

Dearest Mom -

Monroe
Mar.
24

LEAVING MONROE. AT THE STATION
NOW. WILL MAIL THIS IN HATTIESBURG.
SCARED TO EVEN BUY STAMPS. MIGHT RUN
SHORT.

HAVE EXACTLY \$1.50. STILL CAN'T
FIGURE WHERE THE MONEY WENT TO. BUT
IT TOOK A NOSE DIVE FAST. MAYBE IT
WAS ON STAMPS. WROTE A LOT OF LET-
TERS. BUT THE MAJORITY OF LETTERS,
I'M MAIL IN HATTIESBURG.

WILL SEND YOUR EASTER CARDS
FROM THERE. WILL GET 'EM MONDAY
WHEN I GET MY CHECK CASHED.

TALKING ABOUT MONEY, DON'T SEND
ANY TIL I'M COMPLETELY DOWN TO MY
LAST TWO-BITS. IT GOES THROUGH ME
LIKE A SIEVE. YOU WIRE YOU.

I MAY EVEN HAVE ENOUGH TO
PAY ONE MONTH'S RENT... BUT NOT TOO
SURE. AS FOR FOOD, WILL GO ON A
FRUIT DIET. I ALSO HAVE THOSE VITAMIN
PILLS SOMEWHERE.

Wait! INSTEAD OF PAYING ONE
MONTH'S RENT — WILL PAY FOR JUST THE

NEXT TWO WEEKS — AND SPEND THE
OTHER \$15.00 (IF I'LL HAVE THAT MUCH)
ON FOOD. I GET AWFULLY HUNGRY.

Will SEE THE DOCTOR AT THE FIRST
OF NEXT MONTH. AM STILL TIRED AND
NERVOUS. WANT TO REST AND ~~REST~~ WRITE
TIL THE END OF THIS MONTH.

BUT SOON AS I GET MY NOSE
FIXED I WANT TO START WORKING. I
WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SEND LETTERS.
LETTERS TAKE STAMPS AND STAMPS TAKE
MONEY.

AND MOM — THE ONLY WAY I
CAN EVEN MAKE STAMP MONEY ^(IN THE SOUTH) IS BY
WAITRESSING. OTHER WORK, YOU CAN'T
EVEN MAKE ENOUGH TO BUY ENVELOPES.
MOM, THAT'S NO KIDDING.

DOMESTIC PAIRS \$2.50 AND \$5.00
A WEEK. IMAGINE! IN THE NORTH
THE GIRLS ARE MAKING FROM \$70.00 ON
UP A MONTH. EVEN IN TENNESSEE
THEY MAKE \$80, \$90, \$100. BUT I WANT
WORK WHERE I HAVE 'FREEDOM' OF TIME
AND TIME — BECAUSE WRITING REQUIRES
IT. STORE CLERKS ^{HERE} MAKE ONLY \$12.50
TO ABOUT \$15.00. WAITRESSES ONLY GET
\$15.00 BUT THEY COULD MAKE SOME MONEY
ON TIPS. I JUST HAVE TO STAY IN THE SOUTH
I DON'T WANT TO GO WHERE I MIGHT KNOW ~~SOMEONE~~ ^{ANYONE}.
PLEASE TRUST ME IN WHATEVER I DO.

Love, Mary

SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
MUST BE ABOUT 8:30 PM.

Jackson
Mar.
24

~~Just~~ HIT JACKSON — ABOUT 15
MINUTES AGO. Wow! I WUZ STARVED.
HAD A BOWL OF SOUP AND A GLASS
OF MILK. FEEL SWELL NOW.

I THINK I BETTER STAY AT THE
STATION OVER-NIGHT. OTHERWISE I'M READY
HATTIESBURG AT A BAD HOUR AND WON'T
BE ABLE TO GO TO ^{THE} HOUSE I'M STAYING IN.
I'M EITHER HAVE TO SLEEP AT THE HATTIES-
BURG STATION OR THE ONE — AND THE
ONE IS NICER.

Will REST MY EYES FOR A FEW
MINUTES — THEN ANSWER LETTERS. HAVE
WRITTEN 280 LETTERS IN 7 DAYS. (OF
COURSE MY LETTERS ARE NEVER MORE
THAN A PAGE — BUT — IT'S STILL
A LETTER; A MANINI ^{ICND} ~~ONE~~

MAKING MY OWN EASTER CARDS.
RUGGED-LOOKING THINGS — BUT AM
GONNA HAVE TO LEARN TO HOLD ON
TO ^{MY} MONEY AND USE MY HEAD...
WHEN POSSIBLE.

x x x x

JUST GOT HOME. (USO.
1:00 A.M.) GOT BIG NEWS!!!
GREAT BIG NEWS!!!

Wow!!!

Am so HAPPY. I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!!!

GOES WHAT?

I GOT A LETTER FROM
Bill's DAD. . . . AND PICTURES
OF Bill WHEN HE WAS
A HL' BOY. SWEET PICTURES.

Terribly happy,
Love, Mary