



Miss J. Gillis,
R. K. #1

New Westminster, B.C.
Canada

Calmar, Alta.,
Jan 28, 1943.

Dear Joan:

Thanks for all the swell letters. It's awfully nice of you to write so often — and such nice letters, too! Gee, ain't I lucky! It ain't everybody that has someone to write to him on Christmas Eve at 11:30 P.M! You're really swell, Joan! Being your "victim" is swell, Joan!

You know, three weeks after Christmas Eve, when I got your letter, I spent it all over again — in your house! Boy, it was swell! I'm glad you liked the gift.

So you had a party. Gee, I bet the fellas and gals had lots of fun — and why shouldn't they, when they have a swell hostess like you!! Poor you, having to clean up the mess! Say, these two little cousins of

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yours sound very interesting you'll have
to introduce them to me sometime.
Billy - the one who wields the pencil - must
be a real card.

Remember you asked if anyone
out here raised bees? Well, yes! There's
a couple of big colonies out here. No!
It couldn't have been our name on it -
although we have a hive in each our
house. Our bees say he gets 'bout
200 lbs. out each year but we didn't
get around to it. (That's how busy - or
ignorant we were.) I guess the bees
have eaten it all by now!

Oh, another thing, you seem to
remember Ray and June very well - better
than I in fact! They, and their dad, were
down here last summer and then they
returned to Lethbridge. That's where my
brother works! Mother and May just
returned from their place and they say
they are getting along very well.
Christmas would have been perfect if my

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brother and his family could have been ~~by~~ with us. We sent them lots of things for Christmas though.

Well, enough of this sniffing and dooting! What shall I do in these cold days? I hear and read that you're snowed in! How does it feel to be cold? At least it's a change from that lousy rain and drizzle (Aunt I mean!) What's the best a foot of snow or six inches of mud? I hear there's a shortage of fuel! Well I hope your family has lots — as if my hoping would do any good when you can't lay your hands on the stuff!!

I hear also that dear old A.E. got mad and smoke a few pipes! What luck, huh?

Listen, who's suppose to be telling me of home — you or me!

I guess I should tell you a little, anyway, of what's happening down here.

Well nothing 'much' ever happens

OH
out here! The days just come in
go. What a life! Had a
blizzard last week. Had to
work 'cause I was workin'
for someone down the road. The
rest of the family stayed indoors
that day. The roads were blocked
by drifts and the mail truck
didn't get through, fortunately it
came the next day though.

Oh, Christmas and New Year
were swell! We all had a grand
time. So helps me the Christmas
turkey never tasted better - maybe
because we worked up a hefty
appetite by skating. The weather
was just like B.C. in winter.
There was no snow till late
Christmas night. We (the younger
Ohamas) went to our neighbors'
party. Stayed till two and
had a swell time.

New Year's was a little different. We had snow and it was a little colder. New Year's Eve we planned to go to the hall skin-dig but the car broke down at the last minute. (The same thing happened when we started out for the local school concert! Wotta lousy ~~gallop~~ gallop! They said, after it was all over, we really messed something!) Well, anyway, we managed to drop over one of the neighbours and his family Boy, did we have a lot to drink — pop, of course! (Don't worry, Joan, all us boys were sober!)

I'm loving you so I'll close — while I got the chance — 'cause I'll just go on and on. You be hearing from me soon. Take care of yourself and bundle up and be good!

Yours Al

over

P.S. Thanks for the lovely card!
Keeps the home fires burning!
al.