

Evansville, Ind.
2 Oct. 1948.

Dear Allan + all:

We got up this morning at 7. I wake up earlier but must not get up until 6:30 week days and 7 Saturdays. We washed, ironed and cleaned our room. I have been finding passages of Scripture to learn and marking them.

I thought maybe I would get a letter to-day but I didn't, maybe Monday. The mail is delivered twice other days, once Saturday not at all Sunday.

This is a good place to stay 6 rooms (I told this before) and a bath, a basement to do our laundry and hang our clothes in the winter. There is a telephone, an electric stove, refrigerator, daily paper we use them all or can. I don't telephone. The paper is bigger than the Deseret News but nothing in it but the head lines. I had read the News was 1 of the 11 best papers and after reading this I know it.

I like Mrs. Leaf very much, she is a widow has a daughter and son living in this city. She does the dishes the first 2 meals, we do them at night (other 2 if we can before she knows it). We do her washing.

Sister Walter (we have to call missionaries Elder + Sister) left for another city yesterday. She has been out here, this mission 20 months, her 2nd mission. She is a supervisor, visits every city instructs about all the work, how to eat, tract, study, helps the members and chairman how to get and fill out genealogical sheets. She tracted with me 3 days. We went to the court house 1 day to get records. She is a trained nurse, worked in the Salt Lake clinic, worked for the government during the war. She knew I me. She doesn't know as much as she thinks she does, but I have to keep still. I was glad she left.

Sister Johnson expects to leave any day for Indianapolis.

I may have told you some of these things before. We are living in the northwest part of town near the industrial center, the poorest not the poorest part of town. The population is about 53,000 instead of 30,000. There are many niggers here and most of the people talk like the southerners as we are on the border of Kentucky.

We tract across the city to the south and east. It takes us a half hour to go and come on the buses. It costs about 50¢ a day for bus fare. It is very pretty over there. Large brick houses most of them, 2 blocks frame, I imagine built during the war like Brookside. The lawn grass is that Johnson grass (Solar calls it that) we hate so at home. They have beautiful shrubs, evergreens and trees. Different than we have at home. The oak trees are as big as any trees we have at home.

I wore my suit 1 day and about died. It has been very hot excepting Tuesday and Wednesday when it poured and I mean poured, all day and night like it does home at the hardest. I wore my rubbers but my legs were wet and I wished I had some boots. The gutters ran full of water all day. They say it is as cold during the winter.

The end of the sewer is open so the water, when it rains runs in them and what a smell. The drinking water tastes like the sewers smell, it is taken out of the Ohio River.

The members here are doing very good work, 39 to Sunday school, 18 M. D. A., 16 Relief Society. They had a party.

Another new elder came the other night and they want us 3 new missionaries and Sister Johnson to talk Sunday night, she have half the time. So mine will be short and sweet.

President Truman and Barkley were here Thursday, but were 3 hours late so we didn't stop to hear them. Indiana is Republican now but Mrs. Leaf says it changes about every election. Be sure and send me my application so I can vote.

We visited 1 member in the nurses home, her blind son who lives someplace else was visiting her, 1 woman at her home, we

will take her to the hospital Monday and a little bunch back
remember yesterday, her grandsons treat her rotten. We make our
visits in the afternoon. Sister Hill is Relief Society president and
I am her missionary companion so I have to go too.

We have met a few very fine people who are investigating
and some asked us in the past time but the majority are
satisfied. Catholics, a Catholic town, schools, churches, convents.
We met 1 Jewess she was worse than the Catholics. President
Haymond said if we get 5 out of 50 we would be doing fine.

Almost every man and woman smokes here.

I am alright when I walk but when we ride on the bus
going and coming I am turned around. I wonder if I will ever
be able to know which is which. I know the tracting district
when I get there but I don't know how to get there.

Don't send any food Maggie I would have to pay for half
anyway. I paid for a fourth of it for last Friday and Saturday
starting last Friday and didn't start to eat any until last
Sunday. I had enough left for all of us last Saturday night
but they forgot that when we settled up, so don't send any
food.

Elwood if you haven't bought the string beans yet get green
ones instead of yellow ones as they are healthier.

The church news is sent here to Sister Hill, I don't know
about the Era.

There were ten men or boys at M. S. A. 6 man members
and 4 missionaries and member. The men meet together and
the women just the 2 classes.

This city is 11 square miles, Chicago is 20 square miles.
This mission is the biggest in the church. I expect they will
be dividing it. President Haymond thinks maybe he will be
released in the spring if so I hope it will be when I
come home.

I don't expect to get home sick but I don't expect
to like this any more than I did stake missionary work.

I hope Faclin is enjoying his work and when I get his address I will write him. If I had been sent to a small city I would have enjoyed it more.

The other 2 are going to a picture show. I will study the Sunday school lesson, try and think of something to say in 5 minutes for to-morrow night and look up & mark some more references.

I hope you are all well. Tell everyone hello. I may find time to write to others but haven't had time yet. I was tired out last night.

With love and best wishes,

Aunt Elmer.

