

Chapter Thirteen

Halcyon: June-July, 1938

June, 1938

Louise is puzzled about something Herb wrote, about the usual length of assignments in the Navy. He had made some reference to a two-year foreign service assignment; so she asks the question: "How come they can keep you 2 ½? I'm not trying to bring that up again only I was just wondering" (June 1).

Louise's car was still in the shop from the accident, and in her next letter she explains to Herb how much she likes walking.

I'm getting to be quite a walker. I walked to Pearl's and back, and then down there again today. That's about three miles a day. I love it too – I always did like to walk, but when one has a car, very little walking is done. ... But we'll take lots of walks when we're married, wont we? I love to walk in the city at night, with all the bright lights. And it will be so much fun to go walking with you. (June 2)

The next day she begins her letter with "I've been writing to you almost every night, and have finally come to the place where I've nothing to say." She continues "It's been two weeks since I heard from you. It's so funny, you don't hear from me and I don't hear from you, but both of us are writing all the time." Then she adds "I think I'll not write anymore, since I don't know what to say" (June 3).

The next evening Louise begins her next letter. She tells Herb how much she is enjoying reading the classic "Gone With the Wind," and encourages him to do the same. Then she finds she has run out of things to write about. "Well, I guess that's all I have to say – nothing else of importance happened today. (June 4)

Two days later, Louise is writing while in bed, before going off to sleep. She opens her letter "Exactly nine months ago we were engaged" (June 6). Then she tells Herb that she went to the show last night and saw "Girl of the Golden West," which she liked. Then she writes about helping Pearl.

Patty is helping me down at Pearl's at noon now. She started today. This gives me more time to write letters for Pearl, and also break in Patty, because you know, some day I intend to get married, and Pearl has to have someone to help her. (June 6)

Very late the next evening Louise writes about her day. She and her mother went to the show and saw "Girl of the Golden West," and Louise writes "I liked it an awful lot, after seeing it a second time. It really is a swell picture" (June 7).

She finished reading "Gone With the Wind" and wrote a whole page about it in her letter to Herb that night. It got her thinking about her relationship with Herb, and she writes:

I know I'll never stop loving you – you mean so much to me. You're just everything, and if I didn't have you, I don't know what I'd be doing now – I'd not be very contented here in Halcyon I'm afraid. But I am so thankful that I am in Halcyon now, and not the city. (June 7)

Next Sunday Louise is up early, in order to write. Since it has been five days since she last wrote to Herb, she wants to catch him up on her latest activities.

Last night the Dower's and the Whitney's went to the show and saw "Merrily We Live." Not so good as "Topper" but funny nevertheless.

I dreamed of you last night. You know, I'm always dreaming you come home before you should. Wouldn't it be nice if you did?

Since about June 1 we have had all gray days and I'm so tired of them. I'd even welcome one of those terribly hot days if it would come. There's a full moon tonight, but nobody would even know there was a moon, for all the clouds.

Today is Jean's birthday and I'm going to her house for dinner tonight and after that a show. She's fifteen now. Can you remember when you were fifteen?

From the time I was twelve until sixteen, when I first had heart trouble, I lived with Dr. and Mrs. Dower – not Pearl – then Mrs. Dower died in 1933 and two weeks later I went to bed. What I was getting at though, is that when I was fifteen, we were all living in the Guest House, and my room was the one you had when you were here. Bernard moved into that room now, and he's got it looking nice.

Yesterday Pearl had me drive her car to Arroyo. So now I'm her chauffeur as well as cook and stenographer. My goodness, but it keeps me pretty busy. But I have two hours every afternoon, except Saturdays, when I can rest.

Oh yes, it's been three weeks and a day since I last heard from you. Isn't that terrible? But I don't mind as much as I did last October when that happened. (June 12)

Late that night Louise adds another page.

After the [Temple] meeting this afternoon, I went over to Dr. Harris. He's one of the members of the Temple, and an osteopath. Anyway, I had him break my neck. After that I went to Jean's for a chicken dinner, and since Gertrude had no eggs, she had to make an apple pie instead of a birthday cake. Then we went to the show and saw "Tom Sawyer" a very cute picture. After that we went to Helen's and Wesley's [Wheelers] for cake and chocolate, and now I feel sick! (June 12)

Three days later Louise received three letters from Herb, which made her very happy, and she thanks Herb for sending one postmarked "the equator." She begins answering his letters.

