John J and Ellen Mary Shields family history

Most of the information regarding the Shield family came from letters that were written in the years 1918-1921 with a few in the later years. The early letters were written by Ed, Roy, Otilla and other family members in 1918 who were away from home at that time. The majority of the letters especially in the years from July 1919 to Jan 1921 were written while Eliza Otilla (Till) Ellen and John’s 6th child served a mission in Chicago. Most of the letters were correspondence between family members, friends of Tills and friends of other family members during this time. With a few exceptions this is where the family history came from. Thank goodness the letters were preserved until the time was ripe for the history to be written. The Lords watchful eye protected these letters for many years. They were moved when Ellen and John moved from Tooele, After Till and Fred passed away, they fell into the hands of John Green a grandson of John and Ellen Mary and son of Eliza Otilla Shields Green. John moved the box of letters 6 or 7 times while they were in his possession as they moved from each home to their new home. When it came time for the final move for John and wife LaRue to downsize to a smaller retirement living apartment, John decided it was time to dispose of the box of letters that had never been read. He picked up the box of letters and was in the process of throwing it into the dumpster when John’s son John and a grand son Britton who were helping John throw out the unneeded excess, retrieved the box of letters so they could be preserved for posterity. I Claudia, a grand daughter of Eliza Otilla am ever so grateful for that action. It has certainly been a journey back in time reading the letters and discovering the life of these great ancestors and learning about their noble character. It has made a huge impact on my life as I took a journey with this good family sharing in their joys, their sorrows and heart breaks. Learning about their family dynamics and how they handled tough conflicts was also a wonderful blessing to discover great insight as they made their way through their daily struggles. I was impressed that even when the times got tough they had the good character to do what was right in face of the adversity. I am deeply grateful for the privilege I have had to go back in time and receive a taste of what the Shields family life was like, what they did and most importantly what character traits they exemplified, although, like the rest of us, they are not perfect, it became clear why my patriarchal blessing has stated that I have come from noble heritage.

Ellen Shields

Ellen Mary Ekman Shields was born March 17, 1869 in Drammen Norway and came to the United States in 1875 when she was 6 years old with her mother Elise Othilie and four brothers and sisters. Her father Joseph Fredrick Ekman died Feb. 10, 1873 just 6 years after they were married on April 19, 1867. The family became converts to the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints and were among the first settlers in Ephraim, Sanpete county. According to Ellen she had an occasion to watch Utah in its growing stages. John and Ellen were married Jan. 26, 1886, in Lincoln, Tooele County. (John was 27 yrs old and Ellen was almost 17 yrs). They lived in Tooele until 1922, when they moved to Salt Lake City. (That was a year after Till returned home from her mission). Ellen was active all her life in church activities, and served in the presidency.
of the Relief Society of the Lincoln ward. Ellen only had 5 children living, 3 sons and 2 daughters at the time they celebrated her 81st birthday at Fred and Tills house. She outlived 5 of her 10 children. She attributed her long life to following a sound, stable religious life. Ellen died Oct. 5, 1950.

John Shields

John Jenkins Shields was born March 12, 1859 to Robert Cunningham Shields and Mary Ann Jenkins. John's father Robert Cunningham Shields was born in Renfrew Scotland March 16, 1831. While in Scotland he was a Dyers laborer according to the 1910 census report it states he immigrated to America in 1852 at age 22. Seven years before John was born. John's father Robert passed away Dec. 6, 1915, living 84+ years. He passed away 1 year prior to the earliest Shield letters found. John's mother who was born in Ledbury England Jan. 10, 1839 passed away March 1,1870 at the age of 31. John and Ellen shared a common bond, both lost a parent prematurely. John was 11 yrs old when his mother passed away and Ellen was only 4 yrs old when her father passed away.

John and Ellen were almost exactly 10 years apart in age both being born in March. They met while John saved Ellen from a run away horse. They lived in Tooele for many years. The Shields owned the property that the smelter was built on there in Tooele. Although John was listed as a retired farmer according to “Family Search”, letters indicate that he also worked at the smelter. John and Ellen took in borders. Jack Powell was a border who stayed with the Shields, he later married John and Ellen’s daughter Julia. John passed away Sept. 26, 1925 in Salt Lake City from heart disease at age 66yrs.

Ellen and John’s children

John and Ellen had 10 children, Edward Hansen Shields born Nov. 2, 1886, died June 23, 1951; John Elmer Shields born Jan. 12, 1889 died Feb. 15, 1889: Robert Alma born Jan. 12, 1890 (exactly a yr after John Elmer was born) he died Oct. 9, 1907: Julia Shields Powell born July 8, 1892, died Nov. 20, 1926 ; Edna Shields Henry born March 1895, died Jan 21, 1973; Eliza Otilla Shields Green born Aug. 11, 1897, died Nov. 30, 1957; Ellaroy Shields born Aug. 19, 1900, died Feb. 5, 1971; Hilma Shields born Nov. 11, 1902, died March 29, 1903; Ellen Mary Shields born Aug. 2, 1906, died Aug. 30, 1906 according to her death certificate. (Church records say she passed away Aug. 28, 1906). According to her death certificate she passed away from Cholera Infantum. (An inflammatory disorder of the alimentary canal of infants which prevails in the summer months); Fern Alburn Shields born Sept. 20, 1911, died June 23,1980.

Ed and Cora

Ed was the oldest of the Shield children married to Cora. They had 4 children 2 boys and 2 girls. Floyd, Bud, Joyce and Grace. Ed went between jobs which took him out of town a lot as they were raising their family. The children often stayed with Ellen and John as he changed jobs until they could relocate with him. They had a tough time with
finances which was one of the causes for the change in employment. They were always trying to catch up. They ended up in Provo Utah where their son Bud went to Provo High and then to BYU where he took National titles while swimming for BYU. (more is written about this further on)

Julia & Jack

Julia was (27 years old when Till left for her mission). She was married to Jack, as already mentioned, he was a boarder at the Shield home before they married. They had 2 little boys Elmo and Hyrum. It was not long before she had her baby girl Bernice. They often stayed with Ellen and John, they moved to Idaho where the family resided. Julia and Jack later had Maxine.

Edna & Marion

Edna was 24 yrs old when Till left for her mission. She was married to Marion. Edna and Marion struggled with their marriage, it escalated particularly right after Till left for mission which was not only a concern for her parents but her siblings. They did not have any children. After much trial, Edna later divorced Marion. She married again sometime later. She had beautiful handwriting along with her father and Till.

Eliza Otilla Shields

Otilla went by Till, but her mother continued to call her Otilla. Till served a mission leaving on July 9, 1919 to the Northern States with the mission home in Chicago. She was a great influence on her family when she was on her mission. After her mission, she married Fred Green.

Ellaroy

Ellaroy went by Roy, he was single 19 years old when Till left for her mission. Roy traveled and moved around quite often with his work. Till was a great influence on Roy when she was on her mission. Till thought of him often and had great concern for him. Years later Roy married Hilda Gates, they lived in Salina Utah. (Till’s sons Jack and Bill would go to Salina in the summer time and spend it with Roy’s family where they would help work on the farm. Jack recalled being picked up from school on the last day and spending the whole summer with them. Jacks states it was some of his fondest memories).

Fern(Alburn)

Fern was the youngest of the Shields children (When Till left for her mission July 9, 1919 Fern was 7 turning 8 in Sept). Years later Fern went by the name Alburn but during this time period, he went by Fern. He was often referred to as the “toe head”. Till’s son Jack stated they really liked Alburn because he was so friendly. Alburn
enjoyed acting. Jack and his wife LaRue saw him in one of his plays. There is a picture of Alburn in one of his costumes.

It was interesting to read a comment that Till wrote home on June 15, 1920. She wrote, “I was surprised to read in the paper where Con Jones and Ruth Shields had been married.” Fern (Alburn) was just a young boy about 8 years at the time when Till wrote this letter on her mission, years later Fern married a women after his first wife passed away with the name Ruth who became Ruth Shields. It is uncertain if there is any connection but while doing some research I learned that there was a school teacher with the name Ruth Shields in Stockton where some of the Shield family resided at one time.

In order for this history to have its greatest understanding it needful that we also introduce 3 main non family characters Emma De La Mare, Phyllis Mallet (who went by Phil) and Horace Lee who were friends of the Shields family specifically Till. Edna was also a friend with Phil, they roomed together while Till was on her mission. The three of them roomed together in Idaho after Till returned home from her mission. Ellen was also very friendly with all of them and had a close relationship with them and they loved her.

Emma, Till’s friend roomed with Till after high school where they furthered their education in Salt Lake. They later got called to the same mission leaving for the mission field together. Till and Emma also labored together for part of their mission in Chicago eventually becoming companions. Ellen and John were friends with Emma’s parents the De La Mares, residing in the same ward.

Horace Lee was a boyfriend of Till before her mission. He preceded Till and Emma going to the same mission arriving a few months ahead of them. He labored with Emma in Chicago while Till went on to serve in Peru Indiana. Ellen and John were also acquainted with Horace as well as his parents and spoke to them on frequent occasions.

The Shield family often mention these 3 friends so to give clarity to this history they are mentioned here, with more detailed mentioned later on.

John’s parents have already passed on so we have no information about them except for the letter that was written by John’s brother A J in regards to dividing up their parents estate. Their parents had property in Erda along with the “old home property.”

Robert Cunningham Shields John’s father passed away on Dec. 6, 1915, John received a letter from his brother A J Shields from Lincoln dated Mar. 13, 1918 in reference to their parents estate saying, ”John J Shields, Dear brother, in regard to fathers Estate I have sold the Erda property to Paul Droubay for 49.00 hundred but he has not paid up yet. I expect he will right away and I have not been able to get a bid on the old home property. I think the best thing we can do with it is to divide it up and then each one can sell or do as they want and cut any further expense on it. I am writing one letter to each of you that is close. I will not bother the Idaho people but I would like each one of you to make it a point to come here on Monday March 25th and we will divide the home land and water up equal amongst us. This is all at present hoping to hear from you. I remain your Brother AJ Shields

Ellen’s parents, her mother and step father were still living at this time. More will follow about them.
Since 4 of the Shield children had already passed on, the remaining 6 will be spotlighted from the letters that were found starting with the oldest down to Fern (Alburn) the youngest of the Shields children. Ed, Julia and Edna were married at the time of these letters so they are titled with their spouse. The first part of this history in 1918 focuses mostly on Ed and his wife Cora, Roy and Otilla due to the fact that they lived away from home and wrote letters while they were gone.

1904

The Shields bought a new home, the receipt of the home found was dated November 1904 it stated,

Mr. John. J. Shields,

Dear Sir,

I've received your letter also the three hundred dollars, $300 payment in full for the sale of my house. I'll inclose deeds of same, wishing you good luck, in your new home. I remain yours truly Mr. and Mrs. E. Paxtin

1916

The first known letter of the Shield family was written Jan. 26, 1916 by Till who was staying with her sister Julia who lived away from home and was sick at the time. Till wrote home, ”Dearest Mamma- “We received your sweet old letter this morning & was glad to hear from you once again. We had began to think that you must be awfully busy that you couldn't drop us a little of your time, bless your sweet heart, it sure seems good to get a letter written all by you. You can't imagine how good it is, it seems like talking to you. We are glad to hear that Marion (Edna's husband/son in law) is up again. I have had a dandy good time so far, I get a letter from my boy every day telling me to be sure and come home. I guess he is kind of lonesome. You asked me if I called Hyland 12373 M. No but another number. They have changed their number & I didn’t hardly know or remember the initials so Julia kept at me & at me to go call him up, so one afternoon we went over & called up & some man answered the phone, I said is this Quinns. He said yes Mam. I said is Jack there & he said now didn't you know Jack would be working this time of day & I said what time does he get home & he said about 8 O’clock he gets in the house. So I said alright I'll call later & he said alright dearie. So that scared me out but I said to Julia, I'll bet it was his brother or else it is some other Quinn & they are trying to fool me. So I wouldn’t phone till last Saturday. I got up some nerve with Julia after me all the time & went & called the same number. This time a girl answered and I asked for him & she said just a minute. My heart failed, I didn't know what to say for I really didn’t expect to find him. So he come to the phone & I asked him if he remembered Otilla & he said you just bet I do. How are you & when did you come in? How long have you been in, why haven’t you called me up sooner & how long was I going to stay. Of course I answered these questions & told him about me calling up two days ago & I said I guess it was your brother who answered & he said no it was my father. He said he is a quite a jollier after I had told him how he answered & I told him if I had been sure it was the right number I would of joked him a little & asked him how it was he wasn’t out to work. So he told me that his father had his office at their home
now & they have two phones one in his office & one for their use. I think the way he answered me he must of thought it was Jack’s girl. I don’t know if he goes steady or not but I gave him my phone number & he also asked my address said he sure wanted to see me. So I kind a think he had a date Sunday Night because Monday night he called me up & come up last night. Gee he looked swell & we went down town to the show at the Pantages. Then up to Franklins & had something to eat & got home about 20 min after eleven. He coaxed me to stay in & I wasn’t sure whether I was coming home tomorrow or not & I told him I’d let him know. He told me if I went home to write him & let him know how I got there & if I stayed which he hoped I would to be sure & call him up..Julia has been quite sick. She has an awful sore throat it is swelled nearly shut & has formed a black substance. She wiped off all she could but there is still some left. Yesterday she looked pretty tough & we was washing. I did most of it for she wasn’t fit too. She looks better in the face today but her throat is the same. So I don’t think I can get home till she is well & I can’t ride the bumpers I’ll have to have a little coin & perhaps I won’t come for another week. Ha!Ha! Quinn is sure some kid when he is dolled up. I guess my boy will be awful disappointed but I can’t leave Julia , besides I want to go to another good show. My letter consists of nothing but Quinn but I thought I’d tell you anyway. I guess papa will think I’m pretty soft. I have received a letter nearly every day since I’ve been in here. I got 3 this morning, one from Phyllis, Doc & you. I guess he (the mail man) thinks I am someone important (Ha Ha!). I haven’t wrote so many either. I’ve only spent 20 cents for stamps. I’ve fared fine. I’ve been to the Orphum twice & Pantages twice & rode the caro & bought me a fifteen cent hat & have only spent 35 cents. Well I suppose you think this is a pretty long chapter"

Till ends the letter showing her sense of humor reflected in her description of Julia’s land lady and her property saying, "The old woman Julia rents off of is from the funniest woman out of jail. I pretty near laugh myself to death at her. She is the most wrinkled old hen and homely as (skinner) & she stood looking at me the other day, & she kept looking and made me so nervous I thought my waist had come unbuttoned and I kept looking down at myself and finally she said do you know I had a young man offer me one of those things? And she meant my lovelier my necklace in English. She said he owned a jeweler shop & she refused it. So she said he come back too & I wouldn’t let him in. Oh she said I was so mad I could have stomped him. Then as she went to go she said I think he had an eye to my property & she’s got some tacky looking property the best looking part is the toilet."

Nov.12, 1916 Ed wrote to his wife Cora saying, “My Dear little wife, I got your loving letter was glad you got home alright. The folks got moved the 9. I got a card from mail that they got moved all ok. Did the baggage get home alright. Ma has got 3 quilts she said she would send them home as soon as they moved. I guess some people thinks you left me don’t they, what did they say? Tell her not to worry about me and Mae. She is on one town and I am in another. I don’t care what the people say as long as we ain’t what they say and think.

Well Dear, I sent the light all right. I got every thing, I think Mrs. Thomas felt so bad she didn’t get to see you, she said she went to Migell to get it and they had a wreck and she had the money for you. I am going down and see what kind of place they got and tell them hello. I would like to see you right now. Haha Well honey have a good time and keep your promise and I ain’t worrying at all as I will be a good boy. Good night dear, tell
the folks hello for me. Tell the boys to be good and daddy will be home after while. Good night honey, will write you a long letter next time as I am going to take a bath. I will tell you how the folks in Ely (10 min. 6.79 miles from Ruth) is in my next letter, good night from your Old man Ed xxx Have a good time Dear and remember your Promise”

1918

It seemed Ed and Cora always struggled for money. They moved around a lot as Ed tried to find work that would support them. He moved from Ruth Nevada to Salt Lake, he also worked up at Bingham. On Feb. 1, 1918 Ed wrote from Salt Lake City saying, "Dear Folks received ma letter and was glad to hear from you, we are all pretty well except Cora and she has been in bed for 2 days. I think she will be able to get out soon. That is, I hope so anyway as soon as she is able to get around. I will come out and see you and if I can get a job that will pay me $11.50 I might stay if not I think I will go back to Ruth Nev. for 3 months, until things get good here again. I was up to Bingham the other day. I ain’t stuck on that place at all. I got out of there just as soon as I could with out walking. Well there ain’t much to write about at present. You can tell Grand Lila Dew that the $5 arrived all OK and the Childrens. Ma was quite pleased and thanks haha, I hear they have raised the wages again glad to hear that, they can do it some more if they want, it won’t hurt any of us. Well I will close as it is 10:30 and I am sleepy so will close. I am like the fellow that had hundred thousand left him. I have got thousand of dollars back of me too, but how far back I don’t know if it ever catches up to me. I am going to show some body a good time. A little song entitled I am on the way to the asylum accompanied by the orchestra. Why is it that, a button shoe doesn’t speak to a lace shoe--- Because it hasn’t any tongue. They say they are going to dam the Mississippi Rivers. I don’t think the Mississippi River is worth a dam. The water gets so high in it now. The poor people can’t afford to drink it. I am inventing a new kind of airbrake; I have got the air part of it alright, now if some one will just let me have about five thousand dollars, it wouldn’t take long to make a brake for a train. Haha I could tell you some more funny jokes but what’s the use.

Well so long and may you always be happy, and nothing to fear. There is eleven long months left, so a happy New Year, Cora kiddies and Ed"

A week later Ed was back in Ruth Nevada he wrote on Feb. 9, 1918, "Dear Folks at home, just a few lines to let you know I am back home in Ruth, sure glad to get back. I got a job right way and can draw seven twenty per day. I call that making the money. This darn pen has got the trots I guess it is loose at the Bowels. But I guess you will be able to read this letter. Haha

Well I am in good heath and hope this will find you all the same. Say if any one asks you where I am just tell them I am on the D.& R. I. Now write soon and tell me all the news. I think I will stay here until I get ahead of the world worries. This sure is good money. Well be good all. Say what is the difference in 2 eggs laid by the same hen? 24 hours. If a rooster had a wooden cage would a hen bullet (sp)?

Well good night, I am going in the hay right soon. Ed. Say if Cora ain’t any better let Till stay with her a week, if she will. X”

John’s brother Robert Jenkins died March 28, 1918 at age 59. Ed and Cora learn of his passing. Ed is still trying to find a way to make gainful employment, he tries leasing
a mine hoping to make some good money. On March 31, 1918 he writes, "Dear Folks at home received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear Uncle has gone. But we have all got the same road to travel some day. Well folks I have played in a little hard luck here this trip. But things look fairly good at present. I have got a lease here on a mine it looks good to me at the present date. I lost 9 shifts this month on account of a strike. We were on strike 9 days. But every thing is fine now. Well, I have a picture of me and my girl in Ruth I will send. Her ears are a little long but she is a dear. Haha

Their aint [sic] anything to write about so I will close hoping to hear from you all soon. I just got off shift for the company, now I go work for Ed 5 hours on my lease. I believe I am going to make a piece of money on this. Time will let you know latter. Good bye and good luck to all. I remain your son Ed-- here is Ed Dunkley now, so I will go over to the mine good day and good luck Ed"

Ed wrote from Ruth Nev. describing the flood they had. There was only part of the letter found so it ends abruptly. On June 17, 1918 he wrote, "Dear Folks at home received your letter sometime ago but in neglect I haven't had time to answer. I sure was glad to hear from you all and that you were all in good health as this leaves me in good health and feeling fine. It has been awful stormy here we had a flood yesterday and a snow storm this morning. Mud as deep to graph. This is a hell of a place, chickens one day and feathers the next, well there ain't any news here at present. Lots of work and nothing for it so far. I am getting disgusted with every thing the way things go if I saw a $20 dollar bill in."

A day later Till wrote to Ed's wife Cora who was not with Ed. At this time Till was living with her friend Emma in Salt Lake City going to school. It appears she needed some money and borrowed it from Cora her sister in law. She tried to return the money and when she did not find Cora at home she wrote this letter dated June 18, 1918

Edna spent some time with her grandparents in a place close by Delta. She visited relatives while she was there, her Uncle John and Archie Shields. She wrote to make arrangements for she and her grandparents to be picked up since her grandmother was ready to go home. On May 31, 1918 she wrote, "Dear Ma, Pa & all- Just a line to let you know we are all OK feeling fine had a good visit. We found Uncle John's folk fine and dandy. This place is just one great large flat. To Look at it you would take it for granted that it has been a lake bottom. We are as far from the town they call Delta as Tooele is from Grantsville. Victoria & myself was up to see Archie Shields and his wife last night.

We are going to a dance Saturday night. Grandma is ready to come home Monday so Ma, if you will see Marion and make some arrangement to come and meet us at 10 O'clock Monday morning. I thought if Marion was working he could let Horace & Otilla come down or tell Mr. Jensen. Grandpa said to ask him, but you know a man can't run all over the country pretty well. But it is nothing to compare with Tooele County. They never have any rain to speak of down here. When they plant anything they have got to water it to bring it up. They can have the water any time they want it and as long as they want it.

I am looking for a letter from Marion today. I bet he is tired of batching. Ma you see Marion & make some arrangements for us because you know how grandma is. With love and best regards from Edna & grandma &pa xxoo"

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Dear Cora, have been down to your place two or three times and didn’t find anyone home. Am sorry I have kept you waiting. I went down and the lady in the house said you had gone to Tooele I didn’t like to leave the money with her so I told her I would send it out. So she gave me a letter for you from Ed. So will send that and also slip the $5 in with your letter. Do hope you get them both. I haven’t finished my lessons yet and it is 10:30. Say we sure do have to work. But I thought you would maybe need the money & would also be anxious to hear from Ed. So will mail both tomorrow and you should get it Thurs. Cora please phone mother if you aren’t there & tell her you heard from me. I guess I had better write her a little note along with yours and you can give it to her if you will, please. Your Loving Sis Till PS Thanks awfully much for the cash Cora"

The same day June 18, 1918 Till wrote to her parents. Till writes, "Dear mother Daddie & all, I surely am some tired girl tonight so please try and make this letter out as it is being written hurriedly. I haven’t got all my lessons yet and it is 10 o’clock. Emma and I are fine and dandy. We just love school but say, it sure is a change for yours truly. Stay in every night and study study. I am wondering if people won’t think I am dead. Emma & I never go up town. Gee Edna that cake is simply phenomenal Ha! Ha! And Julia your strawberries are licidabus, and mother dear your bread is simplicit Ha ha. We surely have got lots of good things to eat. Tell Phyllis will write to her as soon as I get time to breathe. But tell her not to wait for a letter from me, but set down and write me a big long letter. I wish you could realize just how busy I am. I have never written to any of my boy friends yet. Tell Roy to be a good boy and not murder to many fish! Tell little Fern hello and Daddie not to work too hard & you mother take care of yourself, (Let the old weeds grow) Give Grandpa & Grandma my best regards. Write me real soon and any stray stamps you find slip them in. Oh the eyes of mine they feel like they had sand in (em) but I guess its just sleepy burs.

Goodnight from your Loving daughter Till 235 S 2 E SLC Box 35 Woodruff apts

It wasn’t long before Cora joined Ed in Ruth Nevada leaving her children with Ellen and John. Apparently they had some disagreements that got cleared up, they once again became good friends. It is mentioned that Cora was not happy with Ed working in Nevada and wanted him to return to Utah but he didn’t see it the same way. It also mentions that their daughter Joyce is sick, it may be the beginning of a long illness that is mentioned a few months later or just a separate illness. June 25, 1918 Ed wrote from Ruth Nv. (Small town in white pine county NV. Found in 1903, 2005 population was 394)..."Dear folks at home just a note to let you know Cora arrived OK and I was sure glad to see her. I was some surprised but was so glad it took the surprise away. We are both in good health and feel fine. Hope Joyce is better and this finds you all in good health, I wrote Cora a letter to Tooele, you can return it to Ruth Nev. if you will. Cora wants me to come to Utah but I can’t see it that way at present. There isn’t any news to tell you so I will close with love to all. I remain your loving son and daughter Mr. & Mrs. Ed Shields Ruth Nv. Cora can’t keep warm up here. 80 is the hottest it has been here, 55 & 60 at night and it has been raining every day for a week except the last 3 days. Good bye all. Cora writes on the back of letter, kiss the kiddies for mama and tell them to be good. Ed sure was surprised and tickled to see me, and every thing is now all ok, We had a few words but all came out for the good and we are good friends again and think we understand each other better again.
How is Joyce? Tell Edna this is for her also. Ed wants to keep me until after the 4th and if the children are alright, and all alright with you folks I think I will stay until then. Well I am happier once more. Cora"

No date, on 2nd page of letter, "I keep telling my partner to smile and the whole world will smile with him but he said he could fall into a box of perfume and come out with a cacke [sic] of Limburger cheese in each hand.”

3 days later Till writes home from school on June 28, 1918. The letter begins with Emma starting the letter until Till is finished and can write. She was dependent on her parents for food when she was at school, she asked for her mother to send her more food when it was needed, stating that it hit the spot. The letter begins, "Dear Mother: This Till wants to write to her mother, but is calcimining her face so told her I would start-the letter for her, we are getting ready to go down and meet Phil so just have time to write a few lines come in when every you can. Hello mother dear this will sure be a short note. It is 5 min after nine & we must be to the depot at 9:30. We like school better every day, and are well and happy. How are your poor knees? I think about them every day. How is dear old daddie, grandma & grandpa, in fact everybody? Give my best yes very best regards to grandma & pa. Mother dear please send me some milk, Salmon, bread, tomatoes, pickles and another good cake. Gee they surely do hit the spot. Everybody treats us just grand. Don’t worry about those fellows mother. My friend called me up that night you went home, he surely is joke. I quite like his ways. No I haven’t seen Jack. I think he has gone though because a big bunch of boys left this morning. I had a little fuss with him. Must say bye bye mother will write again soon. Tell Horace I expect him in Sunday. Lots of love to all, your Loving daughter Till"

Not only did Ellen send in food for Till she sent in beautiful flowers. Her friend Emma had a toothache and Till often had stomach aches referring to them as “those terrible stomach aches I used to have”. In this letter we learned that Joe Shields a uncle to Till went on a mission to England. Till wrote on July 2, 1918 from Salt Lake City saying, ”My dear Mother, Daddie & all:- Have you all forgotten me? Remember you owe me a letter.

Gee but the flowers were beautiful which you sent in with Horace. Many thanks for them. They are setting on the table and look very pretty.

The hour is 6:30 and we haven’t filled our stomach’s yet. I have had to take Emma to the dentist, the poor kid has had the toothache since Sunday. We had to leave school and go find a dentist. He put something in and it stopped aching. He told her to come back that evening which we did to our sorrow because he made it ache again. The poor kid suffered just awful last night. We sure do get along fine because when she is sick I keep her company.

You know those terrible stomach aches I used to have, well I put in a night of that kind of pleasure. Gee we were a hard looking pair me doubled over with the stomach ached & poor Emma with her jaw all swelled up. But then it made it handy for both of us as we didn’t disturb one another’s sleep.

We were invited to attend a musical up at room 53 tonight. But Emma doesn’t want to go with her swelled jaw and we haven’t had any practice so I guess we will offer a good excuse this time.

We had a nice time Sunday. We went to Sunday School with Mr. & Mrs. Hazen, had a very interesting class. So when we came back, they insisted that we go and have
dinner with them. So we did, my but it seemed like going home. They know so many people we do and she is just like a mother to us. She gave Emma some oil of cloves for her tooth. This man Mr. Hazen used to pal with Uncle Joe Shields. He was on a mission in England with him. We took them for a ride with us Sunday evening. I suppose we won’t be home for the fourth. I guess we will meet Horace out to the Lake and go in bathing. Tell Phil to try and go out and come back in with us.

You know those purple stamps? Gee they are handy (gone) Write soon with love Till" PS always give my best regards & love to grandma & pa!"

This time Till was sick with a headache. She stated that she took in so much information that it hurt to carry it all. She asked for more food and made plans with her mother to go to the lake on the 24th holiday.

July 9, 1918 Till wrote, "My Dearest Daddie & all; - Emma and I just arrived home from school and it is six o’clock. I am beginning to catch up with my school it has required a lot of extra study.

Gee pop you should see the short hand he assigned us tomorrow, we should go to bed early but I see it is quite impossible. We had a very nice time while Phillis was here bless her heart, she went home this morning, and she hated to go just as we hated to see her go. I suppose you have heard about Horace & his accident. I am surely sorry that anything like that had to happen. We three kids went out to the lake last Saturday, went in bathing and had a glorious time. Then we met the boys out there and they wanted to know what in the world had happened to us, they couldn't get us by phone so they came over in person and we weren't home.

Sunday they took us out to dinner & we went down to the park and took some pictures and listened to the band concert. Sunday night we went out to the show. Then yesterday Mr. Ferrell took us out to dinner and car riding last night. My goodness we just picked up the paper and noticed the death of Mrs. Alfred Hanks. I never was so surprised in all my life, it sure is too bad.

Oh say mother will you please send me some money our rent & school is due yesterday. So please send it as soon as you can. How is Horace? Possibly we will come home Friday night. We want to get all our clothes all cleaned up. I doubt very much you can read this writing but when I do anything now, it is hurry and get it done to do something else. It is six o'clock and we have got to get supper yet.

Say daddie won't believe this but I was up at 5:30 this morning studying. I made eleven perfect copies in type writing today. The general average is sometimes 2 or 3 maybe 5 if you have good luck. But I sort of surprised myself today.

Tell grandma & grandpa hello & tell Roy I am thinking about that extra ten he thought maybe I could have Ha! Ha! There is nothing so handy as cash. Please send me in a few stamps mother. Write soon, Your loving daughter Till"

July 19, 1918 From Salt Lake City Till wrote , ” My darling mother, Daddie and all:- I am as tired as an automobile wheel tonight. I am still in school it is five o’clock. I have been typewriting and I just got through. Last night I was as sick as a Billy goat, I suppose it was my eyes, studying so long & using artificial light. My head felt like it was going to split. I tied it up in cold clothes and left my short hand for a while and wrote Horace a letter. Then Emma and I went down and posted it & the air seemed to help my head. I feel fine today with the exception of being very tired. Yesterday morning Emma & I got up at 6:30 and studied then we stayed here at school until after 6 and
went home had supper & had to go after it again. So I think no wonder my head ached. I am getting so much in it, it hurts to carry it all. We are going out to the Lake tomorrow night, I think we won’t be home this week mother but if Horace comes in Sunday which I think he will please send some catsup, syrup, cake, and anything you think will be good. We have plenty of eggs for awhile. How did you get home Tues., fine I hope. Mother dear, be sure and go out to the Lake on the 24th Wed. I sure do want to pull you around in that water. Remember it is Wednesday. Let the old work go and get away from it for a change. How is grandma & grandpa? I’ll bet Phil will be angry at me, I received those pictures and the money for Emma & a nice letter from her, and haven’t answered it yet, but I think she will forgive me when she stops to think how busy I am. Tell her hello & to try and come out to the lake tomorrow night. It is nearly 5:30 and by the time we get home & cook supper it will be nearly 7:30 or 8. I can’t tell you any news only last night there was some whistles blowing, bells ringing & everything when the tribune got out an extra about the good news of the war. Another extra came out today stating that the yanks had captured several thousand prisoners & penetrated the lines.

Well mother now don’t worry & work so hard it worries me the way you look. I must close now, hoping to see & hear from you soon. Your loving daughter Till"

Emma and Till were awakened at 3:00 in the morning and she relayed what took place on Aug.1,1918, ”My dear Mother, daddie & all:- I am down in the big kitchen, Emma & I have had supper and washed our clothes.

Now Emma is pressing her skirt. While I am waiting for my turn. I am going to write to you. We arrived home fine and dandy Sunday night.

Had a lovely ride. Monday we were nearly give out, so about three in the morning we heard a man yelling at the top of his voice. Miss Emma grabbed the said bravo with, Oh Till what is it? Boldly I said, why it’s a man yelling in his sleep. Although within me ownself, I felt rather queer, a sort of frightened feelin don’t cha know. So in a few minutes someone went running through the hall, then back again. I had a notion to get up and go out and ask them who won the race. Then I gave that a second thought and wondered if my knees would hold me up long enough to get over to the door. Anyway we are still alive so I suppose none wanted us.

Tuesday night we went over to the Quail girls apartment. Then we went over to another apt. Where Mae Fohmen lives. She introduced us to a couple of very nice fellows. One of them plays the piano just grand. So he played for me and I sang. Then Emma played & I sang again. The people in the apt. were evidently listening because I heard a clatter of hands after I had finished my spasim.(sp?)

We got home at eleven O clock. Had a very nice time. They want us to go up to their home with them some night & bring our music. So I think that will be next week.

Last night Mr. & Mrs. Hallen invited us down so we took our music & went down to their room. Hallens mother & father who are very young & good looking also their bull dog came down, & took us for a car ride. They have a lovely big car. I am getting along just fine with my short hand tests. Tell Phill Emma sure liked the present she sent her. I will write her tonight if I get time. We are fine, the water didn’t hurt me a bit Sun. didn’t even stop me. Write to me soon, give every body my regards. Your loving daughter Till” PS Hello Roy, nearly pay day isn’t it? Ha Ha!” 5 or 10” (no not cents)

Roy and Ed both moved out of the state to find employment. Roy found a job in McGill Nevada. Roy wrote home to tell his parents how he was getting along in his new
place. On Aug. 31, 1918 he said, "Dear Mother & Father I am in McGill Nevada and getting around just fine. And I like this place good. I think I will go to work the 1st helping pipe fitters. I know I can save money up here. It is a nice town. I am living in no 4 Bunch. E got it fixed up good and it’s just like home. I will close now for it is supper time. Your son Roy Tell them all that I am fine and dandy”

A few days later Roy wrote home from McGill saying he got a job at the mill, he discussed the conditions and the pay he was going to receive on Sept. 4, 1918 saying, "Dear Mother I am working in the Mill and it is a good job. I am getting $5.25 per day. All I have to do is set down and watch the belts so they won’t stop and clog up there. Is no dust at all it is a nice clean job. I am on 3 o’clock. I have 15 days of it then I change to day shift. Board and room is only $32.50 a month. We got a nice place to board at. Peter is on all day shift he is helping pipe fitters. He is getting $5.50 per day. I now can save money out here for we stay home for there is no good of going uptown when there is a club house to go and have all kinds of sport free of charge. There is a swimming pool and shower bath and bowling and all kinds of fun. In the forenoon I go up swimming for I am on 3 o’clock and Peter goes in the afternoon. I change shift in 11 more days then we will be on day shift together then we can go up to the club house every night and swim.

There is a few boys from home here. They come down to our cabin and play cards with Pete for I am on shift on Labor Day. There was a big time in the town. They closed the mill down for a day so every buddy could celebrate. Most of the smelter closed down to so it was a day for everybody. I hope to close my letter now. Your son Roy”

Once again Till was out of food and requested that Julia her sister send some in with her. Till’s grandfather must have been sick and Till asked about him. They also went for an automobile ride which was a novelty at that time. Till wrote home on Sept. 6, 1918 saying,

"Dear Mother Daddie & all: This is the first chance I have had to write to you. I am in school and must hurry and get my short hand. I am fine and dandy getting along nicely in school. How is grandfather? I hope he is better. Have you heard from Roy yet? I hope Julia comes in today to bring in some things. I had to buy bread today. So please send some in mother. Also potatoes, cake, eggs if you have them & some kind of fruit or pickles. We are right out. Phyliss is coming in Saturday night possibly she will bring some things in if Julia don’t come. The day you went home Edna & Marion & Mr. & Mrs. Short came & we fixed a little lunch for them.

Wednesday Dr. Kahn’s Son who goes to school asked me to go auto riding he was going to bring a friend for Emma. They were going to have two big seven passenger cars and have a regular time. But after I got home I was so tired & had so many lessons to get. My waist had to be ironed, stockings washed, shoes cleaned & suite pressed. So he is quite a fellow & his folks are very wealthy. His father has his office in this building on the 8th floor. So I called him up and told him we wouldn’t go, of course he felt bad about it. But said it would be alright. So about nine o’clock Mrs. Ewing’s maid came up stairs and said The girl in 71 is wanted at the telephone. They didn’t say which one. So she is a funny little lady. Emma went down and she said, I couldn’t understand what they wanted, it was some boys & he would say what is her name Ralph. You see he didn’t remember my name, but talked to me in school, But he knew what apartment I was in so he said he didn’t know the name but she lived in 71. But
when Emma got down there they had gone so I don’t know what they wanted. Last night we went riding with a couple of fellows. They work in a meat market where we deal. We had a lovely ride until 10:10 Then we came home, left them at the car & went to our room got up at the usual hour of 6:30 & studied. Well write me soon & send anything good to eat. Lots of love your daughter Till.”

Yet again Ed moved this time to Pocatello Idaho where he found a new place to live and received a good job. He wrote on Sept. 10, 1918, "Dear folks at home, well I have finally landed a good job once more and a nice place to live and I am braking here and I like it just fine so far. I am in good health and feel fine. Hope this will find you all the same, have you heard from Roy yet, does he like it in Nevada? That is a good state for the working man. Well they ain’t any news to tell so I guess I will have to close hoping this finds all in good health. I remain as ever Ed Pocatello Idaho”

Till and her friends were very busy going to shows, dancing, and having ice-cream. She was also out of food and requested some of her needs. On Sept. 13, 1918 she wrote from Salt Lake City saying, "Dear mother; At last I have found time to write to you. How are you mother? We have certainly been busy this week. Have been going somewhere every night. Ted Bramton has been in here all week and Sunday we had a grand time. Phyllis’s aunt treated us just grand. We had a lovely dinner. So Monday night Ted came up and took us all out to supper, the supper was sure good. After super we danced there in the café. Went from there up to the Paramount Empress. Because we had seen the Pantages. The show was fine after the show he took us up to the Palace and we had some ice-cream. Then we came home. Tuesday night at 6 o’clock he came up and out to supper we went again, from there up to the wilks. Then he bought us some candy & we came home. He wanted us to go down to the Sanitarium, but it was too late. So Wednesday night We went down to the moose club to a concert and dance. Had a very good time. Thursday night we went out to supper and then to the Orpheum (sp?) then up to the Palace and bought some candy and ice-cream & then came home. So tonight being Friday and Ted went up to Park City so here we all three set writing to out mothers. We have had to work extra hard in school in order to go out at night. Today I am proud of myself. You see every Friday we hand in our speed work in typewriting. When I told Mr. Davis my average he gave it out in school and said here is a girl who wrote 454 words without one mistake what do you think of that? Of course this pleased me. You see that makes 45.4 words to one minute. So our names are posted up those who are good and my name heads the list.

Well mother dear I think Horace will come in Sunday. Please send in some things and mother please send me a couple of pairs of hose, black ones. We would like some potatoes, cake, fruits & anything good to eat. I haven’t very much money left. Only a dollar. I can’t imagine where it has gone, but it goes & you never know it. Write soon lots of love Till”

Till and Emma moved to a new apartment. Ellen sent in more beautiful flowers for them to enjoy. Till let her mother know how much they enjoyed her bread. Till told her parents how much her new expenses were letting them know she would need more money. She also borrowed $5 from Cora again. On Sept. 17, 1918 Till said, "My dear mother; How are you by this time, Emma and I have moved again and surely have got a fine place, but we live right in with the people and believe me there is surely some class to them. The apartment is grand but wow! I imagine the lady Mrs. Scott has a horrible
temper, if you should stroke her the wrong way. But so far no one could treat anyone
cner she is simply grand. Her husband is just grand to her. They have plenty to do
with and that includes a negro women she does all the work. In the morning she gets
breakfast, and then the dina comes does up the dishes & she stays all day. The other
morning I said would you like us to help with the dishes and she said well I should say
not, the colored lady does them. You kids can’t work and go to school. So pretty soft
for us so far. And think of it only $12.50 per month. I claim luck hangs in our whiskers.
To-night she is going to have company for supper and modest Emma said now Mrs.
Scott we don’t want to butt in, on your affairs so we will just get our own supper,
“Immediately” No you won’t when I ask you to eat with me I mean it. So it has cost us
precious little so far. But I hold my breath every minute for fear I will wake up, it seems
so much like a dream.

They have a grand Victrola she is playing it for us. And out in the kitchen supper is
being prepared. Of course we will meet her friends to-night. Oh! For some new duds,
but I am satisfied until I get out of school. Only I do need some black hose. I haven’t a
red cent and I am wearing heals.

The flowers are beautiful and every thing you sent was lovely. The people here
nearly went up over the bread. Mrs. De La Mare sent some in too. Horace was just
grand to me Sunday. Hope he got home alright. I simply can’t think of a thing to say
because the Victrola is going. I am ashamed to ask you, you have been so good to me
this– I mean month. I am so used to writing short hand. But I must have a couple of
dollars. Hope everybody is fine. Give grandpa ma my regards. How is Roy? I think
Cora went to Ed Sat. Lots of love to daddie. Oh! & you too. Tell all hello with Love Till
PS Mr. Scott is just like Hobson in ways & looks only he isn’t so dark.”

A letter from Till, no date, only half of the letter was found she said, ”The college
down by the Orpheum, was the Salt Lake business college, Gee but it was hot up in
there. So we went down to the Utah, which is located in the Boston Bldg. Just across
from the Post office on fourth South. We can walk it in about 10 min. only 2 ½ blk.
We just love our location. We don’t have to climb any stairs at school, we take the elevator
and go up 9 stories.

