



1/12/78

Dear Grandmother Nell,

My Christmas and vacation were both pleasant. I was at home for a total of about 8 days and was in N. A. for a week. I drove down there for the wedding of a college friend and then stayed a few days to see the sights with another friend. It was a lot of fun. One of the places that I most enjoyed was the Huntington Library with its beautiful and varied gardens and many fine books and manuscripts. I was particularly happy to see a Gutenberg Bible and original printings of the works of Chaucer and Shakespeare.

School began several days ago. I'm in a course called "Eliot to Conrad" in which we will be reading a number of books by those and other authors. We have begun by reading George Eliot's long novel, Middlemarch. It's really quite good, which is fortunate because I must be reading it for a long time each day. The only unfortunate thing about this class may be that the reading assignments will be long seven days a week and I probably won't be able to add any more to the story which I began to write last summer as my time will be spent reading.

My roommate got tired of living on campus and so has moved to an apartment. We now got a single, which is nice because I need the quiet and lessened distraction to read this block. It's a little strange not having someone always on hand to talk to, but once I get some new pictures upon the bare walls the room should look better and I will not mind the solitary. Actually, things aren't particularly solitary because my ^(old) roommate and other friends live nearby so we drop by each other's rooms every day. Also, I live in a fraternity house so things can never be too lonely.

I hope that you are well. Are you enjoying winter in Conn? I'm sure that you must have more snow than we do. Pike's Peak has some pretty white patches but there are none in town.

I must return to my reading. Write if you have time.

Love,
Tom