I too often wish I were with you in your arms, so you could just hold me and tell me you love me over and over again. I know you love me and you've no idea how good it is to be able to know that, and have no doubt at all.

Your letter about what happened crossing the equator was most interesting. Gosh sakes they aren't a bit too rough with the men are they? I'm glad I'm not a man. I don't think I'd have liked all that happening to me.

Now I'll answer your third letter, which is most interesting. You sure know how to describe places and events. I could never describe anything so well. There isn't much to answer in this, except that it sounds like a pretty place over there.

You know you asked me if I ever had to slap a guy's face? And I said that "don't" was enough? I don't mean to imply that I was easy on them. The fact is, they never got far enough to rate a slap. You knew what I meant, didn't you? (June 15)

The next evening Louise writes about the result of the auto accident she was in.

I had a visit this morning from the insurance agent of the woman I ran into, and this woman is willing to drop charges if we are. Now both parties sign a release, and it costs us each a dollar. I think I've been pretty lucky all through this whole thing. (June 16)

A couple of days later Louise got three more letters from Herb. It is late Sunday night, and she begins answering.

I just came home from seeing "Test Pilot" with Myrna Loy (I like her), Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy. It was very, very good. Now for your letters.

Bali sounds like a very nice place – even the women. No – I'm not jealous, and nothing you say can makes me. So much do I trust you. I must say I enjoy the descriptions of these places very much. (June 19)

On Monday morning Louise continues answering his letters.

Oh, maybe we can find a place to put all the stuff you bring back. We can furnish the house with them. I like to learn about everything you do, regardless of what it is – it's all very interesting.

I went swimming yesterday and the water was like ice. But after I got pleasantly numb, I enjoyed it – diving under the breakers. (June 20)

Tuesday morning Louise finds time to finish.

I didn't write last night because I got home so late that I went right to sleep. Wesley is putting on a pantomime at the next Lodge supper, and I'm the heroine – Bernard is my hero. But we practice quite a lot, and I get home late.

That table cover sounds nice – I'll like anything you buy though; you can bet on that. If you can get silk – fine silk for 60 cents a yard grab it, because you can't get it over here that cheap. Buy lots of material if you can because it can be made into lots of things.

Oh yes, I was talking to Annie [Patty's mother] yesterday and she said to have you buy the material for my wedding dress because she can sew wonderfully and she'll make it for me – and it would cost too much if I bought it here. I'll find out from her exactly what kind of silk. Would you do that for me?

No, I'm not tan yet even though I went to the beach Sunday. I didn't even get sunburn.

On the 4th of July Jean and I are going to the beach, and we're each buying a roll of film, so you'll get a lot of pictures then.

I guess you're back in Manila now, aren't you? I'm glad because now, until you go out on another one, our mail will be regular again. (June 21)

A few days later Louise tells Herb the plot of the pantomime she is playing in.

In this pantomime, I'm being courted by a wealthy squire (it's an old English ballad) and I don't want to marry him. Just as a young farmer is chosen to give me away (my father evidently being dead) I fall in love with the farmer (Bernard) at first sight (I'm good at that aren't I?) I have to gaze into his eyes for about 30 seconds and I feel so silly. Then I swoon (with love I guess) and my mother helps me off the stage.

Next, I'm pursuing the farmer in the guise of a hunter. I give him a glove which I'm supposed to have found. Then as a girl again I announce that I'll marry anyone who has my glove. Naturally the farmer has it, so we embrace (are you jealous?) and get married. Nice, eh? (June 23)

Louise is excited that she will be quite involved with the next annual Temple convention. She writes to Herb about her plans:

Here's what I'm very thrilled about. At convention time we have a number of guests staying in the guest house. Naturally they have to have someone cook for them, so Patty and I are taking charge of the dining room – on our own – and Pearl says we can have whatever we make. Last year Rosa made enough to buy a radio.