Mr. Davis the Principal is very nice & very good looking. I like him very much to talk
to. He surely made me feel like we had known him all our lives. He is married though,
so don’t worry about me trying to capture the nice man. Ha Ha!

The monthly tuition is $13.50 per month or $40 for 3 mo, $7 for our books which last
throughout the entire six months. So you see I just had $24 and it took $20.50 for 1st
month of school and Emma didn’t want to go down to Cora’s for dinner so we bought a
little dinner, which cost us 80 cents. There was a exceptionally good show at the Salt
Lake Theatre last night. The play was her unborn child. Say mother I just wish you
could see it. They have been requested to play it again next week, on Wednesday, I
wish you could come in & see it, it is surely worth your time & money. We paid 83 cents
for our tickets and we had some fine seats.

Well, my dear you see there is $6.25 for rent, so you can readily see I will have to
have about $10 more, of course the first month will be more expensive on account of
having to buy our books. I borrowed $5.00 from Cora to pay on my rent so I wish you
could please send me some money as soon as you can & mother dear please enclose
some 3cent stamps & a few one cent ones.
Did you arrive home alright? I tried so hard to get back before you left, I never even thanked that dear old sis of mine for bringing us in. Emma can’t get over talking about how sweet she is. I was quite disappointed when I arrived at Cora’s & you were gone. But it took us longer that we realized to talk to the professors. Well now set right down & write to me your loving daughter Till"

A friend of Bud (Cora and Ed’s boy) wrote to him saying on Sept. 20, 1918 from Los Angeles, ”Dear Budd, I am write you and letter to tell you how I like it here. I think it is fine here. I have all the grapes I want the oranges ain’t so cheap this year because the frost got them. I was surprised when I seen the little depot. You would too, but I seen lots of orange trees and grape vines. Grapes are 5 cents a pound and carnations are 4 dozen for 25 cents. I go through a tunnel every day, I was out to the beach last Sunday and going to seedan(sp?) this Sunday. Tell Floyd hello. I wish you were here. Tell every body hello. Well as it is getting late I will close. This is my address. 3391/2 South flower. Tom Murphy

Cora wrote from Salt Lake City very glad that she would be joining Ed in Pocatello leaving the next morning. Her boys were staying with Ellen and John while she worked to get out of debt, while her girls stayed with her. On Sept. 24, 1918 Cora wrote, "Dear Folks and the Boys, Just a few lines to say we are all well and that I expect to leave here tomorrow night if I can get away. I expect to hear from Ed in the morning and If I do I will go tomorrow night on the 11:30 train. How are the boys and are they good? Tell them to be good boys and good to their Grandma and be nice until their momma comes back. It is hard to leave them, but maybe it is for the best. Say mother get Floyde a pair of shoes and what he needs and send the bill to Ed at Pocatello. Get them what they need and I do hope they are good to you and do what you tell them and cause you no trouble. For you are so good and kind to take them and let me work and try and get out of debt. I guess you have it as cold out there as we have it in here, it is cold and damp. And has rained for three days. I will be glad to go to Ed and be with him once more.

Well how is every buddy tell all the girls hello and good by for me and I will try and write to them all.

Well I will have to close as I am quite tired and want to rest tonight as I will have to ride all night tomorrow night. Well tell the boys to be good and I will write to them and hope you won't have much trouble with them. Well I will close with oodles of Love and kisses to you all. Tell frenie(sp) hello and all good bye from Cora & girls xxxxxxxxxx I have not seen Otilla since I was out."

Oct. 8, 1918 from Salt Lake City Till wrote, ”My dear mother, daddy and all; I suppose you think I’m never going to write to you. But honest-to-goodness I am the busiest girl in the world, while you mother are the busiest woman. We are getting along fine mother. All we need is a little fresh air to make us happier. Really this woman never puts up a window. When we come home it is stale and hot in the whole apartment.

Last night we shut off the steam and called her and asked if she wouldn’t please open a window. I thought we would smother, it was kind of stormy and the smoke from the smokestack blew write down into our room and nearly smothered us. So she said she would open the window when she went to bed. Heaven help us but I was sure enough praying that she would go to bed. But it was fine after she opened her door and window.
Say, Emma and I are getting our experience all at once. Friday night we went in to Mrs. Hallens and we were playing the piano and singing and Mrs. Hallen was manicuring my fingernails. Along about 10:30 we began to feel uneasy. Mr. Hallens was down to the fairgrounds and we were there keeping her company. Well Emma was sitting near the window and she got up and moved, said Gee, I feel nervous. So each one of us felt the same way but didn’t give into our feelings and we went on talking. Pretty soon we heard somebody by the window and Mrs. Hallen said, oh it is only someone going in that door. So we went on talking but something kept warning us. So we listened and heard someone move their feet on the pavement. So we listened for a long time scared to move. Finally we heard them sneak around the other window. So Mrs. Hallen said I’m going to say something, we asked her not to, because we were so frightened. So finally we couldn’t stand it any longer and she said say what do you want out there, now you had better be moving and moving quick. But they never moved only to go around to the other window. By this time we were cuddle together and nearly shaking to pieces. I thought he was cutting the screen but the kids said no it was his feet on the pavement. So Mrs. Hallen said say what you want anyway? And he still stood there. We listened a few minutes and pretty soon he knocked on the window, honest-to-goodness, I thought we were gone and we looked at the time to see if Mr. Hazen was in bed. And it was 12:30 so you can imagine how long we stayed there listening to him. So when he knocked, Mrs. Hallen said say now that is far enough. What do you want anyway? And he said in a low gruff voice, can I see you a minute? Mrs. Hallen said what! He said, can I come in a little while? I want to have some fun, well she jumped up and said say now, you had better beat it and do it quick, that has gone too far for a joke. So we opened the door and woke the people in the next apartment and used their telephone and called the officers. They came right over and Mrs. Hallen showed them where we was and they went out and had their flashlights and Billy clubs and looked all through the bushes, but couldn’t find him. When they came in and asked about what he had said, they had to laugh because Mrs. Hallen had a coat hanger and I had a little basket, our only protection if he had gotten in. So they said they have had trouble with him for a long time and said they had chased him altogether 2000 miles. They have caught him a few times and they can’t get anyone to get on the witness stand and say what he says. Really his language was terrible, I wouldn’t repeat it. So while we was talking to the officers Mr. Hallen came home. You never seen anyone so surprised in your life, he was surely mad. The cops told us that not long ago the same fellow caught two women as they got off the streetcar and they started to fight him and he ran. So when they asked him what he did it for, he said oh I only pinched her a little. I didn’t think she would mind. He said they have had him up before the sanity officers and they pronounced him a sound fellow, because when he is in a crowd talking he is sensible as anybody. But he is just a little off on this one particular thing.

This is terrible to tell but Sarah Quale, said when they stayed at the Richmond apartments, some fellow came over there and said insulting things to some girls. And even wet through the window at them. Can you imagine anything so low? Well, gee whiz this is a regular book. How is grandpa? Give them my regards. Mother please try and go up and see Horace and take him some flowers for me. I am patiently waiting for the cash which is about to spring forth.
Write soon lots of love Till PS tell Phil hello, I have had a letter written to her since Friday and it is up to school and I forgot to send it."

There was an outbreak of influenza so the whole town was quarantined. Roy described the unusual events of the city that took place as well as getting help from his mother. He also added a note to his brother Fern who was only 7 years old at the time. On Oct. 14, 1918 Roy said, "I received your letter and was glad to hear that you are all well. I am getting along just fine. I am working every shift. The town is quarantined. There is four cases of influenza out here so they closed up the saloons and all places where the crowds are gathering so to stop it from getting around. If they see any crowds standing on the streets the sheriff sends them home. They are going to stop it from getting around all the people. I think it is a wise thing to do.

Mother will you send my overcoat to me? It is getting cold out here and I would like to have it. I don't know how much it will be but send it and I will pay you for it. Is it getting cold out there? I am getting to know more people out here and I like it better than ever. We have a dance every week out here. All but this one they wouldn't let them have it because the influenza, it will go around.

On the same letter/paper he wrote to Fern saying “Dear little Fern, I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. When pay day comes around I will send you $4.50 for your bank and 50 cents to spend if you want to but you can put it in your bank if you want to and be a good boy and do as mother tell you to do and see how much better you will feel. Tell them all hello for me. From your brother Roy Your son Ellaroy”

John was sick with the chicken pox. Roy wrote he had never seen his father sick before until then. Roy was concerned that the family would suffer while John had to lay off of work due to the sickness and offered to send them money to help them. During this time Bud Ed and Cora's boy was there, he and Fern were quarreling, Roy was concerned that it was a burden on his mother. Once again Roy asked his mother to send him his clothes. Previously Julia talked to him about giving up smoking, he mentioned how much he wanted to quit but that it held a great hold on him. He appreciated that they all were trying to help him be good."

Roy wrote on Oct. 20, 1918 from (Mc Gill Nev.) saying, "Dear Mother & Father, I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I am getting along just fine. So papa has got the chicken pox? Well he needed a rest anyhow, hope he will soon get over them. I would sure like to see him. I bet it is laughable too see him with them it is the first time he has ever had any sickness since I knew him. So he was going to put up the potatoes was he? But you said the rain stopped him. Well it snowed out here. It must have snowed 4 or 5 inches but it has gone away now. But there is snow in the mountains. Yet we have frost every morning out here. Do you have it there? So I wish you would send my over coat and sweater to me and them suits of underwear. For I don't want to buy any out here for they cost so much.

The sweater is hiding in the clothes closet it is that black one you know. I don't know how much they will cost to sent them but I will pay you the balance of them pay day. So send them will you?

So Bud and Fern was quarreling over a book huh? Tell them that I won't like them if they bother you like that. There is a few doses of influenza out here but not many of them. I was figuring on coming home for Christmas for the holiday but you said papa was sick so I will have to send you all the money I can while he is sick. So you won't
have to charge anything. I won't be able to come, they take $25 dollars out of my check for Liberty Bond. But I will try to save enough to come to pay you a visit.

So I will try and save enough to come home. I think I can save enough if I send you only $50 dollars it won't be big when you take 9 dollars out for my Western loan, but in order to come home for Christmas Holidays.

You might think I am stingy but I would like to come home for a visit. You see not that I am home sick but I think you would like to see my face again.

I am getting fat, I only weigh a hundred and sixty pounds, I used to weigh a hundred and forty five pounds when I left there. When I left Salt Lake City I weighed a hundred and fifty pounds so you see I have gained ten pounds since I came here. If I had your food I guess I would weigh two hundred the way I have gained on this food. So you see it ain't the food out here that makes me fat it is the climate. I would give a hundred dollars for a slice of your bread it would taste like coke to me. I don't eat much bread out here because it is as black as my sweater I was telling you about. The only time I eat it is in my lunch. But I have got a hell of a good appetite since I got away from that smoke. There is a few fromes/fumes (sp?) out here and quite a few cattle. I look out the window to see a automobile go buy and I saw the cattle down the field that is why I said there was a few fromes/fumes (sp?) out here and some cattle that is all I can think of now so I will have to close my letter now. Tell them all hello for me. And tell them I would write to them but I thought if I wrote a big letter it would do for all of you. You let them read it anyhow don't you? I got letter from Julia and she gave me a good lesson to learn. I thank her for it for it was a good example to follow but in one of her lessons she used me to quit smoking. I sure wished I could, it has got a hold of me but there is nothing like trying to tell her. You all are trying to help me to be good and I give you many thanks for it for some day I will appreciate it. Well I will have to close now with a hug and a kiss for all of you get that Ha ha good bye your son Roy and brother xxxxxx"

Roy kept his promise of sending his parents money. He mentioned his desire to go home for Christmas. On Nov. 7, 1918 Roy wrote, "Dear Mother & Father I will now take time to write and let you know I am getting along just fine and hope you are all the same. I am sending you all I can this month for my liberty bond stock. Twenty five dollars. I am sending you $20 dollars so be sure and pay my western loan and you can have the rest. I will try to come home for Christmas holiday. I got my questionnaire yesterday so I will have to save enough to come home over Christmas to see you all once more. It snowed 2 or 3 inches out here. 4 or 5 days ago it was all gone excepting in the shade and there is a little left. How is every buddy getting along out there? It is pretty cold out here. Has it snowed any out there yet? Write me a letter once a month any how to let me know you are all alive. I don't know when Uncle Sam needs me but I am ready to go anytime. I will have to fill my questionnaire tonight. Well write me soon for I have told you all I can think of. Tell them all hello from me. Your son with hugs and kisses Ellroy"

2 days later Roy wrote to his sister Julia who was in Tooele saying he had not received a letter from home for a month. He also told Julia about the questionnaire he filled out that Uncle Sam sent him in regards to the war. He asked Julia her opinion about sending money home for Christmas. On Nov. 9, 1918 Roy wrote from McGill, Nev, "Dear sister Julia I received your letter some time ago and was glad to hear you are all getting along just fine. I am getting along just fine. Well how is every buddy,
getting along out there are they all still live? I haven’t had a letter from home for a month so I don’t know how they are. I am having some time out here now for there is no place to go so me and Pete stays home and plays cards for fun, so you see we can send more money home next month. That is if Uncle Sam don’t want me too soon for I have got my questionnaire and I have filled it out and it is ready to send back. I filled it tonight so if he wants me I wish he would hurry and do it before the war is over so I can get a pop at them dam Germans. I would sure like to have one in my hands now and I would sure make example of him. I am still working at the same old job and I have got a good standing with the boss. He likes me just fine, he said I was the best man he ever had on the job. So you can tell what kind of standin [sic] I have.

I sent mother some pictures and I didn’t have enough to send you any, but you can see them when you go over home can’t you? I wrote mother a letter on the 7th, but I didn’t send it until today. I just sent her twenty dollars this month because I had a liberty bond to pay for. I could have sent her more but next month is Christmas so I saved some to pay for every thing I get so I can send some home about the 20th so they can have a Christmas present from me. Don’t you think it is a good idea? If it ain’t write and let me know but I ain’t going to change any thing this month at all.

Well this is all I can think of now, tell them all hello from me. Your brother Roy, Your Brother Ellaroy Shields

Roy asked for his coats to be sent to him. He wanted one for his friend Pete so he didn’t have to buy one, that way Pete would be able to send more money home to his father who was out of work. He also told his parents how economical he was trying to be by staying home at night after work. On Nov.15,1918 still in McGill Roy wrote, "Dear Mother & Father, I will now take time to write you a few lines and let you know how I am getting along. I am getting along just fine and hope you are all the same. I wrote you a letter a few days ago. I wish you would send me two of them coats. That is up in the clothes closet where I room when I was home. Do not send the one with the grease on. I know it is asking you quite a bit of work to do, but as soon as I get starting around I will not bother you.

Pete was going to buy a coat and I told him I had two or three at home. I told him I would write for them so he can save his money to send home to his Father and Mother for his Father is not able to go back to work yet and I told him there was no use of spending his money when I could send home and get them for we might just as well use them while they are big enough to wear. Don’t you think it is a good idea? Next month I will send you some money to pay my Western loan with and about the 20th of the month I’ll will send you some for Christmas so you can have a Christmas present from me. I will not tell you how much I will send you for I want to make it a present you see. Pete is reading the paper while I am writing you this letter. We stay home at nights. We have the paper come every night. We go up town after supper and call for the mail and go straight back for we bet one another that we could stay home the longest. I bet him a dollar I could stay home at nights longer then he could so that is the reason why we are staying home. We both want the dollar. But I don’t think it will be none because we are both too lazy to go up town if it wasn’t for the mail. We would never go up since we got used to staying home. It is just like taking candy away from a baby. Well, Pete is getting ready for bed. He told me it was 9:30. It is a half hour past our bed time so I will have to close now. Your son Ellaroy Shields I am going to bed to."
Ed son Budd received a letter from his friend, he must have been staying with John and Ellen at the time since the letters that were saved were the ones that were sent to John and Ellen’s, along with the letters Till received on her mission from her parents and her friends.

Nov. 15, 1918 Otto wrote to Budd, “Dear Budd, How are you? We are all just fine and hope you are the same. I have to milk three cows night and morning. I have got a girl and her name is phafe nickles [sic] say she is cute when you see her. I bet you won’t have her she ain’t got no teeth. And she is as skinny as a rabbit and she ain’t got no hair besides. School ain’t started yet I guess it will start after Thanksgiving but I can not be sure.

Say can’t you and the rest of the family come up for Thanksgiving mama has got about 13 Turkeys for Thanksgiving. Well I can’t think of anymore so will close with lots of love to you all Otto Anderson Martin Idaho PS answer soon Otto xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox “

Roy was able to get better pay and described his new job. It also made it nice that his boss liked him and found him to be dependable to work.

Nov. 24, 1918, Roy wrote, ”Dear Mother & father, I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. We are baching [sic] and are saving a little money at it. We sure like to cook our own meals. Pete will try anything I say so we get along just like brothers. He is busting coal in the house and it is flying all over. A piece hit me in the head and I had to stop writing to catch it. We got a furnished house for six dollars a month. I got my coat and things yesterday and was glad to get them because it is snowing to beat hell out here. There is about six inches on the ground now. We have sure got a warm house. Now when Pete gets his kodak from home we will take a photograph of it and send it to you and let you see for yourself. It is a little one just big enough for two. We can sure keep it warm. It is quite a way from town and we don’t go up very often, only once every three days. It is a little closer to our work. I am operation now at pay $5.50 a day. There is nothing to do at all only I have to wear rubber cloves when I handle the switches. You could handle them with your bear hands if you wanted too but we play safety first. The company furnishes me with rubber cloves. They are good for six hundred volts and that is all the switchers holds so there is no dangers of getting shocked at all. Pete said them coats you sent was just the fit for him. They are too small for me. I can pass with them anyhow but the one I brought with me is alright for me. Excuse my writing for I have only wrote one letter before this with ink so you see it is kind of hard for me just now. My boss is sure pushing me along and he married a Tooele girl. I just thought it is the reason of it, he likes me fine and dandy for he can depend on me being to work and that is the main reason of it all. I could write a little better if I wouldn’t have so much. Well I will have to close my letter now. Tell them all hello for me. I received Julia’s letter too. Your son Roy” (McGill Nev)

Ed and Cora's daughter Joyce got really sick

Joyce was about 5 years old when she got very ill her father Ed wrote home updating his family on the severity of her illness. On Nov. 24, 1918 he wrote, “Dear Folks at home, Just a few lines to let you know we are still alive, but Joyce is very sick, we think she has pneumonia, we are waiting on the Doctor now, she has been very sick now for 4 days. Ed thought that he would be able to write today, but Joyce is right out of
her head, she just raves, gets out of bed if we are not there by her, and sleeps very little. She said today she was going to fall dead. I ask her what for and she said so you can’t see me anymore and tells toots she can have all her things. She nearly frightens me to death the way she talks. I won’t finish until the doctor comes, and tell you what he says” (I could not find the other pages to this letter) He wrote again on Nov. 25, 1918 saying, ”Dear Folks at home, Joyce is much better this morning. She took the change at 4 o’clock. We thought she was gone at 4 but we pulled her through or they did, I did not get home until 8 o’clock this morning. The Doctor says there is some hopes of her this morning. She has been out of her head 3 days today. But I do believe she will pull through alright myself. Well if it ain’t one thing it is 3 here lately. Well as there ain’t any news I will come to a close hopeful this finds you all in good health, how is the boys getting along, and are they good boys? Well I will drop a note tomorrow and let you know how she is, we have 0 set and hold the covers on her, she jumps out of bed, we have to wear our overcoats here in the room it is so cold, but that is what the doctor order. Well good day and good luck to all Ed Shields Pocatello Idaho”

What a time John and Ellen must have had, taking care of Ed’s boys and being quarantined. John and Ellen learned that Joyce was very sick. Roy was not forgotten and received his clothes from home that they sent him. Roy wrote Nov. 28, 1918, ”Dear Mother & Father I received your letter a few days ago and was glad to hear from you and that you are out of quarantine I am getting along just fine. I got the clothes I wrote for so don’t be afraid that I didn’t. How is every buddy getting along out there? I wrote you a letter on the 24th but I haven’t sent it yet for I haven’t went down town for four or five days. Was the day I got my clothes from you. This will be just a few line to let you know why you didn’t get a letter sooner from me. But I am going down town for I want to get my letters mailed to you. I told you it was snowing out here. And it is still snowing to beat hell’o. [sic] Well it snowed a foot it is cold as hell’o [sic] out here. I would like to have been home for Thanksgiving, but I want to get my liberty bond paid for before I come home at all. It will be paid in January. Then I can come home any time I feel like it. Tell them all hello from me with hugs and kisses. Your son Roy”

Thank goodness everyone at the Shields home was all well, at least Ed and Cora didn’t have to worry about their boys who were staying with John and Ellen. It was a difficult time for Ed and Cora however who were worried about Joyce who had a rough week, 2 or 3 times they had a scare thinking they were going to loose her. They finally had greater hopes for her recovery. Ed said that there were a lot of people dying with 8-10 funerals a day. On Nov. 29, 1918 Ed wrote, ”Dear Folks, received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you and that you are all well. We had a difficult time with Joyce yesterday. It being the 7 day but Dr. said he expected that. He says she is going to get well now, he thought and I believe my self that she is, I sure thought she was gone, 2 or 3 times but she rested fine all night last night, so I guess she took the change yesterday. She has no fever this morning, and she says she is going on the train to Grandmas for Christmas and she want to know how Floyd or Bud is bless her little heart, she is talking just fine, this morning, and her eyes are bright so I do think she is for the better now. There is sure lots of people dying here. 8 of 10 funerals a day all Pneumonia or flu. Cora is feeling fine today only awful tired. I am glad she held up so well. It sure is cold this morning down to zero last night. Well I will close hoping when I write tomorrow or next day I can say she is safe. Tell Dews (I think he is referring to
Cora’s family, her maiden name is Dew) how she is tell them she is alright. I wrote them 3 letters but haven’t heard from them. Good day all, tell the boys to be good also xx Ed Shields"

Poor little Joyce, she had sores all over, yet she felt well enough to tell Ed she wanted to go home to grandpa and grandma’s for Christmas. The flu was still raging and there were as many deaths with Pneumonia as the flu.

Dec. 1, 1918 Ed wrote from a hotel in Pocatello, "Dear folks at home, received Till’s letter ok, and would liked to have been able to of been home for dinner but impossible. We had a tough time with Joyce the past 2 nights, but the Dr, says she is in good shape now, we hope so. I will ok for work tomorrow if she is the same as today. It has been a fine day here. The snow is all gone here in town and the sun is shining nice and warm of course. The paved streets is what draws the heat. Joyce asked me just now what I was doing. I told her I was writing to grandma and grandpa, she says tell them she is coming home Christmas, her little body is awful sore, sores on her hips and elbows, shoulders, knees, bed sores, well I do hope this change in her stays this time we are all worn out.

Well the flu still rages here 8-10 a day, it sure is raising hell in this town, but there has been nearly as many die with Pneumonia as flu. I guess the old man god is making a cleaning, you know the Kiser said god and him was going to run the world, the Kiser fell down but God is still (grabing us off,?) ha ha No news so I will close hoping this find you all in good health. Cora is feeling pretty good today, I thought she was going to be sick sure as not. Good day all Ed Pocatello Idaho o/o Monarch Hotel address this way xxxxxxTell the boys to be good--- daddy"

John and Ellen were over their illness according to Roy’s letter. Roy was so thoughtful telling his brother Fern and nephew Budd they could use his sleigh. He still promised to send money home and told them he was unable to go home for Christmas because he was not able to save as much money as he had hoped to. He learned that his army physical had been canceled so he was free once again.

Dec. 5, 1918 Roy wrote from McGill Idaho saying, "Dear Mother & Father I received your and Ferns letter yesterday and was glad to hear from both of you and hear that you are all well again. Tell Bud and Fern they can take my sleigh and don’t let any big fellows use it for they will brake it for them for they don’t care because it ain’t their’s so they don’t care what they do with other peoples things and you know it to be the facts. Well I am getting along just fine. I told you in my last letter there was a foot of snow on the ground here didn’t I. Well it only took five days to take it all off again here. I have got a good warm place to stay now. We are batching I told you in the last letter. It is sure a cosy little place. Well tomorrow is payday and I will send you all the money I can with this letter. There is so much things to come out of my check this month that it won’t be very much. There is red cross and Liberty bonds and every thing else so I can’t send much this month. Well as soon as I get my bond paid for I will take a trip home and maybe stay home and work for $32.50. Would go quite a ways in keeping all of us, take $32.50 and add sixty dollars to it and it would come finder (sp) keeping all of us. So don’t expect me home for Xmas. It will be in Feb. some time. I will have my bond paid for then. Well it is getting dinner time now so I will have to close my letter and start cooking it. It seems good to cook your own meals after being in a boarding house for a while. It sure is a change. Well tell them all hello for me and tell them to write to me for
it seems good to get a letter from home. Well you asked me if I sent my questionnaire back. Well I sent it back and this what I got back in its place. Local Board for White Pine C. Nov. 11, 1918 You are hereby directed to appear before this local Board for physical examination at 9am on Nov. 22, 1918. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor punishable but not to exceed one years imprisonment, and may also result in your losing valuable rights and your immediate induction into military service. Rocklull David McLean. Shalbuberger Hall Member of local Board, and this is what I got on the 20th of the month. Your serial number is 456 order no A 425 always refer to these numbers when writing, notify local Board immediately of change of address, your call for physical examination on Nov. 22 has been cancelled on Nov. the 19, 1918. F.D. Oldfield so I am free once more. Tell them all hello for me. Your Son Roy with hugs and kisses. I will close. Answer soon Ellaroy Shield Mc Gill Nevada"

It is apparent that the flu or Pneumonia was prevalent in Salt Lake also as indicated in the letter Till received from Utah Business College written on Dec. 11, 1918 which stated, "My dear Miss Shields:

Answering yours under date of December 7, will say that most likely the letter your little Brother lost was the one we wrote telling you that the Board of Health was permitting us to give lessons by appointment and that you and Miss Emma might come in for lessons whenever you wished. But the quarantine has been lifted for us since Saturday last as we are now having regular work.

Hoping to see you and Miss Emma at the earliest possible moment, we are Cordially yours, Utah Business College, E Davis Princ."

Unfortunately Joyce did not get better, in fact she got worse to the point where the last option was to operate on her. Ed related the terrible experience in the letter he wrote on Dec. 17, 1918 saying, "Dear folks, here we are again in the hospital this time. Joyce was operated on last night, took one quart of puss of off her left side and he is going to take a part of one rib out in the morning. I feel awful bad for the little Dear, but this is the only thing we could do. How is Bud? Say get him some Antalestic [sic] Balm, and rub him well with it, Joyce was doing pretty well, and in side of 30 minutes we had her in the hospital. She was up and a pain struck her all at once, and there was so much puss oh her left side it had shoved her heart to the right side. You could see it beat on the right side. She is awful restless tonight. Well I will close hoping this finds you all in good health. (same letter but different day) Well, I will try again, we just got through operating on Joyce. The Doctor took 2 quarts of puss this morning and put a tube in her side about 3 inches in and there is about 5 inches sticking out, then he connected a yard of hose to that with a glass and it reaches to the floor to a bottle. You can see every time she breathes, the puss come through this little glass tube. He took about 11/2 inch of one rib out entirely and she was so weak he had to do it without giving her a thing. The poor little thing stood it like a brick. Though I got sick and had to beat it and Cora fainted just as I left the room. The Dr. had 6 of us hold the little Dear, while he cut out her rib. I don’t know if she will get over it or not, she is asleep now and seems to be resting fine. But I guess it is such a relief to her to get rid of all that stuff. I don’t see where it all came from. It has been 2 hours since we got her back off the table and there is nearly a half pint of stuff come through the tube all ready. It sure has eased her though. You can’t imagine how she has suffered.
I was going to send money enough to get the boys some clothes but I had to pay $35 a week just for the room, and the operation he said I could pay by the month. I told him I was no millionaire but it didn’t seem to do any good. I paid the first week and if he is bigger then me he can kick us out next week. Well I will close and if Joyce gets worse will let you know by wire. I was in Idaho Falls when she took sick and did not get here until 4 in the morning and they had operated the first time and I would rather not been here the second time for my part, good day all Ed Let us know how Bud is and tell him to be good.”

Poor little Joyce wanted to go to Grandma’s for Christmas but was too ill to make it there. It was 2 days prior to Christmas, Budd and Floyde were staying with Ellen and John. Edna, Marion, Julia and Jack were there for Christmas. Cora was unable to send any gifts for her boys, but promised she would send Budd the sweater she was knitting for him as soon as she finished it. It is not clear if there was another outbreak of illness in the Shields home or if Cora’s comments were from the prior time when they were quarantined. It looked like there was better news for Joyce who now looked like she was also going to make it and thanked the doctor who helped her. Cora wrote home the good news on Dec. 23, 1918 saying, Dear Folks at home & all Edna, Marion, Julia, Jack, Budd & Fern and all. Just a few lines to say that Joyce feels a little better this morning and we have hopes now of pulling her through which looked very doubtful one week ago today. Poor child she sure has suffered 10 deaths but sure looks good this morning. I got your letter yesterday Otilla and sure feel sorry for all at home. Aunt Bell’s family sure have had their share. Also Rodoberries. [sic] you people sure ought to be thankful you all came out all ok it sure puts a person thinking doesn’t it when troubles come home. The fire whistles are blowing, it sure goes right through you. A young swetchman [sic] got his legs cut off this morning and a boy got shot through the leg yesterday also. A negro woman here where you see all kinds of sights. Ed is out on a run today, he felt as if he just had to go and the nurses all help me, Joyce is pretty good through the day, but is so restless at night, but she looks so good this morning. She wants to go home to grandmas for Xmas poor child. I don’t know when I will be able to come home with her, but just as soon as I can. I feel so bad we can’t send you all some thing for Xmas, but we just can’t and tell Budd I am knitting him a sweater and have it nearly done. Thought I’d get it done for Xmas but I haven’t and will send it as soon as I can. Tell little Fern Elmo and Hyrum Cora will send them something next Xmas. Sure glad to hear you all have your new dresses for I got sadly disappointed on mine. I thought I could get me shoes and a waist but it took all we could scrape to bring Joyce here, but never mind better days are coming. We ought to be thankful we have our little one to pay for. For I never thought she would be alive today. This Dr. is sure wonderful. He brought in another Dr. this morning and said one week ago last night Dr., we brought this little one here dying, would of been dead in another two hours, operated on her at 11 o’clock and after the operation she said thank you Dr. and he said that was worth one thousand dollars to him to have the little doll feel so grateful to him and he sure takes a great interest in her.

We are having the swellest weather here, no snow at all. I hope Ed is home for tomorrow. The land lady is giving us all a swell dinner or with us all helping a little. And all wish Joyce could eat dinner with them. They all sure liked her and all so miss her from the Hotel. And Mrs. Hansen said this morning when I was at breakfast, they sure
hope Mr. Shields gets back to cut up the Turkey. He has them all going South when he's home. Well hope you all have a dandy time and would of loved to have been there for dinner. Just think of us as I am sure you will. Tell little Budd not to be disappointed for me not sending him anything but I couldn't. But will send him his sweater as soon as I can. Well wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We remain as ever Cora and Ed.”

That ended the year for the Shields family, it had been a difficult time the last couple of months, there could not have been a better Christmas present for the Shields family then receiving the news just prior to Christmas that it appeared that Joyce was going to pull through after all.

1919

May 10, 1919 Till wrote home, "Dear folks at home: I have just one half hour before quitting time so I thought I would put it to good use. I haven't had a thing to do at the office with the exception of a few letters for the past week. I have read three magazines through and wrote letters, anything to pass away the time. You would have died laughing if you could have seen me last night. We went up to Ogden and talk about rain, it just poured and I was just dripping in water. It took me back to our all night outing mother, near Salt Air. My hat looks terrible. You know it melted that edging and it all fell limp. But I think I can press it and it will be all right. I laid it out perfectly straight last night and this morning it looked stiff and will be all right as soon as I get it pressed. We had a glorious trip though. We left here at 6 in the evening on a special train and they had cars to meet us as it was or had been raining they couldn't get enough taxis or autos, so they had special streetcars. We were taken to the Academy and High School and they served us with a delicious supper. Oh! Gee, I have never saw anything that looks better to me as that supper. I hadn't had a bite to eat all day, and very little the previous day. Now I will tell you what we had, cabbage salad, mashed potatoes with home Brown gravy, roast beef, cream beans, and the grandest rolls I ever had. Then they had some very nice chow chow pickles, catsup, and ice cream and cake. It was sure good. Then we immediately went down to the Tabernacle it being some little distance from the High School. They have the specials lined up for us. It surely makes one feel good to belong to such a organization. The concert was certainly fine. McClellan gave four beautiful organ selections and we sang five anthems. After the concert we went down to “Condora” I think was the name and they had a big dance. But here is where we got wet, we ran for about four blocks in the rain to the hall and then the thunder and lightning nearly scared me to death. We didn’t stay at the dance long as our train had to leave at 11:30 sharp in order to catch the line up of cars in Salt Lake. We didn’t know just where we could catch our car and we went about four more blocks in the rain and finally caught it. But we surely did have a good time.

I went down to the depot with Horace and seen the train take him away. And I'll have to admit it gave me a funny feeling. I received a card from him Thursday and one yesterday. I hope I get a letter today. I didn’t get time to read my card when I went home from work, and forgot to take it with me so I didn’t read it until I got back from Ogden. He was surely pleased with the little present I gave him. I bought a cute little book, (Friendship and Love), then I put a cute little verse in it (Somebody Cares) and a ten
dollar bill. Then I bought a pretty pink rose bud and tied it on top of the book with green ribbon. It looked awfully nice when I got it all wrapped. It is quitting time and I must close. Going home and cook some honest-to-goodness potatoes and steak. Many thanks for the things you sent in. I guess Leona thought I was a peach but I was in such a hurry I forgot the key. Tell her I’m sorry but I got ready in a hurry in 20 min. (Can you picture that?) Write me soon and give grandpa and grandma my regards lots of love Till"

May 14, 1919 Till wrote to Clifford saying, "Dear Clifford: today I received your letter and was very glad to hear from you and to know you are well and happy and also learning to write longer letters. This is the best letter I have ever received from you. It is surely the limit the way they are holding your division back. But just a little more patience and you will be home. The boys are coming in thick and fast now. Ave McIntosh arrived home last week. Jack Sweeney, Frank Gillespie in fact they are coming home nearly every day. You cannot imagine Cliff how good it seems to see a fellow, one who you would care to dance with. Really last summer was indescribable. Just a week ago today Horace left for a two-year mission. He went to the Northern States. Last Friday we went up to Ogden. I believe I told you about the Tabernacle Choir been requested to go up and sing. Anyway we went up and were treated royally. They met us in special cars and took us up to the Academy and High School where a delicious supper was served. I will write a little idea of the menu for you. The first course consisted of cabbage salad, mashed potatoes with brown gravy a nice slice of roast beef, creamed beans and chipped pickles and hot rolls which were simply delicious. Then second course consisted of ice cream and cake it certainly was nice and we had music during supper hour. At 830 we were summoned to get ready and catch our cars which were waiting in front of the building and go down to the Tabernacle. Our concert turned out very nicely. After the concert was over it started to rain, thunder and lightning. I was frightened to death of the lightning but we ran for the Tabernacle four blocks to the Berthena dance hall. We had very little time to stay there as our train left at 11:30 but we had a nice time what little time we were there."

July 9, 1919 Till left for her mission

The day started out beautifully, Till and her mother both received their Patriarchal Blessings. Hours later John and Ellen sent Till off on the train headed for Chicago to begin her mission. Till and her friend Emma left on the train together.

Till writes about her leaving home on July 13, 1919 saying, "Dear folks at home, At last I have found time to write to you. I have surely been busy since my arrival here. We have just finished supper and I am now on the elevated tracks at Logan Square in the car waiting for it to pull out. Chicago is a very nice place I like it very much. But I am leaving in the morning for Peru Indiana. They have assigned me to that conference. I go all alone. I suppose there will be someone to meet me at least I hope so. It nearly frightened me to death when they told me I was to go. But I know I will get along all right.

We had a wonderful trip out here. Elder Fox the one Mr. Atkin introduced to me and his friend Elder Richards, had a birth (berth) over us. We surely had some time. The little brown eyed boy Elder Cottam became very friendly. They got their birth at Ogden and it was just across from us. We all went out on the observation car and enjoyed it
very much. When we came back in, we had a good laugh at ourselves. We looked just like Coons. Every place we stopped for five or 10 min. the boys would grab us and we would jump off to straighten up. I was very disappointed when I learned we would reach Omaha at 1:30 in the morning.”

Till describes her feelings that morning taken from her journal saying, “The morning of the ninth mother, father, Fern and myself went up to the bishops building where mother and myself received our patriarchal blessing. In the afternoon visited Aunt Lib. Returned at 4:00 p.m. packed my lunch and went to the depot to depart for my mission. A large crowd went to the depot to bid me a fond farewell for the period of two years. I stood on the steps looking back at my folks until the train took me from their site. Waving, a last goodbye.”

Ellen described her feelings as she left Till on the train bound for Chicago. July 13, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”I am going to try and write you a few lines today as I have been so busy since I came home. I can see you standing on the step of the train yet we all stayed there until the train pulled out. I can see you waving your hand yet. Then we went back to the house and had something to eat and got ready and start home. Mr. and Mrs. De Le Mare (Emma’s parents) did not go home with us. They thought we had to big a load. They went on the 2 trains and got home long before us as we did not leave until 8:30 o’clock.

The next day July 14, 1919 Till continued writing her experience saying, ”Hello mother dear. I wrote most of this letter on my way to my room last nite. Horace was also writing. I left Chicago this morning at 7:30 and I am now in Peru Indiana it is 12:30. One of the Elders and a sister was down to meet me. It is surely a queer feeling to meet someone and not know who you are looking for. But I walked along in the crowd and they picked me out and I knew them as soon as I seen them. Doesn’t it seem funny the way we can find one another. I think I am going to like it fine here. Elder Cottam who introduced himself to me made a date with me to go to the drug store as soon as we arrived in Chicago. I told him I would. I never said a word about Horace meeting me and when he came up and shook hands with me Elder Cottom had my traveling bag and he looked so surprised. Horace said where is your suite case and I showed him so it didn’t take him long to get it. We went up to the mission home and met all the Elders. President Elsworth and Smith assigned us to our conference. They assigned Emma to stay and labor in Chicago, they assigned the rest to different places and each one of them had someone to go with them. I was the last one to be assigned and they sent me to northern Indiana all alone. I was to take the mid night train and arrive in Peru Monday morning at 3:30. I nearly died. No one to meet me and not knowing a thing about this place. I surely did feel fierce. But later found that I could take a 7:30 train Monday morning and arrive in Peru at 12:30. So Horace took me down and helped me check my truck and put me on the train. I arrived safely and we are staying with some Saints very nice people. Mr. Keith is the name and he works on the railroad and reminds me of Ed. We had a “street meeting” Saturday nite (night) and surely had a nice meeting. We sang two songs and got the crowd and then two Elders spoke and one of the sisters. I spoke Saturday morning and I had prepared something to say but when I got up I never said a thing I had planned. I don’t know when I ever had such a feeling. It seemed that I was just full of the spirit of the Lord. I sang Sunday nite and received several compliments. Everyone wished I was going to stay with
Chicago. Yesterday I spoke here in Priesthood meeting and sang last nite. We had a large meeting. The people treat me grand. I just love it and I know it is going to be wonderful to work with the spirit that we are possessed with. I have so much to tell you but must close now as we are going out on a big picnic. Give my regard to all and I will write as soon as possible. Send my mail general delivery as we are not located yet. I am feeling fine. Till ended the letter saying, ” I do hope Floyd is better. Write soon and let me know.” Kiss the boys for me. Lots of love Till"

Unfortunately, the day Till left for her mission turned to extreme sorrow, not because of the emptiness that often accompanies sending a son or daughter off on a mission, but what transpired after Ellen and John returned home. The joy that Ellen must have felt after she and Till received their Patriarchal Blessings, those tender feelings shared and the deep gratitude felt at Till’s choice to serve a mission, were all short lived, any emptiness they may have felt for Till, would only mushroom as Ellen and John discovered that Floyd’s condition had severely deteriorated when they arrived home later that day.

It is clear by Till’s letter she was aware that Floyd was not doing well. Ellen and John were also aware that their grandson Floyd was not feeling well having suffered a concussion he received from falling off of a telephone pole. I imagine that if they had known Floyd’s life was in such peril, they might have returned home right after they sent Till off.

