

# Chapter Ten

## Halcyon: April-May, 1938

### April

Today Louise is answering Herb's long letters of March 5 and 6, in which he tells her about some of his buddies teasing him that Louise would not be faithful to him for the remainder of his time overseas.

*You can tell your friends that they're nuts! I wouldn't chisel on you for anything. Nope, they don't know what true love is at all, or they'd know better than to say something like that. (April 3)*

Louise responds to his proposal about saving money for the start of their marriage.

*You don't know how greatly honored I feel about that proposition of yours. Of course, I'll do that for you. But I've been wondering in whose name I should deposit the money. Yours, mine or both. You could send it in a money order – but I'll talk it over with Pearl. She used to work in a bank, and she could tell me just exactly which is best. (April 3)*

Then before going to sleep, in the same letter, she tells him about the movie that she saw that night, "The Buccaneer" with Frederick March and Franciska Gaal. "It was awfully good – all about pirates" (April 3).

Louise was much happier working at Pearl's now, as Mrs. Varnot finally was gone "Since then I've been having a swell time getting the meals down there. And darling if you liked my cooking before you'd love it now. ... Mrs. Varnot did do that much for me – taught me how to cook. Its lots of fun too" (April 4).

After consulting with Pearl during the day about the best way to deal with she and Herb's savings account, she writes

*Pearl thinks it would be best to deposit our money in Postal Savings. We would get more interest on it, and would you mind putting it in my name? And if you send it in a money order, put it the Arroyo Grande Post Office instead of Halcyon. (April 4).*

Later that evening, Louise fills him in on more local happenings.

*I just have a swell time down at Pearl's. I made a chocolate pudding tonight, a different kind, and it came out swell. Its lots of fun to experiment with thing like that.*

*The little green Ford – “Greenie” we all call it – has been laid up since Christmas, but Eric Varian came over last week and helped Fred finish it – and now she’s all better. But I can only drive 20 miles an hour the first hundred, 25 the second, etc. I’m telling you it’s awful to have to go slow like that.*

*Easter we are having a supper in the Lodge, and I hope we have dancing afterwards. I love to dance. You will have to learn to dance my love, when you come back, because I like it, and if you don’t know how to I’ll have to dance with other men, when I’d rather dance with you. (April 4)*

The situation with letter writing continues to bother Louise, and in this letter, she explains another facet of the problem.

*It seems to me that there are a lot of things I’ve said to you and you’ve not answered. But here’s what’s wrong. I don’t know whether it’s too soon to expect replies, or whether you have received them and not answered, or if you haven’t received the letters at all yet. (April 4)*

Tonight, she responds to Herb’s suggestion that he would spank her if she were to call him “little Herbie.”

*Well, I won’t call you little Herbie anymore, but not because I’m afraid you will spank me. Oh no! You couldn’t do that – I could kick and I’m strong too. But you don’t like to be called that, so I won’t anymore.*

*Yes, I know that you would never hit me – how about a spanking? That’s why I’m not afraid of calling you, what you don’t like to be called. (April 6)*

Louise responds to Herb’s statement that he wouldn’t mind her going out with her former high school boyfriend, Milton.

*So, you wouldn’t mind if I went out with Milton? Darling, you don’t know him. He’s awful nice, but he always gets his own way somehow – and so far, that reason alone is one of the reasons I won’t go out with him. What I mean is this: Oh – I don’t know – I used to keep going back to him before, he has something about him – oh, I seem to be getting all twisted!*

*I’m not afraid of him now, because he could never, never get me away from you. I hope you don’t get the idea from what I’ve said that he wasn’t anything but nice. Because he was nice. That’s why I liked him. Why so much about him? I guess I was just trying to explain his fatal charm. He’s got long, curly eyelashes. Anyhow, you don’t need to worry – I love you and you alone. (April 6).*

She closes her letter with a revealing statement. “You can’t guess what I’m drinking right now. A glass of beer. Mother just let me have some. As long as I’m going to sleep – its 9:00 p.m. – it’s alright” (April 6).

