

**Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers**

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**Series: I. Correspondence**

**Box / folder: 6 / 75**

**Folder label: ESH and LLH from John (Jay) Hildreth (their son), from the United States**

**Dates: 1940**

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140  
About Mar 8, 10, or 12?

Dear Mother,

I didn't thank you for sending all those things did I? Well I certainly appreciated them. It has been such a relief this week to have that line largely removed from my schedule. The one thing to me my biggest is dental work. I'm having most trouble + to complicated things I've got trench-mouth. So they can't do anything till I get rid of that. I'm enclosing a mimeographed explanation of our proposed trip - course with Mr. Stevens. What do you think of it?

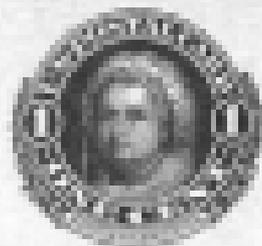
The Ways + Means Committee met with the Music Committee this evening at a General Open meeting to decide about next years Concert series. They decided to cut the appropriation drastically and apply the rest of the money to the Music Library! Hooray!

The birds are back - singing all over the place! Spring has been here several times but it is usually gone in a breath + snow comes flying again.

You keep saying I don't let you in on the things I'm doing - I don't know what to tell you. I think you must have a romanticized conception of what I would be doing. I live a very ordinary life making my morning rounds of classes (or assemblies or coop dishes or something) dinner at Coop - afternoon work in library (or laboratory) supper - evenings as follows: Mon. Orchestra followed by "Musical Study Group" an informal discussion group of theories of social change. Tues. Glee Club followed by Modern Dance Group. Wed work in library Thurs. Glee Club usually followed by listening

to music. Fri work in library and Sat: either  
some college function (Dance or Hall party or  
something) or some private form of social  
life - Party at Morgan house - Symphony in  
Cincinnati - listening to music or something.  
And Sunday after Rockford Circle comes  
Vic Concert at which I have to do the  
"Deems Taylor" stuff - program annotating  
or whatever you want to call it. The only  
times I have a chance to do anything different  
are when I have free time in the morning  
or when (on every other Sat) I have an afternoon  
off or when I get ~~down~~ work in the evening.  
Generally I have to see someone about something  
or other half of that time

REPLY CARD  
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mrs. E. J. Hildreth  
North Miami  
Florida.

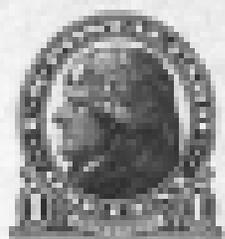
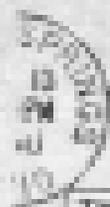
c/o Mrs. Griffing.

I love Mother,

So sorry I didn't mention  
 my ear. When you sent  
 the check I thought that would  
 be more than sufficient but  
 since then I've had this mouth  
 trouble - I may have to ask for  
 more at some time. Perhaps  
 to come home with. - My mouth  
 trouble starts with a very bad  
 case of trench mouth which  
 was allowed to reach such a  
 state largely because I knew  
 my other wisdom tooth was coming +  
 expected trouble. Now I have many  
 very cavities & to fill a potato  
 extraction and still a balance  
 of trench mouth to be disposed of.  
 My best estimate probable total  
 for \$50.00! I am earning  
 \$7.50 or \$8.00 a week + working  
 full time during Vacation.

Spring is in the air + studies are  
 wonderful + I'm having a grand  
 time. The only thing which  
 ruins my picture. Love God

Feb 16



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. E. Story Hildreth  
North Miami  
Florida

70 Mrs. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
Mrs. Dan W. Robbins

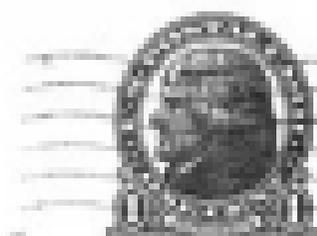
Dear Mother,

It seems like so long since  
I've written. Its late today but  
this (Wed) is the last day of 5<sup>th</sup>  
week and we just finished  
putting on the records fourth week.  
I'm working fulltime in the library  
during vacation but I expect to  
have more free time than ever.  
The dentist is going to a convention  
for a week so I get a vacation  
from my treatment, too. I'll just  
have to take care of them myself.  
By the way I'm having a very  
splendidly.

I'm having a wonderful time  
with my collection of their  
History. I'm getting just what I  
need.

There is an art exhibit  
going on at school now. Pictures  
representing 79 different  
nations.  
Love John

Mar 19  
arrived Mass 21.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. E. Story Hilbuth  
7. Mrs. Davis Robbins  
No. Miami, Fla.

March 19.