Anyway, it's going to be lots of fun, but I'll have to get up early to have breakfast at 7:30. I'm charging \$1.00 a day, or if they want to pay for all Convention – 8 days - \$7.00, an inducement to pay in a lump sum. Or if anyone only wants one meal, 35 cents a meal. I think its swell so now I'll have something to look forward to.

Also, it will be quite an experience in the management of money. You see, at Pearl's whenever I need anything, I just write it down and Pearl buys it. I don't have to think of money, except of course I try to go easy on butter and things. But now, I'll have to do all the buying, with my own money too. And it would be just too bad if we went in the hole. Herman said he'd give me eggs wholesale – and Annie can get lettuce from the Japs for nothing. Gee I really am thrilled. Then I can get you a nice Christmas present. (June 23)

Louise writes about the status of the insurance claim against her for the auto accident she was in last month. The representative of the other driver's insurance company provided her release, so Louise and Jean had to provide theirs. "Jean and I ... got our releases signed.

Gertrude had to sign for Jean since she is a minor. ... We were all presented with a check for a dollar" (June 27).

She writes about another night she went out. "Last night Carl took Jean, Gertrude and I to the show – Dutch treat – and we saw "Robin Hood. It sure was grand. Errol Flynn was in it, and I'm crazy about him" (June 27).

That same day, late in the evening, Louise is writing again, as she usually does, right before going off to sleep. That day she received two letters from him, written during his "southern cruise," and she responds "Well, I guess I don't mind if you did go to one of those places, but I don't particularly like it. I trust you darling ... I'm glad you tell me about it, honest. I guess I don't mind" (June 27).

Then she brings up the subject of flirting.

What would you do if I flirted with other men while at a dance with you? I won't of course. ... I'm not the jealous kind, and anyway I don't worry about you. You go ahead and be a little naughty – as long as it's only a little. It's good for one's soul. I get naughty sometimes – I like to flirt with men who I know, and only in fun and who know I don't mean it. I do with Herb Holman and a friend of Wesley's who is married. Oh yes, once in a great while I get especially daring and flirt with Bernard. Can you imagine it? He just laughs, I don't think he knows I'm flirting. Do you mind all this? I don't think you could ever stop a girl from that. It's too natural. (June 27).

A recurring topic of their correspondence comes up again. She is furious at Herb's suggestion. "You wouldn't really spank me would you. Or would you? Seriously!?" (June 27)

Then in the same letter Louise tells Herb how she feels about him "slipping." She is thinking about trust in a relationship.

If you ever drank too much and did everything that was wrong – well, I would forgive you and still love you, but I'd not trust you anymore. Nothing you could do would make me stop loving you darling, but faith and trust are necessary too, and would you blame me if I couldn't trust you? Because if you slipped once, I couldn't help but think you might slip again. But I'll bet that the way you'd feel the next day would be enough punishment for you. How silly to talk like this! I know better and so do you than to think you could slip.

Oh honey, you're so dear to me! I love you so. Don't let it bother you about that picture or about going to that place. I think that your feeling bad about it is enough, and maybe you won't want to do those things again. I hope you always feel guilty on account of that. (June 27)

Louise is happy now that her brother Bob is home from college.

Bob came home today for a week, unless he finds a job. ... He says he nearly had a nervous breakdown near the end of school. He'd study until late at night and work all day – the time he wasn't in school. But on his report card he got 2 As, 2 Bs, and 1 C, which is pretty swell for college grades. (June 28)

She just came home from a practice session for the play which will be performed in the Lodge soon. She is not happy about it, and tells Herb.

I just got home from practice at Wesley's. Sometimes I'd like to slap his face. He gets mad if the people don't get their actions right and pushes them around. He grabbed me by the arm last night and yanked me into place, and he hurt me too. He doesn't need to be rough. (June 28)

Louise's mother often consulted her astrological charts to try to figure out what people were doing and the challenges they faced. Regarding Herb's career with the Navy, Louise writes: "Mother says according to your horoscope you stand a chance of getting transferred next month (if you're not already)" (June 28).

On Wednesday Louise was elated after receiving three letters from Herb. On Thursday she writes "I want to tell you how happy I am that you got transferred. I'm so glad darling, because anything that makes you happy is enough to make me so too" (June 30).