Floyd passed away

Ellen describes her feelings to Till of that eventful, bitter sweet day in the letter dated July 13, 1919 saying, ”We got home about 10:30. When we got here we found that Floyd was in a sad condition Mrs. Gillette was here. Floyd was O so bad he was rolling all over the bed. They had pillows at the head of the bed and at the foot so he would not hurt himself and still it was impossible to keep him from hurting himself. When we saw him I threw my hat and coat off and went and got hold of his hand and tried to hold him but he was so strong that I could not hold him. He was suffering something terrible I could see he was not going to stand that much longer. I just could not stand to see him suffer so, it was terrible. I took him by the hand and in my heart I prayed to the Lord if he could not get better that he would give him release that his will be done and not ours. I prayed that he would be relieved of that terrible suffering and about 11:45 the end came, I sure was glad to see him got to rest he had been quite conscious off and on all day. In the afternoon he pulled his mama down to him and put both arms around her neck and kissed her. He told his papa that he did not want to die but he could not stand it any longer. It seemed that he was to live till we got home. Cora said she thought he would die before we got home. I think it is all for the best because I am afraid he would have been blind in one eye if not both. We all went down to the undertaker the next day and saw him. I never saw a little body so badly bruised up in my life. He must have lite on his hips because he was black on both hips along his kidneys and down toward his knees and his whole face was bruised. It seems he was hurt a great deal more then any of us had any idea of. We had the funeral on Friday we had a nice one. He looked as nice as could be expected. He had such a nice white suit and a drab casket and a nice lot of flowers...Ed went back to Salt Lake to see if he had
a job.”  (It had only been 6 months that Ed and Cora almost lost their daughter Joyce, only to lose their son Floyd.  It was a trying time for Ed and Coral along with Ellen, John and all the family.  What started as a glorious day ended with tragedy and deep sorrow.

After the shock of losing their grandson Ellen and John were now faced with the financial burden that would follow with the funeral and burial.

Till was aware of the accident before she left home, but had no idea of the seriousness or that it had taken Floyd’s life until she received the letter from home.  It was already a day mixed with emotion.  She shared her thoughts about it 4 months later on Oct. 13, 1919 saying, ”When I stop and look ahead two years, it seems such a long time before I can hug and kiss you all and talk to you.  But when I look back, it doesn't seem nearly four months since I left you at the depot in Salt Lake.  Never shall I forget that day. One of joy and sorrow.”

While the Shields family was home making funeral arrangements and worrying about the finances etc.  Till was embarking on a brand new challenging experience.

One can only imagine how tough it was for Till in her new circumstances, the beginning of her mission, far from home, a new companion, and no one to share her grief with or to give her hugs.  It would have felt like a dream that you hoped would vanish as quickly as it came. What a mixed bag of emotions for her and the entire Shields family.

It would have been a few days after Till arrived in Peru that she received Ellen’s July 13th letter where she described the news about Floyd passing away.  Ellen closed the letter by saying “Papa has just got home and I must get his supper and I want to send this letter down to go tonight.  Will write more next time.  I got your card yesterday and was glad to hear from you.  We are all well and hope you’re the same. Write soon and tell me all about your trip.  Take good care of yourself.  Good day from your loving mother and father.”

Till’s friend Emma who was serving in Chicago understood how Till must have felt.  On July 21, 1919 she wrote, ”I was very sorry to hear about little Floyd, I just know how you would feel about it and being away from home.  Dear things are going to come up in our lives that we can’t understand but always remember our Heavenly Father is the only one we can go to and he is always ready and willing to help us.”

Emma and Horace had confidence that Till would do well in her new area, meeting new people, Horace describes his feelings when Till received her assignment to Peru, he stated, ”Say dear I become more “proud” of you everyday you live, if that is possible.  Emma said she believes you have more “nerve”, or “Grit” than she has.  I don't believe, (I “know”).  I was surely proud of you to see you stand on that train going to some place you had never been and to meet some one you had never seen, and going alone at that.  It takes a little “Grit” dear and you have it.”

On July 21, 1919 Emma wrote, ”Received your welcome letter Saturday and was very much pleased to hear that you were so well satisfied with your mission.  Till I really do think that all these things are for the best and we should always do what the authorities ask of us.”

When Ellen learned that Till was going to Peru Indiana instead of Chicago she wrote on July 21,1919, “I got your dear letter today and was sure glad to hear from you hear from you.  I wrote to you the day after Floyd’s funeral and told you all about him. I hope
you have got it by this time he died at 11:45 after we got Salt Lake. Emma’s mama got a letter from her last Friday and I thought I ought to had one too, but I did not get one till [sic] today. Was very glad to hear from you I do not know what I would have done had I not got one... I just learned from Emma’s mother that you had been sent to Indiana I nearly dropped, but when I had a talk with Roy Shields I felt much better about it as he told me it was a better place then Chicago and now since I got your letter I am glad that you was sent there. If we put our trust in the Lord I know all will be well there for do not forget the Lord in all things, pray to him at all times for his spirit to guide you in all you do and I know you will be blessed. I sure am well pleased that I have got one child that they saw fit to go on a mission I sure hope I will live to see all my boys fit to fill good and honorable missions. There’s nothing that would please me more than to see my children work in the work of the Lord. Let us all pray that the Lord will be merciful with our boys and inspire them to do his will and keep his commandments. We know that they could do better than they do. I was sorry when I thought about your Patriarchal Blessing. I thought about it when we got back from the station. I hope you will send us a copy of it as soon as you have time. You did not say what became of the brown eyed fellow. I sure like the looks of him. Your pa liked him to. You sure did not leave him like that. Phil got your letter today too. She read it to us and I’m sure glad to hear that you are taking hold so soon. It gives me great joy to hear that my girl is able to do what ever they call on her to do. I must answer Horace’s letter I don’t know how I will write to him as I am so poor at spelling. Did he get my letter I sent him? How did Emma feel when you was sent away?”

Ellen and John paid for the funeral expense.

Ed and Cora did not have the money to pay for Floyde’s funeral expenses. Perhaps they were still struggling with the expenses incurred with Joyce when she was so ill. On top of that, Ed lost his job when he was unable to contact them and let them know what was going on with Floyde. Ellen and John were willing to help out, they sold one of their bonds to meet the expenses. They displayed great gratitude that they had the bond to sell so they could help Ed.

July 21, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "Ed went back to Salt Lake and found his job taken as he did not have time to let them know he could not go to work he tried all over to get a job but could not get one. Edna and Cora and children went in last Saturday as Edna and Marion had a fall out. She has found out that he has been chasing out with some other girls and she is all broke up about it. So she went in with Cora to get out of the way. I got a letter from her today too. It seems that all the trouble comes all at once. I went over to Tom Della Mar’s wife’s funeral and took some flowers met Emma’s mother there...Your papa had all the expenses to meet as Ed did not have one cent. Einglen charged $111.40 for his job, $10 for the lot and $500 for the grave. So you see we had a quite a big lot to dig up. We sold one of our bonds to meet it all but it is well that we are able to do it. It would be awful if none of us was able to foot the bill. Thank the Lord for it all. Where there is a will there is a way. I had to give Edna 8 dollars to go in to Salt Lake with as they did not have a cent at least she did not.”
What a challenging time for the Shields, not just emotionally with Till and Floyd gone, but now with Edna and Marion’s marital problems. It must have been heart breaking to witness the suffering of their daughter along with the disappointment in their son-in-law. It wasn’t enough that they had the extra expense to get Till ready for her mission and the monthly expense to keep her on a mission, now they had the added financial stress with the unexpected funeral and now Edna who also needed to be taken care of. The Shields family might have wondered if God had abandoned them, why were they receiving such difficult trials instead of blessings while doing their best to serve God and sending their daughter on a mission. But with great faith, they left bitterness and murmuring aside instead replacing it by being a perfect example of accepting their challenges with grace, love and gratitude. It is exemplified by Ellen’s comment thanking God and being grateful they had a bond to sell to pay the funeral expenses instead of being bitter they were forced to sell their bond. Ellen even remarked “where there is a will there is a way.” she also gave counsel to Till saying “If we put our trust in the Lord I know all will be well there for do not forget the Lord in all things, pray to him at all times for his spirit to guide you in all you do and I know you will be blessed.” She obviously practiced this advice in her own life having faith and hope that the Lord would bless them even though it appeared otherwise.

Their challenges were not over, on July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote, "We have had lots of trouble for a few days but I hope it is all over now as Marion has come back now. He has been on one of his cranky spells and went so far as to take his trunk and all his clothes and left three o’clock in the morning but he came back last night. Him and Edna went to Salt Lake tonight. He gave his job up at the smelter when he ran away and he is going to sell his things and go to Salt Lake and get him a job. So much for that don’t mention it in your letter as Edna reads them and it will make her feel bad for me to tell you about it. She sure felt bad about it. It don’t rain but what it pours. Cora has moved from that place and when Edna was in there they got a nice apartment in a rooming house...How did Emma like being left alone? I guess her and Horace will be together a good deal. Her mama told me that her and Horace was together and she had read a letter of yours to him and how you liked it where you was. Everybody says that you was lucky to have the chance to go there as it is not so hot there.”

July 28, 1919 Till wrote home, "I was awfully sorry to hear about Edna and Marion. I do hope they have settled their quarrel by now. Marion will get his eyes open I am afraid when it is too late. He doesn’t know the real value of his wife. We see wickedness in the world that almost catches our breath. When a man is lucky enough to get him a pure sweet wife as Marion has, he should at least respect her enough that the farthest thing in his mind would be taking out different girls. It is a cinch he doesn’t love them. Then it makes one wonder why he does it. But the only thing we can do is just wait and let him see for himself the great wrong he is doing for himself and wife. I see so many “Nash” cars up here and every time I see one go by I remark to my companion Oh! I wish Edna & Marion could drive up and take us out for a ride...I can’t understand why Phyllis doesn’t write to me. I am just sick to hear from her. Tell her to write me a long letter and tell me all the news. As Judge been home yet?”

July 28, 1919 Till wrote, "Have you heard from Roy yet? I have thought of him so often.” July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Roy has gone to Grant Montana and is working on a cattle ranch.”
Till was concerned with all the extra work that Ellen and John did so often. She also was concerned with her weight and spoke about it on July 28, 1919 saying, "Take good care of yourselves and don’t work too hard. You’re both getting old and being imposed on more every day. I am fine, I weigh 138 pounds. So I guess I will be what has been prophesied (big & fat) when I return home.”

July 28, 1919 Ellen writes, "Yes Julia and the boys is here. She got a tiller from Jack today. I don’t know if she will go back to Idaho or not and Roy is going to Grant Montana and is working on a Cattle ranch if Julia goes away then little Fern and I and pa will be left alone. Grandma and Grandpa has gone over to Pine to stay with Aunt Eliza. I guess we will have it all to ourselves.”

Finances were a great concern for Ellen and John. They wanted Till to be mindful of what she spent but not go without the things that she needed. Julia and her boys were staying with Ellen and John. Ellen was appreciative that Julia was good to do her part and was not a burden.

July 29, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "Pa wants to know how much it cost you for your room and how much you have to pay for you board. He wants you to have all that you need but you must be saving as you can. When you think how much different experiences we have had since you left. We have had a house full since you left and have so much expense but Julia sure is good to do her part in getting things. We are putting up apricots today."

Ellen was also suffering from illness and her foot at this same time. On July 29, 1919 Ellen writes, "We are all feeling fine all but me and I have got such a bad foot I can’t hardly get around on it last night when it took my shoe off I could hardly get in to bed, it was so swelled it aches sheer up to my hip. I don’t know what is the matter with it but I think it is the high heels that throw all the weight on the front of my foot. The problems with her foot got better, she mentioned it in the letter she wrote on Aug. 3, 1919 saying, "We are all feeling fine now. My foot is much better, the swelling is nearly all out now." Aug. 5, 1919 Till replied, “We are going after some genealogy, so will write again soon and tell you how much my expenses are...I am fine, and hope your foot is better.”

At the same time that John and Ellen were concerned with all of their new added expenses Till wrote a letter home asking if they would take in more company she writes on July 28, 1919 saying, "Mother there is a little girl up here who is fifteen or sixteen years of age. She has taken such a liking to me and she asked me if she could go home with me. I told her sure. So Sunday she came running to meet me, hugged & kissed me and said Sister Shields come here I want to talk to you. She is the only one in her family that believes in the church and she is a firm believer. She told me she wanted to go out West. She said do you still mean what you said about letting me go back with you. I said sure. So she said I ask mamma if I could go and she told me I could that she could get me ready by the last of August and I could go and stay with your folks until you come home. She said mamma wants you to come down and talk to her. Oh! She said Sister Shields then I could be your “real” sister. I didn’t know what to make of the child. So I told her I would have to write to my mother first. So in the afternoon she came up and told me that her mother would keep her in clothes and she would work for you for her room & board. I don’t know what to tell the child. What would you suggest to say. She is enthused over it. She says she know she would love
my people.” Understanding the extra expenses that John and Ellen occurred, Till continued her writing, "Well mother it seems like all your expense is coming at once. Poor dear old daddie, I’ll bet he is nearly discouraged. I am certainly going to get along as economical as possible."

Mae really liked Till, on Aug. 1, 1919 she came running into Tell Till there were 2 fellows that wanted to hear her sing. From Till’s journal she wrote, "after meeting Mae Long came in and told me there were two fellows outside who wanted to hear me sing. She brought them in and introduced them. One being in the soldier’s uniform. I sang two songs. “Till We Meet Again and Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight.” Then they invited us to a party the following night. We said good night to all the saints and Elder Parker walked home with us.”

Even with all the new expenses they recently occurred, John and Ellen were still willing to help out this little girl Mae Long.

John wrote Till back on Aug. 3, 1919 Sunday morning, Miss Otilla Shields, “Dear daughter we are certainly glad to here from you and glad to hear that you are well and we hope and pray that you will be blessed with health continuing and with the spirit of the Lord to assist you in your labors in the cause of proclaiming the gospel to those who are still in darkness so be faithful and prayerful and all the wishes and desires of your heart shall be granted. The sweet little Girl that you talked about in your letter I think there must be something in it. She must have been sent of the Lord to you to arrange and provide a house for her out here in the land of Zion. So send her along and we will make her as comfortable as we can until she sees where she can do better. I think there is a blessing attached to you and your parents or any body that will provide a home for a sweet little girl that has joined the church and wants to become your sister. So if she is coming be sure to let us know when and where to look for her. Well Till we are very glad to know that you are enjoying your work and proud to know that we have one member of the family that is worthy of performing a mission in the cause of truth to the people of the world as you are doing your part we will be found trying to do our part in providing you with means to help you along, so let nothing worry or trouble you. I never worry or let any thing trouble me. Although there are many ups and downs in this life and must make the best of it you know the Lord sent the human family here to be tried in many different ways so we all may be thankful that all is as well with us as it is. Your Daddy and all is well at present, mama will write you a letter in enclose these few lines with it”. Your Loving Dady [sic] Shields"

Ellen also commented on it Aug. 3, 1919 she stated, "Your pa has told you his mind about that girl. I am like pa, she must be sent to you for something that none of us knows since she is so anxious to come. I would not think of not taking her in when she is so anxious to come. I think she will be company for me until you come home. You can look around and find out what kind of people they are or what is her name and what do you think about it. I don’t believe it would be a bad idea to ask your president about it and tell him what she wants.”

In Till’s journal she wrote, "Mae Long was anxious to hear what my folks said in regard to her trip out West. We went to Sister Crims to ask her advise on Mae going West. I read a part of my letter and they all thought I had a darling father which I have. Mae came running in and hugged and kissed me and wanted me to tell her the news. I
held back because I wanted advise from Sister Crims and Pres. Jensen. She coaxed me so hard that I told her and she was tickled to death.”

Among the letters found was a wedding announcement. It was hand written on what looks like lined school paper. Written on the top are the last names of the bride and groom titled Long-Shields

It reads, Miss Mae Long daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jones long of 351 W. 7th St. and Mr. Roy Shields of Tooele Utah were united in marriage Thursday afternoon at the Salt Lake Temple. Miss Long went out West June 20 in order to get married to Mr. Shields as soon as possible. Miss Long told her friends in Peru that she was going to the West for her health, but instead of that she went to get married. The bride was dressed in a white Gorgette crêpe dress with a large bouquet of roses. After the marriage ceremony a delicious supper was served which many of the friends of the bride and also the groom enjoyed. The young couple will go to Palmyra New York. (It is believed that the wedding announcement was a wishful dream)

Aug. 3, 1919 Ellen wrote to Till that she was in hopes that Ed and Cora could save some money she wrote, "Ed and Cora is where they are they ought to be able to save their money up there where there is not any place to go and spend it...Edna is standing here ironing her clothes to get them ready to go in the morning. She washed yesterday...Edna and Marion have sold all their things and are getting ready to go to Idaho in the morning...I am going downtown to get Edna a dress and make it today as they are going in the morning. So good day take care of yourself and write me soon from your loving mother Ellen ”

On Aug. 3, 1919 Julia wrote, "Hello Till, Pa didn’t use this space so ma said I was to write you a few lines. Glad to hear you are doing so good. I sure wish I was with you. Its sure a honor. We are fine and dandy. The boys said to tell Aunt Till hello & tell you they would like to kiss you back. I am still here with mother. She got a card from Roy this morning and he is in Spokane Wash. He’s sure traveling. Take care of the fare harried boy. With Love Julia” Ellen wrote the same day, "Julia and the boys is still here. She don’t like to stay over home she expects Jack home about the 10."

Roy traveled a lot with his job while Till was on her mission. On Aug. 3, 1919 Ellen wrote, Roy is in Dileen Mont. He told me not to write till I heard from him again. I guess he don’t intend to stay their long."

Till was concerned with Ed and Cora wondering how they were getting along with the loss of Floyde. Cora responded to Till and expressed her feelings about losing Floyde, she loved Floyde and felt that God was unjust to take him away from her which is often the case when trials come our way. Yet she recognized that they needed God and told Till she wished that Ed had more religion, that they would be better off.

Aug. 4, 1919 Cora wrote from Far/Tar? Baby Mine, "Dear Otilla, Just a short note in answer to your dear sweet letter I received some time ago. But I was in Salt Lake then and had just came in from Tooele. Edna came in and stayed a few days. Ed was working up here to the mine and then I came up here. Been here a week and say there is some difference in the weather. It is so cold you have to wear a sweater most all day. But at that it sure feels good to sleep to what Salt Lake was. But I think we will only stay up here another week as Ed works in water and he is not satisfied as he gets so wet and the water’s so cold. Well Otilla, it sure was hard luck to loose our little darling boy and I don’t think I’ll ever get over it entirely. But I know it was all for the best as if he had
of lived he would have been a cripple all his little life. He said before he died, mamma I don’t want to die and leave you, but I’ll have to give up, as I can’t stand this much longer. He fought for his little life up to the last 5 minutes. The folks had only been home a half hour. He pulled me down and kissed me so dear. Bless his little heart. I think God was so unjust some times to take him from me, he seemed such a man and loved me so. I am so lonesome with out him, when meal time and bed time comes. I always look for Floyde to come. I can’t realize he’s gone for ever yet. And poor little Budd is so lonely without him, he just wanders around all by his self. (Floyde and Budd were brothers, they were 18 months apart in age) It is sure pitiful to see him. The two girls are just fine and like it up the canyon fine. I wish Edna was up here. All the folks were fine when I last heard from them. They sure miss you. I am glad Otilla you arrived there all right and like your work. For it will sure be a great pleasure to you the way you write.

I wish we all had the same spirit as you have. And Old Ed here if he had a little more religion he’d be a lot better off. Well I close hoping this finds you in the best of health and Otilla write to us often and we’ll sure do the same and enjoy doing so. Ed would write but his hands are so swollen & stuff he couldn’t hold the pen. Will write next time, your dear letter was sure comforting and I do hope dear you will write often. We will close with oodles of Love and every success in your travels and hope and pray that our Heavenly Father looks after you and protects you at all times. Will close once more. Your Loving bro., sister & children. Cora & Ed. Please excuse writing as this pen is terrible.”

On Aug. 5th, Till wrote about some pretty interesting experiences with teaching non members, there were 2 who brought up polygamy and were really disgusted with it saying ”I think it is awful the way you people live.” Till explained how the women who lived it were better then the women at her time that did not have to live it. She made a pretty good argument for it. Her written conversation is in Till’s history. Till also mentioned there had been a big strike and race riot that she was going to write about in the next letter. (There was no further information about a strike or riots in Till's letters) but after researching that time in history a article states, “Many companies had been forced to raise wages during the war, but inflation now threatened to wipe out all the gains workers had made. While workers wanted higher wages to keep up with inflation, companies wanted to hold down wages because inflation was also driving up their operating costs.

During the war, the number of workers in unions had increased dramatically. By the time the war ended, workers were better organized and much more capable of organizing strikes than they had been before. Many business leaders, on the other hand, were determined to break the power of the unions and roll back the gains labor had made. These circumstances led to an enormous wave of strikes in 1919. By the end of the year, more than 3,600 strikes involving more than 4 million workers had taken place. The Steel Strike shortly after the police strike ended, one of the largest strikes in American history began when an estimated 350,000 steelworkers went on strike for higher pay, shorter hours, and recognition of their union. Elbert H. Gary, the head of U.S. Steel, refused even to talk to union leaders. Instead, the company set out to break the union by using anti-immigrant feelings to divide the workers. Many steelworkers were immigrants. The company blamed the strike on foreign radicals and called for loyal
Americans to return to work. Meanwhile, the company hired African Americans and Mexicans as replacement workers and managed to keep its steel mills operating despite the strike. Clashes between company guards and strikers were frequent, and in Gary, Indiana, a riot left 18 strikers dead. In early January of 1920, the strike collapsed. The failure of the strike set back the union cause in the steel industry. Steelworkers remained unorganized until 1937.

Adding to the nation's economic turmoil was the return of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers from Europe who needed to find employment.

Many African Americans who had moved north during the war were also competing for jobs and housing. Frustration and racism combined to produce violence. In the summer of 1919, over 20 race riots broke out across the nation.

The worst violence occurred in Chicago. On a hot July day, African Americans went to a whites-only beach. Both sides began throwing stones at each other. Whites also threw stones at an African American teenager swimming near the beach to prevent him from coming ashore, and he drowned. A full-scale riot then erupted in the city. Angry African Americans attacked white neighborhoods while whites attacked African American neighborhoods. The riot lasted for almost two weeks. In the end, 38 people died—15 white and 23 black—and over 500 were injured.

It wasn't long before Till received a response from her parents about their thoughts on Mae Long coming to stay with them. Mae Long was so anxious to know if it was alright with Till's parents. Till described what took place when she received word from home and Mae Long's response. From her Journal dated Aug. 8, 1919 wrote, "I took the letter I received from daddy and mother up to the Saints with me as Mae Long was so anxious to hear what my folks said in regard to her trip out West. We called on Margaret Rentzel who had been very ill and they had taken her to the hospital to be operated on. We went to Sister Crims to ask her advise on Mae going West. I read a part of my letter and they all thought I had a darling father which I have. Mae came running in and hugged and kissed me and wanted me to tell her the news. I held back because I wanted advise from Sister Crims and Pres. Jensen. She coaxed me so hard that I told her and she was tickled to death."

Aug. 10, 1919, Till writes from her journal, "After our meeting Mae Long's brother wanted to bring us home, so Elder Parker wouldn't have to. But we excused ourselves and went with Elder Parker down to have some ice creams. Then return home."

Till wrote about her Birthday in her journal saying on Aug. 11, 1919, "A very happy birth day. (didn't tract). I received several letters and packages from my dear friends and spent a very happy day. Two little girls came to my room to give me spats. We cleaned up and went and got some flowers. Went to Sr. Schmidt's for dinner. Then over to Rentzels. Met Sister Rentzel and went to the hospital is see Margaret. Sr. Crim prepared a delicious supper for the missionaries and friends in my honor. The little girls were standing around calling me out. They wanted to give me my spats. Had two or three races to get away from them."

Till was going to visit the Long family again but plans changed, as mentioned it in her journal dated Aug. 12, 1919 saying, "7:30 AM the telephone rang. It was an invitation out into the country to Minnix's for dinner. We had planned that day for to visit Longs and Crimms. So we dressed and went out to tell them we couldn't come. Went up and helped Sister Crim get ready to take a trip. Helped her can her corn and got dinner at
10:30. Bid them goodbye and we caught the 12 o'clock car out to Minnix. They have the thrashers and there were about eight women altogether. We had a delicious dinner everything imaginable to eat. Went down to the thrashing machine & watched them. Climbed up in the wheat wagon and received a shock. Then Ada introduced us to some fellows and we came nearly stealing a Ford. Then we got up in a buggy and took water to the man in the field. Was about 10 wagons we have lots of fun driving around and meeting the fellows. Mrs. Minnick caught a can of cricket. We went out with her to milk and the cow didn’t like a little girl standing there with her red ribbon on and started after her. I was sitting on the ground writing a letter to Elder -(it was written in short hand). Then we had a supper, after supper it was dark and Mr. Minix took us for our drive over the meadow and through the woods. Enjoyed it very much. Went over to the little store and had some pop! Came back and remained all night.”

Cora appreciated Till’s letter and mentioned it to Ellen who wrote Till Aug. 17, 1919 saying, "I have one letter from Cora, she told me that she had a letter from you and how they enjoyed it!"

Fern wrote a letter to Till he writes August 16, 1919, Dear Otilla “I am going to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am just fine and hope you are the same. I play all day. I want to tell you that Mrs. Jensen has got a baby boy and they are all well. Rite [sic] soon from your loving brother Fern Shields be a good girl and tell me all the news. I am going to put this in mamas letter.”

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I don’t know if I told you since last I wrote you or not that Jack has come home. I told Edna and Cora in their last letter so I don’t remember. He came last Thursday and he is talking of selling out. I don’t know if he will do it or not. He has not said anything about it since..."I have not heard from Edna since the 1st."

Till finally got the chance to meet Mae’s mother and wrote to tell Ellen and John about her visit in a letter dated Aug. 18, 1919 she wrote, "I went to see Mrs. Long this afternoon and she is a nice woman but her husband is very prejudice. She told me she would like Mae to go out to my home if she could possibly rake up the money. I believe it would do her the world of good because I think she has it rather hard at home...Give Roy my address when I write again and tell him to write to me. Send mail to same address until I change it.”

Hyrum (Julia’s boy) must have had a hard time as Till mentioned him in her letter dated Aug. 18, 1919 saying, "I do hope little Hyrum is getting along all right, was awfully sorry to hear about him.”

Cora writes the family on Aug. 27, 1919 she writes, "Dear Ma & Pa & all at home. Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter we just received and glad to know you are all well which leaves us fine & dandy. I thought I’d write right back and see if you folks couldn’t all come out to Salt Air on Labor day. As we are going down Friday to get a house and expect to have one by then and then Ed and all of us will go out to Salt Air Monday and we could all have a lunch and go in for a swim and all be together once more, as Ed expects to come back up here and work for another month. So try and make arrangements for you all to come Julia & all and lets have a taste of another's good (bread?) Once more as Ed said. He has just gone back to work, it is noon. He has a splendid job and hates to give it up. He isn’t outside mother. He is in the compressor room in side all the time. But I think he will only stay up here until he gets you folks paid up, for the snow gets from 10 to 20 feet deep here and they don’t work
much here when its cold. And then Ed will give you some money and that bill of Mr. Spiers. Thanking you Pa for your trouble in asking him. Polly wants me to take her place down at Jordans, but Ed don’t want me to. Says it to hard work for me and nothing in it. They say Mrs. Short skipped out and left and want Polly to take it which she has. I may come out Friday and put up some fruit and come in a Sunday when I get settled. Well I will close for the mail man will be gone. So hoping you can come in and we’ll see you all Pa come to. With love to all, we’ll close from your (kiddies?) Cora & Ed Wish you would write and let us know if you can come for Labor day. Just address, Mrs. Cora Shields Salt Lake City, Utah Gen Del. and I’ll send at the office Saturday. Excuse writing for I am in a hurry and such (again?) Good bye, Mother come in and stay a day or two before School starts while Julia’s there."

Aug. 29, 1919 Julia wrote to Till, "Dearest little sister we are also proud of you that if you was here I’m afraid there wouldn’t be much left of you. Mr. Nelson and Effie couldn’t say enough for you. It made mother feels so good her face hasn’t got straight yet. Bless her dear old heart she works so hard. She tried so hard to get your waist to you in time for your birth date. But Edna went away and she made her a pretty silk dress and then got after yours between fruit times. I helped her bede it and embroider it and I sent the camisole to go with it. We were going to write that I didn’t get the time. Ma said she forgot to tell you I sent the camisole. But we know you were well pleased with it, so that’s all that’s necessary isn’t it? Jack was talking to Wallace Johnson and he sure thinks you’re some missionary. John wrote to me and told me I have a little sister to be proud of. Which of course we all are. I’m getting my housecleaning done and putting up fruit. We rent it next month on the 18th. If it isn’t sold by then, I may be living in Salt Lake when you get back Till. I’m trying to talk ma and pa into selling out here and buying in Salt Lake. I believe Pa would if he saw something in there he liked. Cora is moving back to Salt Lake today so the kiddies can go to school. Ed is still up the canyon. They are all fine in their letter yesterday. She wants us all to go out to Salt Air for Labor Day. But I don’t think there is much chance of going. We haven’t been car riding since the Nash left for Idaho. Ma got a letter from Edna yesterday. She has a sore throat. They went and seen uncle Ed and Charlie. She said little Alice didn’t know her at first. But when she recognized her she ran and threw her arms around Edna and just hugged her. Edna said she saw old Dan. Uncle Ed calls John after pa. Aunt Annie and Call were down here last week. I had to laugh at Aunt Annie. She said uncle Dan said Marion reminded him of a millionaire without the money. I never heard anything fill the bill so good before. She is the same Aunt Annie.

Mr. and Mrs. Short skipped and left a thousand dollar bill behind. Besides losing their car, that girl Bill cost Charley 6 hundred dollars.

Mae and Van have separated. Van hauled his furniture back to Gordon’s and staying over to Pine with his ma & pa. Mae is living here at Agnesses. I heard he had too many old bills coming in to suit Mae. But you can’t go on all you here in this town. Some of the Gossips here said that Jack kicked me out in Idaho and I came home and applied for my divorce papers. When Jack came home they goped (sp) at him like he was immortal or some other being. It tickled me to see them. Mrs. Thornhill even forgot to speak to me she was so bewildered to see him.

Which is it going to be Till, Elder Lee or Elder Cottom? Pa, he’s carried away with the appearance of Cottam. First time I ever heard him say much about anyone.
Leon is the dearest little kid. Mom let her read Cottam’s letter and she said, oh I love him already. Ma didn’t let Phyllis read it. She talks to much. She may do with you like she thought she was doing for Emma. So ma said I wouldn’t let her read it. You know Leon don’t spill the beans.

Phyllis has had Masters here for a week. So she wrote to Southy and released him and told him she would thank him for the same. So I don’t know how she will turn out. Don’t say anything to her about me telling you.

Well dear sister I’ve told you about all I know. Every time, Elmo and Hyrum goes over home they come back and say mama, Aunt Till is home. When ma got the picture of you reading the letter, Elmo took it and kissed it and hugged it & said this is my Aunt Till. Just this morning they asked me when you was coming home. I told him when he was going to school then you would come home. They sure love their Aunt Till. When you said in ma’s letter kiss the little boys, Elmo would go around and say to himself kiss the boys. They are growing like weeds.

I was over to Mrs. McBride’s the other day and she asked how you was and said when we wrote to you hello from them & to let them know how you was when we hear from you again. Everyone we meet asks about you. So you didn’t need to die to hear what people thought of you ha ha!

Well write some soon dear little sister with all the love we have for you, your sis Julia.”

Sept. 7, 1919 Horace writes Till, “I received a grand letter from your Father, Mother & Fern. I wish you could read it, it surely pleased me to get one from your father.” Say dear who is Mae Long? I received a fine letter from her, I must write to her when I can find the time, you would naturally think I had some chance with you the way she talks, I hope a little of it is true, dear.”

Till got the impression that her mother thought that Chicago and Peru Indiana where she was serving were located close to each other so she explained it to her mother saying on Sept. 8, 1919, "Pres. Smith will visit us next Sun. I think the way you talk in your letters that I am close to Chicago. I am, in a way: But you see I am in one state & Horace & Emma are in another.”

Edna wrote to Till on Sept. 9, 1919, "My Dearest Sis. You can’t imagine how glad I was to get that sweet letter of yours. Marion went down to Roses place & got some things I had to have in the house & saw Bish Franks. He is working in Brunts grocery store here. He got his eyes on your letter and said is that from Otilla, well I want that address. So no doubt you will be hearing from him. The best of all I have Phyliss up here with me, she is going to get a job and stay with me this winter. Isn’t that great? Well Otilla, Bill Blacket has been here with us up until day before yesterday. He left for California & he told me to tell you he sends his best regards and you sure could write the letters. I read your letter to him he said it just seemed like you was talking your self. So George is coming here to see his folks. I sure would like to see him. I sure like it here fine and dandy especially now that Phyliss is here with me. I suppose you have heard of Mable & Ratrie Bonelli getting married.

I am sure glad you are getting along so well and that you like that kind of work. Otilla I want one of those pictures like you sent Phyllis. It sure is a swell picture of you. Phyliss & I don’t get to go out much together on the account of old Bish, he is still crazy after her. We were up to Cecil Arms last night. She sure has got a swell little home. I
have some place too. The little stove I cook on you could stick in your pocket. But we should worry here hoping we can get better. I have to carry all my water up stairs & carry it all down, some job, the toilet is outside. We have two bedrooms and kitchen all for $25 a month. The rent is sure high up here. You can't get any kind of a place that is modern under $40, $50, $60 & $70 a month. One room for sleeping is $20.

Well Otilla I thought of your birthday every day since it came and was going to write and send you this Bill. I think you need money more then anything else right at present, don't be afraid to write and ask me for anything you need. Well I will close hoping to hear from you real soon. Marion sends his best love along with mine from your dear sis & bro. Marion & Edna 793J. St. Idaho Falls, Idaho"

Sept. 10, 1919, "I got a letter from Edna today, she is well and I got a letter from Ed a day or two ago. And last week I got a letter from Roy it was the first one since we sent him that money and I felt like he must have been robbed when he did not write and tell us that he had got it. I never was so glad to get a letter in all my life as I was to get that. I sat right down and answered it and told them to write to you. He said he had enough of running around. I sure do hope so too, as we need his help. I hope I will get a letter from him soon. He is in East Ely? now said he was going to settle down now. Julia is going to come over here now as she is going to rent her house on the last of this week."

Edna wrote her mother saying for her tell Phil she wanted her to go to Idaho where there was lots of work and she could stay with Edna. But Ellen didn't get the chance, she felt like Phil was avoiding her. Ellen wrote Till Sept.10, 1919 saying, "Phil came down with those pictures but she just let us see three of them she did not say anything about anymore you told Julia in her letter that you sent four. I asked her to bring them down again as Lenin wanted to see them. But she said that she had sent them back. Ed asked if Phil had got married or if she had got work yet. So I sent her word that Edna said in my letter for her to come up there as she could get lots of work up there. And she could stay with her but she did not come in so I could not get to tell her about it. She went past here today and Pa was coming up from downtown and he met her she told Pa that she was going into Salt Lake to try and get work. I think she must have thought I wanted to ask about the other pictures or she would have come in."

Till responded to Ellen and the pictures she sent to Phil saying on Oct. 8, 1919, "The pictures I sent Phil, there was four but I sent her one of me to keep. She sent the others back."

Ellen was still planning on Mae coming to stay with them from Peru. She asked Till when she was coming on Sept. 10, 1919 saying, "Say about that little girl. I thought you said she was going to come in October. You must let us know when she is going to come, so we can go into Salt Lake to meet her."

Sept. 8, 1919 Till said, "I was awfully glad to get your letter and I also received the sweetest letter from Julia. Bless her old heart. I was glad to hear that you are going to have lots of peaches. The people out here have to pay 41/2 a bu. How is sugar out there? Is it scarce again this year? We can hardly buy it here...I guess little Fern is going to school. Have you heard from Roy?"

Ellen talked how much work she had to do especially now that Cora was living with them but stated she wasn't a bother in her letter dated September 18, 1919 she said, "I have so much to do that I don't know how I'm going to get it all done and Cora now is
here too, she is rooming and boarding with us, but she isn’t any bother as she helps as much as she can and will be lots of company for me.”

Sept. 26, 1919 Horace wrote, ”One of the hardest jobs I ever had, was to write to little Mae Long. I didn’t know what to tell her or what to talk about, did you ever try to write to anyone like that?”

In a letter dated Oct. 1st 1919 Roy tells Till all the places he has been on his trip saying, ”Dearest sis, I will not take time to write you few line to let you know that I am getting along just fine and hope you are the same. This letter gets there I have sure been over some country since I left home. I will tell you where I have been, I went to Twin Falls Idaho from there to Grant Mont from Grant to Dillon from Dillon to Butte Montana from Butte to Rye Washington from Rye to Seattle Washington from there to Tacoma Washington from there to Pascall Washington and from Pascall to Walla Walla Washington then to Pendleton Oregon then to Portland Oregon from there to Salem Oregon. That is the capital of Oregon. Then to Sacramento California, from there to Reno Nevada to what Wabuska Nevada from there to Hazen Nevada from there to East Ely Nevada and sure had some good time on my trip but I will settle down now. I will try and send you some money in my next letter so don’t forget to answer this letter. From your brother Elroy Shields East England PO Box 190

Oct. 3, 1919 Edna wrote Till saying, ”Dear Otilla dear, I sure did hate to come to the bottom of that letter, you can’t make them long enough to suit we three kids. Phyllis has got her a job and likes it real well. She gets 17 bucks a week. She is a commercial clerk at the telephone office. It is now 5:15 Marion has gone to work and Phil hasn’t come home yet. So I thought I would write while I am waiting for her to come for supper. Last evening Phil her beaux by the name of Smurthwaite and myself all three went to the show it was sure good. She hasn’t saw Mr. Bish for a week or more. Hasn’t he written to you yet? He got your address and said he was sure going to write you. When Bish came home he and Phil went up to see Doc and his wife. Doc said to Bish, I think lots of my little wife but she isn’t the girl that Till is. We got a box of the swellest peaches and tomatoes from mother two days ago they are sure great. Also the sweetest letter from her, bless her dear heart. She was telling about your last letter she got from you. Also the pictures especially the one of Mr. Cottam. You’re not going to let Mr. Cottam beat Horaces time are you? She sure is been working this fall she said she had the cellar full of good things to eat. It strikes me it is always that way every fall, don’t it you? You see Marion is working in the roundhouse so I can get a free pass down home. So I think I will land down there about Christmas time. Julia and Jack has moved to Salt Lake to live so that leaves ma, pa and Fern home. The family has sure got down small the last year. Do you ever hear from Roy? When I write to ma again, I must get his address and write him. Gee Till, if you and Emma was here, you could almost pick your job, they sure need the stenographers, some spelling, but you know what I mean, up here. You and Phil could sure make the head as the girls here are sure homely. Bill Blackett used to say when he was here, why if Till and Phil was here the boys would all stand still and rubber, because they are real women. He said that in front of two of the girls that live here. Phil sure makes the hit, I have heard ever so many people say she is the most wonderful creature they ever saw. I was dancing with a fellow one night and he was asking all about her, and he said, my but isn’t she wonderful. Can you beat that? I wouldn’t tell her that because she is too affected now, every male that meets her wants
her telephone number, or tries to make a date with her. One day at town an elderly man butted in to her and wanted to know where she worked. She didn't want him to know, so she said at the stamp window in the post office. He said all right, I will see you tomorrow. So a couple of days passed and Mr. Man walked in the telephone office and when he got his eyes on Phil, he walked up and asked her if she had any stamps.

The other night she said, Edna if anymore men ask for my telephone number, I am going to give them number three. That is the police station. When we go to the dance we never miss a dance pretty good for myself being married. All the boys seem to know we are from Utah by the way we dance. Well in fact one fellow said to me, you are from Utah are you not? I said yes, I thought so by the way you dance. Some more bull. Marion has all Saturdays off so last Saturday we all three dolls up and up to the dance we go. His wife was altogether too popular so he took me home. He swears and declares I shall never go to another dance, but I have been to one since, and he went around for two days with a grouch on. This morning he asked me if I was going to the dance tomorrow night. I said sure you going to take me? He said no, the dance hall is no place for me.

Otilla is that Sr. Sanders from Fairview if so what is her first name? Well sis, I sure wish you could slip in on us someday. There isn't hardly a day passes by what we don't wish you were here with us. You are sure doing a wonderful work. And I am very glad to hear you are enjoying it so well. When you return home you'll have received the knowledge that Phil and I will never get. Unless we are called to perform a mission, but that is useless on my part. Some night when Bish comes up we will all set down and write you a big long letter. If he comes up anymore, he hasn't been calling Phil up here lately. Otilla, I have only saw Uncle Ed and Aunt Ida once and that was when we first came up here. Judge called Phil up on the phone yesterday afternoon from Salt Lake City. He is on his way to Denver Colorado. She was sure tickled to hear his voice on the phone. She was sure happy when he came home last night. Today she took his picture, Max and Roy's also yours, down to the office with her. I Don't know what the big idea is. I guess she will tell me when she comes home. Well Till dear, I will bring this to a close as I must fix us a bit to eat. Here's hoping for early answer. Phil and I count the days from the time a letter leaves us until we should get an answer. So you could tell how anxious we are to hear from you. That leaves you one day to write. With love and best regards, we three Edna Marion and Phil

Oct. 8, 1919 Till wrote, "So Julia has gone to Salt Lake, I do hope she gets along all right. I read in the paper where Aunt Cora was in Tooele, where Mrs. Ed Shields was, and also that Julia and Jack had gone to Salt Lake. I received another nice letter from Edna, she sent me five dollars. They are all having a good time they say there isn't a day that goes by but that they miss me and wish I was with them. Phil is surely making a hit so Edna says. I can just see the little rascal. I don't blame the boys for liking her. Edna said she never meets one unless he asked for her phone number. Judge was in Salt Lake and called Phyllis up on over the phone. I don't know how they will turn out. I wonder if Judge will go up to see her. I hope he does. Edna said they go to the dances and have the time of their lives. The last time, Marion got so jealous he made her go home, but she says she never misses a dance. I'm awfully glad Phil is up there with her. I also got a sweet letter from Roy, he said he was ready to settle down now, he told me of all the places he had been. So he said be sure and answer my letter and I will send
some money in the next one. He is a good old kid...Write to me soon and tell Julia to
tell me soon and tell Julia to
write. Till Ed and Cora hello.”