Dear Mother,

So sorry not to have written  
 more + soon. I've been having  
 a grand time working during this  
 past vacation. I had almost  
 not perfect freedom. I chose  
 to spend doing what I please  
 to the collection (and listening  
 to music at the same time) I've  
 been recataloguing Haydn  
 Mozart + Beethoven to suit  
 myself. I've got a long busy  
 day in or two ahead of me  
 + I've got to get to work for  
 with Spring in the air I'm  
 afraid I'm going to want to  
 be out doors some of the time.?

I wish or as I ordered some  
 of those little spotted hyacinths  
 (the same kind sent you once) and  
 they've been beautiful.

Love

Her loving & true son John

Mar 21

140

Dear Mother,

I've just been figuring my expenses for the future and no matter how I trim them I'm not going to be able to come out with enough to come home with. I don't know how much my dentist bill is going to run but I expect the estimate of \$50.00 isn't far off. I have already paid \$20.00 and paid \$10.00 board which leaves me \$25.00 in debt to a room mate with a dime in my pocket - the .25 was to see the play where program I'll include - - Langdon Hughes - "Don't You Want to be Free" - It was at least half music. - Spirituals, blues etc most unsophisticated, spontaneous thing I've ever seen in the theatre.

Well, to get back to finances I have to pay during the next 3 divisions \$30.00 board - Coop, \$37.50 room, approx. (I might move to a cheaper house but this rent many cheaper + I'd have more), and approximately \$30 dollars for the dentist which totals \$117.50 and even figuring at \$8.00 a week nets me only \$120.00 and there are a goodly lot of other expenses besides the \$20.00 to come home with if I come by train. If I hadn't had this dentist bill I could have made it through the year on just my pay & the generous checks you have sent. In fact I feel that I have lived rather luxuriously. I've spent for music, made contributions to numerous "worthy" causes, been to concerts & several worth while movies, I've had a bite to eat in the evening frequently and bought presents more than usual. Since dentistry I've completely cut out eat in the evening & other "luxuries" I still have some music on order and I do want to buy some more.

Hold  
to the  
Mammy  
15 weeks

I have no hurry about sending anything & it  
not necessary to try to cover all expenses at  
one time. The dining trusts me free! I feel  
sort of ashamed for having to come with this body.

Speaking again of music: I've been  
having a most wonderful time with my orchestral  
course. I've been doing some work for a small  
Chamber ensemble which meets Sunday afternoons.  
It's the biggest thrill to have them actually play  
the things I've arranged. My roommate wants  
me to write a few Suite (or something) for violin  
& viola for him and his girlfriend to play.  
(I said write - Compose! Has he got parts?)

I'm terribly sorry to see vacation over. It was  
so much fun working full time again. But it's  
nice to see everybody back in Campus again.

The boys are all going to bed and I guess I  
better follow their good example.

Love Jay

Mar. 25 1940

Dear Mother,

In going thru my desk yesterday I found all these letters, finished + unfinished and a description sheet which I know I have said I was enclosing in one of my letters. I don't know how I can have been so thoughtless as to write + leave them all un mailed - writing has been on my conscience since you have seemed so worried in your letters.

- - - My dental work is almost done. One small filling in a front tooth + one in a rear left. He has already drilled out the rear one but it was just behind the tooth he pulled so he couldn't fill it till the place was healed. He did the drilling so he wouldn't have to use novocaine (how do you spell it?) again.

I'm due at a class now - Orchestration with Mr. Friedler.

Love, John

P.S. Mr. Friedler is sick so I can't have my class as I just got your letter. - When I get to the dentist I take a music book + study. All these things I haven't told you I think are in these "belated" letters.

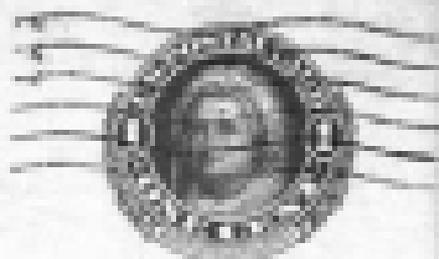
P.P.S. Don't worry about physical exercises; I'm taking folk dancing for 7 yrs now.

The summer trip is just an idea -- There are so many things I would like to do. -- Yes, I have to pay for dental treatment the medical fee covers any kind of sickness - and diagnosis of other troubles including X-rays but all the dental work is "on your own" The trouble is not with the wisdom teeth. That obscured the starting of the other trouble till it was too late. The trench mouth is almost "conquered" now + I have left only the long extended treatments to keep any last vestige of it from springing up again. I have no more pain or any thing else to remind me to use the penicillin. When I would get some relief from using it, it was easy to remember but now it is easier + easier to forget -- but I think I shall always, hereafter brush my teeth better than I would have had it not been for this long educational process.

I haven't bothered with face treatments as yet. They are a little on the "luxury" side + since dentist bills I can't possibly afford it. It isn't at all essential anyhow --- If you folks are pressed for cash don't be thinking of me --- I can get along for great lengths of time as is. I will let a few of the bills slide and run on a narrow margin but I can get by right up to almost the end of school if necessary. And as for expenses here I would appreciate the experience of hitchhiking if you folks could stand it.

