rather chilly around these parts most of this week - and the poor citrus growers have been lighting everything in sight - literally! Grass fires, - forest fires, - smudge pots and everything else. We see most of this from the air - and sorta put two + two together. - In the daytime smoke hangs so heavily, it is almost as bad as fog. - And at night they've had to close the field down several nights, - cause after we'd take off - we'd look back - and no field! - It would just disappear! - And now that the weather has returned to normal - the fires are so large in spots - that no attempt is made to put them out - they just have to die a natural death, it seems. Don't know what they will do for something to burn during the next spell. - But guess they've been getting along for years without my worrying over it. - so I'll just say: "to heck with

them!"

Glad you finally got the oranges + grape-fruit. I was beginning to be worried about them. I knew if they were half as good as the ones he gave me - they would be well received. Glad you liked 'em. - Now - if I get sent to Alaska next summer - would you like a little snow shipped back for "snow cream" perhaps?

Nothing new here of any interest. - We've been drawing some more equipment from time to time when time has been sorta lax. - I now have about all my own personal flying equipment, - even to my parachute. - I took my parachute in to have it repacked the other day - and guess who was the parachute rigger? - One of the fellows in the 333rd Materiel Sqdn when I was at Camp Davis! - He laughed when he saw me - and sorta grinned a knowing grin. - I pretended to cringe - and told him I would have treated him lot better back at Davis if I had known what time would bring about!

We are on night shift this week - till next Wednesday. - We alternate one week at a time, so the week we fly nights - we have no duties till 2 o'clock the next afternoon. - Makes it sorta nice just to lie in bed and hear the others scamper around!

Just saw Joe awhile ago. - He was scampering off to town to meet his mother + sister. - He was funny - said he didn't know where they would stay after tonight. - He had only been able to get rooms in the local hotel for tonight only! He said, - Momma good talker - once she gets in the room I hope she can talk her way clear for several more days. I looked all over and had to plead to get that one for one night, tho!"

Guess I'll just fool around tomorrow. We were supposed to have Sundays off - but the night ~~owns~~ fly on Sundays - so there's not much else to do. - I'll probably go to town for awhile during the day, tho. - Why? I couldn't possibly tell you cause there's absolutely nothing there I want - and in 3 minutes I will have seen all there is to see!

Oh, yes - our good ol' Florida weather. - Once more I've got a "cold in the head." Everyone seems to keep a simblance of one most of the time, so guess I'm only keeping up with the Joneses!

How is the house painting coming along? That's quite a job for Mr. Collins to tackle by himself. - Maybe Pop should get off a few days and help him, ha!! It was pretty nice of him to reduce your rent, - especially at this time. - You'll have to go along way to beat him I'm afraid!

How are you going to be for income tax. - Hope the large amount won't work out too much of a hardship on you. - If you need any help at all, just see my banker and have him take some money out of my account. - Got lots of it! Mine will run around \$80 just on my salary as a Cadet, I think. - Oh, well. - Could be lots worse - and as long as I can pay it, - think I'll just give 'em the money and get the whole thing over till next year, when I'll really take a kick in the pants along with the rest of you! - No fooling, tho. - don't hesitate to let me know if you need any help. - And while I'm thinking of it, - thanks for sending me my blanks!

Guess I'm about run out of prattle - so maybe I had better sign off. -

Oh, yes - forgot to tell you - I was transfered to another crew the other day. - I finally got on the 1st Lt's crew. - the one I wanted on in the beginning. His name is Buchert - and his home is in Phila.!! People keep on telling me I'm to check out on my own & have my own plane, etc. - Hope they are right and if so - I'm doubly glad to get the opportunity to fly with him!

Love,
Frank