Then the next day she writes “Do you know that now I can go in a restaurant and order beer and get it? I haven’t tried it yet, but someday I hope to. I used to be refused when I ordered it before – I suppose I will still, since everybody thinks I’m about 16. I get so mad!” (April 7).

On Saturday night Louise just came home from the show. She saw “The Baroness and the Butler, which she thought was “very good” (April 9).

On Sunday night Bernard took her and Jean to the show to see “Bringing Up Baby” with Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn. She writes “It was nearly as funny as ‘Topper.’ Honestly, it was swell – another show you must not miss” (April 10). Bernard bought popcorn for the three of them, which reminded Louise of the last time she ate popcorn at the show – which was with Herb, back in September. She reminisced how Fred gave them all a ride home (Bernard, Herb, Louise), and Herb sat in the back with her.

Louise is happy to tell Herb she picked up some additional part time work. Herb Holman came over one night with some typing for her to do – 25 pages – and he’s paying her 5 cents per page. She writes “So I’ll have \$1.25 anyway – what we won’t do for money, eh? I mean, I’d rather read or knit or rest in my spare time, but for a little bit of money I do this. Although I like to help Herb out, because he and Virginia have been so nice to me. Besides, I need a new hat” (April 12).

On Thursday she prepared a large meal at the Dower’s, and she proudly writes how she tried something new.

*Every Thursday Herman helps Pearl in the yard and so eats dinner with us. So, today he brought five fryers with him, and we had southern fried chicken for dinner. It’s the first time I’ve ever fried chicken – I’ve roasted it and cooked it – and even at the risk of appearing conceited, I must say it was awfully good. (April 14).*

Writing late that evening, Louise had just come home from the show. She saw Robert Taylor in “A Yank at Oxford” and she thought he was very good. “I didn’t much care for the plot as I hate such callous conceit as he portrayed in it” (April 14).

Louise got a letter from Yoshiko which had news of some big changes in their lives. Louise shares with Herb what’s happening with Yoshiko and Gabriel.

*She said that since Gabriel was going to tell their boss about their being in love, they would probably get fired, so they’d get married right away. Gabriel’s mother is very ill in Philippine Islands and wants to see him before she dies, so they’ll go there. Then, Gabriel wants to set up a business in Manila, and stay there. So – I’ll have both my boyfriend and girlfriend in Manila. (April 15)*

Louise writes that she wishes she could go there too, but then explains “I’ve got to stay with Pearl and help her out, for the next two years” (April 15).

She writes that she is “busy these days” and clarifies with:

*Sometimes when Pearl wants to write letters, I start dinner, go upstairs and take dictation, go down to do something else, go back up, etc. But I lie down two hours every afternoon. Honestly. And I don’t go down there on Sundays, so I don’t really do too much. (April 16).*

Louise is eager to clarify another issue; it has to do with something Herb wrote, and which she might have misunderstood.

*I'm awfully curious – have been since I wrote it – to see what you say in answer to my letter, in which I answered the letter you scolded me in. You should receive it the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Or thereabouts. Then by the 20<sup>th</sup> of May I'll have your answer – unless you don't say anything. You wouldn't do that, would you? (April 16).*

Louise bought a new coat a few days ago, and writes to Herb about it, adding some humor.

*A short coat –  $\frac{3}{4}$  length, with six brass buttons on the front and chief petty officer's insignia on the sleeve. Also, those side pockets on the breast – so now, my dear, I can give you orders!*

*I had some pictures taken in my new coat and hat, and dress, so if they turn out nicely, I'll send them to you. (April 17).*



Louise got a “permanent” and a new hat for Easter Sunday.

*Well today was Easter, and a very lovely one at that – except it was nearly 90 degrees here, in the sun – and I just about perished. I got a headache from the heat, but it went away when it cooled off. We had a lodge supper tonight followed by a dance, and since I wore new shoes – well enough said. But gosh darling I think the more I stay home from things like that the better off I'll be. I get so doggone lonesome for you, honestly, I could cry at times. (April 17).*

On Wednesday she went on an excursion to visit Duncan Ferguson, a Halcyon resident who was in the U.S. Army.

