

Perhaps you can take turns trying to decipher this! Wednesday

Dear Mother, Dad, and Joan, etc.,

Since my last letter much has happened, and feel at last that I've seen the better part of Paris.

Spent one day the first week with Bob Orr just walking and saw the Grand and Petit Palaces, went down the Champs Elysee and up on top of the Arc de Triomphe then down as far as the Bois de Boulogne. We covered about 16,000 meters. Also saw la Place de L'Opera and La Madeleine. Was not very impressed with the interior of da Mad.. It is supposedly the only Church in the world without windows into the interior but the interior was so enormous and cold that it hardly seemed like a house of prayer.

The following Sunday (the 11th^{Sept} I believe) had dinner with Michele and Alain Prevost who are the sons of the French writer John Prevost (killed during the war). Have a lovely apartment on Rue de Francois Premier overlooking the Seine also a house in the country which I haven't seen yet. Sonny Mitchell, one of the girls in the group met Alain in the States and they were perfectly wonderful to us. Michele cooked the dinner - herring with red sauce, soup, broiled pork chop, mashed potatoes, marvelous salad, grapes and patisserie - wine (of course!) with the courses. It was superb and I'm so ashamed of my own feeble attempts in the kitchen. Well, nice girls apparently aren't supposed to know how to cook - here anyway - All right I know what you're thinking Joan - "who said you were a nice girl." I had tea with the Prevosts on Tuesday (14th) and met the mother, grandmother, sister and son-in-law - Mrs. Prevost is particularly charming - speaks English & Spanish as well as French and writes fashion articles for a magazine

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Wednesday the 15th ^{Sept.} went to dinner and to the Casino de Paris with my room-mate, Mo and Bob Richie and Charlie Zerbanth - two friends of Mo's from the states - Bob is studying now in Zurich but after some engineering trips Charlie returned to the states. Had a marvelous dinner at La Tornai but the Casino wasn't quite what we had expected - It turned out to be an extra "dry" (whatever that means) burlesque and at the intermission we left. Haven't seen the Folly Bergere yet and after the Casino don't know if I want to. All the metros stop at 12:15 PM and it isn't too easy getting a taxi. Right now there is a taxi strike so one has to return before the last metro or at least get back within walking distance. One day there was a metro strike which upset everything. Even now with the continued coal mine strike we will be without electricity Friday and Saturday - simply during the day. Each section of Paris will be off for two days a week until the strike is settled. They told me that last year they were without electricity all year two days out of every week - including the nights, because the facilities were insufficiently restored. We have been very lucky so far. Have seen a couple of riots while passing in the bus and one demonstration of the "underground resistance" which has retained its organisation - They were trying to act against a bookstore man who was selling a fascist book only four years after the liberation. Actually it seemed that there were more police than people and every -

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thing was very orderly despite the theater and singing the Marseillaise. As you instructed did not stay but had to get back for dinner so couldn't avoid passing it. A reporter passed me and said in broken French - "Pardonnez-moi, Mademoiselle," and when I said in English - "That's all right" you should have seen the surprised expression on his face.

Speaking of reporters, a man from the "Baltimore Sun" was here questioning me for an article for that paper - also Margo Hess - the girl we saw at the Stork Club - and Paul Funkhouser's cousin Bob.

Don't know when it will come out or why, but perhaps you could find out. Should be just a small article, but he took pictures and you never know.

Friday the 17th. There was a reception for our group at the Hotel de Ville (city hall) Then a tour of Paris - and back for a "Wine of Honor" - sort of a welcoming committee of Paris. Saw among the things I had already seen - the U.N., Place de Chaillot, Eiffel Tower, Tuileries Garden etc. was rather fatiguing because the sun was so brilliant. But we went in des Invalides and saw Napoleon's Tomb. That was really an inspiring site - great golden dome - white marble - huge black marble tomb in a sunken circle in the middle which you could look down on from the main floor balustrade. You could go downstairs and see the tomb from its own level and



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involved don't I? I'm getting so I can't speak English anymore so please excuse my spelling and etc..

Already told you about tea with Mrs. Oulman - hope you like her. She seemed very pleasant to me and it was quite thoughtful of her to have asked me. Don't remember if I told you - but had her here for tea and patisserie (French Pastry) too.

That Sunday - the 19th^{Sept} went to Notre Dame Cathedral with Bob Orr and then to breakfast - All of the French service is so different not from the point of view of the action but the altar in the Gothic churches is so remote from the people. The church has some beautiful wood panelling and of course the unsurpassed beauty of its rose windows was really a marvel. That doesn't sound like very good English, but I'm sure you understand. Sunday afternoon went to the Beaudreau's for wine and didn't get back until too late for dinner. They had fixed wonderful desserts - pudding and cakes - champagne, white and red wine. I don't know how they could afford it but it was very sweet of them. Mr. Beaudreau was a prisoner in Germany for four years. It was interesting to hear about the whole terrible war from someone to whom it was actually real.

Monday the 20th^{Sept} got my ^{Had to have 3 right profiles for it and they were terrible looking pictures.} identity card from the Mairie's office and then my ration coupons for the kitchen, we get about a half pound of meat a week - at least we are supposed to - actually we get about double that, but I seem to spend more money for food than anything else - fruits and bread etc.. Everyone here seems to be having trouble getting packages. Phyl's parents wrote

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