Fern was baptized

Oct. 8, 1919 after Till learned that Fern was baptizing she wrote a note of
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congratulations saying, “So little Fern was baptized. Good for him, give a big hug and
congratulations saying, “So little Fern was baptized. Good for him, give a big hug and
kiss for me and tell him to be a good boy and go to primary often.”
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Oct. 13,1919 Ellen wrote, "I thought I would write a few lines while I was waiting for
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Cora and Fern to get up. Poor little Bud just came home from Salt Lake Monday from
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the hospital. Cora took him in to get his tonsils and adenoids taken out and one of
the hospital. Cora took him in to get his tonsils and adenoids taken out and one of
Polly's girls Kate said Bud was quite sick. I have not seen him yet. I went to meeting
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yesterday and we had a long meeting so I did not have time to go down to see him, but
yesterday and we had a long meeting so I did not have time to go down to see him, but
will go today. I called him up last night and asked how he was, Cora said that he was as
will go today. I called him up last night and asked how he was, Cora said that he was as
well as could be expected. She had to come out here to help to take care of her
well as could be expected. She had to come out here to help to take care of her
grandma so they are staying there. I had a letter from Julia and Edna...Jack is going to
grandma so they are staying there. I had a letter from Julia and Edna...Jack is going to
buy a barbershop in Twin Falls. They're going on the 11:30 train tonight. So that makes
buy a barbershop in Twin Falls. They're going on the 11:30 train tonight. So that makes
you all out of the state, but Ed he is still in Cotton Wood Canyon. I guess he will stay
you all out of the state, but Ed he is still in Cotton Wood Canyon. I guess he will stay
there all winter. Grandma and grandpa is fine. Just now the weather is fine here today.
there all winter. Grandma and grandpa is fine. Just now the weather is fine here today.
We are all well, Bud is to school today.”
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It was really hard on Ellen to have her children who left the house all at once she
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you all every week I don't get the blues, but Sunday I had not heard from any of you, so
you all every week I don't get the blues, but Sunday I had not heard from any of you, so
I got almost sick. It seems that all my children and even Floyd was all gone all it once, it
I got almost sick. It seems that all my children and even Floyd was all gone all it once, it
made an awful change after having you all around me all the time. I felt like I had no one
made an awful change after having you all around me all the time. I felt like I had no one
to go and see anymore. No one to come and see me, and even Phil went away, she
to go and see anymore. No one to come and see me, and even Phil went away, she
would come in once in a while, so you see I felt mighty lonesome...I sent Roy's overcoat
would come in once in a while, so you see I felt mighty lonesome...I sent Roy's overcoat
and his coat and sweater...I have not heard from Roy yet. I don't know if he got his or
and his coat and sweater...I have not heard from Roy yet. I don't know if he got his or
not. I hope he did. I wish Roy would come home. I told him I would like it him to come
not. I hope he did. I wish Roy would come home. I told him I would like it him to come
but he said he would not come home until he made the money back that he spent on his
but he said he would not come home until he made the money back that he spent on his
trip. He could make it here but he don't like to work here. So I guess he will have his
trip. He could make it here but he don't like to work here. So I guess he will have his
own way. If he keeps good company I won't care but you know how easy he is led.”
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Cora was staying with the Shields and had a accident on her way to school, Ellen
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described what took place saying on Oct. 13, 1919, "I can hear Cora getting up so I
must get her breakfast. She went to school at noon yesterday and got down on the
must get her breakfast. She went to school at noon yesterday and got down on the
street by Hernallen (sp?) and fell flat in the path in a faint. And Mr. Peterson came
street by Hernallen (sp?) and fell flat in the path in a faint. And Mr. Peterson came
along and picked her up and brought her home. It had been raining all day and is a lot
along and picked her up and brought her home. It had been raining all day and is a lot
of water where she fell and she got all muddy and wet. She was quite sick all the rest of
of water where she fell and she got all muddy and wet. She was quite sick all the rest of
the day. Even her underclothes was wet. I hope she’s feeling better today. I must stop.
the day. Even her underclothes was wet. I hope she’s feeling better today. I must stop.
Well Cora is here ready for her breakfast and feels pretty good and is going to school.”
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Julia and Jack went for a quick visit home. Oct. 13, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Well Ottila
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since I wrote this morning I have had company. Julia, Jack and boys came out on the
since I wrote this morning I have had company. Julia, Jack and boys came out on the
morning train and went back on the 1:30 o'clock train. They came out to see me and
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Ellen was still inquiring about Mae and wrote on Oct. 13, 1919, "What about that little
girl is she coming? What did your president have to say about it?”
Oct. 17, 1919 Till wrote, "I got a dandy letter from Edna. She says she likes Idaho fine and they are having the time of their life. Phil has a good position and Edna told me that all the fellows are wild about Phil."

Oct. 23, 1919 Edna wrote Till from Idaho Falls, she stated: It has been soon two weeks since I got your dear letter I guess you think I’m a dandy for not writing sooner. But you know how easy it is to neglect writing. I’ve been pretty good in keeping my letters answered up. But here lately I am getting careless. Well we are having cold weather here lately it will rain a while and then snow a while. The wind is howling outside like the dickens today. It reminds me of the poem the North wind doth blow and etc., it does sound cold. Last evening Phil and myself were out to the dance also Monday night. I had three different chances to come home with a young man. But I daren’t take the chance. Tuesday evening Phil had a young man come down to see her. He got here before she was ready to meet him at the door. So I invited him in, made him acquainted with Jack, by the way he Julia and the boys are here with us. He was one that wanted to take me home Monday night. So after he came in and got set down he handed me over the box of chocolates. Gee I was so surprised and fuss I could hardly open it. Jack, myself and he decided to play a game of sluff while he was waiting on Phil. He made a date to take her to the show. Finally she came out where we were. He spoke to her, never said anything about going to the show, and he seemed to be perfectly contented about playing cards so I asked her to join us. She did, we played about three hands. I was getting more attention from him than she likes so pretty soon down went her cards she didn’t want to play sluff. So I said well we will play any game you want to play. No she didn’t want to play cards at all. She sat there awhile, we went on playing. Pretty soon she jumps up and in the bedroom she went. I expected her to come out any minute but she didn’t. So I went in and asked her what was the matter. Oh there was everything wrong with that fellow that would be wrong with every man. But to size the whole thing up she was so jealous she didn’t know what to do with herself. I never did see her act so unary and hateful. I couldn’t get her to come out so I came back and went on playing cards. I didn’t know what else to do to entertain the poor boy. He didn’t seem to care. That is one fellow that sure can hand it to Phil. When she found out that we wasn’t willing to coax her she came to herself and came out and my how nice she was. Well I must not say any more about her, but she sure thinks she is one perfect girl.

Jack is going to try and get work here for this winter, it will sure be nice if he does. So Julia and I will be together again. He is trying to get him a barbershop as he has learned the trade. I only hope he succeeds in it as it is the only thing for a man to do is to get in business for himself.

I got a very nice letter from Mary Anderson the other day she said she had received a lovely letter from you. From the way her letter read it won’t be long now before she is married. Well dear old sis, I will close at it is four o’clock and time to start supper with supper, with love and best regards from us all Edna 793 J St."

Julia left Salt Lake and went to Twin Falls, staying with Edna. On October 23, 1919 she wrote saying, Dear little sister:-"It has been so long since I wrote to you, I have almost forgotten how to write. While we were here in Salt Lake, I was quite miserable and I didn’t feel like writing. We all had terrible colds. We went to see the president and Jack was sick when we got home. So there I was and then the two boys, Little Hiram
has the croup and is quite miserable yet. But we have been rambling around a little. We left Salt Lake and went to Twin Falls, from there Jack when to Breehl then back to Burley, from there we decided to go and see Edna. So here we are at the seashore. We went out home and seen mother before we left. She was just fine and dear old grandma looks better than I have seen her for some time. Grandpa isn’t any better but is getting pretty white. We may go back to Burley as there is a shop there for sale and now he has learned the trade. The sooner he gets into business for himself the better we will be off. We will know in a few days, but at present will be here with Edna. She is sure having a fine time here. Phyllis is a little jealous of her I think. She sure got some lovely things at her showers. I was invited to three. She had five or six and before she had any she had a chest full of beautiful things she has saved from birthday and xmas presents.

Well I must help Edna get supper on the table so will close and right again to you. We’ll try to not be so long in writing again you must be good to the little blonde boy and not slight him Till. Ha ha! I read your letter while I was out home, may God bless you in your work with health and strength. Is my wish with love from Hiram and Elmo Jack and Julia” xxxxxxxxxxxxx Elmo and Hyrum send kisses, and Hiram said to send him some candy, I tell him you are too far away. They think of their Aunt Till quite often. I saw Roxie Lee, the day we were out home she said they were all fine. Lara was married last Friday to Mr. North. She went through the Temple on Wednesday then went on Friday and was married. We had an invitation to the wedding but left on Thursday night, so didn’t get there. They have bought them a home on 13th East out of the smoke of the city. She asked me your address so she could send you an announcement card.”.

Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, “I don’t suppose little Mae Long can come. Her daddie won’t pay her way & he can’t get her a pass.”

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”Ed was home for his birthday and went back last night to the mine. He is intending to stay up there all winter if all is well. The snow has all gone off now and tonight it as warm as spring...Cora went to Salt Lake today, so I have got the children here as they can’t stay down to her grandma’s when she is gone. Cora came back this morning... I must write to Julia to, and tell her that people that was in her house has moved out and that her house is empty. She is with Edna now, pa said that they better come home and look after their place.”

Roy wrote to Till on Nov. 5, 1919, ”Dearest Sis I will now take time to write you a few line to let you know that I am still alive and hope you are too when this letter gets there. For I had a letter from mother and she said you was sick so I hope you are well by this time. Well sis I will send you a few dollars this time, it won’t be much but I think will help you a little. But I do not know how much it will be yet for I haven’t cashed my check yet and I have a few bills to pay out, so you see I don’t know, but I think it will be 10 dollars and I will send more when I get it. This is just a few lines to let you know that I haven’t forgotten you yet and I will not forget you as long as I am alive for you is the only one that isn’t married. Excuse my spelling sis for I am not very good at spelling you know. I will close for this time your brother Ellaroy ams soon +o+0+Till tell them all hello from me”

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”Julia’s home and a little boys, she walked in on us the other night and surprised us. Jack has gone to Burley again. So she thought she would come home, until he could find a house for them. Maybe Edna will come home for Thanksgiving. Hope she does as her and Marion don’t get along very well. He made
Edna send Phil away the week his mother went up there and Jerry was already there and Jack and Julia. So there was not room for his mother so he went and made up some stories and told on her that she should have told the girls where she works that Edna and he did not get along and there was a girl there that was staying with his sister and she went home and told them so he said. So of course she told Marian. So you see that the sister is following her up there as soon as his mother got up there why the trouble begins. She left here so she could get out of their way, but they follow her and that makes trouble. I do hope she will have sense enough to get out from them and let them have it alone. Julia said that she can't stand the way, Marion treats her much longer. But it seems that she don't get up courage to go away from him. He ordered her out of the house right before Jack and Julia. After Marion went away, Jack told her that some time that he tells her to go that she ought to pick up and go. I think that he thinks, he has got her up there away from us and that he can do as he pleases. He goes out with other girls and he knows that when Phil is there that we will get to hear about it. I do hope she leaves him, because she will not have the life of a dog with neither him nor any one of that family they are to quarrelsome. They quarrel among themselves all the time. I wish we had never seen any of them. He gets jealous of her if she goes to a dance with her because the boys get dances with her and then he drags her from the dance because she has got all her dances. The jealousy comes in, in place of him dancing. He will get in a corner and watch her. I did hope that they would get along better now but it seems he is worse. She was ready to go back to him, when they had that last trouble he tells Jack that he is going to California and that when he goes he is going alone. He knows that Mr. and Mrs. Short is there and his friend Bill Blackett let him have four hundred dollars of that money that he got for his furniture. He knows what he was doing when he gave his things away so that Edna would not have nothing to fall back on. I do believe that he intends to give her the slip some day the way he talks to Jack. He don't think he will tell us but Jack has had his fill with Marion. He says he don't know what to make of him. I think that he has had more to do with that girl that Mr. Short was pulled in on and he will acknowledge. If he is guilty I do hope it will come to light before long. Otilla, don't say anything about this in your letter, because pa don't like me to talk about it. But I get so full that I can't help it. When Julia came home Edna told her not to tell me anything about how Marion has acted. I don't see why she wants to keep it from us, I told her when she went away that if he did not treat her right, to come home but she didn't want to come back to Tooele again, so people can talk about it. But pa said to me that she had all the mischief makers out there now. She would have come with Julia but he told her not to dare take his trunk nor his suitcase and she did not have any other to take her clothes in. He took her money that she got from Phil for room and board. You ask Phil about them. She will tell you all about him I think. I do hope I get a letter from you tomorrow. I hope you are well by this time. Julie has got a terrible cold, she has been sick since she came...Cora and the two girls was up this evening good night, write soon and tell me all the news from your loving mother”

Nov. 14, 1919 Till wrote, "I was glad to hear that Ed had been out home. I must write to him. Please give me his address. I got a nice letter from Roy and he sent me $10. It was surely sweet of him. I was about have to write out another check when I received it and now it will keep me for a while...Did you say Cora was living with her father now? I can write to her then at Tooele and she will get it won’t she? I have thought of them so
often and every day thought maybe I could write, but will write to them soon. I owe Edna & Julia a letter. I received such sweet ones from the old dears! It used to be that one letter done them all but now I have to write four extra."

Ellen wrote Till Nov. 14, 1919, "I do hope Edna will come home for Thanksgiving. I don’t see why she will and take that fellows guff. I must write to her tonight. I don’t know how to write to her, I don’t like to say anything to her and I can’t help it, but I don’t think I will mention it. She can please herself. Pa told her when she went away with him that when she could not stand his nonsense to send for some money to come home on and leave him to do as he pleases. He told Jack that he was going to California and when he went he was going alone. I do hope he does fore her sake and that she don’t see him anymore. And if his mother wants to go after him she can of course we can’t blame her but he should act the man which we know he can’t do at least we know he has not done. So here to for I must close, as it is late and I must drop a line to poor Edna my heart aches for her. We are all well, good night from your loving mother Ellen Shields"

Nov. 24, 1919 Till wrote, "I received a nice letter from Edna today and they are fine. She said Marion told her to send me a $5.00 william this last payday, but she said she would send me one the last of the month. It is sweet of them to think of me...also glad to hear from you and Julia. Write me as often as you can. I know you are busy"

Julia wrote to Till on Nov. 14, 1919, "Dear Little Sister:-I received your Dear letter here with mother. Of course it was mother’s letter but I think it is mine too. Where I am here with her. I have been on quite a flying trip in the last month. I sure seen all of Idaho. And I guess we will live in Pocatello Idaho this winter. I got home the night of the 6th. Jack was going up to Burly to buy a Barber shop. He has learned the barber trade. But it was such a dirty place he wouldn’t buy it, so he came back to Pocatello & got a job on R.R. car whacking like he did the winter we lived in S.L. He said he would do that this winter & start out next spring again & look for him a shop. I wish he could have found one this winter so he could have been inside for the winter. But the work he has is all under cover so I guess it won’t be so bad after all. We were with Edna for two weeks and a half. Marion ordered Phillis out after his mother got up there. So we took the hint & left too. So now his Ma is with him. He can get a suck every day if he wants too. She is up there for the winter or ?? I guess. She told Edna she could stay all winter. And she will too. So Edna said she may come home for xmas if not sooner. Hold your breath while I tell you Phillis is wearing a diamond. Guess who it is...Bish Francis. But Ed said not to say it too loud for Phillis is pretty fickle minded. I think Southy cut her off of his post script. She never got a letter from him all the time we were there & only one from Masters. So Maybe she is winding her bobbin. Edna may tell you all about it when she writes you again. She said in her letter she was looking for one from you. Bish came one Sunday about one O’Clock and took her riding and she never came home until about one or two o’clock. She had been up to Cecils with him, and Cecil is in Salt Lake and & Art is out with the sheep. So when she came home she had a band ring on her finger. She, Edna & I slept 3 deep. So when she came in & turned on the light it woke us up & Edna saw this ring and she ask her what the world she had on her finger. She said Oh it’s Bishes. He wants me to go tomorrow & pick out my engagement ring. But she moved Monday. & I never saw them again. Frone is up there with her now. Phyliss has played her cards up there. She sure likes to try Vamping (sp). But she can’t cut it up there. Its too fast for her. There are some swell
looking fellows up there. Your sister could step out with them but she is afraid of the sweed. Oh he’s a ornery cuss if there ever was one. Jack said he couldn't make him out. When we went up there he wanted us to live with them & go 50:50. So Jack said alright, suits you it does me. So after his mother got up there he never mentioned it again. I was glad to get away from him. One day he was a cussing Edna & Elmo said every day, Every day, jangle & quarrel. So when a kid can notice it, it's getting stale. Thank the Dear Lord Till, Jack found out what I meant to him. He is sure a different man. & I hope I can keep him that way. Bless His Heart. He said we would have to try & send you a few Eagles for Xmas. He has just started to work. I am here with mother until he finds a house.

I am so glad you are getting along so well. It sure makes us feel good to get your letters telling us about your Grand success. I hope you got your trip to Detroit. It would be a great change for you. Do take care of your cold. I have a bad cold for along time. I can't get rid of it. I hope it gets better by the time I go to Idaho again. Little Hyrum can pick the letter H. E T out any where he sees it & he said here’s Aunt Till’s name Mama. He is sure growing. We are going to have their pictures taken in their new suits & will send you one. May God ever bless you in your work is my wish. Your loving Sister Julia

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I got a letter from Julia today, I guess you have heard about the Barber girl being dead. The folks got to the depot all right, they called up when they got down and told us that they was there all okay. They met Pete coming up after them, it is soon time for me to put papa’s lunch so must close.”

Dec. 12, 1919 Edna wrote Till, "My dear Sister, Well Otilla I just got through writing to Ma and Julia. I got a letter from them a couple of days ago. Ma she has had the house full of company. Aunt Cora and Aunt Annie has been up visiting with her. I suppose she has wrote and told you about Victoria getting married. Well I only hope she has got the one she wanted and that she will be happy. I bet you are glad to get back with Emma again. Give her my love and best regards. I am sure glad to hear that you will be in the office for the winter. We are sure having cold weather here at present. The wind has been blowing for the last 2 days and snowing. We are having a great time getting coal. I suppose it is the same up there. I talked with Phyllis over the phone tonight. She is going home pretty soon and I think I will go with her. I think she is going home to get ready to get married. I didn’t think she should marry Bish. I only hope she is taking the right step. Has she wrote and told you about it? I haven’t got to talk with her much about it because when I see her Bish is always with her.

Does he ever write to you? Gee I think he is swell. I don’t know what Phil is looking at to let a young man like him slip by and marry a little shaver like Bish. I can understand her. I feel like this marriage will turn out like her and Southy’s did. Well enough said on that.

Well I have made Ma the swellest scarf for her buffet (note the spelling) It has a large crochet medallion in the middle of lace about 6 inches wide across both ends and a small edging up both sides. She can use it on her library table too, change off with the one I made her last year. I think this one is much prettier than the other one.

I sure wished you was coming home, have you heard from Roy lately? I wonder if he intends to go home for xmas. I do hope he does.
I am sure glad you enjoyed Thanksgiving. I hope you will have as good a time for Xmas.

Do you know that Jack and Julia are living in Pocatello? So she and I are not so very far apart. She said she was very contented there. They are living in one room. I don’t imagine they wouldn’t have much room for the two boys to play. They are sure cute. Little Hyrum gets cuter every day. Julia said he is always asking when are we going up to see Aunt Edna. He is such a thoughtful little soul. When he was here he was always talking of his Aunt Tilla & grandma.

Did you hear about Mr. Chatman getting in the penitentiary for a ten year term? Isn’t that terrible? I sure feel sorry for his wife. I sure don’t know what is going to become of this world. People are getting worse every day.

Marion is to work, the poor kid has got to go out in all kinds of weather. It is now eleven O’clock and he has been out ever since two thirty O’clock this after noon. Well Till dear, I will close now as the two little girls came up from down stairs. They are laughing so I can’t get my thoughts together. With love to you also Emma, Edna & Marion 793 J. St.

Dec. 20 1919 Edna wrote, "Dear Otilla, “Just a note telling you that we have sure had one time getting this dress ready to get off. So Ma is sending a piece of velvet for the V in the front.

If the waist is too short you can let it down, let that tuck out.

We have sent a box containing one chicken, one cake, one plum pudding, candy & nuts, oranges, bottle fruit and rolls, taste of pickles. Well the two boxes wrapped in Holly paper are for Horace and Emma. Well good night, Edna and Ma”

A year later Pneumonia plagued Joyce again. Only 2 months had passed since Cora took her son Budd in to get his tonsils and adenoids out. Now her daughter Joyce was sick again on Dec. 22, 1919 Edna wrote Till saying, "Well here I am at home with dear mother daddy and little Fern. I got here Wed. nite Dec. 17, Phil and Frone came down with me. We had a lonely time on the train. We didn’t take a sleeper we set up all nite. We traveled all night and all the next day. I was sure tired when I got home. When I got home here ma had Cora and the three children staying here with her. As poor little Joyce has had Pneumonia again but is getting along alright now. So Cora had to go back down to take care of her grandma and father as soon as Joyce was able to go. She sure looks thin in the face. The poor little sole sure has one time of it.”

Suppose you have got my letter I sent you before I left to come home with the five dollar William in it. I have sent you a bath robe and a pair of bed room slippers. I made the slippers & robe all myself. I do hope you get them alright. We are expecting Roy home for Xmas. I do hope he comes as it has been so long since I saw him. Has he sent any more money to you? I thought that was so sweet of him. Yesterday being Sunday so mother and I went to meeting as it was old man Spiers funeral. Bro. Richard Liman was out from Salt Lake, he spoke at the funeral. He also came up and shook hands with mother and myself. Have you heard of Mae Evans dyeing also Velma Barber?

Daddy and Fern are out in the back getting the Xmas tree ready. Little Fern is so enthused about it. Phil must be peeved at mother and I as she hasn’t been down since Thursday afternoon. She promised to come down that night and sit and sew with us but she hasn’t showed up yet. She gets touched so easily. I can’t imagine what has
happened to her. I told her that you said it seemed like ages since you had heard from her. And she said that you owed her a letter. She still has Bish's ring but she doesn't intend to marry him anymore than I do. But poor old Bish certainly thinks she means it all. She has made a date with Bish, Judge, and Roy to come and spend the Xmas holidays with her. Now she is worrying what she is going to do with them all. She sure does get her self in some tight boxes at time. She told me she hadn't wrote and told you about being engaged to Bish and the ring so I guess I have been the only one to break the news to you. I suppose you would be the first one that she would break the news too that was why I told you all about it.

I was down to the store and saw Lottie, she was telling me of the letter she and Mary got from you two kids.

Dear old grandma just came in to get daddy to see about some of her business. Bless her dear old heart. She is so sweet. Grandpa is still the same but has faded a whole lot since I saw him in the summer.

Well Till I will close, write soon and let me know if you got that money also the parcels. Wishing you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year also Emma & Horace with love and best regards to you all three. Edna"

Till did not forget Mae Long and sent her a card, it really touched her, she wrote Till back thanking her for her timely card saying on Dec. 27, 1919, "Dear Friend, "I received your card sometime ago I was sure glad to get it. Please don't look at this writing. I have been working for Sr. Keith since Xmas day as she is sick in bed with a cold. Dear friend, I have been having the worst kind of trouble, Mamma has turned completely away from the church. Sr Keith said she had got your card also. Mamma says such bad things about the church. She don't have any thoughts how it hurts my feelings. This is the worst part I don't like my home. I have got so I don't want to be there at all. I have always wanted a home where there was love and peace but I guess it is not for me. I had a talk with Pres. Condie last night and he sure gave me lots of hope for the future. I feel so blue now it seems like I have not got a friend on earth. That is one of the reasons I wanted to go out to your home for the winter. I thought maybe I would have the kind of home I had always wanted. You said if I ever needed a friend to write to you and I sure need a friend now". With love from Mae Long"

Dec. 31, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "Your parcel came here all right and we sent Julia's things to her as she is in Idaho now and we got a letter from her telling us that she got her things all right. Roy has not come home yet, I am looking for him for new year years. We also are looking for a home. I don't think Marion will get here as Edna got a letter from him and he said that he could not give off."

1920

Jan.5, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "I got a letter from Ed and Julia today. Ed is going to come home for a few days. Roy has not come home yet and I have not heard from him for a long time. I did send his Christmas present because I thought he would not be home. Julia's folks are all well...Except my warm love yourself and Edna sends her love from your loving mother and father and Fern good day write soon with love.”

Jan 12, 1920 Till wrote, "I wrote a letter to Julia and Uncle Alex the other night. I haven’t half of my letters answered.”
Jan 15, 1920 Roy wrote from East Ely Nev. saying, "Dearest sis,
I will now take time to write you a few lines to let you know that I haven’t forgot you. I wrote home for your address and they just now sent it so I thought I would write to you. When you move again write and let me know where you are at for I like to hear from you as you do from me.
I am still working on a ranch and I am getting fat. I quit smoking and I feel much better. I quit on the first of New Years and I weigh 170 pounds and if I ever get my picture taken I will send you one.
Mother wants me to come home in every letter. And I think I will in about 3 or 4 months so you can write to me here for quite awhile.
You will have to excuse my spelling Till for you know that I am not a very good speller. So please excuse me.
Say Till if you know Emma De La Mare’s address tell me for Alvin McIntosh wants to get it for he said he would like to write to her. So if you do please send it to me so I can give it to Alve he said for me to tell you hello for him. I am here on this ranch and I know you know his sis Mrs. Elyets (sp) and you want to write to her also. Me and Herny Shields is all that is working here. If you don’t know Herny I will tell you for I think you know his sis Amay Shields. Well sis I will close now, be sure and ans [sic] soon. From your loving brother Ellaroy” East Ely Nev. P.O Box 190"

Jan. 21, 1920 Till wrote, "Dear folks at home you cannot imagine how glad I was to receive your letter enclosing those pictures. O, my the tears beeded my whiskers as I joyfully looked at you all and my how good they are. Never has our dear old home looks so good to me as it did in those pictures. It seems ages since I was home and yet it has only been six months. Think of it only 18 more months.”

Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen writes, "Ed was home last Sunday. He came on the morning train and went back at 8:30 that same day so he didn’t have long to stay. He is the boss up to the mine so can’t stay away long. Edna had a good long visit with me, Marion came last Tuesday and got her. He just stayed till Thursday. I sure did hate to see her go it was so nice to have her home. It seemed like she was my one girl again. I did wish he would not come and get her. She gave me a nice cover for my tiber table. I wish you could see it. She put the other one on the buffet. It looks fine on it. She took her things back with her that she left here. They got a barrel and filled it. We made a quilt for her that I thought mother gave her. You know it sure looked fine. We put wool in it and it had a nice lining in it. She made her some nice house dresses too and she made your bathrobe here. I had a nice letter from Roy. He said not to look for him for 4 months so that is a long time to look forward too. I would like to see him sooner then that.”

Jan. 28, 1920 Edna wrote, "Our dearest Sis Otilla, Just a line to let you know that I am still looking for that letter and that I am back to Idaho Falls with Marion. I sure did hate to leave Ma. And believe me she sure did hate to see me come back. Both she and Grandma tried to talk me into staying there the rest of the winter but I couldn’t see it that way. Marion he came down after me he was so lonesome living alone. He was very glad to take me back with him. He s sure sweet here lately he seems more like Marion Nelson use to be. I suppose you have those pictures we took while I was home and what do you think about them?
I washed today and believe me I am a tired lady tonight. Marion has gone to work. Maybe you don't think the evenings are long after he leaves for work. I have from 8 o'clock until bed time to spend all by myself. I just came back from Roses. I had to go and get my night dress to sleep in tonight. You see I washed up there as I had such a big washing and two big blankets besides. So she asked me to come and use her washer and believe me I sure did jump at the chance. While I was home ma showed me Mr. Cottam's picture and told me all about him I sure do think he swell Ottila he is so refined looking. I would sure hang my hat for him. And if I have the chance like you have got I would give him some encouragement, so I would be able to see more of him. There isn't such a difference in his picture and Horaces. Ma has the two of them sitting on the piano and believe me, he looks the Niftiest.

Well Till write me a big long letter and tell me how you are and do take care of yourself and don't get sick. I see in the paper where the flu is raging there.

When I came back from home we stopped off at Pocatello Thursday morning at six O'clock. Julia had wrote and told me just how to find the house they were living in. So I brought that letter with me. We got off the train found the house alright went upstairs to room five where they lived tried the door it was unlocked and we walked right in, "as she had said, told me to do," They were still in bed sound asleep. As I went in I said walk right in and that woke them up. They sure were surprised. The little white head over in the other bed raised up, then came the little slow brown head peeping out from under his quilt. They both had a sweet happy smile on their face. Hyrum wanted to come with me. If it would have been summer I would of brought him home with me. But in the winter a child catches cold so much that I was afraid to take him so far away from his ma. He sure is sweet. The boys were telling me about getting a letter from Aunt Tilla. Julia said when she got that letter it made Elmo cry he wanted to see his Aunt Tilla. The little old white head has got such a soft heart.

Well Till dear it is just 10:30 time all tired wash women was in bed so I will say good night to you and answer real soon." With all our love Marion & Edna Thanks for the sweet little Xmas gift I am sure proud of it. Address 503 C. St. Idaho Falls" xxxooo

Feb. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a sweet letter from Julia, Edna and Roy I must answer them. The pictures I received made me so happy and it made me just a little lonesome too. The picture of Ed’s children is fine and I appreciate and thank you very much for them…I am enclosing a little clipping from the paper, so you can see how broad-minded some of the people are out here."

Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am looking for Ed to come down on the 10th or 15th to get a place for Cora and the kiddies in Salt Lake as Cora is give out tending her grandma. Polly will tend her grandma…I got a letter from Edna. She is fine…It is getting late and I must stop and get supper, Fern has just come home from school and brought his book and I ought to write to Edna Roy and Julia tonight as I owe them a letter."

Feb. 13, 1920 Ellen wrote, "The kiddies is getting up, so I must quit and get their breakfast as Ed’s kids are here. Cora has went into Salt Lake. Ed came down to help her find a place so she can move in their as she has been tending her grandma up until now, and she is given out. So I must quit and then when she is in their Ed can come home more often. We are all pretty well. Joyce’s got the croup and I have got a little cold grandma and grandpa’s about the same. I have been a busy woman since I quit writing this morning. Ed and Cora came out on the stage and was going back on the train at
130, so we had to get a move on us. I tell you he went down and got ? and him and I
packed his fruit and now I must hurry and finish this and send it down and get supper as
pa will be here soon... I must quit good day from all will write more next time I got a
letter from Julia.”

Feb. 25, 1920 Ellen wrote, "We are all fine at present. I had a letter from Edna and
Julia and they are all well now, but Julia has been quite sick. Edna told me in her last
letter that Julia expected to be sick soon and that Aunt Ida was that wan (sp?), and was
seven months along and that she was tickled over it. I do hope she will have good luck
and go through all right. Here is Cora, so I must close and get the dinner and so write
soon and don’t let me wait so long next time with love to you, from your mother.”

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I had a letter from Ed the other day. He is well. I have
not heard from Cora since she went in there.”

Feb. 29, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a sweet letter from Roy and he tells me he’s
going to take my advise and read the Book of Mormon. I must write to him and to Ed
and Edna and Julia. I am so busy all the time I don’t have time to write to anyone...I do
hope Julie is better and that she gets along all right... I met a Hate boy from Oakley
Idaho and he said he met me when I was in Oakley. He is related to the Tuttles. We had
a good talk about them. He is surely good looking fellow. May the Lord ever bless you is
the prayer of your daughter with love Till”

March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I got a letter from Edna today. She said she had not
heard from you yet but that Marion had wrote you a nice letter.... I got a letter from Cora
Shields a few days ago. She has been sick all the time she has been there. I do hope
she will get her strength again. She was just worked down when she was down to her
grandpas place. She did not get her rest she needed so that is the reason she is so
weak.”

March 19, 1920 Till wrote home, "I received a nice letter from Edna and Marion the other
day. I surely was surprised to hear from Marion, but it sure pleased me what he said in it
if he means it. They also sent me five dollars. I thought it was so sweet of them. I wrote
a long long letter to “C” Street and they are now living on “D”. I was sure surprised to
hear that Julia has a girl. Isn’t that fine, I wish I could see them all. That will make them
a lovely little family and I’m so glad it is a girl. But “golly” it won’t know it’s Aunt Till when
she comes home. I’m afraid Fern, Elmo and Hyrum and Joyce none of them will
remember me but I’ll bet I soon make myself acquainted. Sometimes it seems ages
since I left home and yet the time has flown so that I cannot realize over eight months
have passed. We are So busy all the time that the time seems to fly on wings of
lightning. There are so many missionaries been released now. Sometimes I envy them
and again I think my, but I have a short time left to accomplish what I want to do.”

March 31, 1920 Till wrote home, "Tonight is just wonderful. I am sitting by the open
window and the breeze floating in is so warm and the graphafone in the next apartment
is playing an old record like we used to have “Stadium March” that came over me when
I heard that playing. It seems ages since I seen you all, yet the time is flying by so
rapidly I hardly realize it is gone. To think tomorrow will be the first of April and the ninth
will make nine months as I stood on the steps of that old train waving my hand at you
until it took me from your site. I have thought of that day many times, how dear old
daddie carried my bag into that hot coach and then kiss me goodbye. It was so hard to
keep the tears back, but I managed to do it. I’ve never been home sick since I have
been in the field though. We are kept so busy we don't have time to get homesick. It is true home is a wonderful place, when I stop and think of the wonderful experiences I'm having of the many lovely people I meet every day in the country I see and best of all the wonderful work I am engaged in, then think of settling down in little old gossipy lonesome Tooele, I'm glad I'm here. Don't think I don't like Tooele because I love it and what friends I have there, but I know when I am there I am wishing to be somewhere else, but I think by the time I have been away from it two years, is going to look mighty good to me....I sent Fern a little Easter basket I suppose it will be all jolled up by the time it reaches him but it looked pretty after I finished packing it. I thought perhaps he would like some rabbits & chickens & eggs from Chicago. Bless his heart I wish I could see him. Those pictures of you & the house & all sure do look good to me. I look at them most every day. I received a sweet letter from Edna she told me about our darling mother & daddie sending her a beautiful birthday present. She says they are all fine at Julias. I was so happy to hear of the arrival of the new babe & they seem to be tickled to death. Dear old Julia also wrote to me. I am so glad you sent me Ed's address. I have been going to ask you for it & time again, but kept forgetting. If people could only realize how much happier they would be if they lived the Gospel. It is the biggest thing in the world and the most comforting to think of a person living from day to day and thinking that when we die that is the end of us. It seems to me now that life would not be worth while if that was as far as it went. But when we stop and think of the work there is ahead of us it makes us wonder how we got along without going to our Father in Heaven and pour out our soul to him in prayer. Prayer is the most comforting thing in the world. And think of the many people who are indigitive of their prayers and many do not even know how to pray. I do hope our family can go through the Temple and our family chain can be linked together. It may take a long time but some how I feel that we will see that day. I must write to Roy but it keeps me busy. I no sooner get my letters answered then I have them to do over. I ashamed for not writing to P.M. Clegg. He sent me five dollars & a pretty Xmas card & I have never acknowledged it. Now I am ashamed to write. In a way I was glad to hear of Coras Grandma passing away. I feel the dear old soul must be much happier.”

April 18, 1920 Till wrote, "I'll bet you hated to see Edna go back. I was awfully glad to hear that Phil got such a good job. Mrs. Atkins death was a big surprise to me, I'll bet the poor Bishop will feel terrible... I am sorry Fern has not receive his basket it was a sweet little thing.

May 4, 1920 Till writes, "I am glad Fern received his basket bless his heart he will be so big I won't know him when I come home. I think maybe a year from now I'll be home. I wrote a letter to Cora & Ed. I must write more often. I think about all of you every day but time does not permit me to write as much as I would like too. I finally wrote to Bro. and Sister Clegg and thanked them for their Christmas present. I'd like to write the Bishop but I'm afraid too. I wouldn't know just what to say"

May 4, 1920 Till writes, "You ask about Mae Long. She is just that boyish age and I am afraid mother that she would be more worry to you than a help and yet I know she would want to come if I mentioned it to her. But her folks are not members of the church & if things didn't go just to please her she could perhaps cause a fuss in the branch in Peru through letters. I do feel sorry for the little kid & maybe it would be the best thing that could happen to her."
May 20, 1920 Till wrote home, "I was glad to hear that Julia has been down to see you. I received a lovely letter from her the day before I received yours. She told me all about her trip and about Jack’s father. I am so sorry to hear of the fate that has befallen him. He must be suffering terribly. My I would love to see little Ellen Bernice. Julia says she is too smart for her pants...Julia told me that Budd is taking violin lessons. I was awfully glad to hear it. I wrote a long letter and they haven’t answered it. That’s the second one I’ve written. I wonder if they receive them. Tell them all I send my love when you write. So the little kiddies took flowers up and put on dear little Floyd’s grave on the 7th of this month. I guess we all thought of him. It will surely seem funny not to find him among the others when I come home. The dear little fellow I wonder why he had to meet his death like that. Sometime we’ll understand. Was he baptized? I don’t remember."

June 6, 1920 Till wrote, "I’ll bet you were tickled to see Roy. It has been a long time since I seen him over a year now. I’ll bet that he is a monster."

Till wrote to her family and asked about Roy on June 15, 1920 she wrote, "So Roy has left you again? But perhaps he will do better away from the smelter. I wish dear ole daddie didn’t have to work so hard and could find a different job."

On June 15, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a letter from Julia and Edna and haven’t answered them yet. Julia surely thinks lots of the new girl. She says they are just fine but the heat was terrible....So Roy has left you again? Perhaps he will do better away from the Smelter. I wish dear old daddie didn’t have to work so hard & could find a different job. I was surprised to read in the paper where Con Jones and Ruth Shields have been married also Katie & Clarence...Please pardon stationary this stationary as we are all out of paper so thought you wouldn’t mind if I dropped a note on this. When you see Cora jog her memory and tell her to drop me a line."

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a lovely letter from Julia it sure makes me happy to hear from you all. I have managed to answer her letter and one from Edna...Emma received a nice letter from Mary De La Mare today and she told her about Ed Kirk firing at Mable out at Salt Air. It just makes me sick to hear of anything like that his or mother is the one I feel sorry for... Do you ever see Marion anymore? I never hear anything about him. Last I heard of him was that he and his wife had separated. How is he coming with his business? He has a good start in life, I think and hope he can continue to improve his business."

June 29, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a nice letter from Cora. It surely simply to hear from her. Poor little woman has been awfully sick. She sure loves mother Shields. She told me about her trip to Tooele."

Till wrote on July 27, 1920, "I am glad to hear that Julia has been down. Give her and kiddies my love. I am feeling fine and am kept busy every minute."

Aug. 24, 1920 Edna wrote from Idaho Falls, "My darling Ma, Pa and Fern, I guess you are wondering and watching for me to come home. When I wrote to you I did intend to come, but under the circumstances I decided to stay. Of course I would of wrote and let you know that I had changed my mind about coming home. But I have a little tale of who to tell you. I have been so completely straddle of the fence that I thought I would wait and see which side I jumped off before I wrote. Now don’t be surprised of course I know you won’t. But Marion and I have decided to live apart. He is living in one part of town and I am in another. I am staying at
Rose’s place at present. (She is Marion’s sister) I’ve got a dandy good job working in a grocery store for Mr. Solberg he is from Grantsville. He sure is nice to me. He knows daddy and all his brothers.

I get $15 per week so that isn’t so bad do you think? I knew that I would never get work down in Tooele so that is why I stayed here.

I suppose you have a letter for me down there. When I went and asked for work, I told Mr. Solberg I was going home for a while and if he decided to put me on to write to me there so he did. But my finances were very much. I had enough to get down there on but I would of had to borrow enough to get back with so I thought it best I stay. I think after a while Phil and I will be living together. Now Ma if you will send that letter up to me I will be glad to get it. Also write me a nice long letter and let me know if you think I have done the right thing. Rose has sure been good to me. She has give me some good advice.

Now Ma don’t worry about me you know I would never in this world get work down-home. I sure would love to see you all bless your dear hearts. I got a letter from Julia a few days ago.

I must write to her tonight. Marion and I have been living apart now since the 15th but I didn’t want to write and tell you until I got me a job. I am sure pleased with my work. How are you all, do hope you are well. I am very contented about working for me self and as far as Marian is concerned they are as good a fish in the brook that has ever been caught. Of course I will not say I will never go back to him because we never know what we will do in this big old world.

Now daddie and mama dear I will close. Give my love and best regards to grandma and grandpa accept the same yourself good night. Edna 503 C St. Idaho Falls"

Aug. 31, 1920 Till wrote, "Say mother you said Edna was coming home, why is she? Is it just for a visit? Some how I feel that she isn’t as happy as she should be. I have dreamed about her. Tell her to write to me. I hope she is feeling better. Also Julia’s kiddies. I must close now mother dear. I think your lunch for the folks was dandy. Was so glad to hear from Leon + Fern that was the sweetest letter bless his heart I must go mother will write again soon. In haste but with lots of love + blessings Till as a after thought she wrote... regards +love to grandpa and grandma.”