Louise didn't write the previous night, because she and Bob went to the dance in Oceano. She tells Herb what happened that night.

I really had a swell time because I had some beer. Bob bought us each a 15-cent bottle of beer. I drank it on an empty stomach and as I was not accustomed to beer – you can imagine what happened.

Oh, I could walk straight alright and I could dance swell. You know, it does something to you, and you feel like you can do anything. A couple of men wanted to take me home – one was drunk so I just looked at him and said no thank you and turned my back on him. The other I squelched in a nicer way because he was a nice guy.

Bob laughed at me last night because the beer affected me. I drank it all down at once, and he says that's not good. I wouldn't know! (June 30)

July, 1938

It's Friday night, and Louise is up late again, writing to Herb.

I went to the show tonight and saw "Dr. Rhythm," after which I stopped at Annie's and had some tea and doughnuts. Another song from that show is "My Heart is Taking Lessons." It sure is a swell picture. (July 1).

Sunday evening Louise writes about the supper and pantomime for the July 4th festivities at the Lodge.

Gee I've had a nice time tonight. We had supper at the Lodge, then Wesley's pantomime which came out swell – all of us wore costumes of some period – I had a black skirt and bright red waist which had nearly a thousand hooks and yes – stays. ... Underneath that I had riding boots and breeches for the second scene.

I had boots on tonight that laced to my knee, so afterwards I had Bernard unlace them and pull them off. I had to hang on to the chair while he pulled! More fun! Do you realize my sweetheart that you're missing lots of fun with me? (July 3)

On Monday July 4th Louise went to the beach and got a sunburn. She writes:

My back is the color of a beet, and feels like somebody was rubbing a grater over it. My nose! If you started to kiss me, you'd stop, thinking my nose was a stop signal! Also, my face. But I had a grand time today. Patty and I and her two cousins were at Pismo from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. taking time out to go to the matinee this afternoon.

I bought a roll of film and we took some pictures. We spent about a dollar in the penny arcade, oh such extravagance – but such fun! They turned the plunge in Pismo into the penny arcade – or Fun House as they call it.

We walked to the caves on the beach, and went in some, as the tide was low. I went in the water a little – dived under a couple of waves, but the water is like ice. I've never known it so cold. But as we've had very little sun all spring and summer it's no wonder.

Today was a lovely sunny day. I lay on the beach only a little while – I don't see why I sunburned so much. I didn't think I would.

Then about 7:30 we bumped into Bob, and at 8:30 we all went to Annie's (Patty's mother) – for something to eat. Then home. (July 4)

Louise writes about her relationship with her brother.

I've been walking since my accident to save the car as its not fixed yet, and then Bob comes home and drives it all day and almost all night too! He can get anything he wants, almost. He can from me – he just gets a funny look in his eyes, and I do things for him. Mother didn't want to let me go to the dance last Wednesday, but he persuaded her to let me go. (July 4)

Bob made an interesting observation about Herb and their relationship. Naturally Louise wants to tell Herb what Bob thinks.

Bob was trying to tell me last night that I was in love with an ideal. You know, he's never been really in love, and he doesn't realize that we are really in love and not only an ideal. He told me to ask you if you aren't in love with an ideal!? He's going to have a talk with you when you come back, before you marry me, and tell you about me. My faults naturally. (July 6)

It is late on Saturday night, and Louise is writing to Herb again. She wants to let him know what she's been doing.

I'm late because I just came home from the show. "Rose of the Rio Grande" and "Beloved Brat." Both were swell.

I got paid today – Pearl gave me \$2.00 so I got my pictures, and I'm sending only one. The other three weren't so hot.

Do you remember the song "It's only a Paper Moon?" I was in bed¹ when that song was popular. I was 16.

Someday soon I'll borrow Pearl's camera again and buy some more film and have somebody take my picture again. It cost me 36 cents for the films and 59 cents to have them developed. That seems like a lot to me. Let's see that's 95 cents for one picture! All the money I spent last Monday – that was awful! (July 9)

Then on Monday she continues updating Herb on the latest news.