*Well, I've actually something interesting to write about for a change. Today Pearl, Flamore, my mother and I went to see Lottie and Duncan at Los Prietos Camp, on San Marcos Road.<sup>1</sup> It sure is beautiful country around there, the mountains, and then the Santa Ynez River way down below. We were about 2000 feet above sea level, and boy I sure got out of breath from walking only a few feet.*

*We went to see Duncan in the camp, and you see darling how loyal to you I am. I wore my sailor coat into an Army camp!*

*We got up at 5:30 this morning – and I stayed at Pearl's last night so as to help get breakfast so we could get an early start. I honestly think I've never been hungrier in my life than this noon, after we had seen the camp. I guess the altitude tends to make one hungry. We took pictures up there today, and if any of them are good, I'll send you some. (April 20)*

Louise writes about a sunset.

*We had the most gorgeous sunset tonight – the whole sky was red gold. It sure was pretty. It's funny, isn't it, how when you see something especially beautiful, you always wish the one you love were with you to see it. Yesterday I was wishing for you all the whole trip. That really is the most beautiful place I've seen. (April 21)*

Louise had been doing some reading in magazines on a particular subject that she thought was important for them both to read about. She writes:

*I was reading an article in Good Housekeeping tonight about Sex Instruction in the home. It was about how to tell it to children, and it really is very interesting. For nine months now they've been giving articles on it, starting on "How to Behave When Engaged" and going through marriage, finances in marriage, children, divorce, etc. I've saved all those magazines so when you come home you can read them. (April 22).*

Louise had put a picture of Herb in a small cardboard frame and placed it on the table beside her bed. She writes "Every morning when I first wake up, I see it, and it seems just like you are smiling a good morning to me" (April 22).

She reads in another of Herb's letters a suggestion that he would spank her about something. This annoys her, and she writes back "But I just dare you – I double dare you to spank me! I told you, you can't do it! You wouldn't, anyway" (April 23).

Again, Louise writes about having to wait for Herb to come home. "Yes, our love affair has been irregular, but sweetly so. I even think this waiting we have to do is perfectly right too. For it gives me a chance to get well. You see darling, I want to be in perfect health when I marry you. (April 23).

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<sup>1</sup> Highway 154 on the drive south to Santa Barbara

Late that Sunday night Louise writes to Herb about the highlights of her day.

*I just came home from the show, and it was "Sally, Irene and Mary" and it was good. I like Alice Faye a lot – she is one of my favorites.*

*It just poured today, but there is nothing I like better than to go swimming in the rain. So we did. Jean, Retha (a friend of Jean's) and I. but if you have ever gone into the ocean up here in April, you'll see why we didn't get far. I got wet up to my waste, but only because a breaker got me. Besides, I froze my foot, and I was rubbing it and pounding it for about 15 minutes. I guess I'll wait until June to go in swimming. Or at least until we have another of those terribly hot days. (April 24)*

On Wednesday Louise writes about planning a meal at the Dower's. "Tomorrow Herman's coming to dinner. I always try to have something good when he comes. So, we are having "More." It is awfully good, and when we're married, you'll get plenty of it" (April 27).

*We eat out in the kitchen now at Pearl's and it is lots cozier. Everything is changed about quite a lot. Since Mrs. Varnot came things changed, and since she left, lots more things changed. (April 27).*

A few days later Louise writes a very long passage about Mrs. Varnot, because she thinks Herb should have a complete picture of what she was like.

*Mrs. Varnot was a peculiar type of woman. She had it in for everybody who did not think the way she did. And I'll be hanged if I will do so! She disliked Pearl, liked Clarence until he contradicted her. Likewise, Otto. She liked Barnard until somebody said something, then she disliked him.*

*She liked my mother until she, my mother, took Flamore to a doctor in Santa Maria who said Flamore was pretty sick, while Mrs. Varnot had all along said Flamore was fine. (Flamore by the way is okay now.) Consequently, disliking my mother, she had it in for me twice as much.*

*One day I went to Pearl's and saw that Mrs. Varnot had mopped the floor. To make conversation I said "Oh you mopped the floor." A silly thing to say but very natural. That lady responded in a very nasty tone "You didn't, did you?"*

*She made life miserable for Pearl, and Flamore. Pearl couldn't sleep nights – oh well, that's over. (April 30).*

Several months ago Louise began working for Pearl on a voluntary basis. She writes "Pearl gives me \$2 every week now, so I have a little spending money. She says she wishes it could be more" (April 30).