Edna wrote to Till on Sept. 8, 1920 saying, "My darling sis Otilla- I guess you think I have entirely forgotten you but I haven’t. I think of you every day and wonder how you are getting along.

Well I didn’t send you anything for your birthday but will send something now. It is better late than never. No doubt you will be surprised to learn of me working out. I am clerking in a Grocery store for Mr. Soelberg. Do you remember that Johns Soelberg that just returned from a mission?

Well this man is his father. I sure do enjoy the work. It is such a change from house work and that is what I have done all my life. When did you hear from Phil last? I guess she has told you that she wasn’t staying with me now. Nor I am not staying with Marion. We are off by our selves. He and I have agreed to disagree for a while. It has been over a month since I left him.

He has been to see me several times wanting me to come back with him. But I don’t know what to do. It is sure hard to tell which would be the best step to take when you love a person.
Don’t tell Emma anything about it. I had the chance to go and work in a dry goods store in Pocatello but I thought I would stay where I am.

Mr. Selberg pays me $65 a month and a raise after a while when I get on to the work.

When do you think you will be home. If you were here you could get all kinds of work they pay $125 to $150 for stenographers. I sure do wish you were here with me. But you are doing better work where you are at present. Well Till dear write me a big long letter.

I got a letter from Ma the other day and she wants me to come home but I could not get work down in that berg.

It is late so I must say good nite and ans [sic]real soon. From you dear old sis Edna 503 C st. Idaho Falls Idaho I got your dear letter day before yesterday. It was sure a good one. Well ans [sic] it soon.”

Till was still concerned for Edna and she mentions her and Julia in her letter to her family on Sept. 10, 1920, "I received a nice letter from Julia the other day and was surely glad to hear from her. I wonder why Edna doesn't write? It seems to me that she owes me a letter."

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a nice letter from Julia the other day and was sure glad to hear from here. I wonder why Edna doesn't write. It seems to me that she owes me a letter.

Sept.10, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "You asked me why Edna was coming home. I didn’t know anymore then you only that she was coming on a visit until I got the next letter from her as she did not, she said she would. I will send you her letter and that will explain all her Pa wrote to her and told her to come home, but she seems to think that she can do better up there as she has got her job. But I would like her to come home so she would not be where he is. I don’t know what is the matter as she did not say, but I guess it is the same old thing. I don’t think he will ever be any different and it is like Edna said in her letter to us, that there is as good a fish in the brook as ever has been caught and I think that Edna can get a man that is worthy of her. I think that she has given him all the chance she could and I don’t think it is any use for her to try anymore as it is just wearing her life out of her. She said in the last letter I got, that she was happy and that she was doing fine, that she had got her first check and it looked good to her. I think when she finds out, she can keep herself, it will be all off with Mr. Marion. Is supper time, pa will be home soon so I must quit, Roy went to Nevada last night and it made me feel bad. I did not want him to go again but he wanted to, so I guess he is his own boss. Write me a long letter and tell me all the news. May the Lord bless you is the wish of your ma and pa good day”

Sept. 17, 1920 Ellen said, "I have not heard from Roy yet. I don’t know why he told me when he went away he would write. It just makes me sick to think I could not get him to stay home this winter. He wanted to go to school but we did not have the money to keep his western loan up. It seems he will not have any as long as he is away from home so he could save his money. We could not keep his expense and yours too or I would made him go to school. Good day.”

Till responds to Edna’s situation on Sept. 27, 1920, "I received a nice letter form Edna the other day and she told me that she and Marion had decided to live apart for a time. She said she was very happy in her new work that it was quite a change from house
keeping. She said she didn't know what to do, that Marion had been to see her two or three times and wants her to go back to him. She said that it was sure hard to tell which step to take when you love a person. I didn't think she cared very much for him but I guess she does. Personally I can't see how she can love him after the way he has acted. It seems to me that if a man treated me like that, that it would kill all the love I had for him. I think one has to respect a person to really love them and when a man has no respect for himself then he cannot expect others to love and respect him. I am going to write her a long letter. Of course I wouldn't say a word that would cause her to do what she didn't want to because she knows best. But I am under the impression that she doesn't care now as much as she used to. Had he been as true to her as she has been to him they could have been a very happy couple. But it seems to me that no good can come from a man who will take other girls out when he has a wife of his own...You never told me that you received the pictures I sent. Did you get them and how did you like them? I was glad to hear that Roy has a desire to go to school. I do hope that he can go next year. He must like it up in Nevada. Give him my love when you write and tell him to write to me. Till Ed and Cora hello for me.”

Oct. 11, 1920 Till wrote, "It is 15 month today since I first laid eyes on Chicago. How the time does fly. Does it seem that long to you? It won’t be very long now until I can put my feet under daddies table again and sleep in my own little cot...I am still in the office & am more than enjoying my work....You say Cora wanted to know when you last heard from me. My I should write to them. I guess I won’t have a friend when I get home. I owe everybody a letter."

Ellen suggested to Till that she write to Julia in a letter dated Oct 15, 1920 saying, "Otilia I got a letter from Julia and she told me that she had not heard from you for a long time and wanted to know how you are. I hope you have wrote to her by this time. She said she had not heard from Edna either. So she felt quite blue. You said in one of your letters that you was going to write to Edna. I hope you gave done so as I am afraid that big boob will coax her to go back to him and I don’t think he is a fit subject for her to live with now."

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "I am well and getting fatter every day. I weigh 148 pounds. My I wish you could come back and meet me when I am released. How I wish you could see Chicago. I just love it here and if it wasn’t for the ones I love so much a home, I believe I would be contented to stay right here. The parks and lakes are beautiful and there something to be learned every day. I must close now as it is getting late. I hope I received a letter from you tomorrow. Did you ever receive the pictures I sent you?...Must say nighty night and will write again soon. Praying our Father in Heaven to ever watch over you and protect you and preserve you in health and strength. Your loving daughter Till PS Hello darling little Fern”

Oct. 18, 1920 from Idaho Falls, Edna wrote, "My darling Ma, Pa, and Fern, I received your dear letter today was sure glad to hear from you. I was down and saw Julia yesterday Phil and I...I had a little business to see about down there which I am going tell you about in this letter. Julia and the kiddies were all well. Well ma you don’t never need to worry about me going back to Marion. I think as far as him and I are concerned it is all over. I went and saw a lawyer this afternoon about
my divorce. It will cost Marion $150. If they can’t make him pay the cost of court, it will cost me $50. But the Lawyer told me that they can make him pay the cost.

The lawyer is Mr. Crowley and he is a Mormon so he told me he would do the best he can. Of course it is a clear case. Marion became the father to a baby boy on the 29th of Aug.

I can’t smooth things over as easy here as he did at home I saw the girl and the baby yesterday while I was in Pocatello. It sure is a lovely baby and it resembles Marion some. The girl I sure do feel sorry for her. But what ever Marion saw in her to chase out with is more than I can see. She is tall and rather corse. But she seems to be very nice. Jack let me have $15 to start my case with. I sure could make it warm for him if I wanted to. I put it in this way. I wanted my maiden name Shields and him pay the cost of court. I didn’t want alimony but the lawyer said if I sued for that, that he could skip out of the town to get out of paying that and then I would be through with him.

I have written this letter in jerks(sp?). I am in the store so between customers I write to you. I think I will move in with Phil tonite. Well, it is now six O’clock time to close the store. So I will say good nite. Answer real soon with love Edna xxooo"

Oct. 24, 1920 Edna wrote, “Dear Ma, Pa, Fern, Roy, Well as I am alone in my room. I will answer your darling letter I received yesterday. Phil and Florence has gone down to Black Foot this afternoon with a couple of boys. So that leaves me alone. I received a letter form Julia Wednesday, they were all well. Jack loaned me $15 to start my divorce with. When the officers began to hunt for Marion to serve the papers on he came up a missing.

I told lawyer Crowley where he was rooming so the officers called at his room and found he wasn’t in. So they found out where he was boarding and went to the café to wait for him to call for his supper and of course inquired of the waitress if he board there. Of course this waitress being a girl that has been out with Marion time and time again and also has a case on him and knowing of his trouble with this other girl imagined it was her that had put the officer on his tail.

Marion had gone up to Rigby that afternoon and this girl knew it. So she beats it over to the Depot and meets him off of the train and told him the officers were after him. Of course they both thinking it was this other girl that was doing it. So Marion beats it out of town and this girl goes to his room and packs up his trunk and puts it in another room with two other fellows that chummed with Marion.

So I went and told the lawyer about the trunk so he told me to get it and now I have it in my possession. I don’t know where Marion is and haven’t heard yet. It as been a week now since he disappeared. Of course it will take 90 days now before I can get my divorce if they don’t find him before court sets on the 29th of November. The girl that he got in trouble happens to be a married women her husband died 2 years ago with the flu. She is much older then I am. I will tell you all when I see you and that won’t be until Xmas that is if I can save a little money to come home on.

I drawed [sic] my $17.50 last nite it being Saturday nite. I get paid every week. I had to pay $10 on my suit and I have seven fifty left. On the first, four of we girls are going in together and rent two light house keeping rooms and batch it. I think we can live much cheaper that way then paying board. The other girl that is going in with us is Lottie Hammer. She works with me in the store. She sure is sweet. And also a good
singer. Well Ma dear, I will close and answer real soon with love Edna PO Box 716 Idaho Falls Idaho"

Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, "I started to write to Edna last week and got one page completed and had to leave it. I don't know what made me write the way I did but I had a feeling that if she ever went back to Marion that she would regret having done so. I am sorry so sorry to hear that the poor kid has to under go so much trouble and I wish I could be there to cheer her up a bit because I know how she must feel. If ever a man changed in life “Marion is the man” It made me just sick when I read in your letter that Edna was getting a divorce on the grounds she is. Of course she is doing the only thing that can be done but to think that her husband would stoop so low as to do what he has done makes me feel awful. How did she find out that Marion had committed the deed he has? I cannot imagine her feelings when she learned of this terrible thing. And to think that he would have nerve enough to go and see her and make her kiss him and hug him when he knew what an unfaithful piece of humanity he was. There is no end to his nerve to think of him even attempting to do what he did. I tell you mother to think of the mess Edna is mixed up in makes me just sick. I do hope they will have a private court. Does anyone in Tooele know of his actions. Honestly it makes me feel ashamed to come home and meet people who know him and that he was Edna's husband. I simply can not understand him at all. What ever has come over him anyway. Do you really think he has his right mind? It is hard for me to believe that he has to do the things he has done seems impossible for a perfectly sane man. I am going to complete my letter to Edna tonight if I get time. I am still in the office ane it is almost eight o'clock. But I thought I would drop you a few lines before I went to my room.... I feel and know that Edna will be much happier after she is free to do what she likes and I know that she will meet someone whom she can be very happy with. I wish that he would leave Idaho Falls I hate to have her near where he is because you never can tell what a man will do when he is enraged with anger. I also appreciate that it will be hard for Edna to go home because of the talk that will exist in that dear little berg of Tooele. And if she has a good position in Idaho Falls she will naturally want to make her own living. However I do hope and pray that everything will turn out for the best. ... Honestly mother I do wish Edna was as happy as I am. I believe I am the happiest girl in the world."

Oct. 29, 1920, Ellen sent Edna’s last 2 letters to Till so she would know what was going on with Edna. Ellen said, "My dear Otilla, we got your dear letter this noon and was sure glad to hear from you. I thought I would drop you a few lines and send you Edna’s letters and then you could see for yourself just how things are...You said in your letter that you felt like you would be ashamed to come home. You don’t know that the people of Tooele knows more about his (Marion) conduct then we do. I don’t think that they know just now, that Edna is getting her divorce but you know that it will not be long until they all know as pa was talking to Mr. Brown the other day and he told pa that Marion’s sister had told him that he and Edna was not living together. So pa told him that she was getting her divorce and that Marion was a papa now. He did not say a word, just set there like he was struck dumb. I don’t know if his folks know or not about the baby. But I don’t think that the shame is at our door. Everybody had an idea what Mr. Nelson was doing before he left here. Mr. Mcclose told pa at the warks/work (sps) one day that he saw Marion do things down at Salt Air the last summer he was here that he knew he had no business doing. And I think the eyes of the Tooele people was on
him more then he had any idea of. You never know the time we had the summer you went away. I thought Edna would go wild then but she tells me that she is happy. I think myself that she is lucky to get rid of him as I know he has been living that kind of life longer then we have any idea of and then going back to his wife. I don’t think he has one spirit of manhood in him. He never did think to pay his debts and would get all he could and did not care if he ever paid it or not, that was their first trouble and it kept going from worse to worse. He came and got pa to sign a note in the bank with him so he could get his car out of the garage in Salt Lake two years ago. And he has not paid a red cent on it nor the interest and now if they can’t find him pa will have that to pay which is $50. I told them at the bank that they are to get after him. They said they have been trying to find where he is working but now he has gone. I guess Edna will have the divorce to pay herself. But even at that she is lucky to get rid of him at that if it had not been that the girl had a baby. I guess he would kept on doing the same thing but the truth will come out soon. How I am just like.(that’s it says) I am afraid he will try to do her some harm but pa says that he is too big a coward to do any thing like that. But Edna’s letter have explained that I told her I knew she will be much happier with out him.”

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, “I got a letter from Ed today and he is in Los Angeles. He said not to write as he don’t just know what his address will be. I was sure surprised to hear of him being there. He was at home when I was in there.”

On Nov 2, 1920 Julia wrote Till, "Dear sister, You little rascal how long do you expect me to wait for you to write. I’ve waited 2 ½ months now. But never the less I will forgive you if you will drop me a few lines now. Do you know that while you were writing to us that Jack was reading the Bible. You wrote such good letters to us that it put the spirit of the Gospel in him.

Well how did you vote today? I guess it is a big day in Chicago today. It’s very quiet here. I guess Idaho will go Republican this year. I got a letter from mother today and she sent me two of your letters. So I thought I’d better write to you tonight as I am going to wash tomorrow if it’s a good day. So I’m scribbling you a few lines while I’m waiting for my husband to come home. He is down getting the returns of the day. I’m going down home about the fifteenth of this month to get my fruit, washer & sewing machine. I’d like to ship my piano up here but I’m afraid it’s a little damp weather for it. I’ll be tickled to get the washer & machine. I’ve rubbed on a board for a year now and I feel I’m getting kind of lazy. But I have 5 & 6 lines of clothes every week nearly three for the darling baby. She said Ma ma and da da & papa the other day she said Ena Ena it tickles her old daddie to death nearly to hear her. You never seen such a bright little doll. I’m just neglectful that I haven’t got her picture & sent it to you. She sure is a doll.

Poor Edna was down to see her husband’s son two weeks ago. She and Phil came down, Phil said it sure is Marion’s image. Poor old skinny and takes it pretty brave. I am of the same beliefs as you are. I think he is sure a little unbalanced in the upper story. He has been a regular brewed to Edna through it all. Last fall when Jack and I were up there he was a regular doctor her. Jack told Edna Van, that if she wanted to go home with me she could come. Now you know when Jack would tell her that, he was treating her pretty rotten just think of his nerve going out with this woman. She already had a little girl. Her husband died two years ago with the flu. She’s a big woman bigger than me and redhead. Telling her all the time he was getting a divorce from his wife that
she was a stepper. He went down home after her last Christmas. And he told this Alice that he was going after divorce. Oh the beast, he is the limit. He goes to the store to order some groceries and has them sent to Lizzie’s room. A fellow in one of the garages asks him one day if he wasn’t married and he said no, but I’m feeding a couple of chicken up there. Meaning Edna and Phil. Got the boilermaker to work his shift one night for him and told him that he had to go watch his wife, she was a stepper. He laid traps for Edna on all sides. Had one fellow he worked with call her up and try to make dates with Edna to go to shows. But Edna soon cooked his goose the second time he called her up, she said look here Jones I’m a married woman and I’m no chaser. So much Mr. Jones laid off. Then one other night he goes to a dance and went home or out without her and had some guy to take her home. While all that saved her was Phill and her boe. [sic] And here the cus [sic] stood outside to watch her. So another night he goes to the dance without her and she went with Jill and he slipped out of the dance with another girl and Edna followed them to a drugstore. They were all snuggled up in a corner giving their order and Edna walked in and asked him if he was having a good time he said oh, won’t you have something and Edna turned and walked out. After she went out he told this girl that he sluffed [sic] a dance with her and she follows him to ball him out. Making believe that she wasn’t his wife so when he got home that night she threw her band ring at him. So that started the ball rolling she was about to make up with him when the lady tells her about this baby and that did finish it. So when she got back to Idaho Falls from here she went and filed suit for divorce and when the sheriff went to serve summons on him, he was up in Rigby so he went to the cafeteria where he eats, where another girl that is sweet on him works. And she meets him at the Depot and tells him the sheriff is looking for him so he took the Butte train back out and this girl went to the room and put his close in his truck. And puts in it in a room with two boys he run with so now Edna will have to advertise for 90 days. I’d sure like to be the one to tell his mother about his son. I’ll bet her eyes will open. But this is quite a Bible on one subject. But I’m so glad to think she is getting rid of him and got him running that I feel like thanking My Great Redeemer. This Alice will run him ragged with Edna gets through and I hope that she does. You are sure having a wonderful time on your mission. Edna has wished many times she was with you. You won’t want to come home when your times up. I’d sure love to come and meet you when you come home. You see I can get a pass from here there & back. All I’d have to pay would be my eats & sleeps. But I’m afraid I’d have a hard time with three youngsters. Although they are pretty good boys when they are traveling. Elmo goes to school this winter and he got 8 in all his subjects for six weeks. I tell him next time he wants to get 9 & then 10 which is excellent. He don’t like to go very well as he has seven blocks to go and it’s pretty cold weather up here. Hyrum is a regular old man. He stays home and plays with the baby. He sure likes her & she them. She scolds like a little magpie. It’s 10:30 so I think I’ll turn in. If you can’t read this just burn it. As I don’t think I could after the ink dries.

Is Horace back in Chicago? Tell Emma hello for me. Did you get the pictures I sent you. I’d like to keep them. I’ll send you some of baby as soon as I get to it.

So write me a note once in a while so we will know what you are doing. Praying Gods blessings upon you til [sic] we meet again. Your loving sis & brother Julia & Jack"

Nov. 8, 1920 Edna wrote, ”Dear Otilla, I received your darling letter with open arms. I can’t tell you how glad I was to hear from you. Well Till I suppose ma has written and
told you Marion and my trouble. He sure has been a snake in the grass with me but after all is said and done, I think he will be punished according. I have applied for divorce. Marion stayed here up until the officers went to find him to serve the papers on him and through some of his crooked friends he got away before they served the papers. He has been gone now three weeks and I haven’t heard a thing concerning his whereabouts.

You see Otilla he got mixed up with another girl to which a baby boy was born.

Of course when he heard the officers were looking for him he imagined it was this girl that was after him that was why he fled. I think when he finds out it was only me applying for divorce he will be surprised and ashamed to come back to town.

I only hope I never see him again because it will be easy for me to forget him than if he was where I could see him once in a while. It has been three months on the 7th since he and I have lived together.

I have got a good job. I get $17.50 a week that is not so bad. I am working in a grocery store.

I have bought me a suit paid $77.00 for it and a pair of shoes. I’m getting along pretty good as far as finances are concerned.

It sure is hard for me to think that my life has turned out the way it has. I am rooming with a very sweet girl. We pay $20 for our room and we have the dearest little kitchen in the basement where we do all our own cooking. There is four of we girls together. We take a week about doing the cooking, last week was my roommate (Lottie) and my turn to do the cooking. This week the other two girls have got to do it.

We have what we call a cashbox and each week we put $2.50 a piece in this box which we use for buying the groceries with. Last week it cost me just $5 for board and room. I claim that is pretty good don’t you? We sure have some fun the four of us.

Phil is rooming with another girl I see her once in a while. Phil and I are intending on going home for Xmas. I wish you are going to be home.

When do you think you will get your release? It sure seems good to think it won’t be long now until you will be coming home. There has been a lot of changes take place since you have been away. Some writing you’ll have some time trying to read this. I am not feeling so well today. Last Tuesday I went out to Armen (sp) in a care with Lottie and caught a little cold. I sure do feel the bunk. Mr. Soelberg went down to Grantsville Wednesday night so I have the responsibility of the store. He would get back Monday morning. It makes it so good to think he places confidence in me like that. Well, I will close. Ans soon from a lonely sis. With love Edna 444 G St. Idaho Falls

No date on the letter, ”Roy’s home again he came to Ed’s while I was in there. There was a strike on in Nevada so he came home. He is working up at the Smelter with pa. It makes pa feel so good to have him home here to go with him to work. They go together and come back together it makes pa smile to have company.”

Nov. 15, 1920 Till wrote, ”I received a letter from Julia and Edna. It surely seemed good to hear from them again. I must take time to write to them. Edna seems to be taking her trouble pretty good. Although she signed her name your lonely sis. But I think it will be different when she gets her divorce and starts to go out with different ones. She said she and Phil were going home for Xmas. Julia said she would like to come and meet me when I am released. She said she could get a pass. But thought it would be rather hard to bring the children. It would be a hard trip with children. There
would be no end to work with them. I would love to have her, but you know mother it
would be hard to bring three small children. How I wish you could transfer her pass to
you and you come out and meet me. Oh, wouldn’t I love to take you around in Chicago
and the places of interest. It is wonderful mother and I wish you and daddy could both
make a trip back here...Doesn’t it seem a long time since we last ate dinner together at
Ed’s place? There are so many little things I could tell you but it seems that I can’t
express myself this way I should on paper. I must close now mother dear as Joe is
getting supper ready and I want to help her. I do hope and pray you are feeling better.
Was glad to hear that Roy is back home again. Tell him to drop his sis a line or he will
forget all about me and will not know me when I do come home. Hug little Fern for me.
My I’ll bet he has grown. Julia said Elmo was going to school. It doesn’t seem possible
does it. Give daddie a big bear hug from me and give my love to grandpa and
grandma. What do you think about me sending Xmas presents home? I would just love
to but I want to do just what you think best. I hope I can be as happy this Xmas as I
was last. Must close now and ask the choice blessings of our Heavenly Father to ever
be with you that you will enjoy health and strength and always realize the necessity of
living near him because that is when we are he happiest is when we are keeping His
commandments. I would love to hear from you soon, lots of love your daughter, Till
PS I trust you will spend a Happy happy Thanksgiving. Write and tell me all the news.”

Nov. 16, 1920 Ellen wrote, “I expect Julia home this week and Cora and kiddies. Did
I tell you Ed was in Cal. And Cora is going as soon as he sends her some money. Good
day from ma and pa xx Otilla the holidays are coming and I thought you girls would
have some parties so I am sending you a menu for a lunch. It is labeled to see the
different courses they will select. You pass this paper I am sending you around and let
them order what they want. You can make some copies of this one and don’t put the
pencil writing on that, it is the thing it calls for. I got this from Leon. They had this at a
party that Mrs. Jensen gave and she said it was more sport to see the different things
they would choose. So I got her to let me have one of them to send to you.
Mamma” (Here is the menu...1. Women of Grit...Sandwich 2. Independence...cracker 3.
Splitz. Toothpick 4. Germany’s Goat...bread butter 5. Looking backwards...salt 6. Hot
Shot...pepper 7. Dukes Mixture...salad 8. Water Works...onion 9. New Year’s
Resolution...water 10. Boston Overthrow...tea 11. Irish Sunbeams...scalloped potatoes
12. Mormon Substitute... cocoa 13. Danish Hospitality...coffee Special:
Leguminous Harmonium vulgaris...beans”

Ed and Cora’s daughter Gladys got small pox

Ed and Cora have had a tough couple of years. It was barely 2 years since they
almost lost their daughter Joyce who suffered with pneumonia, not long after their son
Floyd passed away, now Gladys gets small pox. That is a lot to deal with in such a
short time.

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Julia has been home, she came to get her machine and
washer and fruit. She said she had not heard from you for so long. I have not heard
from Edna for over a week. I do hope I hear soon as I feel a little worried for fear
Marion will come back and try to do her some harm. I hope he don’t. Pa says he is too
big a coward to do that. I will be glad when she comes home. I just can’t wait to see
her. I have so much to ask her about...When I went to the train to see Julia off, Polly Anderson came up to us and told us that she had got a letter from Cora that Gladys had smallpox. I can’t see where she got them. I do hope she get over them too. She intended to go to Ed by the last of this month. I expect her out here to see us before she went....I got a letter from Julie today she got home okay. I got a letter from Cora and she said Gladys had smallpox, but was getting along as well as she could. She wants to go to Ed and they are not quarantines as she did not have a doctor. I am afraid she will go too soon.”

On Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, ”I sincerely hope you had a happy Thanksgiving. I thought that Julia and Cora and the children would be with you but according to your letter, they were not. Where did you have dinner? I thought of you all day long and wondered what you were doing and thinking of the changes which have taken place in three years time. We have always had regular reunions if you didn’t have a house full it wouldn’t seem like Thanksgiving to you but one good thing it would save you from an awful lot of hard work which I know you are able to do. I spent a happy day. Emma and myself and the elders went out to Edgewater Beach Hotel for dinner and we enjoyed it immensely. The place is just beautiful and as I sat there beholding the beautiful surroundings I wished upon wish that you both could be there. I don’t suppose that you would enjoy anything of that kind daddy dear that it would be a splendid experience for you anyway...I was awfully sorry to hear that Gladys had smallpox. Joy where did she get “em”? I do hope Cora won’t take her out until she is entirely over them...I am glad that Roy is back home with you. I’ll bet it seems good to have him home. Has Ed a good job in California? Why did he quit up at the mine? Did the kiddies get my Thanksgiving cards? Tell little Fern I think of him often and wonder if I will know him when I come home.”

On Dec. 6, 1920 Till wrote, ”It won’t be long now until you’ll have Edna home with you. I’ll bet it will seem good to have her home again. Bless her heart I would love to see her. Is Julia coming home for Christmas? I wish they could all be home and I know you would enjoy it more...Tell Roy I am still alive and that he owes me a letter. I would love to hear from him. Has he a girl yet? Just imagine he is twenty years old. It doesn’t seem possible. Tell him he will have to hurry if he marries as young as his eldest brother. How is little toe head Fern. How does he like school? I would love to get another sweet letter from him like the one he wrote me sometime ago when he told me about Roy’s ride in the aeroplane.[sic]”

Dec. 6, 1920 Edna wrote, ”Just a line in answer to your darling letter I received a few days ago. You can’t imagine how glad I am to get your letter Otilla they seem so sweet and consoling. Always full of such sweet thoughts and advise from a younger sis.

I don’t know why I should have all this trouble that I am. But along with it all I have been blessed. I am getting pretty good money and it doesn’t cost us kids a great deal to live. We can board our selves on $10 a week there is four of us and that is $2.50 a piece. So it cost me just $20.00 a month for board and room. We have a lovely room. I don’t know if I told you about our plans or not in my last letter. We do all our own cooking. We sure do have good times together. I really do believe I would have died if I hadn’t met up with these girls. And Mrs. Armstrong is sure good to us. She is just like a mother. I sure get gloomy and lonely at times as it is. But I wouldn’t let Ma know it for
the world as she worries too much any way. But I console myself by knowing that every
dog has his day and Marion will get his in time to come. And I think it is close at hand.

I never see Phil anymore. She might just as well be in one town and me in another
for what little I see her. But then I have a very dear little girl rooming with me. She sure
is sweet. She is a Mormon girl, is a good singer. She is sitting here beside me now
busy getting her short hand. She is taking the same course you took. I sure do like her.

I had thanksgiving dinner with her at her mother’s home. We sure had a lovely
dinner and a nice time. But I was wondering what Ma and all you were doing and where
Marion could be and all that kind of stuff.

A year ago I had dinner with him just think Otilla how dear and friendly we have been
with each other and now we have got to go through the world like strangers. I don’t
suppose I will ever see him again and I think it is better that I don’t. I sure will be glad
when you get home so I can talk to you and tell you every thing. I saw his little babe
Otilla and I think that perhaps if I had of been blessed with children that maybe they
would have looked like that little fellow. Oh how hard it is in a way. Well dear enough
said good night. Love Edna"

Roy was really good to Till on her mission and besides sending her letters he sent
her money. Till’s sister Edna writes, "We are expecting Roy home for xmas I do hope
he comes as it has been so long since I saw him. Has he sent any more money to you?
I thought that was so sweet of him.

Roy also sent Till presents for Christmas Till wrote, "That big brother of mine is to be
commended for his thoughtfulness to his sis”.

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote, "You asked me if Ed had a good job. Yes he slipped in on
us all. He wrote to Cora and told her to store all their things and come out here and
stay until he sent her some money to come on. So she did, she left in there at 7 o’clock
Friday evening and he got in Salt Lake at 6 Saturday morning. Of course he went right
to the house and found her gone. So he told the landlord that he would take the house
again and called Cora up and told her not to take her trunk from the depot as he was
coming out to get her Monday. So they went back Monday and pa had to give him $20
to live on until he could earn some. He said that he never got in such a ruff place in all
his life. He was sure glad to get back home. We sure had a good laugh at Roy and him
here. I told you pa was on midnight shift. Well he was up getting ready to go and I
asked Ed and Cora if they did not want a cup of cocoa and some new bread and butter.
So they was just as busy as they could be when Roy came in from down town. He
stood in the middle of the floor with both hands in his over coat pocket turned on first
one foot and then on the other. And he grinned all over his face and then he said to Ed.
It feels mighty good to come home and have some of mothers good bread don’t it after
having a long trip? and then I wish you could have heard them both laugh. Your pa
sure had a good laugh at them. We was so glad to see him to help him out. He said
that he was so glad to get back home that when he got off the train in Salt Lake if his
arms had been long enough he would have hugged the depot in there. He said I sure
have learned a good lesson this time. That trip cost him all he had and was left with out
a thing to live on. I guess it will be a long time before another fellow will get him on a
wild goose chase like that. He got 8 dollars a day the first week but after that he could
not get much to do. He said there was 3 men for every job...No Ottila, Julia and Cora
did not come out for thanks giving we had dinner all to ourselves. Cora had Gladys with
smallpox and Julia was out the week before. So I went down to the shop and got as a nice turkey and I made some mince meat and cake and pudding how you like it and Roy and Fern and myself had dinner all ourselves...We ate all the turkey or I would have sent you some of it was just a small one. Pa said it don’t matter if we are all alone, ma must make a big job out of it anyway, it would not seem right if we did not have some thing to eat just because we are all alone.”

On Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, “I was glad to hear that Ed has returned home. Will you please send me their address. Will they be home for Xmas do you think? I had to laugh at what you said about Ed saying if his arms had been long enough he would have hugged the depot. I’ll bet that cup of cocoa and delicious home made bread did taste mighty good. Honestly it seems that you will never get through loaning money. I wish we would all get to where we could keep ourselves for once....I received a nice letter from Edna the other day. Bless her heart I feel so sorry for her. She likes her work fine and says the little girl that stays with her is a lovely girl. I was glad to hear that she was getting along so well. I wish I could just talk to her a few minutes. She will be home I guess soon and you will be mighty glad... I am going to send home just a little remembrance to you for Xmas I haven’t finished shopping yet but will finish this week...I trust that you will have a very happy Xmas and a prosperous and happy New Year. May our Father in Heaven bless you abundantly with every needful blessing. Please give grandma and grandpa and all the folks at home my very best regards... Emma and everyone sends best regards to you and dear old daddie.”

Dec. 17, 1920 Fern wrote, “Dear Otilla, How are you? School has closed for Xmas and I am going to have a good time I hope. We had a tree down to school and I had to sing a song for them. Please write me and tell me what you want for Xmas. Ma is making some pies and Roy has just got up for supper and papa is up to work. Love to you and I’ll close my letter. Your loving brother, Fern Roy says hello and so did mama and papa.”

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, “I don’t think Ed and family will be home for Christmas as they are moving to Provo as Ed has got work there at the railroad company. We had to send him some money to move on as he did not have it. He was paying $27.50 for that house in there and he had to pay $50 for his room a week and $45 for board. So he could not stand that, so he wanted Cora to come there to save so much expense.”

1921

Jan. 1, 1921 Ellen wrote Till, "Edna has been pressing her things. Roy is going to work today. I don’t know if he will be able to keep his job or not? I know this was the day that all that was laid off would stay out home but he is going out. I must close as I expect Roy home for dinner and it is two o’clock. So good day. May the Lord ever bless you is the wish of your ma and pa. Edna says hello she is looking for a letter from you.”

Jan 5, 1921 Julia wrote, "Will try to drop you a few lines to let you know we received your darling Christmas box. It was surely lovely of you to remember us all the way you did. We certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness of us. I was very sorry I didn’t get your parcel off in time for Xmas. But little Bernice was sick and I couldn’t get the combing (sp?) jacket done in time. I never got her out of my arms for a week. I was making me a
dress and I sat till 430 New Year’s Eve trying to finish it for New Year’s night. I got it done and it was two hours late for the party we were invited to. Nevertheless I got the dress done. The boys were sure tickled over their books and candy. They are sure growing, you won’t know them. I’m ashamed I haven’t got a picture of the baby and send you it yet. But I just put it off. Till I never get anything done. Well dear sis I will try to drop you a few lines more. Elmo came home from school with a fever and headache so I didn’t get your letter finished yesterday. So we’ll try to drop you a few more lines. We got a lovely Xmas box from Edna and mother. They both gave Bernice a dear Ring. They look so pretty on her little white hand. I got a letter from mother the other day telling me you had been released. I guess you will be glad to get home. Mother said you don’t like the way you were released. Poor old Bishop thought he was giving you a Xmas gift. I suppose by releasing you at once you didn’t seem to appreciate it very much. I’ll be glad when you get home. So you and the folks can come up and see us, if Horace will trust you out of his sight that long. Ha Ha! Well the dear boy loves my little sis I guess, but he shows too much. I guess you have the parcel I sent you by now. Twasn’t [sic] much but would have been more had I been able to done my shopping.

I expect Edna tomorrow on their way back to Idaho Falls. She is looking very much better then she did. She has no idea where Marion is. She still loves the beast after all the disgrace he has heaped upon her. I don’t see how she can ever respect him. It was pretty hard for her Xmas time. I only hope she never sees him again. He certainly was an absent minded critter. You can’t believe the things he did till you get home and talk with Edna yourself.

The boys are standing here writing their A B C’s and I’m the teacher, so I may wander a little in my writing. You want to let us know when you are leaving as I want to send you something to come home on. So please let us know. I don’t know if I will be able to meet you in Salt Lake if you come home soon or not on account of Elmo going to school. If I don’t I’ll sure be ready to leave as soon as school is out.

It’s time to get dinner again, so will close this scribbling. Hoping to see you soon and hear from you sooner. With love from us all, your loving sister Julia Xxxxxx kisses from the boys & Bernice”

Jan. 26, 1921 Till’s mission was coming to an end and she would be home with her family. She wrote, "Dear folks at home. Emma and I have ceased our work in the office. Pres. Smith told us that we could have our own time now for 10 days to do our shopping and visit and say goodbye to our friends. It seems good to have a day off. We have been downtown shopping or I mean looking around. We were looking for suits. The weather is just beautiful here, how is out home?”

Feb. 26, 1921 Ellen wrote, "Dear Edna we got your dear letter yesterday was sure glad to hear from you and to hear you have got moved in so nice a place. I do hope you’ll be happy now. You said in your letter that you wanted Otilla to come up there as soon as she could. I think she will come next week sometime. We have been quite busy we don’t get much done as we stand and talk most of the time. But I guess we must shake ourselves and get to work. I had to go downtown today and get in the bank before it closed and left Otilla mopping the kitchen when I came back in the house I called Otilla and I did not get any answer so I called again and Roy had just got up and he said Otilla is gone to Salt Lake. I said you are just fooling. He said no I ain’t, she went to Salt Lake. I tell you I could not believe him but when I could not find her, I had to
believe him. He said that Mr. Lee and Horace came over and wanted her to go with them so she hurried and got ready and told me to tell you where she was at and it made me mad at first, but I guess it is all right. At least I hope it is they are coming back tonight. We will send you a card if she decides to come up next week. Well Edna we had Mr. Marion up to see us he sure feels bad but that don’t change his condition. I sure fell sorry for him but that don’t change his affairs. I can’t see for the life of me why he want to try and deny the truth when the girl told you that he was the father to her baby and you say that it looks like him. So I can’t see for the life of me why he wants to try and deny it all. I told him that she was not the only girl he was out with that you had met him on the street with other girls. I told him that he had a bad name here before he left and that he did not make it any better up there. We had a long talk. He seems to think that all he needs to do is to say he can prove he is innocent. I asked him how he was going to do that. He said through his Heavenly Father. I don’t think he can get proof enough to clear it up all the mistakes he’s done. I told him I hoped he could. He seems to think that he can’t live with out you and that he wants you to go back to him. I told him you could not think of doing that as all your friends would look down on you as they all had lots of respect for you now but if you would go back to him they would all look down on you as he had gone too far for you to think of forgiving him enough to live with him. More importantly you could never trust him again. I have worried all day about it and Otilla told me to ask Bro. Arm for advise so when I was in the bank today Bro. Arm came in and I called him to one side and laid my case before him and told him that we had advised you to leave him and that you had a lawyer to handle it. He told me that he did not think you could ever be happy with him again as you could never trust him and you were taking a big chance of getting diseased from him. He said Sister Shields I think you and brother Shields has taken the right step to advise her not to go back to him as you (Edna) could get a man that you could look up to and who would treat you right and go to the temple with and he knew that you would be happy that you was too good a women to waste your life with him the way he has done. He said take my advise Sister Shields and don’t let your daughter go back to him and you will come out all right. He said he might be broken hearted now and try and get your sympathy through that way but that did not make his case any better. I told Pa when he came home and he said that was just the way he looked at it. So Edna don’t let him talk you into something that you will be sorry for the rest of your life. I must close as I can’t put anymore in this letter. I hope you will look at this in the same spirit I wrote it in. Good night ma and pa”

March 15,1921 Till wrote, "I read the letter daddie wrote to Marion. I don’t think it is severe at all. You couldn’t have written a better letter and you couldn’t have done anything else. We haven’t been to the lawyer yet. Phil and all of us are trying to coax Edna to hurry up and get her divorce and be through with him. But she says he will fight it and he is low enough to bring up every little thing and she wants to wait until he gets work. But I don’t think he will get work for some time. He is staying with his sister. I met her in the store last week and she wants to have us over. She asked us several times to come over and see her. Uncle Charlie lives right on the corner from the apartment we live in. But I haven’t been over to see them yet. Honestly it seems we are so busy that we don’t have time to do any calling. We all work and are gone all day long and come
home in the evening and hurry and get supper and clean up and go somewhere or someone comes.

Mr. Copedge has a very nice friend and he asked me if I thought my sister would go to the Elks ball with him. I told him I didn’t know whether she would dare or not. He said he wouldn’t do anything to cause her trouble but he wished we could make a party of it. Phil hasn’t an invitation the Elks ball yet but I hope she gets one because it would be nice for us all to go together. I told Edna that Mr. Copedge wanted her to go with his friend she said you bet your life I’ll go. You see Marion wouldn’t be there because it is just for the Elks. Marion was to the dance Saturday night and he came up and asked Edna Phil and I to dance with him. But Hurrah every one of us have all of our dances and four extras. He hung around after the dance to see that Edna didn’t go home with anyone. She went home with Mr. Copedge and I. And she held Mr. Copedge’s coat and hat while he stood in the check line waiting for our things. I wish you could have seen the expression on Marion’s face. It was funny. I guess he thought she was going home with him. We went out and Marion and another fellow followed us down to Howard’s ice cream parlor and we had something to eat, then we came home and as he came along the street, Marion was standing on the corner and said good night to us.

Edna has all kinds of chances to go out with fellows but she can’t on account of not having her divorce. I think she is foolish. She says she will never go back to him but she wants to wait until she can make him pay for the divorce.

I went to Sunday school with Edna and Phil they surely have a splendid crowd. I talked to Phil’s Sunday school class and got along nicely. I have met some lovely people and like the place here just fine. Everyone makes mention of how Edna and I look-alike. A Mr. Bowman that I met said ‘we have been waiting and waiting to see you. And I said oh, did you know I was coming and he said I should say the whole town knows it. Different people go into the store and tell Edna that they saw her sister down the street. They knew it was her because we look so much alike.

I am not sure whether I will stay or not. I surely want to, but I do hate to be so selfish and leave you and daddie alone cause it is lonesome for you to. But if I get along good in the office I will hate to leave because Mr. Patten said he wouldn’t want to teach me the work and just as I got on to it leave him. So if I can do the work satisfactorily I will have to stay. Will you send me my dress as soon as possible? Lots of love to all and write soon Till”

Till’s friend Phil (Phyllis) wrote March 17, 1921 and kept Ellen informed on her how she, Edna and Till were getting along as they lived together in Idaho Falls she writes, “This is the busiest place in seven states today, men are chasing around like a lot of geese with their heads off. You see Idaho Falls is holding a big Spring Festival the 16th 17 and 19, and the big event takes place today that of dedicating this beautiful new courthouse. The governor will speak and at night a big ball on the marble floor of the courtroom will finish off the day. Tomorrow evening Til [sic] and Edna are to attend a big Elks Ball, but poor me-I am in a play for the mutual and must go to dress rehearsal, however the next night Til [sic] and I are going to the Junior prom. I had a dickens of a time arranging it so that we could go with out it looking like I was just asking someone to take my chum. But the opportunity came when a real good-looking Mormon boy with black hair and eyes-named Parley Rigby- asked me to go and when I said that I had a partner he said Gee I wish you were twins-so I hurried and said-Well I am, then I told
him about Till and he said “Hurrah I’ll take her, fix it up for me to meet her soon will you Phil? He is tall and very nice, the manager of the Farmers Grain Company for Eastern Idaho. I’m sure they will like each other.