I have just been elected to the Steering Committee at the Co-op. One of the most important positions a member can hold - must close now

Love John



REPLY CARD  
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. E. Story Hillcutt  
Box 603

North Miami  
Fla.



Jues - Apr 2

Dear Mother,

Please don't feel that you must help me immediately - I can get along alright. I was so glad to get your letter & hear about you & about Alisa. Where is this house she is planning to buy? How big? I'll ask her for details as don't bother much. The Buckham the aliso Clal is wonderful. I wish you could hear it. It is so much fun. He asks for all you've got so much of the time! The folks are putting on a puppet show here. "Pierre Luricere" or something. Its very amusing. Have you ever read Edou St. Vincent Millale's short play "Aris de Cape." I just read that for the first time today, & I'm so enthusiastic about it! They're considering putting that on for puppets here. It is such a musical thing! It is in poetry anyway - - here are a few of the best lines, scene - at a dining table - - -

Columbine: Pierrot, a macaroon! I cannot live without a macaroon

Pierrot:

You are so intense!... Is it Tuesday <sup>my only love</sup> Columbine?  
I'll kiss you if it's Tuesday.

Columbine: It is Wednesday.  
If you must know... Is this my article book,  
Or yours?

Pierrot: Ah, Columbine - as if it mattered!  
Wednesday... Will it be Tuesday, then, tomorrow,  
By any chance?

X X X X X

Later on

(Corydon is a shepherd who just discovered a lot of jewels)

Corydon: (to himself) Wouldn't I be a fool to spend my time  
watching a flock of sheep go up a hill,  
when I have these to play with? - when I have these  
to think about? ~~I can't make up my mind~~  
Whether to buy a city, and have a thousand  
Beautiful girls to bathe me, and be happy  
until I die, or build a bridge, and name it  
The Bridge of Corydon, - and be remembered  
After I'm dead."

I know there was something more I wanted to tell  
you but I can't think what!

Spring is here all over the place - but my  
nose is running! (just a slight cold, don't worry)

I've been hitting to Hilblins... do you have any chance  
to get extra reading or listening to music done? You ought  
to get some books of poetry from the Miami library - I  
trust there is one!

Love

John

Fri - Apr 5.

~~It's not done yet, I do.~~ I put this letter in a notebook I  
was using & didn't find it till now. - - About summer  
plans I don't know. I'll make a note of that for my next  
letter.

We've already finished Buddhism and started "Xing"  
but what I meant was how much of what is ~~the~~ attached  
to Buddha did he really say & how much is from the people  
around him? Oh, well, what does it matter. It's not how  
come from somebody. What does it matter if Shakespeare  
didn't write his plays but somebody else with the same theme  
living at the same time.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS.



Rev. E. Sturg Hildreth  
South Ferrisburgh  
Vermont.

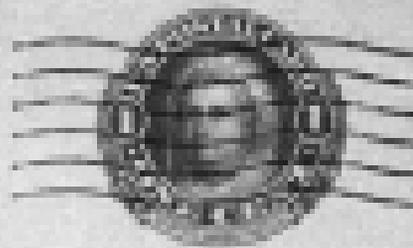
Such a lazy life - and yet I do  
accomplish as much as I should  
my day to day - up at 6:30 quiet  
Bkfst. bath dishes, read mail,  
sit out in sun and read  
papers. pare turnip & radishes  
and prepare food. dinner  
dishes, rest 1 1/2 or 2 hrs.

Sun myself on upstairs  
veranda - in bathing suit  
dress - go down and sit  
with callers and play a  
game or two of Chinese checkers  
Get supper - eat - dishes -  
write cards for mail.

Now will mail them, all  
the Bensons a few more,  
come home to read or write  
etc - We listened to Ford Hovey  
(Marion Anderson) last  
evening - My wife is wondering  
I am anxious to know if Renato  
writes you promptly - and to hear  
about Sunday Sermon, singing  
choir & E. S.

Hope League goes O. K.  
Tues. nt.

REPLY  
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mrs. E. Gray Kilduff  
Box 603  
North Miami  
Florida

Dear Mother, Thurs. April

I guess I've been nagging  
you again. - I've had a letter on  
my desk to Alice through and  
have when ever I get down to  
write got sidetracked into that.  
It don't only track as far as you  
concerned. I hope it hasn't been  
too long since I wrote. It's been  
so interesting hearing about her  
house - what little I've heard I  
still want to know how old  
it is, what color paint has  
been the lawn & how close a  
for the trees etc. Is Alice good  
friends with Madeline Whitney?  
Oh, it sort of be neighbor  
won't they? When you speak  
of a Church wedding you would  
do if it involved a lot. Not  
really as bad as all that? How  
big thing is it going to be - about  
what kind of thing do you expect  
Wedding party to be etc?  
Love  
Mother