Louise writes to Herb about a ring set that she saw that would like to have. This was when she, her mother and Pearl went to a jewelry store in San Luis Obispo recently.

*Well, I've a lot to tell you now. Or ask you. Do you have \$100? Because I looked at rings in San Luis Obispo, and Herb dear, I saw the loveliest set, and the jeweler will hold it until you send me the money and give me cash price for it. The engagement ring costs*

*\$92.50, and the wedding ring \$17.50, but you'll have to pay only \$103 (\$3.00 tax) for the two.*

*They're thin gold – the wedding ring has little tiny diamonds on top, and the other has a larger diamond plus some kind of ornament beside it.*

*So darling – it's all up to you. He said I could have them now and pay when I get the money, but I thought I'd better wait and see what you'd say about it.*

*I'd love to wear the engagement ring at Convention time<sup>2</sup> which starts August 6. Do you suppose I could have it by then? (April 30).*

One of Herb's earlier letters contained a description of the "southern cruise" they will be on during the month of May; he wrote of opportunities to see beautiful native girls. Louise feels awkward in writing about it due to the length of time it takes for their letters to cross the Pacific Ocean. But she responds, adding a touch of humor.

*Yes, darling, those Balinese maidens are worrying me terribly. In fact, I'm so jealous of them I'm seeing green. (Oh yeah?) I will love to see pictures of each port you stop in, but I'll bet I don't get any until your album is filled. Right?*

*That cruise does sound interesting – but its over now for you, eh? I find it hard to talk of things that, to me, happen in the future but by the time you read this, are already past. What a mixup!*

*Now, all the letters I wrote in April, instead of receiving them in May, you won't get them until the end of June, and I won't get any answer for ages! (April 30)*

## **May**

On Thursday, Louise had just come home from working at Pearl's, and was surprised to find two letters from Herb waiting for her. Based on ship schedules, she wasn't expecting them for another day or two. She writes "They made me so happy, I felt like crying – I almost did" (May 5).

She continues "Isn't it funny how we love to answer each other's letters as well as to receive them? I guess it's because it's just as if we were talking together, only we get the answer a couple of months later" (May 5).

Herb had asked her to tell him what she would like him to buy overseas, and she answers: "It takes about four or five yards of material to make a dress. Better get five yards. Silk, broadcloth ... oh yes, satin – but that's expensive" (May 5).

In the same letter she responds to Herb's description of their submarine target practice, and she writes that she understood it all, including his illustration.

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<sup>2</sup> The Temple of the People held a convention during the first full week of August each year. It was the high point of the Temple calendar, in terms of events, drawing people from all over the country. It featured important readings, messages, music, potluck dinners and performances of various kinds.

Louise is eager for Herb to meet up with Yoshiko and Gabriel once they arrive in Manila.

*Yoshiko and Gabriel are leaving on the Pres. Coolidge, June 3, for Manila. So when you receive a letter from the Pres. Coolidge, you'll know they've landed. It will take only 20 days from Frisco, to Manila. I wish you could see them when they get there. (May 5).*

It's Saturday, and Louise has been "on the go" since 8:00 a.m. She is very tired, and late in the evening after settling down she writes to Herb.

*Pearl gave me a check for two dollars today, so now I have \$3.40, with which to buy myself a swim suit. If I don't spend anything until next Saturday, I'll have \$5.40. By Christmas I ought to have enough money to buy you a swell present. (May 7).*

The next day Louise went to the show with Bernard and a couple of other Halcyon friends. Bernard treated them all, and Louise drove, in the little green Ford. (May 7) They saw "In Old Chicago" which Louise thought was really good, and that Tyrone Power and Don Amice were both swell actors. She encouraged Herb to see it. (May 10).