Mother we have the cutest little apartment you ever saw, and would be very happy if that nut of a Marion would only leave town. He just watches around and makes me nervous, but believe me if he gets to see Edna at all it is when he goes into the store where she is working. Every time we go to a dance, he is right on the job. He asked me to dance and Oh how I hated to, but he has such a nasty temper that I did it to save a scene and he nearly balled and begged my pardon for the way he has treated me and the things he has said—but I don’t trust him and feel that when my back is turned that he is trying to turn my friends against me—but he can’t do it. He tried it before. Lots of boys-good boys have told Edna that he is no good. Some way Marion has a power over her when she is with him, but I don’t think she really loves him any more, and is contented and happy when he isn’t standing owl-eyed around watching her. Edna looks so pretty now and every one likes her. We have the biggest crowd around us at the dances, and all the church people just treat us royal.

Til [sic] talked to my Sunday school class Sunday, and several of my 14-year-old boys told me that-Sister Shields was some class, and hope that she would help me teach write a long.

Florence Joslin, Edna, Till, myself and my friend DeLance Jolly went to dance last week and a dark complexion man that had been in Chicago developed a case on Til [sic] at first sight. He was very nice. Well Marion hung around but we all had our dances and Edna couldn’t give him one either, well when the dance was out, Mr. Marion waited to see who Edna was going home with, but oh how we fooled him. Til [sic] and Edna went with the new man, and that put Marion out for he didn’t dare walk up and ask Edna to walk with him. I don’t believe she would but then it is best to always arrange things so that he don’t have a chance. He is certainly a low creature, and no one knows what I have had to go through on his account, I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if he told a lot of lies about me while he was at home, but this much he didn’t accomplish -He didn’t have the power to make Edna listen to any of his lies about me causing trouble and he couldn’t break us up as far as our friendship is concerned, and oh how good it seems to have Til [sic] here, she can influence Edna so easy, for Edna is depending a great deal on the Lord to help her out and Til [sic] being just home for a mission can put in just the right words to help matters along. I believe Til [sic] could talk Edna into most anything.

We all went to church Sunday and then last night we took Till to the Colonial- a great big theatre and heard a girl sing. Till said she would be frightened and I’m going to arrange for her to meet Mr. Lewis the manager real soon...

They want Til [sic] to sing at the L.D.S auditorium soon, Mr. Morley asked me about it this morning and if I thought she would. Well mother-we are all well and happy and after wishing for you many, many happy birthdays I will close, Kiss Pa Shields where the hair is thin on his head for me. As ever Phyllis ”

From Idaho Falls Edna wrote on March 18, 1921, ”Darling Ma, Pa and all at home- Just a line tonight to let you know I am well and always thinking about you and wondering how you all are. So Roy is in Salt Lake, well Ma, Otilla and I are as happy as larks together. She has got a very good job. I think she was lucky to come up here on Wednesday and go to work Saturday morning. She likes it fine and believe me her
boss sure likes her. She and Phil is out to the junior prom tonight. Otilla sure looked sweet. I got her some swell pink roses to wear. She went with a very good looking young man by the name of Rigby. He is dark, has pretty brown eyes and black hair. I have been going to write to you ever since Otilla came but we have been so busy and on the go so much that I didn’t think we will go over Sunday as Aunt Ruth called me up today and invited us over for Sundays dinner. Now Ma don’t be worrying about my trouble because I will never go back to Marion. I think after a while I will get my divorce. I want to get me a dress and several things then after that I will go on with my divorce. I am feeling fine happy as a lark and I am getting fatter all the time.

Otilla and I look more a like now then we ever did. Every one remarks how much we look alike.

Well ma dear, I thought of yours and Daddies dear birthday, both dates every time I put them down at the store my thoughts were with you both so you can imagine how many times I thought of you both those two days.

Well I will close as it is late and I am tired. Mr. Soelberg is in Grantsville again so I have to open the store in the morning and 8:00 o’clock comes soon. So good night with love, Edna 33 George apts.”

March 21, 1921 Idaho Falls Till wrote, ”Your dear letter was received yesterday and we were surely glad to hear from you and to know dear old daddie is feeling a little better. I do wish he could eat something more than he does.

I guess you were rather surprised when I called up over the phone weren’t you. But I was invited to two formal parties and of course needed my dress. I am having a nice time. The dances are surely dandy. Lots of nice fellows and good dancers. The Mr. Copedge I told you about has come up for the last time. He came up Saturday night and he is going away. Said he was sorry that he would love to be here this summer and that he had enjoyed the pleasant association of my company very much. I hated to see him go because he is surely a splendid man. And such a wonderful dancer and looked so graceful and nice on the floor. We had a dandy time at the Prom. I went with a Mr. Rigby and O, mother he is just handsome. He came up in a closed roadster car and joy he surely is a prince of a fellow. Real dark, religious N’everything but he has so many girls wild over him that I doubt if I would stand a ghost of chance. He was in the office Saturday when I went back at noon and Mr. Patten (my boss), said he came in to see me. That he had inquired about me and told him he thought I was a splendid girl. I have a dandy position but the work is surly technical. I learn something new every day and it makes me wonder how I am ever going to remember everything. We haven’t come to any understanding yet as I don’t know how much he is going to pay me. But I hope it is a good wage and as soon as I get paid, I will try and send you a bit. I was glad to hear that Roy got something to do. We had a wonderful time at the dance Saturday nite. It was a confetti dance and was more durn fun. Sunday we all got up and went to Sunday School and we went to the Theological class and lo and behold they called on me to talk to the class. Gilbert Orme was there and he was glad to see me. I also seen Cecil Orme & Arthur at a carnival dance at the courthouse last Wednesday night. Yesterday about 430 Ed and I were invited over to uncle Charlie’s for dinner. It surely was a lovely dinner which she served chicken, mashed potatoes gravy fruit salads, peas, bread butter dressing, peaches and cake. We had a dandy visit with them. Ruth is feeling pretty good and her sister and her beau were there also her father.
I had a good gospel conversation with him. I sang for them and they seem to enjoy it so much.

Uncle Ed came into the office to see me Saturday. I was surely glad to see him. I had a long talk with him. He wants me to go to Iona some Sunday. He is going to drive in, in his machine and get us. We are bothered with Marion very much. Edna has decided since she received yours and daddies letter that she will get her divorce but she still thinks she will wait until the he gets work. He was at the dance in the courthouse and I danced with him and he told me Edna had broken his heart. I told him he had done things enough to break her heart and he said he knew it, but he never would marry anyone else. I told him I thought the best thing for them to do was to start all over again for him to live so he could get him another wife. He said no he would never love another woman like he does Edna, but I told him the best thing for them to do was to live apart because the least thing and all of this would be rehearsed. He was reasonable and said yes he guessed it would. He told me he had talked to the Bishop again and had been ordained an elder and was having his recommend transferred up here (the liar). I don’t believe the Bishop would let a character such as he is to hold the Holy Melchesidek Priesthood. He smelled of booze while he was talking to me.

There is no need of you worrying about Edna she’s using good judgment. We are all happy together here and have a dandy time.

Gladys is making teddy bears and she is parading around here in them. I don’t know what to do about having you send my trunk. But I think I ought to help you with your house cleaning yet if I get a good salary I could hire someone to help you and would be ahead.

I want to come home for Conference because I wouldn’t miss the missionary reunion. I saw Wilford Davis at the dance. He said he had been down to see Emma & that she was looking fine. I hope she had a good time in Salt Lake. Give my love to all and answer soon. Mr. Wasson is in Lovell today I think. Lots of love Till”

March 26, 1921 Ellen wrote Till and Edna saying, ”Are you coming down for conference, let me know as I want to go in if Pa is so I can leave him alone. Why don’t Edna write Pa he is looking for an answer from her. I do hope you girls will not mix up with Marion. I don’t know what people will say when they see you girls dance with him. Pa said for you all to keep as far away from you him as you could and don’t give him the idea he can come and mix with you in the dances. As for him being ordained an Elder, He sure don’t know what he is talking about. He don’t seem to know that they don’t do things that way. He must be well known before he could be put in any kind of a office. Pa sure did laugh when he read that part of the letter, he said it shows how much he knows about these things. I hope you do come down to conference and bring Edna with you as I would love to see her and tell her that Pa wants her to get that divorce and don’t wait for him as he will never give her cooperation to do a thing with, he is too cheap a guy. Let me know if you got your dresses. I sent you. Horace was over to see us last night he wanted to know if you was coming home for conference I told him what you said in your letter. Kiss the girls for me, love to you all. Hope you have a good time. Pa wanted to know if Edna went to the Elk Ball and had a good time. Good day Ma and Pa “

April 17, 1921 Idaho Falls Till wrote, ”Dearest Parents; It is Sunday afternoon and we have just finished dinner. It has rained since Sunday School but that has also ceased so I thought I would drop you a few lines so you will get it tomorrow.
Mr. Davis and Latamar called up and wanted Phil and I to go for a ride but we didn’t want to leave Edna so I told them we didn’t want to leave her. They only had a roadster so there was hardly room for five. So I told him we would go some other time. In a little while he called me again and said the seat was nice and wide and would I let them come up and they would take us one at a time. Said you come first and then we’ll take which ever one wants to go next. So I got cleaned up a bit and it started to rain so I told Phil to call them up and tell them not to come. So she did and since then it has ceased raining and the sun is trying to shine. We went to Sunday school and I sang during the passing of the sacrament. I sang “Rock of Ages” Edna played for me. We got along nicely.

I never worked at all last week and positions are very scarce but I am going to do special stenographic work for awhile. I am going to work this coming week for Mr. Southerland. Joy I haven’t been nearly so contended since coming back. My mind kept reverting back to the good times I had in Salt Lake and the big party which was to take place at the Hotel Utah last Friday. I got a lovely letter from D Reese he said he could easily see why they wanted to keep me in Idaho Falls but he said we want you here in Utah too, will you come? Joy it is some temptation. He said they were having some splendid parties coming up around school and he really wanted me to be a party in their parties. I don’t dare mention leaving here. Phil and especially Edna get disgusted with me when I even suggest leaving. I’d like to work in Salt Lake if I could get me a position. I hope you won’t say anything about what President Jensen said to me cause it might get back to him and I don’t want him to think I am in elated over it. I know him very well mother. In fact well enough that I know I like “em’ and know he has a wonderful brain and the ability to make a happy future. He is everything I have wanted. Tall, large dark complexion, well educated, can take me through the Temple. Will hold a position in the world and have the respect of everyone. His purpose for staying another year (I think) was that he thought I would come to Salt Lake that we could become better acquainted.

Last nite we went to the dance and who should be there but Pres. Allen. An Elder who was President of Northern Illinois conference. I had a dandy talk with him. He was surprised to see me, he had his girlfriend with him. She was a nice little girl. Sr. Hansen was also at the dance. Bish Frank was there, also Mr. Davis. We had a good time. Mr. Hahan brought us home in his closed in roadster.

Edna is feeling fine in it won’t be long before she gets her divorce. I surely feel sorry for Emma having to stay in Tooele. I know just how lonesome she is. I wonder who told Elder Horsley about her. I think he gathered it from just what she has told him. I can imagine how she feels. Because Harris is a splendid fellow and D Reese says he is liked very much. He wanted me to write so I just dropped him a little note. I wrote to him Friday and mail it yesterday. Maybe he will answer and maybe he won’t. He is certainly nice to everyone. I was so glad to hear that daddy is feeling better and I surely had to laugh at your description as you sat reading my letter. But mother dear you surely look pretty at the reunion and I’m mighty proud of “ye”. Did daddy like your hat? Well I must close as the kids want me to go for a walk.

Because Harris is a splendid fellow and DRees says he is liked very much. He wanted me to write so I just dropped him a little note. I wrote to him Friday and mailed it yesterday. Maybe he will answer and Maybe he won’t, he is certainly nice to “everyone”. I was so glad to hear that Daddie is feeling better. And I surely laugh at
your description as you sat reading my letter. But mother dear you surley looked Pretty at the reunion and I’m mighty proud of “ye”. Did daddie like your hat? Well I must close as the kids want me to go for a walk.

I received a lovely letter from Sr. Crim. It was a strange thing. DRees & I were just talking about her the nite of the 7th and on the 8th she said she couldn’t get me out of her mind so she just had to write to me. She was blue and said her heart got weaker all the time and she guessed I was another of those dear friends that she would never again see in this life. I wrote her a long letter. Tell everyone hello. Uncle Charlie is going to let us have his piano this summer. We have been over there twice. They feel fine. Write soon. Lots of love, Till. The girls send their love to you.”

Edna received her divorce

April 24, 1921, Idaho Falls, "Darling Mother, Daddie and all: Just a line to let you know we are both well feeling fine. Well it is Sunday we all three went to Sunday School this morning and can you guess what they put me in, as teacher. Phil and I are teaching the same class and Otilla is teaching another class. We did intend on going to mutual this evening but Otilla had company and he stayed so late that we missed it. So she and I went to a show. We just got home.

I thought I had better write you before going to bed. Mr. Soelberg is in Utah again. He told me he was going up to Tooele and was going to call and see you folks. That leaves me in care of the store again.

Mr. Dave Adamson was up here Friday and Saturday. He came up and had supper with us Friday evening and then he took Otilla Phil and myself out to dinner with him. Saturday at noon we sure had a nice visit with him. Well Mother and Daddie I have good news to tell you. I am now a free woman. I got my divorce Saturday afternoon April 23. I am sure glad to think that it is all over with. It only took about seven minutes to get it. Marion didn’t appear at all so it was a very easy case. It will cost me $35.00 I have paid him $15.00 so I think he let me off kind of easy.

Of course he (Marion) will have to pay the cost of court which is $150.00 and $25.00 alimony which takes effect May the 1st. When he pays the $150.00 I will get my fifty dollars back again. So if anyone asked you what it cost tell them $150.00 because my lawyer favored me that much. I will pay this myself. Now Ma I will close with Love and best regards. Edna Shields”

April 24, 1921, Till wrote from Idaho Falls, "Dearest Mother Daddie & all: Well it has skipped around to Sunday again my only chance it seems for writing.

How is everything and everybody? I do hope daddie is feeling better. I think about him so much also you mother. The other day when I received your letter I just had a good cry. I couldn’t help but think what a selfish daughter you have. And I think Decoration Day or even sooner will find me either in Salt Lake or Tooele. At least near enough so I can see you once a week anyway.

10:45 I started this letter to you while I was waiting for Mr. Foster this afternoon so he came and I didn’t get a chance to finish it. So decided I would finish it before returning.

Last week was just one round of jollification. We were on the go every nite. Thursday nite we had a little party here in honor of Florence Hanselmen. We had a dandy good time. But the happiest surprise of all was the fact that Elder Jackson
dropped in. He didn’t want to stay when he found out we were going to have a party but O my, had he gone away I should have been awfully hurt. I guess I would dared to claw him. He came up to the office the next day and took me out to dinner also gave me a beautiful box of candy. I had such a good visit with him. The next day Dave Adamson came to town and we invited him up to have supper with us. We had a real nice one then he took us out to dinner the next day. I told him to swing on your neck for me. O, no that was Elder Jackson I told to do that. He said he was going to Tooele Saturday. Did he come?

I haven’t a steady position yet but am doing special stenographic work. I am working now for Mr. Southerland of the Riley Silver Mines Corp. He is certainly grand to me and said how nice my letters were written. He wasn’t in the office when closing hour came so I just put his letters on his desk & left. Don’t say anything about him wanting to take me out because you know what would be said about it. I hear Jack Adams is in Tooele. I wish I could have seen him when he first saw Emma. So she is going to Salt Lake, I don’t blame her at all. I surely would if I was her. I am tempted to come down there with her. D Reese wants me to be there for their school parties and I would kind of like to be there too. I received a very nice letter from Marion Harris. He said he would love to see me come to Zion among the pure in heart. Said he would like to know me “more better.” And that he would like to take me out to “Becks” Hot Springs swimming.

We are all going swimming tomorrow nite [sic]. I am going to learn so I can when I do get home. Mr. Rigby whom I told you took me to the Junior Prom met Harris in Logan just recently. So he came into the office the other day and told me where there was a position and said he met someone in Logan who knew me.

Edna has written and told you all about her divorce I guess, so I won’t take time for that. There was nothing to it at all.

I was surely surprised to hear of Leon’s marriage. We saw it in the paper. Congratulate the old kid for me.

We are all fine and dandy and do hope you are feeling good. Must close as the other kids are in bed. Lots of love and write soon too. Till"

May 31, 1921 Julia wrote, “Dearest Sisters, just a few lines this morning in an answer to your darling letter I received some time ago. Was sure glad to hear from you and know you are all OK. So you have moved? I hope you have more room. I guess you have or you would not of moved. We are all tore up. They are moving a petition to put in the bath and paper the bedroom. It sure needed it though. A bath is the main thing in a house these days.

But they don’t have to do it in this burg, although houses that is furnished houses are plentiful now. Jack said he was a notion to sell this furniture and rent furnished rooms. We can get three rooms and bath furnished for 25 and we are paying 30 for this shell.

I am trying to get my last week ironing done, while I’m waiting on the iron I’m scratching you a little news. Bernice runs all over now. She is sure sweet, I got her some little rompers and she sure looks cute in them. Hyrum has her out riding in the wagon. She just lives outdoors these fine days. It sure seems good after all the cold weather we have had.

Mother said father wasn’t feeling so well again. I do wish we could do something to get him away from that Smelter. He is committing slow suicide staying there.
Have you got your divorce Edna? I hope you have by now, and it is all over with. Write and tell us all about it. Jack may go to Samaria for four or five days Friday. I wish you kids would run down. Try to will you please. I must get some housecleaning done now, while this good weather lasts. Write soon and tell me all your troubles. Your loving bro and sis Jack Julia and family"

Julia wrote to Edna and Till when she was finally able to get the chance saying on Aug. 20, 1921, "Dear Edna & Till, Just a few lines while I'm getting the baby to sleep. I was surely glad to get your long looked for letter. I had begun to think you had all decided you wouldn't write to me anymore. I have had three letters with yours since I was down home in July average one a month. Only I got yours one day and one from Mother the next. I was surely hungry for a letter from you all. I've been so busy I haven't taken the time to write so while I'm getting the baby to sleep I thought I'd drop you a few lines. I have four men to cook for besides my other work.

By the way Edna have you got the Dr. Dentons nighties for boys in 8 year old? I can't get any here for Elmo. Let me know if you have & how much they are & I'll send you the money to get me some.

I'm coming down home next month to get my fruit & Emmaline is coming back with me, so I will nail up the windows as I don't suppose any one will rent it. The houses on Glen wood are renting for $10 dollars. So there isn't a chance for us to rent ours I don't suppose.

Has Mother gone home to Tooele yet? I sent her some money to Provo and I hope she got it as I sent a card to be signed and it hasn't got back yet. I sent one the taxes the same day & I got it back Tuesday.

Would you both come up here to work if I'd get you a job with good wages? I think they still pay $65 in the stores here. If you are sure you want to come up here to work, I'll get you a job. That's as soon as this strike is settled. I hope they don't have one. But I am afraid they will, as they are cutting wages again and living hasn't came down only 1% since August. So that isn't much help on the side of 20% reduction in wages.

We are having fine weather here now. How is Ephriam getting along, is he going to school in Salt Lake. I hope you and he make the Hitch OK Till.

I hope you write a little more often then you have been. Or I'll paddle the two of you when I come down there next month. Hope you are both having the best of health as we all are at present. Your Loving Bro. & Sis Jack, Julia & Kidies I took Bernice's picture playing with two cats, if they are good will send you one."

Tough times for the Shield Family

Edna and Otilla lived in Salt Lake City at 745 South 2nd East. Times were hard financially for the Shields family. Edna and Otilla borrowed money from their Aunt Hattie, because they didn't have enough money to live on. Ellen and John could not help them as John was in a temporary job, Ellen did not know if it would last another couple of weeks. On top of that, Cora and Ed got robbed at Salt Air and could not pay back the money they owed Ellen and John.

Aug. 30, 1921 Ellen wrote to Till and Edna, "I sure do hope you girls have work by this time. Did you not get me letter I sent to you the next day after I came home? I told you we got home all O K. I sent it to that address you gave me and one for Hortence
and them. When I got your letter I went and told them at the post office the right address and there was one for Hortence there and they put the right address on it. I told them to send all 3 of yours to you, so I don’t see any of it as they keep it there and send it back with the next mail...Mr. Brown came up to see me and the folks told him I was down to the lawn party. So he came up Saturday after noon. He had his baby with him and she went to sleep here and he laid her on the lounge while he was here. Emma came down for her books for to get her lesson. Mr. Brown brought his wife home, he told me she was sure glad to get home. He said that all the folks where she was did not have much to get along with and that she sure did feel glad to get home and that she was going to stay home as he expects to be up at the mine this winter and that he wants pa to stay with him too. He sure likes pa he told me he could not of gotten another man that could help him as pa does. He told me that if he made good at the mine, he may sell and leave and move to SLC to live. I told him that if he intends to keep pa up there, that I was going to go in there and stay with my girls. He told me that if he could keep pa there this winter, he sure did need him. He said that if he made good, that it would mean lots to us too, as he sure did like pa. I sent pa some clean clothes by mail Saturday and a letter. I hope he will write to me and tell me what he is going to do. I will rent this house and come in there where he can come down once in a while to see us.

I got a letter from Cora and she told me that the day they went out the lake and someone got into Ed’s pocket and took all he had in them and he had to borrow money to pay for their room and to get home on and then the wheat was ready to cut and they had to pay $45 dollars on the rent. So they could not send us any money and that Ed had wrote to us on the 2nd of Aug. and told us all about it and when Roy got his letter from me telling him that we had not heard from them since they went back, she sat right down and wrote to me and told me Ed had wrote on the 2nd of Aug. I have not got it yet.

I got a letter from Julia. She told me to tell you girls that if you did not come this time, she would not try to find you any jobs any more. She said that you could work in a bank and that Edna could clerk in the store. She sent for Roy to go up too. And none of you went as Roy works up in the Vivian Park for either ($13.20 or $3.20 a day)? and he don’t like Pocatello. So I guess Julia will think you all have turned your back on her. She said in her letter that it made a ass out of her to ask for a job and then none to take it. But I want you girls in there as pa may stay with Mr. Brown and I will come in for the winter. I must close now and get some dinner for Fern. I don’t know when I will get all this ironing done, I have to get them sprinkled yet. I am going to try and make some pickles this week. I let Mrs. Del A Mare have some onions and she is going to let me have some cucumbers. Write soon and tell me if you have got you a job and tell me all the news. Give my love and all the best for you and Edna from Ma and Fern XXXXX Fern said to tell you to tell us when you get a job.”

Sept. 2, 1921 Ellen wrote, “Dear Edna, I got your dear letter today and one from pa. He is fine and got the clothes I sent him. He said he did not know how long he would stay up there but he hoped it would only be about two weeks. So I don’t know whether Mr. Brown will be able to keep him up there or not. There is not a thing for him to do here. So if he don’t stay with Mr. Brown, I don’t know what we will do this winter. Your pa will not look for work. I got a letter from Cora yesterday and she said she was sorry
to think they could not send the money for us to come on but on account of Ed getting robbed at Salt Air they had to borrow money to pay for their expense and to get home on, but she told me to tell you girls to try and get your fellows to bring you down sometime when you were out car riding and for you to drop her a card so she could have some fryings cookin.” [sic] She sent me two cases of ripe tomatoes. So Hortence is going home is she? Tell her hello from me and for her to be sure to come and see us again.

I want you girls to pay Aunt Hattie for your trouble when you get on your feet again. You said that your wages was small. I think that when you have worked for a while you will get a raise or maybe find something better at least. I hope so... I think that Otilla will find her a better job after a while and I think after they get better acquainted with you that you will get a raise.

I had my mind all made up that I was going to come in there this winter, but if pa don't stay up there, I guess it is all of the way Mr. Brown talked to me. He sure did want pa to stay with him, so I don't know just how it will all come out. Of course it will not be very nice for pa up there away from home but they have got it fixed up nice so Mr. Brown told me, he said he sent up a bed and a mattress and that they had got work in just in time as the rain started. Just as they got the last trip down from the cabin they had been staying in.”

Lottie Edna’s friend and old room mate wrote to Edna on Sept 15, 1921 saying, "My dear Little Edna, Bless you heart I thought you never were going to write and I guess you think I never am going to write.

I am working at the Ammon Merc where Carson used to work. I like it fine. I sub as primary teacher for a week so I will get a check from the school board this, month too. I can use it with out any trouble.

Well my dear I am coming to Oct. conference for the sole purpose of taking a husband. Horrors what a responsibility. I have the most beautiful things, and every thing in readiness. [sic] (Oh joy) such thrill to an inexperienced girl. I love him so much though. I know we will be very happy. I want you my dear to come to Salt Lake for conference so I can see you. Papa is buying me just everything one could think of. I wish you were here sweet heart. I sure would like to see you. I will write you more about our coming and I want to see you. Write soon dear and tell me the news much love Lottie”

Sept. 13, 1921 Ellen wrote Otilla and Edna saying, "We got your letter and was sure surprised to get one. I thought you had been kidnaped . Too much going out at nite [sic] for your own good. Try and stay in long enough to drop us a few lines so we can sleep at nite. [sic]

Otilla I want you to be careful. I don't know just what kind of a man Mr. Green is. Is he a Mormon? Remember you must be very careful what kinds of company you keep. You did not say what Edna was doing when you was having such a good time. I hope you don't go and leave her alone. I like to hear of you having a good time, but be careful. I want you to give Mr. Jensen a fair chance. I must close as I want this to get mailed. Hope to see you soon. From your loving ma     Pa is home”

Sept. 20. 1921 Ellen wrote to Otilla, "Dear Otilla, We got your Dear letter just now as the girls came from school and was glad to hear from you. Why don't Edna write too? I like to hear from you both. I am sure surprised Otilla at you doing like you are with Mr.
Jensen. I want you to be very careful and don't get the wrong fellow. You know just how people will talk especially Horace. So do be careful. Don't Edna ever go out with you? I sure hope you can get a cheap place to live in so you don't have to spend all you make in room rent and board. Take good care of yourselves and be good girls. Thursday is Tooele County Temple day and if I feel well enough to go, I am coming in and I will try and bring your coats and hats. I don't know how much room there will be. You know just how tight squished we are when we go on that trip. Everyone has a grip but will try my darnest. [sic] So come down at noon, and I will try and leave them with that man at the East gate if I can. If not I will have to take them in the Temple with me, that is if I come. It all depends on the weather as I have not been very well of late. I have been so busy putting up tomatoes and pickles...Here comes Fern, this is his birthday, 10 years. I must hurry and get dinner.

Mr. Brown was up here last nite, [sic] he did not say a word about seeing you girls. He sure does want Pa to go up to the mine with him. I don't know if he can get him to or not. Pa don't seem to care to go and when he left he told him to be ready to go back with him. I don't know how they will come out if he goes. I am coming in for a visit. Ha ha xxxx I must close. I got a letter from Roy. They are all well. Love to all. Hope to see you soon. With lots of love from your loving Ma and Pa and Fern xxxx I don't know where your letter has been. It was mailed on the 10th and I just got it today Thurs. Oh I see, I got hold of the wrong envelope. I wondered how that was.

Sept. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote saying, "Dear Edna and Otilla, I will try and find time enough to drop you a few lines. We got home all OK that night. But I have been wondering how D Rees found you or if he ever found you? I just get it of my mind the way you did with him Otilla. I want you to use good judgement about that. Remember you want a man that can take you to the Temple. It seems strange how hard it is for a man that tries to live his religion to get the girls to come his way. It seems to if they are some big sports, it is no trick to get the girls to come their way. Now Otilla don't get foolish, play your cards well. It is like Pa said that man is not going to take any nonsense he means just what he says. Pa seems to like him fine. I hope you get yourselves a cheaper house, that is a awful price to pay.

I have been talking to Pa ever since we came home to go in there for the winter, but he don't seem to see it that way. But I don't know what we will do here there is not a thing to do to earn a dollar. I have been trying to get him to get a apartment house or rent a house big enough to take some roomers, but you know how he raves about that.

Emma was down and I was talking to her and she thought it would be fine for us to go in there. But I don't know just how it will all come out. She came to get my Temple suit. She is going to be married Thursday and is going in tomorrow.

Miss Howard is out here and came down with her. She wanted to know which was the lucky man. She looked at the two pictures on the piano and then she said the wicked scamp. Emma told her that we all was up the stump to know which it will be. Jean Mclass gave her a shower last even. I hope she got lots of nice things. Say Otilla, what does that letter mean. I sent back to you that came from some bank? Have you got some money from them at some time that you have not let us know anything about? I did not let pa see it as I know how he would rave, so tell me when I come in to conference if I can get the chance to come or maybe you will come home before then to get your trunk.
Well Edna, I guess you will think this letter is all for Otilla, but it is for you too. How are you? Have you got your coat? If not wait until after conference and they will be cheaper.

I must wash tomorrow. I have been putting up tomatoes and I have got two lots of pickles to cook. I did not get my ironing done last week, so I must try and do it tonight if Pa will let me do it. He tries to be boss now. Ha ha

What do you girls think about us coming in there? Do you think it would be wise for us to lock the house up and come in there and try and get an apartment house. I see by the paper there is lots of them for rent. Say Otilla, why don’t you try and get some of them jobs that we read about in the paper? You will make more money at that then what you are doing now.

Don’t forget to write to me and tell me all the news and how you and Mr. Jensen are getting along. Don’t be foolish and trust in the Lord and all will be well. You know what your blessing has told you.

I must close as it is getting late and I want mail this, it’s 5 o’clock now. Be good girls and let me hear from you both. From your loving Ma and Pa XX

Oct. 12, 1921 from Provo Utah Ellen wrote to Till and Edna and explained her experience of trying to find where Ed and Cora’s lived saying, “Dear girls, We got here all Ok but we had quite a hunt before we found them as I could not remember the address. I went into the depot agent and asked him if the knew of anybody by Ed’s and they said no. I told them that he worked at the yard so they told us that it must be at the other depot. So we tracked up there about two blocks and they said that he did not work there but there was 5 men there and one of them came up and told us that he knew Ed and that he knew where he lived and we past the depot where Ed worked. There was 3 of them in a yard only the one Ed worked at is just a little to one side and we could not see it on the account of all the trains. Never saw so many trains in all my life but this man told us to go straight back where we came and turn south on the first street and they lived in the last home. So away we went and as we was going down the street, I saw Mr. Budd sitting on a stump whittling at a stick and I said to Fern look there is Budd and he let a big yell out of him and said hello. Budd he looked up and saw us crossing the street. I wish you could have seen him. He yelled O ma, here is grandma and Fern and at that the two little girls came running out of the house and Cora stuck her head out of the upstairs window and hurled hello there. By this time I had all the kiddies hanging on my neck. They did not see pa as he was just a little back of us. He stopped to speak to a man to ask him where Ed lived. So we are here all Ok and I think we will be back Sunday. We have enjoyed our selfs fine. I wish you could see Ed and Cora’s ducks and chickens they are sure fine. I don’t like Provo though.” (Budd later went to BYU and was on the swimming team receiving National Honors)

John and Ellen looked at a new house

John and Ellen went to Salt Lake to look at Real Estate. In a letter with the envelope date. Oct 19, 1921 Ellen wrote, “Dear girls, we are down at the depot now and as tired as any one can possibly get. We went down to look at that place we talked and got up at that corner where we turn to go to Tooele and thought we just had a short ways to go. But we found we had just about a mile or more to go to the place we wanted to see. It
is a nice place know doubt but they wanted $14 thousand for it. There was a new house and an old brick house on it and a team of horses and a cow and 23 acres of land, a nice land in front of the new house. Pa told him we would see him again. We could rent the old one but you know pa would not take such a big chance as that, at least this time of the year when winter is coming on and nothing coming in. I could not get him to go and look the real estate people up. You know how backward he is. I know if Ed did not go with him that he would not do any thing. I told Ed that he wants pa to get a place and take the ducks and chickens as it is and make some thing out of them but your pa is not cut out for any kind of business. He will not talk business. So I was tired and wanted to rest. So I decided to come down here while we was on the move as the lady at the place told me we would have to get us a room as she could not let so many stay in the room it was too hard on the bed clothes, that it made them dirty to make a bed down on the floor. I told her we was going home and thanked her for her trouble. So I guess she could see I did not like it very well, so she said if we ever came in to come and see the girls, I told her that we might not come in there for a year. She told me not to feel hurt but she had her rules. And the people had to abide to them. So when I told pa he got out as fast as he could but don’t say anything about it to her as she was very nice about it. She said she did not allow anyone to eat in the room but she told you girls you could and she did not mind it as she liked you girls, but it sometimes made a mess and might get grease spots on the rugs. I told her we would leave the grips there as we was going down town. She said that was alright so we just came back as she was going out and she said she was glad she had missed (sp) her car or she would not have been there and told us to go in and set down and rest up. And when we got ready to go, to shut the door. So pa said when she went, get your things and let us get out of here. So that is the reason we did not wait to see you and we did not want to go to "Aunt Esters as she makes us feel like we are intruding so we will be home tonight I hope, and will sure be glad to be there and get some clean clothes and to know we won’t be in the way of anyone else. Home sweet home, how nice it is to have one to go to. I will look for you girls next Sunday. Good day from your loving parents ma and pa and Fern Good day xxxxx"

Oct, 24, 1921 Edna received another letter from her friend who said, "Dear friend, Excuse the heading of this letter a I hardly know how to Address you but a dear friend. I hope you will always be. We were sure please to hear from you and learn that you are well and have a good clean place to work in. I understand that Mr. M.N. is learning to be a Fords Salesman. I guess you heard of Steve Yeamon’s awful death and also of Arts death in Denver. We are well up here and hope you are Give love to all we know down there and accept best wishes from you old friends Charley & Rose” on the back of the letter was written this..."Dear Edna I will write next time as I don’t feel very good. I have sure felt blue the last week over our dear brothers death and to think now of his people went to see him hurts me more then all. I will close with love and hope to hear from you again soon, As ever Rose “

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, "Dear Edna, We got your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you I was beginning to think you both had forgotten us all together. It seems that Otilla don’t have time to think of us anymore. I guess that sad (?) Mr. Green takes up all her time and she don’t have time to drop us a few lines. Tell her not to get serious with him as she knows he is not the kind of man I want her to get.
I hope you girls don't forget to go to Sunday School and meeting. Don't forget your duties what ever you do. I get so antsy at times, I don't know why it is but I do hope Otilla will be very careful who she goes with.

Yes Phil was here to see us. She did not feel very good about you girls not writing to her and letting her know whether you was coming up or not after her getting both of you a job.

I don't think she wanted to go to your room for fear Mr. Green would think she wanted to see him. She told me that she hoped Otilla had better sense then to get a second hand man as she knew she could do better then that. She wanted to know how her and Mr. Jensen was making it. She said if Roy was in there then she would go up to your room and you could go out together but she did not want to butt in.

I looked for you out here Sunday. Pa and I worked all day Friday and Saturday to clean the place up. I wish you could of seen it. We could hardly get in for the leaves and the house was so full of dust and then I got a veal roast and made rolls and made a cake and had all ready for dinner but got left. So I am not going to bother anymore unless I am sure you are coming because I can do without these things when we are alone. I thought when I told you in the letter that I would look for you on Sunday that if you were not going to come you would of let me know as you knew I would get things ready. Pa felt quite disappointed as he did all he could to make the place look nice.

I got started on your dress Edna, but it is slow work. I can't make it like the pattern you gave me as it is too narrow at the bottom. I will do the best I can with it. By the time I get 3 meals a day I don't get much sewing done. I do hope you girls gets a different place that you can cook you something to eat in after paying such a big price for a room and then jump on to us for staying there. I will bet she doesn't get me to come in there again. I do hope I can get Pa to come in there and live but now we have got back home I don't know if I can get him to leave or not. He sure did want to get a place in there when we was in there. He likes us in there.

Fern has come for his dinner so I must hurry and get it. Let me know when you are coming out so I can have something to eat ready. With love to you both from your loving Ma and Pa and Fern

grandpa and grandma is fine and all and Eliza's folks  Good day X X X X

Fern's hip is better now. I kept it pottest (sp?) all the time.”

Partial letter without date during this time, Ellen wrote, "rather live in S L Valley. Pa don't think this place is worth as much as the owner wants for it or I believe he would try and get it.

How are you getting along. I hope Otilla don't get too much gone on Mr. Green, it worries me to think you turned Mr. Jensen down for a man that is second handed. Why not get a first class man and that you know will live his religion. You don't realize that just now when you are looking for a good time. Remember Otilla when you are married all these things takes a big change and the safest way is to look to our religion then we know we are on the right track. Don't forget your blessing you got. You know it is only on condition if we don't live for it we will not get what has been promised on our head.

Edna I guess you think I will be a long time getting your dress done.

Cora is washing so I must quit and go help her they are all fine. Ed works every day or I mean night. He goes to work at five o'clock and don't get home till four or five in the morning, too long of hours.
Did you see the Bishop so he does not wait on us? I hope you did. I guess you both went to meeting Sunday morning and in the afternoon. I would have loved to have been there to have gone with you. I do hope you girls can get you a cheaper place if I were you.

I must quit, we are all well. I hope you are the same. From all of us. Love to you both and be good and take care of yourselves. From Ma and all Roy was down Sunday and went back.”

Julia wrote to Edna and Till on Oct. 30, 1921 saying, “Darling Edna & Otilla, I received your Darling letter some few days ago. I was surly glad to hear you like your work so well. It’s truly sad that they expect them clerks to work for such small wages. A girl don’t make much over a living where she has to pay rent. I know you can get work here. Both of you if you want to. You can both come and stay with us if you want to. Your more then welcome to come. You know you are. And I’d love to have your company.

I’ve been going to church of late and there are certainly some wonderful people here when you get out among them & learn to know them. I had Margaret James & her brother Sam here to see me today from Bancroft. Mrs Gillets grand daughter they are going to school here at the Teck. [sic] I know you would like it here when you got acquainted. I sure think you’re a dandy Till for not dropping me a few lines. Did I hurt your feelings when I was down home? If I did, I didn’t meant too. You know I didn’t feel good while I was there. So if I hurt your feelings in anyway I ask forgiveness as I don’t want my darling sis angry with me.

If you could see me, the way I am writing here, you would laugh your self sick. I’m sitting up in bed with the flash light to see. So not to wake Bernice with the light. The fire went out & I sat out by the stove until I nearly froze so I came to bed to get warm. I knew if I didn’t get your letter written tonight I wouldn’t get it done tomorrow. It’s pay day & I want to send you a check to get me those Dr. Dentons for Elmo size 8 for boys, that button clean down the back & up the front a ways. What could you get a coat for Bernice for? I’d love one of those pretty red ones. You know like Annie Gowans had for Gwen. Price them & let me know by return mail. I’ve got to get her a coat. And I know they are quite high. I thought I may be able to get them cheaper down there then here. They ought to be at least with wages so much cheaper so if this isn’t too much bother for you will you do this for me please. A two year old I think it will take for her.

We took some pictures today of her & the boys. If they are good I’ll send you some in my next letter as they will be finished tomorrow night. Mother & Father surely enjoyed their trip to Provo. I got a letter from Pa last week. The second letter from Father in my whole life. And I confess it made me a we bit homesick, to read his letter. He surely write some good ones and to think they are so far & few between. I hope that it isn’t another 13 years before he writes again.

Well my back feels like its about broke sitting here all doubled up so nite nite. Write soon Love from all. We are all well and hope these few lines find you still enjoying the comforts of life. Sincerely your Loving Sis & Bro Jack & Julia & kiddies xxxxxoooooo”

Feb. 10 1922 Julia wrote, “Dear Edna & Till will try and take time to write you a few lines this morning in answer to your long looked for letter I received Tuesday.

Was surely glad to hear Till had a good job with good money. I surely wish you could find something with more money in it. I’ve got you ladies a job when you get up here this
spring in a jewelry store. He pays two dollars a day, all you have to do is sit and hold your hands if you want to, sell a piece or 2 of jewelry a day. The main thing is for you to be there when he goes out to his meals and clubs.  

He is an old man but he is the liveliest old duffer you ever saw on the dance floor for his age. I think he would give you more then that, but to is all he will promise as business is so quiet. He takes care of watches and clocks. He asked me if you were as good-looking as I am, I said “Better”. He said that’s the girl then. Is she older or younger than you, I said younger. He is quite a ‘cut up”. His wife died three years ago last month. He seems to be quite a nice old scout. I asked him if I sent for you would he give you the job. He said now things are pretty quiet but she may visit you later on and you bring her in. So if you don’t like it you can be looking for something else. He had a woman about 40 or 45 working in their and just before Christmas she got a little radical and slapped his ears and broke a showcase and he told her to go. He said he intended giving her a Christmas present of $25. So you see the old man has a big heart. He is well-to-do. And no one to leave his wealth to but an adopted boy. His sisters boy. And he don’t care much for him either. He is married and has two children. I guess he will give the wealth to the children.

So when you get tired of plugging away at 40 per you can come and stay with us and make a little more. And won’t be on your feet all the time either.