Yesterday Mother and I went to San Luis and I mailed your letter from there – I hope you didn't have to pay postage on it, it seemed awfully thick for 3 cents. We saw "Having a Wonderful Time" with Ginger Rogers and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. It was good. She's always good.

Bob worked for Clarence today and got so sunburned that he's got chills. ... He's wanting to stay this summer, so he does odd jobs for everybody. Gardening, washing cars, windows, trimming hedges, etc. for 35 cents an hour. He works 8 hours a day, making \$2.80 a day. That's not so bad, is it? (July 11)

The next day Louise got four letters from Herb, and she begins answering them late at night, after returning from the show again. She saw "Three Comrades" with Robert Taylor. "A swell picture, and very good acting. You know, I like Robert Taylor because he's a matinée idol" (July 12).

She responds to an important question Herb had asked. He was wrestling with whether to remain in the Navy or not, after his enlistment was up.

I don't care darling about all the hardships there are to being a sailor's wife. I'm not closing my eyes either, to any there might be. I just know we can make a go of it, and I'm sure that after a year, we'll find we like it – that is of course if you do. (July 12)

She is irritated again by Herb's suggestion that he might have to spank her.

I'm beginning to think you mean it when you say you would spank me. I thought you were only joking – would you really? Of course, I'd run if I thought I was going to get spanked; but I guess I'd not get very far.

You might spank me on general principles, but please don't spank me where it hurts. General principles don't hurt. I tell you I'll kick or bite and you can't get me in a helpless position. (July 12)

To which she added, the following day "I don't know if I would forgive you if some day I'm sitting on your lap and you just all of a sudden spank me! At least I'd make you very sorry you did it before I'd forgive you" (July 13).

¹ Louise had rheumatic fever and was confined to bed for an extended period of time, just after beginning her senior year of high school. Instead of graduating in 1934, she eventually completed high school during 1935-36.

Louise continues her long letter with news of what she's doing.

Just came back from choir practice. I'm going to be awfully busy Convention time. I'll be in the choir, take part in the children's program, also the adult's program the same day – besides being in charge of the dining room [at the guest house].

Every time I come into my room it smells like the smoker in a train. Also, the thing I set my glass of water on is always full of ashes and cigarette butts. Not me – guess again! However, I don't say anything to him about it, because I don't like to nag anybody. Especially people I'm fond of. Bob eats at Pearl's nowadays, making seven to cook for each noon. Eight tomorrow, since Herman is coming.

I'm very proud of myself. I canned some youngberries, and two jars of blackberries so far this summer. I'm going to can apricots, peaches, etc. before the summer is over. All for winter. It's the first I've ever done, so that's why I feel proud. (July 13)

Louise writes about the expense of her ring set, and what it means.

Are you sure that you don't mind if my ring costs \$103? Oh darling – the last thing in the world that I'd ever want to do, is be too much of an expense on you. You know that even now I'd be glad not to have a ring – the one I have, I love, because it was yours, and has always been with you since you got it [his high school ring]. I never expected one either – at least not so soon and such a good one. (July 13)

Late the next night Louise writes “Bob took me to the show in Arroyo tonight, a show where they have old pictures – and we saw ‘Frankenstein’ a picture that might have been scary in 1931 when it was released.” She adds “I've been to an awfully lot of shows lately I guess, and it's terrible that I do. But that's about the only thing I enjoy nowadays. I can lose myself in a picture” (July 14).

Friday evening before retiring, Louise answers Herb's latest letters, one from Polluc Harbor and one from Manila. She is elated to receive the funds from him to purchase her ring set, and she thanks him profusely. (July 15)

Then on Saturday Louise goes into Arroyo Grande, with Pearl and Flamore, to cash the money orders Herb sent. That night she writes about what happened next.

Then this afternoon we went to San Luis and I got my rings in a beautiful gold case. I have my engagement ring on now, and honey, its beautiful and you are wonderful to do all that for me. Thank you so much darling. The most important ring is in the case at the bottom of my mother's cedar chest with the rest of our things waiting for that very eventful day about a year and a half from now. (July 16)

Monday night just before going off to sleep, Louise is writing again, and she tells Herb about going out with her brother and his friend.