The Fiesta de las Flores, in San Luis Obispo, was scheduled for May 22, and her friend Patty is running for Fiesta Queen. Louise writes:

*Today I was canvassing votes for Patty. The girl who sells the most tickets to the Ball on the 18<sup>th</sup> is crowned queen at the Ball. So, Jean and I worked for Patty. Each ticket counts 25 votes, and we sold enough tickets to make 425 votes for her, which helps a lot. I made Bernard buy one, and then I felt very sorry for him. Each ticket costs 25 cents. (May 10).*

Louise writes again about Yoshiko and Gabriel moving to Manila, and how she wants Herb to go see them there.

*I'd love to have you know Yoshiko although I imagine you'll find it difficult to talk to her, as she's funny in some ways. Anyway, I'll give you his sister's address, and if you ever feel as if you'd like to see her you can go, but I wish you would." (May 10).*

Very late Wednesday night, Louise returns from the show. She saw "The Life of Emile Zola" and writes "Boy I'm telling you; it was grand! You really have to see it darling. Paul Muni was Emile Zola he is the greatest actor there is." She adds "I always think of you when seeing a show, and I pretend you're with me" (May 11).

Louise received a letter from Yoshiko in which she stated she would be willing to go see Herb when they are in Manila. Louise writes "In case you decide to go see Yoshiko, here is the address: 1107 Juan Luna, Tondo Manila. You are to ask for Gabriel DeLeon." (May 11).

Louise had a very busy weekend. Thursday night she was up late, because she took care of the Holman's kids while they went to the show. Then Friday night she and Jean took a two-mile walk, and upon their return at 9:00 p.m. had a sandwich. Louise stayed the night at Jean's, again getting to bed late. Then Saturday night a friend named Carl took her and Jean to the show, and they saw "Submarine D-1." She writes "I just loved it. I think Wayne Morris is cute, and in some poses he reminds me of you" (May 14). She continues "After the show Carl bought us a hamburger, and then Jean and I had our pictures taken at the Penny Arcade. (May 14).

Sunday afternoon Louise writes about one of her favorite activities.

*Do you know how to play tennis? Every Sunday that we can, Jean and I and the Holman's are going up to the high school and try to play. Four years ago the doctor told me I could never play tennis again, but if I am careful and don't play too strenuously, I think it will be alright." (May 15).*

On Sunday afternoon she and Jean visited Yoshiko in Santa Maria; they made plans to go together to San Luis Obispo next Saturday for the Fiesta parade, and to do some shopping. Louise writes "Mostly window shopping for me, since I'll be with Yoshiko. That's about all she does – and I hate to window shop" (May 15)

Louise also tells Herb "I'm going to the dance Wednesday. It is when they crown the queen of the Oceano float, who by the way, is not Patty" (May 15).

That evening she and Jean went for a walk. Louise was proud to tell Herb "We did two miles in a half hour. Not bad, eh?" (May 15). The next day she and Jean went for a walk again. Louise writes "Tonight Jean and I walked up to the cemetery, and sat on the wall for 15 minutes to rest<sup>3</sup>. Mother nearly died when she heard that, but I'm not afraid of cemeteries (when I am not alone)" (May 16).

In the same letter she named several movies and actors, and asked him for his opinion on them. Then she explains

*I don't care for pictures about fights. I think it's silly to try and pummel somebody just to see if you can knock him out and win a lot of money. And boxing matches – I don't like to go to, or see. When I was a kid I used to be crazy about Jack Dempsey, and I listened with enthusiasm to the Dempsey-Tunney fight<sup>4</sup> (May 16).*

The next Tuesday Louise was getting ready for the Fiesta dance the next day, in San Luis Obispo. She writes to Herb about getting her hair done.

*Had my hair shampooed and washed today. There is a woman here in Halcyon who had a nervous breakdown a few months ago, and is now living here for her health. She owned a beauty parlor, so she set up a place in her home, and caters to the women of Halcyon now.*

*There is absolutely no excuse nowadays for any woman to have untidy hair, around here I mean. A shampoo and a finger wave cost only 50 cents. I'm going to be lazy these days, and have it done every two or three weeks. I don't have time to do it myself. (May 17).*

Then she writes "Do you like to hear about things like that? It can't be of much particular interest to you, can it? (May 17).