Well Edna as for asking Marion to come and stay with us it was his own proposition. He said he would give us a cleaner for his board and room. Jack told him all right and that’s as far as it went. But he has had several meals with us since. He was here Monday and had dinner with us. As for his good job and nothing much to do, there is another verse to the story. “No pay” he gets nine dollars when he sells a vacuum. But I don’t believe he averages one a week. He is wearing a summer suit and hat he had when we stayed with you in Idaho Falls. His shoes are all unsewed. So I don’t think he is flushed with money. He told Jack he was going to Salt Lake about the 10th, so you may see him. He said he was going to doll up and go down and see if you knew him. I don’t know what he would doll up on. His friend Mr. Stewart lost his wife with heart failure. The one who told you Marion was here. He said Stewart would fight for him in a minute.

I can see plainer now than ever before where you are lucky to be rid of him. He claims he never had anything to do with that girl and the girls Jack saw him with last Sunday weren’t up to a snap of your finger. So I don’t think he has changed much. He can tell just as big a lie now as he ever could.

He said he sent his mother money now all the time. I wouldn’t of gave him your address if he hadn’t of lied about it because I didn’t want him to be pesting [sic] around you. He came out Monday to see if I have heard from you. I got your letter Tuesday. He handed me your letter to read that you wrote him. He has been looking for a letter ever since you got his last one. I wouldn’t give him any encouragement unless you want to tease him.

I’m glad you are having such a nice time going to the dances with Mr. Parker. Is he the one Till went with?

Are you still going with Mr. Green Till? Why don’t you write once in a while you little rascal. I’m sure glad you got a real job at last. If Edna could only get a real job. You would be fine and dandy I only hope the Smelter starts up so those folks can get out of
Tooele and we can sell our place if we are going to live here we may as well have our own place instead of paying $45 a month rent. Of course we get $15 of that back.

Hyrum was surely a sick lad for two weeks. He had pneumonia. He would rave in his sleep with the fever he had. His fever was 104 2/5 so you see he was quite sick and his hands got so thin he looked almost transparent they were so white and thin. But he is better now. The Dr. was afraid of abscess of the lungs for a while but said he thought he would be all right now.

Bernice is crying for a piece and shaking my arms so I must close my Bible. Hoping to hear from you soon if not sooner. Watch your step with the Sweed. Hope you are all fine and dandy as we are all pretty good now. Jack hasn't felt well lately but is feeling better now. Except our love many times as ever b-4. Jack Julia and kiddies"

Grandparents- (Ellen’s parents) cousin Leona/Aunts and Uncles

On Jan 31, 1918 Ida wrote to Mrs. Maria Shields from Iona Idaho stated, "Dear Sister and all List to a voice from the dead, how are you all anyway? Ed has been laid up all winter with Rheumatism and kidney trouble, but just ought to see Mary Ann and myself. You surely would think Idaho agreed with us. I weigh 150 lbs and Mary Ann is a great big girl now, we sure would like to see you all but don’t know just when that will be you never seen quite such a busy old woman as I am. I run a Oh-hell-are I mean a hotel, a hospital and everybody else I can. I am also Pres. of the Primary here, we have about 250 children and it is sure some work to handle that many children, and we are doing a great work in the Red Cross. Iona ward primary has made the most articles of any ward in this stake. So you see I am right quite busy with one thing and another. And besides this we have John with us, he was stricken with Paralysis on the 28th of Dec. and is helpless and we take care of him. So you see I don’t have any time to visit.

We are having a regular blizzard here tonight. But we have had the warmest winter this winter of any I have ever spent in Idaho. How is the weather down there? Where are all of your children now, I have lost track of them since they got married? Has any of them gone to war? I have one brother called for examination, he is the next to youngest one, he isn’t married, if he passes he will have to go and that will leave Ma with just her baby boy left but that is better than being alone, but we sure hate to see him go.

Do you ever see Joe & Cora? I hear they are on easy street now. I was very much surprised to hear of Johnny Miller going to Delta. I wonder where he will go from there. Well I must close for this time hoping to hear from you soon. Tell me about everybody that you know I would like to hear about, love to all, write soon with love from your sister Ida”

Ellen’s father wrote a note to his grand daughter Till as she began her mission. He gave her a grand father’s blessing. This blessing is also mentioned in Till’s history. July 21, 1919 Ellen writes to Till, "Grandpa has wrote a note to you too. I hope the Lord will bless you with his spirit to understand the Scriptures so you can teach them to those who you may be called to speak to.”

Just 11 days after Till left for her mission she received a letter from her grandfather dated July 21, 1919 from Tooele where he gave her a grandfather’s blessing writing, "My Dear Granddotter(daughter) Tilla, After hearing your nice letter to your parents the
description of tracking experience this far, I am pleased and compared your experience with mine 46 years ago being sent to Norway as a missionary among strangers. But this great giver of all good sent his spirit to give missionaries light and so he does to you. I thank the Lord for you. You know I always thought you was a funny little girl. Not exactly just like the rest. When you was a child you blessed me so in singing Sunday School songs to me. Now dear Tilla, [sic] Aldo [sic] (all though) I am old and feeble O give you a grandfathers blessing. I say to you in the name of the Lord, when you meet with the sick you shall have power to comfort to help to remove their pain and suffering and you shall rejoice in the message of life and salvation. May God bless you for ever. From your gran Pa [sic] (note that the letter was very difficult to read not just because most words were spelled wrong but it was difficult to make out the letters. This was the best interpretation of what was seen.)

On July 28, 1919 Till wrote, "Tell Leona (cousin) hello and I will write to her soon as time will permit. I must close and study so please write me often. I was so pleased to hear from grandpa and must answer him. Give them both my love & blessings."

July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Grandma and Grandpa has gone over to Pine to stay with Aunt Eliza. I guess we will have it all to ourselves."

Aug. 3, 1919 Ellen wrote, "We went over to see mamma last night. Even Marion came in and said he was going over to see grandma and asked me to go, so I went."

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "Grandma and Grandpa sure enjoy your letters, they must hear them all...grandpa don't seem so well lately, he don't get up like he used to and go on his brunches. He stays in bed all day since he came home from pine. He don't look well. Mother seem to get around just fine only her feet hurts her."

Aug. 17, 1919 Till's cousin Leone wrote to Till saying, "Dearest Till, I have thought of you every day I just haven't felt like or haven't had time to write. I am working for Mrs. Jensen they have a fine new baby boy. It sure keeps me busy although they have a nurse but when you cook three meals and tend to the other work to get that done o'clock a.m. I can keep busy all day. I haven't felt much like work but I got some pills from the doctor yesterday that made me feel better. I will have to go to him again in the morning. I am so nervous I can hardly write, don't know whether it will be so you can read it or not. I just happen to come and your mother asked me if I didn't want to put in a line and of course I did.

I hope you have received your blouse by now. I know you will like it for I think it is positively beautiful. I sat up with them the night they were putting the finishing touches on.

I was getting ready for bed and Julia came to the door and ask me to come and see the new waist, so I slipped out. Grandma thought I was in bed and locked me out. So when I went to go in Julia unhooked the door with a hairpin, but I couldn't sleep and got up and come in again and we were up when your father came off shift at midnight.

Well dear I am getting disgusted with my writing and think this will be all you can read at one time. I do hope you are enjoying yourself, as you must be according to your letters. We all enjoy reading them.

Thelma is living at Walters. Her baby is better looking now and they are so good; she named in her Virginia, they will soon be twins.
I came in last night, your mother was all alone, it seems odd after having a house full, but she said it has a happy lonesome, Julia's children got on her nerves. This is my limit, Will write again. Lovingly Leone"

Aug. 27, 1919 Till wrote, "Give Leon my love and tell her I will answer her letter soon. I Never wrote a letter so fast in my life, I hope you can read it. Lots of love Your daughter Till Remember me to grandma and grandpa I do hope he feels better.”

Sept. 8, 1919 It appears Leone was staying with her grand parents in August. It is not clear how long she stayed with them. One gets the impression that Ellen’s parents live close by to them by the many comments that are written, although there is no hard evidence. Till most often ended her letters with, "Give my best regards to Grandpa & Grandma & Leone. I guess she is going to school now."

Till’s wrote her sympathies about her grandparents who had been sick on Oct.8, 1919 saying, "I was sorry to hear of grandpa and grandma being sick like they are, give them my best love and tell them I remember them in my prayers every night.”

Oct. 17, 1919 Till wrote, "I was awfully sorry to hear that grandpa feels so poorly give him and grandma my love and best wishes."

Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "Give grandpa and grandma my best regards and kiss daddies cheeks for me. Write soon with lots of love your daughter Till PS also hug little Fern for me"

Oct. 26, 1919 Ellen wrote, "There was a confetti dance on Friday evening and there was a bunch of boys up from Garfield and 4 of them brought Leone and Teresa and 2 of Leesie girls home. They told me that they never had such a good time. They all stayed at mothers after the boys went home. They did not want to wake me up so there was a bed full of girls just 5 in one bed. Myrtle was there too. There is going to be a healing (sp) dance on this week. I don’t know if I will go.”

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Aunt Elizy has got moved over to grandma’s now. He don’t seem to have much strength now. He does not sit up like he used to... grandpa is not much better, he don’t get up at all now.”

Nov. 6, 1919 Till wrote, "I do hope grandma and grandpa are well, please give them both my life and blessing. PS when you told me about the good times the girls had at the confetti dance it took me back to the good old times I used to have.”

Nov. 14, 1919 Till wrote, "I’ll bet that grandma and grandpa will be glad to have Liza living with them. That will please the girls too I imagine. I am so sorry to hear that grandpa feels so poorly. Please give them both my love and blessings.”

Nov. 24, 1919 Till wrote, "Please give grandma and grandpa my love and blessings. I will try to drop them a line soon.

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Grandpa is just the same and ma is feeling fine.”

Dec. 10, 1919 Till wrote, "Give grandma and grandpa my love also Ed and Cora.”

Edna wrote on Dec. 22, 1919, "Dear old grandma just came in to get daddy to see about some of her business. Bless her dear old heart. She is so sweet. Grandpa is still the same but has faded a whole lots since I saw him in the summer.”

Dec. 31, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Uncle Charlie and family is here visiting with grandma of course that means that Aunt Elizy has got a house full and the girls and Aunt Cora had to give up their rooms for them and come in here and all of Aunt Eliza’s folks has all had their turns with this cold that is going around and when they came they all have got it now. Uncle Charlie was in bed yesterday I do hope he is better this morning. I have just
got off work so thought I would drop you a few lines...The folks got a letter from Aunt Hilda (Ellen’s ½ sister) today, they are in a hard row of stumps, not much to do with. We all threw in five dollars apiece and sent her $2 dollars for Christmas. She got it okay and thanked us for it. We thought she would come home on it, but she don’t like it as she said in her letter that Olif was going to some place to look for work. So maybe he took that money to go on, I hope not, as we sent it for her to buy shoes for the kiddies, but of course we don’t know what she did with it. But she sure write some blue letters and she said she might come home sometime between now and her birthday, and you know that is in June 3rd so that is a long time from now.”

Jan. 1, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Edna and I was down to Aunt Elizy place for dinner yesterday and Aunt Melita was there, they live the big remanton (sp?) house on Main Street. We sure had a fine visit last Sunday. We all was over to grandma’s for supper. Aunt Cora, Aunt Melita, Aunt Elizy and all our families was there. We had a nice time grandpa set up the table with us in his big chair he told us of his and Ma’s folks history. We are invited down to Aunt Melita’s house for supper Sunday if we can get pa to go.”

Jan. 5, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "Uncle Charlie has gone back home. Grandpa is not very well, ma is feeling as well as can be expected, although she could be better.”

Jan 21, 1920 Till wrote, "PS be sure to remember me to dear old grandpa and grandma”

Feb. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "Please give dear old grandma and grandpa my love and blessings and tell them that I believe father time will permit me to write them a letter soon. I think of them almost every day and wonder how they are.”

Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Aunt Cora has been staying up here all winter helping with grandpa and she got word from Joe that he was coming in from the mine so she went down home and last Saturday we got word that they both had the flu and wanted Melita Hansen to go down but she could not go as Pete is working and she could not leave the children. We called Garfield this morning and their neighbor said that they are feeling better that she is helping them as much as she can...Grandpa is feeling a little better this morning, he has such a sore mouth and throat he could not eat or sleep with it. Ma is fine.”

Feb. 12, 1920 a Uncle wrote to Till while she was on her mission saying, "Dear Niece, I received your letter a long time ago and intended to ans [sic] before now but they say it is better late than never. Now then Otilla it is gratifying unto me and I think to all of your relations that you have been called and are preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a people who does not believe in our religion but are probably as similar in their own belief as we are. It is not a good thing to condemn their religion or to force ours upon them. We must try to lead them by showing them the light and truth which we have. I hope you will be successful in showing many people the error of their ways and bring them to a knowledge of the truth because the Savior says your light should so shine that every body seeing may believe and there by follow your instructions and example that you may be able to save many souls. That they may some day raise up and call you blessed for what you have done for them and if you are successful in so doing you will be a Savior unto them. When you have finished your mission abroad in the earth you can come home crowned with success and be able to continue your work here at home because I believe we are in need of good missionary training right here at home. The trouble is as you know there is many of our missionaries when they return
home think that their work is over, but I hope this will not be the case with you. I guess this is enough religion just now.

We have lots of sickness here at home at the present time and I suppose it is all over the world. So be careful and be where the Lord desires you to be and you will be blessed and as the scriptures says if you drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt you along with the rest of the sayings connected with this. The destroying angel shall pass by your door as he did the children of Israel and not harm you.

Now I will say in conclusion, God bless you in all your undertakings. I remain your Uncle A.J. Shields"

Feb. 13, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Grandma and grandpa is about the same. Mom wanted me to tell you not to forget her brother. I guess you have got that letter I sent you telling you all about it. She thinks that maybe Horace can help you look him up."

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Grandma and pa is fine."

Feb. 29, 1920 Till wrote, "Give my love to grandma and grandpa and all of the good people of Tooele. Write me soon. I do hope Julia is better and that she gets along all right. Aunt Ida certainly surprises me. I do hope she gets along all right."  

March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, 'I don’t know if I told you that Aunt Cora had gone back home again. Ma and grandpa is fine as can be expected. Pa is on 330 o’clock Fern and myself are all alone as Cora went over to stay with Leon tonight as she is tending Mrs. McDonald baby while they went to Salt Lake to see to Tooele and Grantsville play basketball. He is one of the high school teachers so Leon and Cora can’t stay apart. She stays in here with her when she is not in Salt Lake they have stayed together all winter. They can’t move without one another.”

March 30, 1920 Till wrote, "I was glad to hear that grandpa and grandma was feeling as well as could be expected, give them a big hug & kiss for me, honest you’ll have to all run for shelter when I come home. How is Leona, tell her to write this cousin of hers. Give everybody my best regards I must write to dear old Aunt Cora. My tensions are good and I think about Hilda, Annie, Liza, Cora and Ed and uncle Ed & Joe and think I am going to write to them, but I’m simply cannot find time. Maybe if I wrote letters instead of books, I’d get more written. This letter tonight has taken me all evening and is now 10:30. So look out for shorter letters.”

April 18, 1920 Till wrote, "I am happy to hear of uncle John being Bishop and Aunt Annie President of the Relief Society. I wish I had time to write to them... Give grandma and grandpa my very best love and blessings. I do hope I can see grandpa again. I hope he is feeling better. Please give my regards to all and praying the blessings of Lord ever be upon you I am your loving daughter Otilla"

May 4, 1920 Till wrote, "My goodness my letter was to be only short. It is now eleven O’clock and my companion is going to bed. Please remember me to my dear old grandparents and tell them I love them both. I am very happy and enjoying my work...Till  
PS tell Leon to write and give all my best regards.”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "I believe that I am as happy as Aunt Hilda to know that she is back home again. I’ll bet it seems good to be with her loved ones again. Bless her heart if ever a woman will reap a reward it will be her. She has certainly been a wonderful mother. Give her my love and blessings. Also dear old granddaddie [sic] and grandmother. How I would love to see you all. It is been 10 months and nine days since I landed in the mission field.”
June 6, 1920 Till wrote, "Give my love to dear old grandpa & grandma and Aunt Hilda. Always praying for you your welfare. I am your loving daughter Till"

June 15, 1920 Till wrote, "I was very glad to hear of Aunt Hilda getting along so nicely. I'll bet that she is happy. Give her my love and blessings. I would love to write to her but I can't promise, as I never have a minute to write it seems...When you see Cora jog her memory and tell her to drop me a line, also Leona. Give my love to grandma and grandpa and write soon lots of love Till"

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, "How is Aunt Hilda getting along? I hope the Lord will bless her with good health and strength, please tell her hello for me... Please give my best regards to all and love and blessings to dear old grandma and grandpa. Write me a long letter and tell me all the news about everything and everybody. Lots of love from your loving daughter Till"

June 29, 1920 Till wrote, "I had a nice little cry to myself. I should have liked very much to have been with you declaration day. You said Aunt Annie and Cal had been down. I was glad to hear it... I never hear from cousin George. I guess he is too busy to write or has forgotten us already... Give my love to all. I'm glad Mrs. Hill called in to see you. Tell Uncle Joe and Aunt Cora I send my love. I must write to them. Write to me soon. Smack daddies cheeks for me. Lots of love your daughter Till"

July 7, 1920 Till wrote, "Give my love and blessings to grandma and grandpa and all the folks at home."

July 27, 1920 Till wrote, "Must say good night, give my love to grandpa and grandma all the girls."

Aug. 31, 1920 Till wrote, "Was so glad to hear from Leon and Fern that was the sweetest letter bless his heart. I must go mother will write you write again soon. In haste but with lots of love and blessings Till regards & love to grandma and grandpa"

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote..."How is grandma and grandpa getting along? Please give them my love and blessings. It won't be so very long now until I can give it to them in person."

Temple trip for Grandpa and Grandma

Sept. 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, "My dear Otiila I guess you think I'm a long time answering your dear letter, but we have been so busy this last week. We took grandma and grandpa into the Temple this week. Ma went down to uncle Joe's Tuesday afternoon and I went in on the train and Fern. On Wednesday Annie Adamson took grandpa right through to Salt Lake and got there at 1 o'clock, just in time to have a little rest and get a bite to eat and then get his robe on and go to the ceiling room. Then I met them all after I came through the veil and uncle Joe and I stood for mothers parents and she got sealed to them and Joe and mother stood for grandpa's parents as they had not had their part of their work done. Mother was so worried for fear she would not get it done when grandpa was so sick last winter but it is all done now and we had a fine trip. Joe and aunt Cora took ma in from their place Wednesday morning, it was not so far for her to go, but they could not take grandpa until Wednesday morning and they put all his things on him here when they dressed him, all but his robe and apron. Uncle Pete and Aunt Melita went with him to take care of him on the way, and then Joe and Pete carried him in. They got an invalid chair and put him in and went right up the steps with
him and then he sat in until I came through to them. Everything went just fine and we got that the same day. I came back with Cora and Joe and ma Fern and I. So that is a good job done they are both fine after their trip.”

Sept. 27, 1920 Till wrote her mother, “I talked to the little girl you met in the Temple and she said you surely look nice and she thought I had a lovely mother. I was awfully glad to hear grandma and grandpa going. It would do them good to go through it again. I must close now lover darlings with lots of love Till”

Oct. 11, 1920 Till said, “Give my love to grandma & grandpa”

Oct. 15, 1920 Till said, ”Give grandma and grandpa my love and blessings and tell them I think of them often if I don’t drop them a line. I know that they hear from me through you and I suppose that is why I don’t make an extra effort. How is Aunt Hilda getting along is she still in Tooele? I think her home should be made there now as she would be more contented and happy.”

Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, “I was awfully sorry to hear of Laura’s death. I hadn’t even heard that she was ill. I wrote a letter to Uncle Don and Aunt Esther. I’m sorry that things were so that you couldn’t attend the funeral. I think like yourself that it wouldn’t have hurt Uncle Alex to offer to take you in their machine. But some people are so thoughtless. Joe received a letter from her sister today and she told her all about the funeral of Laura. She said it was awfully sad and such a large one. She said her husband has fainted every day since her death and she died in his arms. He is almost heartbroken. I know it must be hard for him to give her up but when I stop and think it would be much easier to give them up the way he has Laura then to have living sorrow and disgrace. I feel and know that Edna will be much happier after she is free to do as she likes and I know she will meet someone who she could be happy with...Loads of love and blessings and remembrances to grandpa and grandma with love”

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”Grandpa is as well as can be expected. Aunt Hilda is living in the back rooms and ma has the front herself. Ma tends to him herself.”

Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, ”I am glad to hear that grandma and grandpa are getting along so nicely. Give them my love and blessings”.

Dec. 6, 1920 Till wrote, ”I trust everyone home is feeling fine and dandy tell Leon that she is a peach of a cousin. She never answered my last letter. Tell her to write and tell me all about the kids at home and the fun she’s having. Tell grandma and grandpa hello for me that I always think of them.”

Thanksgiving for Grandpa and Grandma

John and Ellen did not have Thanksgiving with her parents. Ellen wrote about their Thanksgiving on Dec. 8, 1920 saying, ”Pete had mother down there and Aunt Cora and uncle Joe. Grandpa stayed with Aunt Hilda and kiddies. Pete lives in Bro. Bowen’s (sp?) house now as the old folks are up to the hospital cooking for the doctor’s practitioners.”

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote to Till, ”I want to write to Julia today and ma wants me to write to Uncle Joe for her. So I must close. I think this letter will keep you reading for a month if you can make it out at all. Grandpa is doing nice now. I am afraid he will do mother up first. You know how full up of wants he is poor soul. She is just done up.
She don't feel very good as she has lifted on him so much that she feels like her insides was all coming out.”

Dec. 20, 1920 Till wrote, ”I am certainly surprised to hear that Leon is engaged. I do hope she gets a good fellow bless her heart I was in hopes I could be home when she got married. Gee! I've got to look out or I will be an old maid won't I? (But maybe a happy one) Vot say you...Darn me I often wonder if I will ever find the right one...I must close now and ask you to give my best regards to grandma and grandpa and everybody I know and wish them all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year from for me.”

Dec. 27, 1920 Till wrote, "PS I forgot to tell you that Aunt Cora and Uncle Joe sent a Christmas card. It was a sweet little card too. It read like this,
If your Christmas isn't happy,
With cheer and joy a glow,
It certainly won't be because,
I didn't wish it so.

You know it isn’t what you receive but the thought that you have been remembered. I received so many nice cards from different ones. Sidney and Mabel Isgreen sent me a beautiful engraved card. So did Howard Gee. Oh, Heck (excuse me) I’m off again and I must close.”

Jan. 10, 1921 Till wrote, ”Lots of love to yourself and to grandma and grandpa. So glad to hear grandpa could sit up and eat dinner.”

Jan. 26, 1921 Till wrote, "Give my love to grandpa and grandma. We received the letter Uncle Olaf wrote about grandma’s brother and we can’t seem to find anyone by that name as yet but President Smith is going to advertise and if he hears anything about it he will write to grandma”

April 17, 1921 Till wrote, "Tell everyone hello. Uncle Charlie is going to let us have his piano this summer. We have been over there twice. They feel fine.”

Cousin Leona got married

April 24, 1921 Till wrote, ”I was surely surprised to hear of Leona's marriage. We saw it in the paper. Congratulate the old kid for me.”

June 28, 1921 Aunt Hattie wrote from Salt Lake City, Utah “Dear Niece,
I received your letter and I was sure glad to hear from you. I had the blues and when I read it I forgot all about them. I was sure disappointed when you did not come down Thursday. I would not have let you gone home. How I wish you were here this week. I feel sure if you were here Saturday morning Jack would be baptized. I sure have been worried lately. We were out to the lake last Wednesday and I was wishing you were with us. What are you going to do this week, can't you slip in Friday? We are always ready to welcome you & you could sure help me you are so good.

Excuse this note as we are house cleaning. If you can come, call me up. Hy 2462M and we will try to have a good time. I have to feed my baby so I will write more next time. Give my love to all from your Aunt Hattie”

Aug. 30, 1921 Ellen wrote, ”Aunt Eliza moved last Thursday and Thelma lived in Dick’s house. Thelma has smallpox and they are all shut in.”

Sept. 2, 1921 Ellen wrote to Till, ”I was over to ma's the other day and grandpa told me to tell you that he sure did miss you and that he did not have anybody to sing for him now that you was gone. He told me to tell you that he wished you could be here. He
said it seems so strange how much he liked you that you was a wonderful girl and to give you his regards."

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, "Grandpa and Grandma is fine and all Aunt Eliza's folks."

Ellen's spiritual side.

Ellen understood things of the spirit. She had great faith that her prayers would be answered. She writes, "I know the Lord will assist you in all you do if you will depend on him and be prayerful and ask him to help you to understand the scriptures and be able to teach them to others."

July 21, 1919 Ellen wrote to Till, "If we put our trust in the Lord I know all will be well. Therefore do not forget the Lord in all things. Pray to him at all times for his spirit to guide you in all you do and I know you will be blessed...I hope the Lord will bless you with his spirit to understand the scriptures so you can teach them to those who you may be called to speak too."

In another letter Ellen writes, "Best regards to Horace and Milton when you write to them tell them for me that I do hope they will have good success in their mishing [sic] field in converting many to the truth and I do hope that you will also have good luck and your good companion too, tell her and all the rest of your good friends that I send my best regards. I can assure you that I do feel proud of my daughter and to think that she is doing so well I thank the Lord for the opportunity you have had in going on your mishing [sic] I can see that is the best thing that can happen to all the young folks in our Church. I do hope the Lord will bless my boys with the understanding that they will see the necessary of praying them self to go on a mission. I would like to see them all go on a mission."

July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I know the Lord will assist you in all you do if you will depend on him and be prayerful and ask him to help you understand the scripture and be able to teach them to others."

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I know that if we are faithful that he will do his part. Be careful and asked the Lord to help you and all that you undertake to do and I know that the Lord hears and answers our prayers and all that we do if we but first put our trust in him. Be wise and all that you do and the Lord will bless you."

Sept. 10, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I hope you will have the very best of success in the world. I pray for you all day long, for the Lord to bless you and your labors and with health and strength, so you'll be able to do all the good you can."

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen said, "The Lord has said as much as you do to one of my servants you shall be blest, so I think those good saints in Peru will shore (sure) be blest of the Lord for what they have done for my dear daughter."

Nov. 14, 1919 Ellen wrote, "President Grant said that the people is beginning to believe in our faith, I said that was just what Ottilia said in her letter. So we can see that is a great blessing to be one of his servants. We have been told that we should seek first the kingdom of God and all other will be added there too. We can see that every day. Brother Gowans used to say pay your tithing brothers and be blessed. I can see that everyday and we don't miss it either and we know that the Lord has said keep my commandments and all other shall be added there too, so when we do the best we can it makes us feel good."
Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I heard a man say in the stand today that when Pres. Young prayed that he prayed like he was talking to another person and that he had to look up at him and see if there was anyone he could see, but he had his face turned up to the Lord and talked to him as though he was addressing another person. So we can see that we must depend on the Lord in all things and all will be well with us."

Ellen also liked to share the things that she learned in her meetings and expressed how much she liked her meetings. On Oct 29, 1920 she wrote, "We had conference here Sunday and had some good instructions. There was visitors from Salt Lake, county. They have been hunting the mountains for over a week for Alma Tanners. Some how he got lost deer hunting and have not found him yet...I must close now as I must try and get my ironing done. Hope to hear from you real soon. May the lord bless you with health and strength so you will be able to do all you can is the wish of your ma and pa. We are all pretty well. Love to all xxxxxx"

John and Ellen loved Till serving a mission and loved to hear how much she loved it.

It pleased John and Ellen that Till was serving a mission. It brought great joy to learn how much Till was enjoying her mission and her new circumstances.

July 13, 1919 Till's first letter home, she replied, "We had a street meeting Saturday night and surely had a nice meeting we sang two songs and got the crowd and then two elders spoke and one of the sisters. I spoke Saturday morning and I had prepared something to say when I got up I never said a thing I had planned. I don't know when I ever had such a feeling. It seemed that I was just full of the spirit of the Lord....The people treat me grand. I just love it and I know is going to be wonderful to work with the spirit that we are possessed with."

July 21, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I am sure am well pleased that I have got one child that they saw fit to go on a mishing...Phil got your letter today too. She read it to us, I am sure glad to hear that you are taking hold so soon. It gives me great joy to hear that my girl is able to do what ever they call on her to do."

Again Till let her family know how much she loved her work saying on July 28,1919, "Am certainly enjoying my work and after I understand it better, I know nothing will be more interesting to me. I am called on real often to open and close meetings by prayer."

Because Ellen felt the importance of a mission, she gave counsel to Till to help her remember the wonderful experiences she had while serving. Soon after Till arrived in the mission field Ellen wrote on July 28, 1919 saying, "Dear Otilla I am sure glad that you had a chance to go on a mishing, [sic] it sure makes me feel good to hear how well you enjoy your work. I would like for you to get you a writing tablet and take all your experiences each day in short hand. That will give you lots of practice too and you will have it to turn to in years to come. Take the date and year and all that you do each day and when you get time you can type write it then. I would like you to type write your blessing and send it to me, as I would like it in all our trouble. I have got mine out and am reading it. It sure is a great help to me. Take good care of yours."

On Aug. 3, 1919 Ellen expressed her thoughts saying, "Otilla we got your dear letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from you and to hear that you are well that is the main thing so you will be able to go out and do your part. I am so glad that you like your work and I think the longer you are there the more you will like it...I met Isabel De La
Mare on the street the other day and she told me to tell you to be sure and drop her a card if not more. She would like to hear from you, she stood and talked with me for a long while. She said her mother said she knew that you would make a good missionary. She said you was cut out for one. I could not begin to tell you all she said."

Sept. 8, 1919 Till wrote, "President Smith will visit us next Sunday I think the way you talk in your letters that I'm close to Chicago. I am in away, you see I am in one state and Horace and Emma are in the other."

Sept. 10, 1919 Ellen wrote Till saying, "I saw Mrs. Del a Mare yesterday. She told me to tell you she sent her best love. She said she heard from you through Emma.. She wish you the best of luck. Everybody that meet any of us ask about you and send their love. John Tate was here today, the Rolley man, he told me to tell you that he wished you all the luck in the world. I met Mrs. Henderson downtown, she told me to give you her love."

Oct. 13, 1919 Till wrote, "I am so glad that I've been chosen as one of the servants of God. Really missionary work is wonderful when you walk down a crowded street among so many people it is grand to think and know that you are perhaps the only one in that great crowd that has had hands laid upon your head and have received a wonderful blessing and been set apart and given the authority to go out into the world and preach the true and everlasting gospel. The people of the world are beginning to acknowledge Mormonism more every day, and are beginning to find out that some of the reports that go out about us are false."

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I sure look for a letter from you today, but didn't get one. I hope I get one tomorrow, I sure enjoyed your last letter. I let Ed read it, he thought it was fine. I am so glad that you have had the chance to go on your mission. It sure makes he feel good when I go to meeting and hear the speakers talk about how much good the missionaries are doing. We had such a good meeting today. Brother McBride was the first speaker and then President Arms and a half brother of Mrs. Spears with the last speaker. And they all dwelt on the life of her and they talked about her embracing the gospel and how the missionaries had gone and preached the gospel to them and how all the Elders gathers the honest and heart out in the world and what the groundwork they were doing. I never go to a meeting but it all the speakers talk about the missionaries in our conference. We had a young man talk to us in nearly all the meetings and he sure was a fine speaker and on Sunday evening he talked in mutual. He sure did show he had some experiences in public speaking. He talked so much about the missionaries and what a grand work they was doing. It sure makes me feel good to think I have got a grand girl in the mission field doing her part in the Lord's vineyard, helping to gather in such fine people as Mrs. Spears has been and when I think of the good Saints there, that is so willing to help the missionaries both with something to eat and to assist them when they are sick. The Lord has said as much as you do to one of my servants ye have you shall be blast so I think that those good Saints in Peru will sure be blessed of the Lord for what they have done for my dear daughter. Be sure and thank them all for me for what they have done. I hope I can have the chance to do as much for them someday. Tell them if they ever come to Utah that I sure want them to feel that they have got a place to come to...Give my regards to all the good Saints that is so good to you and write soon and tell me all the news. I do hope that the Lord will continue to bless you all with his spirit to a great extent that you all
may be able to do a great deal of good will in the mission field in teaching them the plan of the gospel to them."

Nov. 6, 1919 Till wrote, "I do love my work and I am sure the glad I have been chosen as one of God’s ambassadors."

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote to Till, "It sounds good to hear that the missionaries are doing fine, that is all we can talk about when we all come together. There is Marshel and Mrs. de La Mare and Mrs. Shields so you can see there is a good bunch of us... Everybody I meet wants to know how you are, and to tell you they sent their congratulations...I hope you’ll be able to go about your duty and that the Lord will bless you with his Spirit so you will be able to teach the gospel to the people and be able to sing the beautiful hymns to them how do you and your new president get along with singing? I can imagine you singing and him playing. Do you like him as well as you liked Pres. Jensen? Have you heard from Emma lately give her my love and best regards to her and Horace and Milton. When you write them and tell them for me that I do hope they will have good success in the mission field in converting many to the truth. I do hope that you will also have a good luck and your good companion too. Tell her and all the rest of your good friends that I send my best regards and I can assure you that I do feel proud of my daughter and to think that she is doing so well I thank the Lord for the opportunity you have had going on your mission. I can see that is the best thing that can happen to all the young folks in our church."

Nov. 14, 1919 Till wrote, "Did I tell you I’ve been put in teacher over our Bible class? I sometimes feel weak but I am doing the best I can...I wish every girl and boy could fulfill a mission. Our people at home are wonderful compared with the people of the world. Oh my, you see things in this section of the country that almost stun you. But our people don’t appreciate the wonderful gospel they have. Out here they laugh at the idea of ever finding a man that is clean. They don’t hold the same respect for one another that this Latter Day Saints hold. How glad I am that I have that hope of finding a good moral husband. If ever I marry Ha! Ha! write soon lots of love Till"

Nov. 16, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I never go downtown but all I meet wants to know when you are coming home. I tell them that I don’t look for you until spring and they will say my, it seems so long since those girls went away, we never missed any missionaries like we missed those girls."

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I do hope you will have the Lord to be with you in all that you do. Give my love to Emma, Horace and Elder Cottam receive the warmest love yourself. I do hope that you will be blessed with good health so that you can do your work every day so that you can sing to the people those grand hymns. You and Emma can sure entertain those whom you come in contact with."

Feb. 9, 1920 she wrote, "I am so glad that you do enjoy your work. It makes me feel good to know that you are doing all that you can in the Lords vineyard. It is true as you have said where your Pres. wants you to go is where you will do the most good and when we feel like that then we have got the right spirit in us. They know best it is not for us to chose what we want to do. We are the ones in their hands to do as they say so be prayerful and ask the Lord to help you in all things and then you will come out alright. This is the wish of your mother for I know as long as we rely on the Lord we are all right and ask him to help us in all that we do. Don’t matter what it is as long as we are willing
and have a humble heart and clean hands this it the right way to live. I do hope I get a letter and don’t have to wait so long next time."

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am so glad that you have the opportunity to go on a mishing [sic] and that you enjoy it so much."

March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am so glad that you have the honor of being called to go and represent Utah. It sure is fine experience for you. Mrs. De La Mare told me about Emma, but she did not say a word about you being with her there. I am so glad that you have the opportunity to go on a mishing [sic]. You could not have had such a good experience in any other way and I do hope the Lord will pour his spirit down on you so that you can continue to do your duty and that you will be the means of bringing many to the truth. I think it will be nice to have more field experience but I think that you will be better in the office yet for a while as the weather is not settled yet and it is so cold to be out."

May 4, 1920 Till wrote, "There isn’t anything in the world grander than this wonderful work we are engaged I don’t have much chance to study because I work all day and seems I am busy doing something else in the evenings. So don’t expect too much of me when I get home, because there will be lots of things I will not know I am afraid."

Sept. 10, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "I saw a young girl in the Temple was going to Chicago on a mission. I told her that you was there to tell you that she saw me in the Temple"

Sept. 27, 1920 Till wrote, "I talked to the little girl you met in the Temple and she said you surely looked nice and she thought I had a lovely mother"

Oct. 15, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am so glad you’re having so good a time. I Hope you will continue and enjoyed your work. I hope the Lord will bless you with his Holy Spirit so you can do all the good you can while in the mission field and that you will be an instrument in his hands in bringing many to the truth is the wish of your parents, with love to all your friends and Emma and the best yourself ma and pa."

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am so glad that you’re having such a good time, I hope the Lord will continue to bless you and Emma with health and his spirit to guide you both in your personal affairs. Give my love to all and the best to you from ma and pa."

Jan. 1, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I feel like the Lord has blessed us as we have had the way opened to us so far that we have had all we needed to keep you in the mission field and I know we will never miss a dollar of the money it took to keep you there. Mr. Lee was talking to pa, he said it sure takes a lot to keep them in the field. Pa said that he did not miss a dollar of it as money could not by the experience you was gaining by that mission. We sure do feel blessed to think our girl has had the chance to fill a mission. Well it is true, we have helped Ed and was glad we was able to help him. The Lord has blessed us so we was able to help our children and do hope we will always be able to do so if they need our assistance. The Lord has said pay your tithes and offerings and be blessed. So I feel he has blessed us as pa has got work yet and I do hope Roy will be able to get work here so he won’t have to go away from home this winter. They have laid off 400 men at the smelter so I think we are blessed pa has still got his job. Pa said we planned on you coming home with President Smith when he came from conference and we had planned on that. Of course will be glad to see you when you come no
matter when it is. I think we could have kept you there until that time of course, pa won’t get as much pay a day, but I think we would have managed somehow.”

Ellen worried about her inactive children

July 21, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I sure am well pleased that I have got one child that they saw fit to go on a mission and I sure hope I will live to see all my boys fit to fill good and honorable missions. There is nothing that would please me more then to see my children work in the work of the Lord. Let us pray that the Lord will be merciful with our boys and inspire them to do his will and keep his commandments. We know they could do better then they do."

There was a great worry with Ellen when it concerned her children and the way they lived the gospel so she wanted Till to influence her other children. Ellen wrote on Aug. 17, 1919, "I wish you would write to Ed and try and wake him up to his duty and to live so that he can go to the temple and have his work done for him and his family and so we could get him sealed to us. Do you know that there is him and Julia and Edna to have sealed to us yet and I sure do wish we could have it done soon."

Sept. 10, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I am so glad that you like your work I hope that the Lord will bless you every day and I know he will if we are all faithful. Do write to write Ed and Roy and give them some good advice as they need it."

On Christmas days she writes Till after wishing her a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, "We hope that the Lord will bless you with his holy spirit and comfort you that you may enjoy your labors and be able to do much good while you are working in his vineyard in helping to gather the honest in heart to come into the fold…I do hope that we will have the pleasure of seeing our boys going on a mishing [sic] too, that would be the happiest time of my life."

Oct. 13, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I wish Roy would come home. I told him I would like it him to come but he said he would not come home until he made the money back that he spent on his trip. He could make it here but he don’t like to work here. So I guess he will have his own way. If he keeps good company I won’t care but you know how easy he is led."

Even though Ellen worried about Roy and activity in the church especially when he lived away from home, she sure appreciated his generous heart and how he helped the family, by sending money."

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I had a nice letter from Roy, he said he was going to send you some money the next payday. So I guess you will soon hear from him."

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "have you heard from Roy, I had a letter from him and he told me that he was going to send you some money…”I thank the Lord for the opportunity you have had going on your mission…I can see that is the best thing that can happen to all the young folks in our church. I do hope that the Lord will bless my boys with understanding that they will see the necessary of praying themselves to go on a mission I’d like to see them all go on a mission.”

After Roy sent John and Ellen money, she was so touched by it she told Till all about it on Nov. 14, 1919. She wrote, "I got a letter from Ellaroy a few days ago. He had sent us the last $500 he had and I felt so bad to think he would send us the last he had so I set down and wrote him a long letter and thanked him for it and told him not to send us
all that he had any more so he said in his next letter to think that I can send you too much for I can never repay you back what you have done for me if I sent you a million dollars a month. So don’t think that I send you too much if I send you the last I have I only wish I could send you more. It makes me feel so good when I can send you some money in every letter. So you see that is the way we feel when we do our duty to the Lord we feel so good and our concerns is clear that we have done our best so when I send you money or any thing else it makes me feel that it is helping to spread the gospel to the people of the world. So why should we not feel good as Roy said in his letter just as it makes me feel when I get one from you and to see how well you enjoy your work and I do hope that the Lord will continue to bless you with his good spirit to lead you to the honest in heart so you can teach them the gospel in your weak way with the Lord to help you. I know you will have good success."

Roy writes Till from Ely Nevada on Jan 15th 1920, "I will now take time to write you a few lines to let you know that I haven’t forgot you. I wrote home for your address and they just now sent it so I thought I would write to you. When you move again write and let me know where you are at for I like to hear from you as you do from me.