P. S. I wrote a card to Elwood, a card to Dorothy, and a letter to Dorothy.

Bloomington, Ind.
23 Apr. 1949

Dear Folks:

It is sure a beautiful day like early summer. We went to town this afternoon and I am tired standing around waiting. It is 10 blocks not as long as Salt Lake blocks.

Beth is having a birthday party to-night. It was her birthday Tuesday and 6 friends to-night. They have all the parthies here so she can do all the work. They have a chocolate cake with cream colored flowers and happy birthday. Last week they had 3 couples here and played cards.

The first month this couple would have his brother and wife (in other side of house) for cake and coffee every night for a week at 10 or 11, then the next week they would go over there. They don't do it anymore but are having other couples about once a week. The others bring food at least they did last week. If they don't have company they have coffee and cake every night at 10 or 11.

I believe all ^{part the} people use water for here is to bath and wash dishes and clothes. They drink beer, whiskey and cokes.

Maggie will you please send me the names of the missionaries whose photographs I sent home in that box. I have forgotten some that I put my photo to.

24 Apr. Friday it was 78° outside. This morning a cold wind is blowing it was 66 in the room when we got up now 70 but I have my sweater on.

The company played cards and smoked last night. The smoke comes up in our room until we about ~~smother~~, we had our window open wide.

It dawned on me last night that Phyllis will graduate from seminary about the 15th and I wait be there. Will I be there for Clifton's graduation and does Hilton graduate?

Some church bell is ringing; different church bells at other

Daylight saving time to day. It is a nuisance but may be better for me as I wake up at 5 every morning and if I go to bed earlier at night I might get more sleep. The trains and buses don't change.

Mr. Butts just told me the University isn't going off standard time. The students and merchants clash, the industrialists look down on the students. So we want change our time.

Last Sunday Elder Bench said we were having District conference at Vincennes the 13th. President Hayward said we would be released the 15th at Vincennes. I told him what Elder Bench said and he said the 15th. Elder Bench is the presiding Elder here (missionary) he said we are to be at Indianapolis the 14th and 15th. I guess we will know when we get word from Elder Garfield the supervising Elder of Indiana.

25 Apr. 7 months to day since I came to Indiana. It is warm and beautiful out.

When I came back from tracting I found your letter Maggie. No chance of me going to Iowa. The library will get all the records before long.

I couldn't get a magnolia blossom unless I helped myself and they are gone now. There were a few dark rose color.

I don't believe I want to sell the foot locker I have wanted something for years to put extra quilts in. I can cover it and keep it at the foot of the bed.

The only way I will see Laura in Salt Lake is if I don't make connections for an hour or two. If the train arrives like it did in December I will only have time to transfer from train depot to bus depot.

If it is an all state missionary conference the 14th and 15th I will see Hayfield but I would rather think it is a central District.

I saw the sun sink into the earth while going to Chicago, here houses stop you from seeing.

26 Apr. It was beautiful the 1st thing this morning, then the wind began to blow. It was cloudy a little while tracting this morning. When we came out of Relief Society this afternoon it was pouring. We have learned to take

our umbrellas when a cloud appears, but we didn't have our rain coats.

Only 4 of us at R. S. I gave the lesson without preparation, I only read it once. The Lord blessed me in giving it, things came to my mind. I told Sister Hayward how our organization is going, she recommended changing the time if it would help. They said Sunday they could come better at night so we are going to have it Monday nights and try it. It is hard for them to come, & have to come in at 7 in the morning.

Thanks Solon for the paper, it came to-day. If people were half as interested in their religion as they are in clubs.

I saw some new flowering trees to-day. One pink and white with 4 petals and a double pink flowers. A lacy every-green the prettiest I have ever seen, the lilacs are in bloom.

27 Apr. It rained all night, has been cloudy all day.

Some people are interested in our message for a while but they soon lose interest. The woman whom her neighbors said was going insane seeking after religion, is really seeking for the truth. She is our only hope. Our hopes are built up and after a few visits are dashed to the ground. We know the seed maybe some day they will wake up.

28 Apr. It is beautiful out, a cool breeze blowing.

I met my 1st atheist this morning. She is 34 has 4 children. She said her father and grandfather were atheists. I couldn't believe in the god the world worships. She has a desire to know but how she will ever know is hard to tell. I gave her some tracts on personality of god but when we left she said she didn't know whether she would read them or not.

They say the copperhead snakes are taking Bedford Square they mean they are coming in the city. They are very poisonous. They are in the woods and come in the gardens out in the country.

29 Apr. It is as hot as summer to-day. Last week when it was so hot it rained a few days after. Yesterday it was cool with our coats on.

Sister Allen received a yesterday from President Hayward saying we will be released the 15th, 6 lady missionaries. Sister Allen's niece and husband are coming after her and they are going to tour awhile before going home.

I do not know whether we will leave Chicago the 17th or 18th but would rather think the 17th.

People are all too busy or not interested in our message.

I wait know what day I leave until I see President H. at Vincennes the 13th.

With love and best wishes,
Elnor.