Louise thoroughly enjoyed herself at the Fiesta Dance on Wednesday. She tells Herb about it as she writes this letter at 2:30 in the morning, following the dance.

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<sup>3</sup> The Arroyo Grande Cemetery, at the corner of Halcyon Rd. and Highway 101, is a little over a mile from Halcyon.

<sup>4</sup> It is one of boxing's most talked about incidents. In 1926, boxing master Gene Tunney outpointed slugger Jack Dempsey in Philadelphia to win the world heavyweight crown. Their rematch a year later in Chicago produced the famous 'long count.' Dempsey floored Tunney but forgot to go to a neutral corner. Tunney went on to win again.

*Nice time to be writing, isn't it? I just came home from the dance and am so pepped up I could never sleep, so I'm writing.*

*I must be in love! I never have much of a good time while dancing – I love to dance, and I danced so much my feet hurt, for more reasons than one – but I guess I won't enjoy myself until I can dance with you. (May 19)*

Earlier that day Louise received three letters from Herb, and tonight she is answering each one, and she thanks him for sending pictures of him. She writes “The extra one that you threw in, in which you are sitting on the diving board, is nice; and you really are smiling!” (May 19).

In one of these letters Herb wrote about their future, specifically what he would want to do upon his return to San Francisco, just before they would be getting married. Louise struggles to find a good answer for one of his questions.

*I'm afraid it would bother me if we acted as man and wife a couple of days before we were married. Do you mind? I don't mean to be – oh, prudish I guess, but it's just the way I feel. I want to feel as though I have the right to be yours completely, without a guilty conscience, and I'm afraid that's what would be the case – a guilty conscience.*

*Ah, there's this too. I've said I'd do anything you asked me, and that's true. I mean it. So, I only hope you do take into consideration how I feel about it, and don't ask me, because I'm awfully afraid I wouldn't be able to resist anything you wanted.*

Louise closes her letter.

*But really Herb – seriously, honestly, what do you think of all that I said? If you think I'm nutty just say so. I wouldn't doubt it, not if you said it. I'm a very gullible person. It's 3:15 a.m. now, and I'm going to try to sleep. (May 19)*

The next morning Louise is up early again, writing to Herb. She tells him about the meal she is planning for dinner at the Dower's later that day. “I'm making a strawberry shortcake for dinner! Also, I'm reverting back to my ancestry and having Swedish meatballs too” (May 19).

That same evening, after dinner, Louise continues her long letter, still responding to the three she got from Herb. She writes about her friend Jean.

*Jean is a problem to her mother. There is a direct antagonism between them, and Jean never confides in Gertrude. But she's always so nice whenever she's with me. I find it hard to get the other viewpoint. She will be 15 in June, so if she doesn't like somebody for no reason at all, I guess it's understandable. (May 19)*

Reading his third letter, Louise finds his reply to one of her concerns.

*You didn't need to apologize for that letter, in which you – well you didn't scold me. I thought you'd be angry – or just a little – at my letter, but you weren't. Of course, you're forgiven! There was nothing to forgive you for. (May 19)*

On Saturday, May 21, Louise was in a minor automobile accident in San Luis Obispo. She describes how it all happened in a letter to Herb a couple of days later.

*I was in the Ford with Jean – we had been to the Fiesta and were going home, and I was going down a street when a lady (middle aged at that) came out of a side street. She looked as if she were going to stop, but when I saw she wasn't I slammed on the brakes, and skidded into her. Right square in the middle. Our cars both turned around, and my wheels were turned in – like pigeon toed – and my fender dented. Her car – a '37 Chevrolet Coupe was all dented in, in the middle.*

