

December 16, 1916
Houston, TX
9:30 a.m.
2 cents

Miss Gainor Roberts
114 N. Winnetka Ave.
Dallas, Texas

My Dear Gainor,

Well, I hadn't finished an exam before I got your letter, but I was ready to go to one and you have no idea how much that letter helped me out. The exam wasn't very long and also not very hard. I got thru an hour ahead of time. It sure made me feel fine. So you see you did help me, even though you weren't here. Now tomorrow I have Math, and I feel like I am going to make a pretty good grade.

I am beginning to think that the harder I work the fatter I get, but I really don't believe that I have gained anything so far except lots of meanness.

The later I stay up and the earlier I get up the better I feel, except yesterday morning. I got up a give at five and studied awhile, but I was so sleepy that I went back to bed at quarter of six.

Oh my foot and I are getting along fine. It hadn't hurt hardly any for about three days, so this afternoon a boy named Alexander, from Dallas, and myself were studying math and we got so tired that we decided to take a walk. Well, we did and I didn't know anything had ever been the matter with that foot until I came back and rested awhile. When I got up, it felt just like I had stepped on needles. It's a whole lot better though, and doesn't bother me much.

It might be that I will come home over the H and TC I know I am coming that way, but the best part about it is that we are going to have a special car and even get more reduced rates.

The Katy was the first one to make us the proposition that if we got 14 men to go to Dallas, they would give us a special car and roundtrip for 10.50. Well, we decided that if the Katy could afford to do that the H and TC could also. So we are going to see them tomorrow and we've already got over 14, so if they come across we will roll into Dallas about 20 strong on the morning of Dec. 22. Gee, but that sounds good.

Well, my math class is collecting and so I'll have to stop for a while and teach ?? math. See how conceited I am getting? But I'll get over it – tomorrow morning.

Gainor, I know you are glad that you have a home of your own again, and I don't blame you. I am glad myself because things – oh well, you know what I mean. I am afraid that I will get lost way out in that part of the country. You ought to hear me play a pianola, that and a Victrola are two musical instruments that I can certainly play. Wait until Xmas week and I will show you.

I had a letter from Ethel the other day. She still writes like she used to, only maybe a little bit more serious. I'll change her quiet ways or know the reason why.

Gainor, I know that you are getting tired reading about nothing but lessons and exams and I don't blame you, but if I proved one formula one time tonight. I proved it a dozen times. I can say it off backwards. It's eleven o'clock and the bunch just left. Now I'll have to study something I don't know myself. Such as (fluid derivative with respect to x of $\sin x = H_1 + \cos t$ or *long equation with various signs that can't be typed*). Work, this last one, please, and send it back to me. I worked it once and can't do it again.

Yes, the football team came to Houston, but I didn't get to see any of them because they didn't come out here and I didn't feel like going to town.

I sure wish I could have been there and gone on that weenie roast. One night this week the woods just across from us caught on fire, and as it is all pine trees, it surely did burn. It was about four o'clock when it started and it lasted until nine. It was the first idea I have ever had of a forest fire. I must say it was real pretty. Right after supper I believe that all of the boys out here went over there. Some of them took bread and butter along, and, of course, we had to fix some toast. We tried to find a place to steal some chicken, but it couldn't be did.

Many thanks for the postal and clipping which you sent me. I sure was glad to see that. There was also something in the paper here from the Arizona coach wherein he said, that even if he couldn't win there was one satisfaction of knowing that his opponents were real men, and also that they appreciated the kind treatment accorded them by the team, student body and friends of Rice Institute. You know that certainly means a whole lot. It is very seldom that a visiting team is carried off the field by their opponents, but they played a clean game and so we thought they deserved it.

You know I haven't heard from James in an awful long time. I don't know what is the matter with him.

This Freshman of mine sure got a good beating this morning. It is the first one he has had in a long time, but he got sorter fresh with a Junior so he took a broom and told him to bend over. I just stood back and had a good laugh over it. He kind of got peeved but he soon got over it.

Every time I think about this time next Friday night, why I just get so excited. It is rather hard to realize that (exams are so I) (that just shows what is on my mind) Christmas is so close.

Well, I will stop all of this tommyrat. I know this is an awful poor letter, but it is absolutely the best I can do this time of the year. Will see you in about a week.

Love, Otto