December 17th

Dear Nell,

I hope that you will like the enclosed pictures. The negatives for some of them were pretty light and I still have a great deal to learn about making prints, but I think that you will agree with me that the two subjects go a long way toward making up for their father's inadequacies in the art of photography. I should liked to have made all the prints myself, but Jack Connor's enlarger will handle only 35 mm film and this necessitated choosing negatives which I could cut to the 35 mm size and still get a picture. In most cases this would mean just getting a head, and if the rest of the picture was good, I didn't wish to cut up the negative. A place which I can use as a dark room is going to be high on the list of prerequisites the next time

that we change our abode.

I cannot tell you how glad I was to hear Bet's good news. From all reports I know that John must be a fine person and right for Bet. I do hope that before too long we shall have an opportunity to meet him and know him.

Wouldn't it be fun if by some miracle all of the family could be gathered to share the warmth of the common hearth, the glow of the Yule log, ~~and~~ all of the delicious tastes and smells of a comfortable home at Christmas, and the joy of being together for the holiday? I hope that it may all come true after the War. This year we shall be thinking of each other and shall be thankful for our many blessings, and we shall look forward to other Christmases, when Mayo shall be home, and when the world shall be at peace.

When you took leave of us last May, I never had an opportunity to say good-bye, and there were many things I wanted to tell you. I thought of writing to you, but somehow it didn't mean the same thing on paper that it did in my thoughts. I know that even now I cannot begin to tell you what I feel and it would be far better if we could be together and talk. It was very hard for you when you were with us last, and I have known for a long time that I must have made it more difficult for you. Love and friendship go through many trials; one of the most difficult things in the world is to really know another person, the real self, the being of that person. It takes a long time and if love and friendship is to survive and grow, there must be many things forgiven. Most of us have weaknesses and many times

we make it even more difficult for others to know how we really feel inside. There needs to be a great deal of faith. I do not mean to sound stuffy, but I know that you will understand I tell you this, because I believe it and because these things are true for me.

I hope that you can find it in your heart to forgive a foolish son who loves you very much and is proud to be a part of your ever growing family.

Bill