*Only Jean got hurt. She banged her knee and leg. Not much. Gee, it sure was terrible! I didn't know what to do, my car was unable to move. Fortunately, a man witnessed the thing, and stopped and helped me, and a driver of a Standard Oil truck helped, and between them they partially straightened the wheels so I could drive a little ways to a garage. Then they were fixing it, when Herb Holman came along, and loaned me money to get the wheels straightened so I could go home. Herb took charge of things from then on.*

*The lady lived in Los Angeles, and was selling corsets up here. She went on after taking all the data about me that she could get. I took hers too, and also reported the accident which she didn't do. She was the nastiest woman I've even run up against. I don't know whether she's insured or not, one time she said she was, and another time she acted kind of fishy about it. We aren't.*

*The man that witnessed the accident and helped me, turned out to be a friend of Herb's and also a friend of my mother's. Talk about luck! Now the car has to be fixed.*

*Ah yes, yesterday morning I woke up with a big bruise on my side, and a torn ligament in my neck. I can't move my head very well. Jean has her ribs taped and several bruises all over her body. I was sick yesterday, and had a temperature, so I stayed in bed, and I'm still in bed. I'm staying home from Pearl's for a few days, and we're having the doctor this afternoon.*

*Both Jean and I were crying some Saturday from the shock. Its no fun bumping head on into another car, especially when I'm the one responsible for myself, the car, Jean too. That old "henhussy" said it was all my fault. But I was on a paved road, an arterial of the city, and she was on a dirt road, besides being on my left. A person on the right of a intersection has the right of way. I have two witnesses who claim she was wholly as much to blame as I, if not more. Oh well – its all over now, but sometimes those things linger on. I could hardly sleep Saturday night. (May 23).*

Later that same afternoon, Louise continues her letter, and gives Herb an update on her status after the accident. "Dr. King was just here, and he said I was alright except that I have to stay in bed till Thursday."

In the same letter, she continues "Now, the money Pearl gives me goes toward paying for the car. It won't cost more than \$10.00, if that much, but when I only get \$2.00 a week, that's five weeks. I owe Herb Holman \$2.50. Such is life! The more you try to stay out of debt the more you go in." (May 23).

Yoshiko and Gabriel got married on Friday, the day before Louise's accident, and she writes

*She sure looks swell now, too. They're both quite happy too. Gabriel goes around to everybody and introduces her by saying "This is Mrs. DeLeon." She still lives at home because her mother thinks it's best until they leave, which is the 31<sup>st</sup>. The ship sails on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and arrives in Manila the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. (May 23).*

The next day Louise writes to Herb about the Fiesta parade that she and Jean went to last Saturday. "The Fiesta parade was sure swell. I especially love the bands. They were the high school bands from all over the county" (May 24).

Later that evening Louise writes about how well she was being treated following her accident.

*Everybody is so sweet to me. Ella brought me some roses, and Mrs. Townsend brought me a big bouquet of flowers, and Mary Ann brought over a bouquet. Pearl brought me a magazine and two pair of socks. My room smells like a funeral parlor. (May 24)*

Louise was able to return to work at Pearl's again on Friday, May 27. Since the Ford was still in the shop, Louise had to walk to Pearl's now.

She received a letter from the insurance company of the other person in the car accident – they made a claim for damages of \$71.93. "As it wasn't my fault, I see no reason why I should pay it" (May 28). The next day she wrote that she, Pearl, and her mother planned to go to San Luis Obispo later in the week to consult with a lawyer about the car accident and the other driver's claim. (May 29).

There was much activity in Halcyon that Memorial Day weekend. She writes

*We had a lodge supper tonight, and it was very good to have one again. Tomorrow is Memorial Day, so after visiting the cemetery, the Dower's, Ferguson's, and Whitney's, and Dennis' are going on a picnic someplace; we just don't know where yet, but I'll make some sandwiches and a salad anyway. (May 29).*

They went on a picnic up on the Nipomo Mesa, while the rest of Halcyon people went out to the Rhoutzen County Park. Louise's family and friends didn't go there because it was usually so crowded. Louise writes about it "But we had a swell time where we were. Especially with the flies, mosquitoes, and ants – oh yes, and poison oak. However, I get neither poison oak or poison ivy, so I'm lucky" (May 30).