Yesterday about 6:30 Bob and his friend Byron Black came after me and took me to the show in Santa Maria. The reason they took me is they wanted to know the words to some popular songs and we sang on the way down and back and they learned some words. I think its lots of fun to sing in a group like that. (July 18)

Responding to Herb's account of one his adventures while on his southern cruise, she writes

Oh, I know everything about sailors. They're fresh – but nice. You can't blame them for the things they do, it's only natural being cooped up so long on a ship with only a bunch of other men. (July 19)

In the same letter she reveals something that occurred last fall. Now she apologizes for not telling him back then.

Do you really want to know why I asked you what you'd do if someone got fresh with your girl? You see, last November I went to a dance with the Holman's and they had this young man come for me. Dick – remember I told you? I was sitting out a dance with Dick, and a friend of his – not too good a friend – got fresh with me, and all Dick said was "Aw lay off, will you?" So, I suggested to Dick that we go outside for a walk. We did, but it was cold, so we came right in again. (July 19)

During the latter part of July, Temple members in Halcyon are very busy preparing for the annual Convention in early August. Louise didn't have time anymore to play the guitar and told Herb that it just stands in the corner of her room.

On Wednesday night she writes "Just came home from choir practice, where we are practicing for Convention" (July 20). Then on Friday night Louise writes about her role during Convention week.

When Pearl first told Patty and me that we were to have charge of the dining room during Convention, it was six weeks away from it. Now it is only two, and it seems to me, it's not going to be as easy as it seemed then; even though it will be grand fun.

We all seem to get the jitters about Convention. Pearl [worries] so that it will go alright, and the program [will be] be okay; Mother worries about the choir and music, and now I worry about the meals. (July 22)

The weather that summer was a typical central coast summer. Louise writes:

I don't know what the sun looks like any more. It shines until about 10:00 – from about 9:00, then the fog drifts in and stays all day. We've had the most miserable summer ever. I like the fog, yes, but not as a steady diet. (July 22)

Late in the evening on Sunday Louise is again writing to Herb while lying in bed, before going off to sleep. She tells Herb about her busy day.

About 2:00 this afternoon Bob and Byron and I went to San Luis to the show, which by the way was "Algiers." Then we went to the Golden Dragon for dinner, then on to Santa Maria to the Fair². We stopped at Nipomo, and had a Tom Collins. That brother of mine is a bad influence on me. However, I was okay I guess after it. Then to the Fair and we

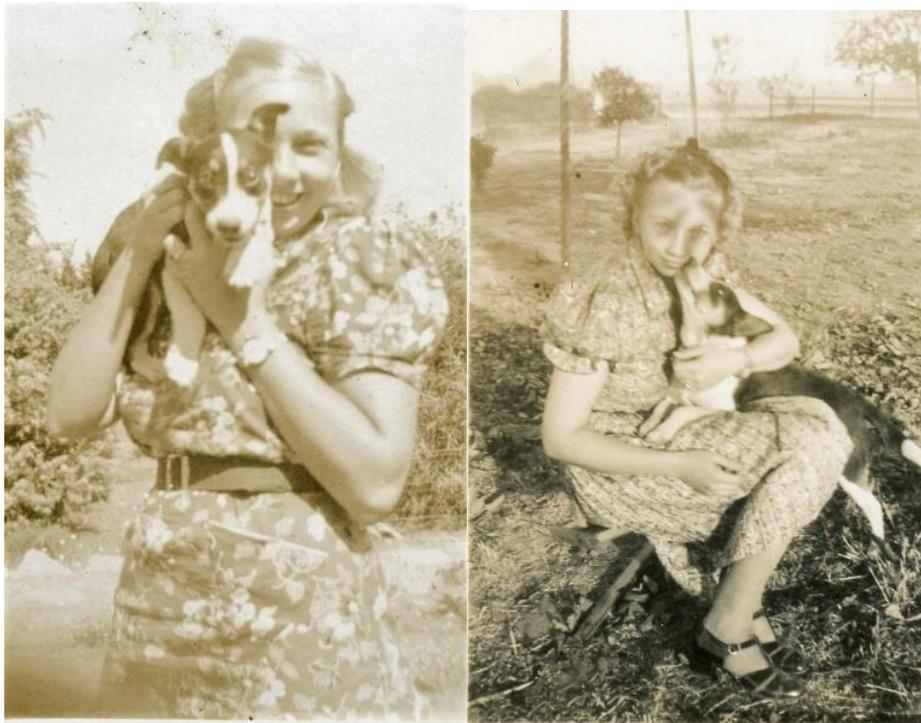
² Santa Barbara County Fair

saw the horses and livestock, because Byron likes them, and then looked at Diesel engines 'cause Bob likes them. But I had lots of fun.³ (July 24)

In the same letter she explains to Herb how her brother rearranged her furniture.

Bob took one of my beds and put it between our two pine trees, stretched canvas between them and has a lovely outdoor bedroom. Plus mosquito netting. It doesn't rain in the summer, so he's okay. He keeps his clothes in my room and now you see a man's clothing thrown all over the place. (July 24)

Louise told Herb that a couple of weeks ago the family had taken in a stray cat, and named it Vicki. Then today the family got another dog, and she writes "The puppy is sweet – I'll take pictures of him when I can" (July 24).



Louise with the new family dog, Georgie

Louise then tells Herb how busy she will be in the coming week.

Tomorrow starts a busy week. Monday, I write letters for Pearl. Tuesday Clarence is going to give me a lot of apricots and I'm going to can them. Also, Claude is going to bring me a dozen each of blackberries and boysenberries to can. That will take up Wednesday too. Then I have to go to the Administration building and take an inventory

³ They did a considerable amount of driving. San Luis Obispo was about a 30-minute drive to the north of Halcyon, and Santa Maria was at least a 30-minute drive to the south of Halcyon, along Highway 101.

of cooking utensils, and clean the stove. Sometimes I get kind of panicky when I think of all I'll have to do at Convention time.

Again, it is late in the evening when Louise writes. "I get later and later don't I? I love to write – it's just like talking to you. And with that last picture you sent me in front of me – it's just as if you were here" (July 25).

Then she tells Herb all about her brother's relationship with Dorothy.

Last summer Bob was interested in a girl – Dorothy – a Portuguese girl, but awfully nice; rather tomboyish, and a good scout. She went off to San Francisco; her mother lives there, and is no good. Dorothy wants to stay with her aunt who lives in Oceano. She doesn't like the way her mother lives, and tries to rise above the situation.

Well, she thought Bob was swell, and he liked her. They didn't see each other all year, and as soon as Bob came home, he asked if Dorothy had come down. But she hadn't. A couple of days ago she came and I found it out today so I went to Bob and said "Dorothy's home."

You should have seen the grin. Well, in a couple hours, Patty told me she saw Bob's car outside of Dorothy's house, and he hasn't come home yet. I guess he likes her more than he lets on. But she's a swell girl, I like her a lot, and never before have I liked any of Bob's girlfriends. (July 25)

On Thursday night Louise is answering Herb's letter, and she replies.

I'm so glad you saw Yoshiko and Gabriel. I don't know exactly why I'm so thrilled about it. I guess it's because she is my best friend, and I saw her so recently, it's almost as if you were seeing me. I'm sorry you had such a hectic time in seeing them, but I'm glad you had made up your mind to see them and persevered. (July 28)

On Sunday, at midnight, Louise squeezes in a few minutes to write a letter to Herb. First she apologizes for not writing sooner, but then explains why.

Friday after I got home from the Lodge, at 10:00, Bob came home from a picnic with Dorothy and they stayed till 11:00, and then I was too tired to write. Last night I stayed up until late sewing a slip for Convention.

Then today I left the meeting early, and Bob and Dorothy and Byron and I went out. We went to Morro Bay and walked out to the rock⁴, and then went back to San Luis to the show – and then dinner at 10:00 in the Golden Dragon. I had some Chow Mein – the first I've had since I came to California.

We had lots of fun. You know, I've really been having some swell times lately. Byron and Bob are lots of fun, and so is Dorothy. We all sing, and seem to have the same kind of sense of humor – so we get along swell. (July 31-August 1)

⁴ Morro Rock