I am still working on a ranch and I am getting fat. I quit smoking and I feel much better. I quit on the first of new years and I weigh 170 lbs. and if I ever get my picture taken I will send you one. Mother wants me to come home in every letter and I think I will in about 3 or 4 months so you can write to me here for quite a while you will have to excuse my spelling Till for you know that I am not very good speller so please excuse me. Say Till if you know Emma De La Mare’s address tell me for Alven McIntosh wants me to get it for he said he would like to write to her so if you do please send it to me so I can give it to Al he said for me to tell you hello for him. I am here on this ranch and I know you know his sis Mrs. Elyets and you want to write to her also. Me and Henry Shields is all that is working here, if you don’t know Henry I will tell you for I think you know his sis Amay Shields. Well sis I will close now be sure and answer soon from your loving brother Ellaroy" East Ely Nev. P. O. Box 190

Till wrote home Jan. 21, 1920, "I received a nice letter from Roy he says he is fine weighs 170 lbs. I surely would like to see him. He told me he had quit smoking. I was awfully glad to hear that. I wish I could get him to realize how much prayer meant to him. Many young people today are so full of the vigor of youth that they think of nothing more than pleasure seeking and fail to give due reverence to the Lord and make him the all important factor in their lives. It is more serious then they imagine for them to be negligent with their prayers. We must live near our Heavenly Father and make him our friend. If we do this then we are worthy of calling down the blessings which are in store for us. How I wish Ed, Edna and Julia could only sense the responsibility that rests upon their shoulders. If they could only see how necessary it is for them to go through the temple and be sealed to their husbands and their darling parents. How happy I am that this wonderful opportunity of fulfilling this mission has presented itself to me. It is late and I must say good night by asking our Heavenly Father to bless you all with health and strength and happiness. I certainly appreciate what you are doing for me and how thankful I am to have such wonderful parents. Many thanks for the pictures they are splendid and the best I have seen of dear old mother and daddie love Till"
Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen said, "I got a letter from Roy since I have been writing this. Leon brought it when she came from school. He is well, he said he was waiting for a letter from Otilla and how he likes to get them he said that you tells him of your experiences and that is just what he likes. He said he sure liked to get your letters when Pa read your letter he said that Otilla being on a mission was going to do all of us good. It was going to wake us all up. I sure do hope so there is so much for us all to do. I can readily see that we must work out or own salvation. Ed wrote to Cora and told her that ma has been jaking (sp?) him up about paying his tithing and wanted to know what she thought about it, she told him YES in a big word so if he will do that it will be in answer to my prayers. I sure do hope both of them will do their duty as both of them has been ordained a deacon and they have been so neglectful. I think it is time that we are waking up. What will be the use of us sending our missionaries out to save the world and let our own people die in the faith. I do hope you will use your influence with the boys and the girls too for that matter. They all needed to be told of their duty. I read a piece in the Relief Society magazine the few number of Jedediah M Grant that is the father of our President now, he was in the spirit world and saw how it was there and that he saw families that had some of their members absent that could not be there. I was just thinking would not that be terrible if we should not be permitted to have all of our children with us if we are good enough to be in that class that Grant saw it sure behooves us to do our duty and live so that we can all be together when that glorious time comes to us all. I do hope we will wake up to our duty and prepare our self for that great time. Our time is short here so it is worth our while to do the will of the Father and keep his commandments and I think that now that you are full of the spirit of the gospel that you are more able to talk to your brothers and sisters because you can relate to them your experiences and that will have more effect. They sure do look for letters from you. They get the spirit of them and it makes them feel like doing their duty. What a glorious time it will be when we can all go to the temple and have the rest of our work done. What can bring more pleasure then to know that we are doing our duty. While I think about it, I wish you would copy your blessing and send it to me. I will be glad when spring comes. I started to write to you last Sunday night and got a letter from Edna and I sent it to her and told her to send it to you as I didn't have time to sit down to write, so I guess you will have that by this time."

Till wrote back to Roy, Feb 15, 1920, "I received your sweet letter quite some time ago and was so glad to hear from you. I can't believe you weighing nearly 200 pounds. What a monster you must be. But I among all women certainly do admire large healthy looking men. It pleased me so much to hear you had dismissed the habit of tobacco using Really Roy you don't really know how harmful tobacco is to man. I am proud of you to think you can withstand that measly temptation (if I may use that expression). We have been placed here upon this earth for a purpose. Did you know that we existed before we came here? We did and we have been sent here away from our Father in Heaven and it is a sort of schooling for us. We are put upon the earth with our own free agency. But God has laid down certain commandments for us to follow and if we expect to make the most of our lives we must try to live near our Heavenly Father. It is alright for young people to have a good time, no one likes a better time then your sis does. But
one of the grievous conditions of the present age is the apparent forgetfulness of many young people of their creator. They are full of the vigor of youth, bubbling over with enthusiasm and fail to give due Reverence to the Lord and make him the all important factor of their lives. Really Roy religion is a serious thing. More serious than I ever anticipated. The only way we can make real progress is through the help of our Heavenly Father. We must make the Lord our friend and go to him in prayer and ask him to help us and thank him for the many blessings we enjoy. I am afraid dear brother that you do not realize the genuine happiness and comfort that one derives from prayer. If you have neglected this right tonight before you retire, go down upon your knees and if you only utter a few words you will find that you feel better for having done so. If you can get the Book Of Mormon or some of the other good church books, I would advise you to read them. I read a little poem that has impressed me very much and I have thought of the many people who could apply it to their own lives. It is warning us to be up and doing and take advantage of our short time here upon the earth and not wait until it is too late before we think of doing something and have been suddenly brought to a realization that perhaps it is too late. “As we see the infant taken away by death so may the youth and middle aged as well as the infant be suddenly called into eternity. Let this then prove as a warning to all not to procrastinate repentance or wait upon the death bed, for it is the will of God that man should repent and serve him in health and in the strength and power of his mind, in order to secure his blessing, and not wait until he is called to die.

Last Sunday Sister Frederiksen who is my companion and myself went with President Smith up to Detroit Michigan. We left here Friday night at 12:00 and arrived in Detroit about 8:30 Saturday morning. We were met by Elder Fenton (you know Harris Fenton the basketball player) also Elder Cottam and President Jensen. We went down to the Statler Hotel which is Detroit's finest and out of one thousand rooms which they have for accommodation, we were unable to get a room. Everything was filled. There were other nice hotels of course, but the Elders insisted on taking us out to the Saints which was very nice of them. Then they took us down to the river and we were going to get on one of the large boats and go over into Canada, but very much to our disappointment we couldn't go. There were so many cases of smallpox over in Canada that in order to go, we had to be vaccinated. So we refrained and contented ourselves by taking a couple pictures and gazing across the water into Canada which was only a 20 min. ride. That was so near and yet so far was it? But I hope to go again sometime. I am enjoying my work very much but am not getting the real missionary spirit and experience having to work in the office. It seems more like the business side of life. But I hope after a few more months they will send me out in the field. I love field work even though some of the radical people do throw their hands in the air in holy horror and feel sorry for us. They look right at you and say we feel sorry for you to think that you will come out and represent such a horrible church. Honest it is funny the conception some people have of God and the strange ideas they get into their heads about the Mormons. Elder Thompson was talking to a Catholic lady one day and they conversed for some time. Finally she said, “once a Catholic always a Catholic.” He said all right Madam, you may die a Catholic but you’ll resurrect a Mormon. I laughed when he told us that I surely thought it was good.
Today is Sunday and we are holding conference. Our meeting this morning was lovely and we had another this evening at 7:30. I read in the paper where they are having spring weather at home. I cannot say that for Chicago. It is as cold as can be outside. It fairly cuts your face as you walk along the air. I received a nice letter from mother and she said she had an awful cold. I hope she is better by now. Yesterday I couldn’t attend conference in Roseland, I had such a cold and terrific headache but I feel better today, although last night I thought I would choke to death. I was supposed to sing but that was impossible. I’m helping to sing in a quartet tonight but guess I will sound like “Mr Frog”! I must close now by asking you to write soon and always watch your step and remember what I said about prayer. May the Lord ever bless you, I am your loving sis Till

Feb 21, 1920 Roy writes her back, "I received your nice letter and was sure glad to hear from you for I thought you didn’t get my other letter that I sent you so I thought I would answer your letter right now. I thought a whole lot of your letter, for you sure write good letters. And I like to read them for they do me a lot of good and if I take your advice I will be a whole lot better off. And sis I am going to try to do them just for your sakes as you are in the mission field and doing your duty as a good little girl and hope some day that I can be able to do the same but first I will have to read the “Book Of Mormon” and a few other things before I can do my duty in a mission field and Mrs. Algels has got the “Book Of Mormon” and Phillip told me I could go and get it any time I wanted it so I think I will try it out. Sis why did you not send Emmas address to me so I could give it to Alven? Is the reason why you didn’t send it is maybe you and her address is the same but send me it anyway if it is the same tell me. Did I not tell you about my oil stock, well if I didn’t I will tell you now. They say that the oils stock that we bought for 10 cents will go to 50 cents as soon as they get down 600 feet it is 15 cents now. Won’t it be great if they struck oil if they do it means money to me sis. From your loving brother Roy"

Till wrote to her mother speaking of Roy she said on Feb. 29, 1920, "I received a sweet letter from Roy and he tells me he is going to take my advice & read the Book Of Mormon. I must write to him & to Ed & Edna & Julia. I am busy all the time I don’t have time to write to anyone. I owe Phyllis another letter too and I haven’t answered Horace’s letter yet.”

March 1, 1920 Ellen wrote, 'I do hope that the Lord will continue in blessing you with his holy spirit and that we have the pleasure in seeing our boys going on a mission so that is my daily prayer.”

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "Who would have thought one year ago today that you would have been where you are today and in the service of the Lord like you are, what blessing has been bestowed on us to have this grand opportunity. I do hope that we will have the pleasure of seeing our boys going on a mishing [sic] too, that would be the happiest time of my life.”

Ellen continued to worry about her girls activity even after Till returned from her mission. On Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote to Edna and Till, "I hope you girls don’t forget to go to Sunday school and meeting. Don’t forget your duties what ever you do.”

Phill got your letter today too. She read it to us, I am glad to hear that you are taking hold so soon it gives me great joy to hear that my girl is able to do what ever they call on her to do."
Ellen loved her children being at home

It was hard on Ellen when her children were not around the house. On Oct. 13, 1919 she wrote, "I had a letter from Julia and Edna I must answer. When I hear from you all every week I don't get the blues but Sunday I had not heard from any of you so I got almost sick. It seems that all my children and even Floyd was all gone at once. It made a awful change after having you all around me all the time. I felt like I had no one to go and see. No one came to see me even Phill went away she would come in once in a while so you see I felt might lonesome. I sent Roy's overcoat and his coat and sweater and Julia's coat and Edna and your suit and did not hear from any of you."

On Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "I can imagine about how lonesome you are with all of us so far away from you but there will be a happy day of rejoicing some day, when we will all perhaps be home. When I stop and look ahead two years, it seems such a long time before I can hug & kiss you all and talk to you. But when I look back it doesn't seem nearly four months since I left you at the depot in Salt Lake. Never shall I forget that day. One of joy and sorrow."

Ellen particularly didn't like it when Edna left. She writes to Till on Jan. 24, 1920, "Edna had a good long visit with me but Marion came last Tuesday and got her. He stayed until Thursday. I sure hated to see her go. It was so nice to have her home. It seemed like she was my one girl again. I did wish he would not come and get her." Edna writes to Till about her mother Jan. 28, 1920, "I sure did hate to leave Ma. And believe me she sure did hate to see me come back. Both she and Grandma tried to talk me into staying there the rest of the winter but I couldn't see it that way." Ellen wrote, "I had a nice letter from Roy, he said not to look for him for 4 months. That is a long time to look forward to" I would like to see him sooner than that". He visited the family as it was mentioned in Till's letter dated June 6, 1920 Till wrote, "My I'll bet you were tickled to see Roy. It has been a long time since I seen him over a year now. I'll bet he is a monster."

Till understands how important it is to Ellen that her children surround her, on April 18, 1920 Till wrote, "I'll bet you hated to see Edna go back. I was awfully glad to hear that Phil got such a good job. Mrs. Atkins death was a big surprise to me. I'll bet the poor Bishop will feel terrible." On Dec. 6, 1920 Till writes, "It won't be long now until you will have Edna home with you. I'll bet it will seem good to have her home again. Bless her heart I would love to see her. Is Julia coming home for Xmas? I wish they could all be home and I know you would enjoy it more."

Apparently John was not as social as Ellen was. They were invited to a “Bundle Shower”, Ellen didn't think he would go saying on Oct. 13, 1919, "Mrs. Beven came over last night and invited pa and I to a bundle shower for Mable Nelson. Her and Less Gillett got married about a week ago but I don't think pa will go you know him."

Ellen loved to hear from her children, and they loved to hear from her.

July 21, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Emma's mama got a letter from her last Friday and I thought I ought to have one too. But I did not get one till today. I was very glad to hear from you. I don't know what I would have done had I not got one."
July 28, 1919, "We got your most welcome letter today and was sure glad to hear from you. It sure does seem long between letters. I just can't wait for them to come."

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "We got your sweet letter of August 9 yesterday and we was sure glad all of us. It seems that all members likes to hear how you're getting along. They all inquire about you... I was sure surprised to get your picture when pa went after the paper. I said did you get me a letter? He said do you expect a letter everyday. I said that I looked for 1 from Roy. He had it in his paper and thought I would not look in there, but I had a hunch that he had one so when I felt there was a picture in it, I thought it was Mr. Cottam's picture. But I opened it and found it was your self. I just hugged it, I was so surprised I kissed and hugged it."

Sept. 10, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I did not get my letter last Monday that I looked for. I hope you don't wait for me to write. You know I am so busy."

Oct. 13, 1919 Ellen wrote "We got your letter today that we have looked for so long, it seems like ages since we heard from you. It was 2 weeks last Saturday since I sent your suit to you and I didn't get any word about it and I began to worry about it and wonder if you had got it or not. I was just sick about it. Don't let me wait so long again, be sure and write me one every week. Horace said that the other fellows was getting 3 to his one, but you can tell Horace that he gets them as often as I do. He said he got one on the 19th and I got my last on the 20th. So he has not got any the start of me on the letter question. Don't know how many the other fellow has got since I got mine, but don't care so I get 1 a week.

I had a letter from Julia and Edna I must answer. When I get to hear from you all every week I don't get the blues. But Sunday I had not heard from any of you so I got almost sick. It seems that all my children and even Floyd was all gone at once, it made awful change after having you all around me all the time. I feel like I had no one to go and see anymore. Or no one to come and see me. Even Phil went away. She would come in once in a while. So I felt mighty lonesome. I sent Roy's overcoat and his ? coat and sweater and Julia's coat and Edna's and your suit and did not hear from any of you. I have not heard from Roy yet. I don't know if he got his or not. I hope he did."

Oct. 17, 1919 Till wrote, "Be sure and take good care of all my pictures. Don't let any of them get lost. My darling mother I was very much surprised at your letter today. I thought all the time that it were you that was forgetting me. It seems such a long time since I have heard from you. I wrote you and Edna and Roy all along letter last Thurs. the 9th. You should have gotten it last Monday or Tues. I think it takes four days to go from Peru. I am awfully busy and think of you every day so if you don't get a letter just when you expect if you will know that it is coming soon...Write me soon, lots of love Till"

Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "Dear mother: I received your two very sweet letters and was very glad to hear from you once more. I can imagine about how lonesome you are with all of us so far away from you, but there will be a happy day of rejoicing some day, when we will all perhaps be at home. When I stop and look ahead two years, it seems such a long time before I could hug and kiss you all and talk to you. When I look behind it doesn't seem nearly 4 months since I left you at the depot in Salt Lake."

Oct 26, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Otilla we got your letter some time ago but I have been so busy that I have not had time to answer it. You said in your letter that I was to write soon. I did not mean to let it been this long but it seems that I just couldn't get at it, either this pen or this paper, I don't know which it is, I can't write at all. Either the pen
sticks or the pen gums up...I have wrote a few lines to Ed this morning so I thought I would finish your letter. We had a letter from Ed along time ago and have not answered it yet, so you ain’t the only one that we forget, if that is what you call it. It seems it is the hardest thing to get time to set down and write."

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Well Otilla pa went down for the mail, they did not get me a letter. I do hope I get one tomorrow."

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I thought I would write to you tonite [sic] as I have not had a letter for some time so I thought if I wrote to you tonite [sic], maybe it would coax a letter along...Jim said when did you hear from Roy, I told him I had a letter a day or two ago. He said tell him hello for me, will you? And George said when did you hear from Otilla? I told them I heard a few days ago. I did not want him to know that I have not heard from you for two weeks next Tuesday. He said how is she? I told him fine. He said for me to tell you to write to him be sure. So I told him I would."

Nov. 6, 1919 she wrote, "Dearest Mother, Daddie and Fern; I guess you think I have forgotten you but I haven't had time to write a letter for two weeks. I received a nice letter from Edna and Julia also Phyllis but haven't had a chance to answer them. I guess I owe everybody a letter. So before I can get any letters I'll have to write some...Sister Sanders is waiting for me to go uptown for dinner, so I can't write a very long letter, but I remember mother said write if it is just a line. I must close now and asked God to ever bless you all with health and strength is the prayer of your loving daughter Till""

Nov. 14, 1919 Till wrote, I received two letters from you and was sure glad to hear from you. It doesn't seem possible mother that it has been two weeks before you received a letter from me. I try to write once a week and really the time slips by but I cannot see where it goes too."

Nov. 24, 1919 Till wrote, "Another week slipped by and I haven't written to you. This last week is been a very busy week for me."

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "My dear daughter, I guess you'll think I have got lost. It is so long since I have wrote to you, that I can’t remember just when it was. We have had so much company for about two weeks...I will try and finish this letter tonight. It sure seems that I am not to get a letter off to you this time everything that can come to hinder me from writing comes. I guess I can’t look for a letter until I write one myself, but I must tell you the same as I told Edna not to wait for me to write, to send me one anyhow for I do want you all to send me a letter once a week. I have not heard from Edna for a long time. It was so long before I answered hers, I guess she’s going to let me wait as long...I do hope you will write me if you don't get one from me. I am sitting here falling asleep while I am writing. I just can’t keep my eyes open."

Dec. 10, 1919 Till wrote, "I got a grand letter from Sister Crim. It seems ages since I heard from home. Write me soon, as I get lonesome to hear from you."

Dec. 31, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I thought I’d write to you this morning as this is the last day in the year and I am so worried about you. I have looked for a letter from you every day since Sunday and I have not got one yet. I'm beginning to think that perhaps you are sick as you told us in your last letter that you stayed home from meeting because you was not feeling well. I do hope that you are not too sick to write to us... I am looking for a letter today. I do hope we get one, well Otilla, I did not get a letter today neither. So I will send this and see if it will change my luck."
Jan. 5, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Dear Otilla, I got your dear long look for letter this morning I could not get it yesterday as it was Sunday. Miss Nowall has got a box and told me that I could use it and I sent you the number but you don't put it on. So after this you can put box 456 and I can get it on Sunday. I could not wait for the mail opening at 11 o'clock, so I went down at 8 this morning and as I was going down I could see Mr. Nelson coming down the street to go to the post office. And when I got there he did not have the window open yet so I stood there a minute and he opened it and I told him that I thought there was a letter there for me. So he looked, and threw them out. One from you, one from Horace, but that big one of yours, I told Edna that put me in mind of being hungry. I had not had anything to eat for a long time. I had just gotten sitting down to eat and something turns out that I had to leave the table and go without. It was a taste but a feel like I was looking for. So I do hope I get a long letter in the future and please tell me all the news and how you liked the collar of your dress and how it was made.”

PS tell me how your box got there.”

Jan. 9, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I am sure surprised at you for not writing to me. I can't make out why you should forget me so. I have looked for a letter from you for so long. The last letter you wrote me was on the 10th of December with the exception of that little note I got last Monday morning and I got 1 from Horace too. You said that you was in a hurry and could not take time to write much so I have been looking for one every day since but have not got one yet. I did not think that you could be too busy to drop your mother a letter at least once a week and when I did not hear from you I have had the blues and even laid a wake at night wondering why you could not find time to drop me a few lines. When Cora came home for dinner I called out to her, did you bring me a letter. She said no I did not call for the mail. So Edna and I coaxed Fern (Alburn) to go down and see if there was any mail and paid him a nickel to go. So when he came back we ran out to see if he had one. So he gave me one and I did not have my glasses on, so I could not see whose name was on the head of the letter. So I said to Edna yes, here is one from Otilla and she took it and said no ma this is not from her it is from Horace. I said what in the world is the matter with Otilla that she don't write me. So Edna tore it open and we looked at the pictures he sent the one he took at Xmas and we went into the kitchen to have dinner and Edna laid the letter on the heater until we ate dinner and Fern and Cora went back to school. So she said let us hear what Mr. Lee has got to say maybe he will say some things about Otilla and why she don't write. So we was still at the table and she began to read, Dear Mr. and Mrs. Shields, I have got a very great important question to ask you and I gave out a loud scream and Edna looked at me, I said go on, so she said, I have purposed to your daughter that was enough I guess I was not in the rite [sic] spirit to get such a unlooked for question. I was rite [sic] mad and I said, that is the reason I am not getting any letters. I was not in the rite [sic] mood for such a question. I got rite [sic] mad at once and I am not over it yet. I did not think that was what you went on your mission for and I have not got my mind made up to answer that question until you have finished your mishing,[sic] I have been too proud of you having been called to work in the mishing [sic] field for anything like that to come in my mind and I don't want it to come in the way of you filling your mishing [sic] with honor, so I can't answer Horace question until you come home. So don't let that come between your work. I just can't say how it has made me feel. I have been planning on you finishing your vacle [sic] when you come home. So I don't intend to say
anything about it until I hear from you. Why did you not write to us first and let us know how you felt about it before he wrote to us. I just can't say how I feel about it, it was too much of a surprise. I thought they did not allow spooning in the mishing [sic] field. What is your President doing to allow this. It makes me think about what Horace said just before he went on his mishing, that they had no rite [sic] to be friendly in the mishing [sic] field.

I felt quite safe. I will wait for an answer from you before I can even think about it, so do find time to write and tell me why you gave him your promise before you came home.

I do hope you are well as this leaves us all the same, all but being greatly surprised from your loving Mother Ellen

PS Edna said you mite [sic] have wrote and told us about it before he did. As for me, I will not think about it until your mishing {sic} is done.”

Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Pa is 11:30 o'clock shift now and I don't go to bed until late. So thought I would drop you a line. I thought I would get a letter today but no such luck....Emma's ma had a letter of hers to meeting one day and read it in meeting to us. It was so nice, I wished I had one of yours that I could take down to read to them. All that I have got from you always had something in that I did not want to let anyone read so some day when you get time to write some of your experience since you have been away. I will like to take it down and let them hear from you too. Emma told her experiences since she went away and they sure liked to hear from her. You can tell me anything you want to on a separate page."

Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "We got your dear letter and was sure glad to get it as I had looked for one for a few days before I got it. We sure enjoy your letters all of them here must read them of course if there is anything in them that I don't want them to know I don't let them read it. If I feel well enough to go to Relief Society meeting tomorrow I will take this letter with me...I do hope you are well and are able to go about your duty...I do hope I get a letter and don't have to wait so long next time."

Feb 25th, 1920 she wrote, "I got that long looked for letter yesterday and it sure relieved me as I was nearly on the verge of a break down waiting for that letter of yours, if Phil had not bought hers down and let me read it I don't know what I would have done, it was on the first of this month the last one you wrote to me."

Feb. 29, 1920 Till wrote, "Dearest mother daddie & all:- I received your sweet letter yesterday and it always encourages me to receive letters from home. I have been one busy missionary for two weeks.” Till went on to describe her very busy week representing Utah at the suffragette convention, she went to several cottage meetings where she sang and talked, spent time with Mr. Nelson, traveled to Peru to sing at a funeral and spent the last evening with Horace before he transferred to Iowa. Till writes, "So you see mother I am so terribly busy that you must not feel worried when you don't hear from me. I am feeling fine...I received a sweet letter from Roy and he tells me he is going to take my advice and read the Book of Mormon. I must write to him and to Ed and Edna & Julia. I am so busy all the time I don't have time to write to anyone. I owe Phyllis another letter too and haven't answered Horace's letter yet.”

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Otilia please do write to me at least once a week as that is long enough to wait to hear from you and tell me all the news, and what clothes you need. I must close hoping to hear from you soon and tell me all the news you had on your trip as I am interested in it to, as your happiness is mine to...How is Emma? How
is it that you don't say anything about her and she don't mention your name in her letters to her mother. When I did not get a letter from you for so long I would ask them about you but they said that she did not say a word about you...I must close now do hope I get a letter today from you. Don't wait so long for your letters."

In another letter she writes Till, "We got your letter and was so glad to hear from you it seems like there is no end to time when I don't get your letter every week. I do hope you will take time to drop me a few lines a week."

March 19, 1920 Till writes, "Darling Mother Daddie & Fern: It is now nine o'clock and I have just come to my room from the office. I am undressed and slipped into my bathrobe and decided I would write to you tonight matter what comes up. So Sister Frederickson just came in from downtown. She had been to the doctors and she wanted to see the show which is just around the corner but I told her no, I had to write to you, so she went alone and I am here in my room7 taking advantage of a quiet evening.

April 18, 1920 Till wrote, "I suppose you think your daughter has forgot you. But I have to offer the same excuse. I had been so busy. (She went on to explain her busy week)

May 4, 1920 Till writes, "It is 10 o'clock but before retiring I am going to drop you little letter. It is been already neglected too long. I won't be able to write a long letter to you tonight but will write the very next moment I get...I don't have much chance to study because I work all day and It seems I am busy doing something else in the evenings. So don't expect too much of me when I get home because there will be lots of things I won't know I am afraid."

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "Dearest mother daddie and all: Your sweet letter received yesterday may be very happy. It seems to long time to the heard from you."

June 15th, 1920 Till wrote, "It doesn't seem possible that ten days time had elapsed before you received a letter from me. But honestly the time goes by so rapidly that I cannot account for the days which have gone. It has been over a week now since I last wrote you and I am taking some time in the office this morning because I know you worry when you don't hear from me. I am well and happy and I do hope you are feeling better...I owe everybody a letter. I no sooner get it answered until I have them all to do over again."

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, "Saturday I received another letter from one of the students he used to go to school here. He is in Salt Lake and I have been corresponding with him ever since he went home and his letter Saturday made the second time he has written to me on my one and he said it would have been two weeks and he hadn't heard a word from me, he wondered if I was tired of writing to him already or if I was angry because he had written to me before I had answered his other letter or if I was sick and couldn't write. He said if I have done anything to offend you to please let me know what it is and I will do anything I can to make amends. I am kept so busy, that I don't have time to write half as many letters as I would like to. Mother dear, I am going to try and send you one letter a week if it is only two pages to tell you that I am well. I'm feeling fine I do hope you are feeling better. I am surely enjoying my work."

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote home explaining how busy she has been she writes, "No I am not lost or anything like that. But am ashamed for not writing more often. Really mother I think of all of you every day and make up my mind to write but something always comes up and it is put off until another day and that is the way it goes until the
weeks slip by. Tonight Elder Boyce wanted Emma and me to go down to the park and play tennis but I told him I had a date to write to my mother and I am going to keep this date if Chicago has to slip away....The Smiths surely did have a good time while they were out home they keep talking about it. They have the pictures finished and Oh, my they are good looking to me. I think the one you and Leon had taken among the flowers is just grand. It surely is good of both of you. The others are fine. I will get some printed as soon as they get through with the films and will send you some of them. I said I wished I could pick you out of the picture and hug you. Emma and I both stood with tear dimmed eyes as we admired you all.”

Sept. 27, 1920 Till wrote, "The time has flown by rapidly and it’s again a long time since I last wrote to you. Will you forgive me this time? I will try and not let it go so long again. I received your very nice letters and it was so thoughtful of you to write again and tell me I could go ahead and have my teeth fixed.”

Sept. 28, 1920 Ellen wrote, "My dear Otilla, we got your card today. I was looking for a letter as it is so long since I have had one. I was to meeting Sunday and Emma’s ma told me she had got a letter from her. I sure did look for one today, but I just got your card which was welcomed, but it don’t answer the purpose as a letter does...Cora asked me in their letter today, if I ever heard from you. I told them that I had not had a letter for long time. I hope I get one tomorrow. I must close, give my love to all and I hope the Lord will continue to bless you with health is the wishes of your loving mother and daddy and Fern”

Oct. 11, 1920 Till wrote, “My it seems a long time since I last heard from you and I have also neglected writing. It seems that every moment is occupied...You say Cora wanted to know when you last heard from me, my I should write to them. I guess I won’t have a friend when I get home. I owe everybody a letter.

Say mother dear I started this letter at 7:30 and crept over in Joe’s room where I can be quiet but company came and I had to help entertain “em” now it is 10:30. I’ll have to close as the girls are going to go to bed. I have laughed tonight until I am weak. I am well and happy and pray out Heavenly Father to ever bless you with health and strength. PS I will try my best to write to you again tomorrow”

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "Are you sick is the reason I haven’t heard from you for such a long time? I get awful lonesome to hear from you and when it goes so long I began to worry about you and wonder if you are well.”

Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, "Today brought me a letter from home sweet home written all by mother dear. O, but it seems good to see those dear letters passed out to me...Honestly mother I have a lot I want to tell you but it is getting late and I will have to wait until my next letter which won’t be far off. I’ll bet you think I am nonsensical but you know you’re my pal.”

Nov. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "I suppose you wonder what has happened to your daughter again as it is been some time now since I wrote you. It seems that I am on the go every minute and the time goes by and when I checked upon myself I find that it is been about two weeks or more since I wrote you a letter.”

Nov.16, 1920, “Dear Otilla, I have been looking for a letter for some time yet but I have not got one yet...I met Mr. Lee (Horace’s father) down town the other day. He asked me when I heard from Otilla. I told him I had not heard for 2 weeks. He said I never heard of such a poor correspondent to her own folks and to be such a good hand
at it as she is. I don’t think Horace has missed a week since he went away. I told him
that I thought you was busy. He said that she is not too busy to write to her mother. He
said I got a letter from Horace and he told me he had got a letter from Otilla. And by the
way she writes they are having a good time. So I guess he wishes he was there with
you sharing in the good time...I saw Mrs. Anderson at meeting Tuesday. She told me
that she got a letter from Louie. He told her that he found the girls looking fine and
dandy and that he was sure glad to see them again. And pa and I was at one of the
rallies at the Strand and Mr. Lee’s sister had a letter from her brother and that he had
been to see Otilla and Emma and that it sure did seem good to see the girls again.”

Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "At last at last I am taking a few minutes of office time to write
to you. It seems that I am awful neglectful but really my intentions are good but the time
is slipping by to rapidly. The first thing I know a couple weeks have flown by and I
neglected to write to you... Well mother I suppose I will have bored you to death now by
this long letter. You will think I am trying to make up for lost time. Elder Lee is coming
to Chicago tomorrow as he has been transferred to So. Ill. We will be glad to see him.
He always sends his best regards to you. Tell his folks hello for me and I am sorry that
Mr. Lee chastises me the way he did about my writing to you. If he only understood
how dreadfully busy we are. But I will try and write you once a week if it is only a short
letter. Must close now and get to work. Write me a long letter and tell me all the
news...Write to me soon for I hunger for your letters. May our Heavenly Father bless
you abundantly that you’ll have health and strength is the continual prayer of your loving
daughter. Till”

Dec. 6, 1920 Till wrote, "Just a little letter tonight before going to the room. We went
up once but Emma lost her keys so we have to remain until our landlady returns home...
My it seems a long time since I heard from you, do you know it is been over two weeks.
I received the loveliest box from the primary. I must write and thank them for. It was so
sweet of them to remember us the way they did. You thank them for me too, will you
mother. Must go, so will say good night please write to me soon. Tell Sadie Fry hello
from her old pal if you see her before she returns to her husband.”

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Well, you said you would try and write me once a week if it
was only a short letter. I don’t care how short they are or how long, so I get one of
course. I do love to get long ones. I sure did enjoy this last one. I have read it over
and over. It seemed to have such a good sprit in it. I just could not put it in the box. I
have one of pa’s big shoe boxes that I keep the letters all in. I am keeping them to
remember your mishen [sic] for years to come.”

Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, "Today brought your long looked for letter. I thought that you
had forgot that you had a daughter out here in the big old world. My but it seems a long
time since I last heard from you. So you may know how glad I was when I discovered
your handwriting on my letter.”

Dec. 20, 1920 Till wrote, "Just a little letter tonight before going to my room and it
being the first of the week and I promised to write you every week.”

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, “Otilla you said you thought I had forgotten my girl, not
so, I never forgot her but I am like you I have so much to do that I just can’t find the time
to sit down to write. You’re not anymore glad that I am when I stand at the window
watching them shuffling the letters over to see if there is any for me. I can tell them as
soon as I see it in her hand. I know them at a glance.”
Jan. 21, 1921 Ellen wrote, "My dear Otilla we got your letter and was so glad to hear from you. It seems like there is no end to time when I don't get your letter every week. I do hope you will take time to drop me a few lines a week, I feel more contented."

Even after Till returned from her mission Ellen delighted in hearing from her children. She wrote to Till on Mar 26, 1921, "I sure did look for a letter today from you girls, I can't see why you don't write to me more often when you know how I look for letters from you. I would not have went today but I got a letter from Elder Jackson and he wants you and Emma to sing at the missionary reunion at conference time and I thought I better send this to you."

On Sept. 13, 1921 Ellen wrote, "Dear Otilla and Edna, We got your letter and was sure surprised to get one. I thought you had been kidnapped. Too much going out at night for your own good. Try and stay in long enough to drop us a few lines so we can sleep at night."

Sept 20, 1921 Ellen wrote, "We got your dear letter just now as the girls came from school and was glad to hear from you. Why don't Edna write too, I like to hear from you both...I don't know where your letter has been it was mailed on the 10th and I just got it today. Oh I see I got hold of the wrong envelope. I wondered how that was."

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen writes, "Dear Edna, We got your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I was beginning to think you both had forgotten us all together. It seem that Otilla don't have time to think of us anymore. She don't have time to drop us a few lines."

John wrote to Till

John seldom wrote to his children although they loved to receive letters from him. With some coaxing from Ellen, he wrote to Till. Ellen described what took place prior to John writing Till saying, "Dear Otilla I left your letter unsealed so that if I could get pa to drop you a few lines today before I sent it. So I told him this morning that I had a letter ready to send and asked if he did not want to write a few lines, he said I don't know what to write you have told her all the news. So I said to him tell her some of your idea about her affairs. So I went and got the writing material and set him down as he had his hat and sweater on ready to go out and work in the yard. So when he began to write, I went in the bedroom and kneeled down and asked the Lord to dictate to him what to say to you for him to give you some fatherly advice pertaining to your personal affairs as well as your spiritual affairs and I went on with my work and let him be all alone so he could be guided right. When he got through he said, there it is, I don't know how I came to write that way as I did not know what to say when I started to write. So you can see that he was dictated by the answer to my prayers and I know the Lord does answer our prayers and all things and that if we go to him for our guidance that he will bless us and help us to do that which is right."

Johns letter dated March 1, 1920, "Dearest daughter Otilla,

By your request I will endeavor to scratch a few lines all though I haven't much to write about as I know your mother has told you all the news about the different deaths and births that are transferring in this town. Well Till I can see by your letters that you are making fine progress in this world and that you are making the best of the opportunity that has been placed before you and your parents is very proud to know that
there is one in the Family that is making a Great mark in this world. And I say Dear daughter continue on in the good work and you will be blessed abundantly with the necessary means and the spirit of the Lord to lead and guide and dictate unto you the truth of his great and glorious gospel.

Well Till coming down to this worlds life, I for one don’t believe in choosing husbands for my daughter nor wives for my sons. This life isn’t all Honey when you make the Best of it. So when you choose make the choice of your heart regardless of friend or family. Because you know there are things that run in families that are burdensome and causes lots of anxiety and trouble through this life. You are free in this world to do, so it is up to you Dear daughter to make your choice when it comes to these matrimony affairs.

Hoping to find you in good health. As these few lines leaves ma, pa and little Fern (Alburn) in good condition and very comfortable and happy at home. In another 11 days Till, daddy will be 61 years old, feeling like a young colt out in new spring pasture and still able to earn something to eat. I am bringing these few lines to a close. Praying the Lord will still add his Blessing to us all. Papa PS excuse these mistakes and blunders Till. I guess I will have to write a little more so that I can over come all those blunders."

Apparently it was received in the spirit that was intended for Till responded back to her father on March 9, 1920, "Dearest Daddie, I received your most welcome letter and you cannot imagine how pleased I was to hear from you. I was so happy that tears filled my eyes and just them Pres. Smith came in and came over to my desk and shook hands with me and said, my Sr. Shields your eyes look bad, “are they sore?” Then a second glance must of told him they were blurred with moisture known as tears and he said “you haven’t received bad news from home have you. I said no Pres. Smith I am overcome with joy I suppose.” So he thought that was all right then.

I am enjoying my work so much there isn’t anything in the whole world that gives one so much real pleasure and satisfaction as this work.

Last Sunday night meeting I talked in night meeting and got along just fine. I was frightened when they called me to the stand but after I started to talk I was not at all frightened. Before I went to the meeting I had a feeling that I would be called on to talk. So I slipped into the bathroom and prayed to my Heavenly Father and asked him to bless me if I was called upon to talk and to let his spirit be with me in such rich abundance that it would radiate from me to those whom I talked to. And Daddie dear my prayer was certainly answered. I cannot tell you how I felt. But it was wonderful and after the meeting many people came right up to the stand and told me that my discourse was wonderful and I have in mind especially, two investigators who came up and introduced themselves and told me they had learned much from my talk and what impressed them so much they said, that every word seemed to come direct from my heart. Bro. McKay told me I had a good choice of words and that I spoke with much power. I couldn’t help but think, if ever a prayer was answered mine was. I do not mean to convey the idea to you that I think I am a real good speaker for I am not. I feel very weak as most missionaries do. But I just wanted to show you how my prayers and other missionaries prayers are answered. I am kept busy all the time but that is what make one happy. I dare say I might become homesick if I had time to let my thoughts dwell on home interests. But I am so thankful this privilege of fulfilling a mission has presented itself to me. And my prayers are that it will not work to such a great a hardship upon you. Just to think of you being sixty one years old daddie and having to
work so hard it hurts me when I stop and think what a great expense this is for you. But I am sure the Lord will bless us. Because we are promised if we do our duty and live near our Father In Heaven them we can call down the blessings which are in store for us. I wish you the Happiest of Birthdays you have ever spent. I sent a little gift forward to you today. I hope you receive it. It isn’t especially the gift daddie but the spirit of the giver.

I appreciate very much the advise you gave me in your letter and the other day I read a little stanza which impressed me very much and I applied it to myself and present conditions and that how true it was. It went something like this; “As we’ll seek mellow grapes in Greener Sandes gone, Recall times chariot tho’ a moment gone, appease the desert pilgrim’s burning heat with words of hope-his thirst to mock and cheat-Or stay the ocean’s fury, as to force against desire, affection’s innate course. Compulsion’s fetters but awaken hate, Loves only barrier is the monster fate. She knows no peril, obstacle or chain, reciprocated. What can e’er restrain? Though unasserted by the formal tie Love links itself; nor distance can deny. The voiceless converse of each parted soul, Though boundless oceans may between them roll; Convince the mind against resisting will, It mocks thee with “the opinion still.” Go grasp the clouds, the vapors as they rove, Then force against desire, a woman's Love.

This is very true and love is a strange thing it cannot be forced and when I fall in love daddie I believe I will know it. It seems a strange thing but I don’t seem to have met that said “Mr. Right” as yet. And until I do I am going to stay with you, because I am happy there.

Tomorrow night I am going out to visit some investigators. Since coming into the office I don’t have much time for gospel conversation. I am not as well posted on the scriptures as I should be. I will be like a new missionary when I am sent out into the field again but I am going to do my best no matter where they assign me to labor. I am balancing my books again and find that I am $396.00 out but I think I can chase it down tomorrow and discover where the mistake is. This is a usual occurrence when one tries to balance books. I believe a person would faint if they balanced correctly the first time.

I am awfully glad to hear that you are all well. There is so much sickness floating around and I do hope the Lord will continue to bless you with good health and strength. We had a very pleasant visit with Mr. Nelson while he was here. I hated to see him go.

Tell mother I received the corset covers, apron and underskirt, and they sure looked good to me, as I needed them so badly.

My companion is buying her ticket for slumber land as it is ten o’clock, and as I was up early this morning studying because I had to talk in class, I guess I will take the trip with her.

Please give grandma and grandpa my very best regards and kiss mother on the back porch for me and also hug that toe head of ours for me. Praying for the Lord to ever bless you daddie, that the day will soon come when you won’t have to work so hard and wishing you many more happy birthdays I remain you loving daughter Otilla”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, ”Tell dear old daddie to slip a note in once in a while. You cannot imagine how I love to hear from him and when I don’t it makes me lonesome. Lots of love to you all. I’m your loving daughter Otilla"
Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "How is dear old daddie? My I would love to hear from him again. If he has a minute tell him to drop me a line or so."

Ellen had a close relationship with her children and often gave counsel

Ellen and John had a very close relationship with their children. We are able to see that in the letters that their children wrote home to them. All of the children have expressed their appreciation for John and Ellen for all the many things that they did for them.

In a letter dated Jan 26, 1916 Till wrote to her mother, and starts by saying, "We received you Sweet Old Letter this morning and was sure glad to hear from you once again. We had began to think that you must be awfully busy that you couldn’t drop us a little of your time, bless your sweet little heart it sure seem good to get a letter written all by you. You can’t imagine how good it is, it seems like talking to you". Till described every detail about her relationship with a boy she was interested in. She told her mother about how she had called several times before she talked with him and letting him know she was in town. She describes her conversation with his father and her date with him. She writes “My letter consists of nothing but Quinn but I thought I’d tell you anyway. I guess papa will think I’m pretty soft.” Till even lets her mother know her thoughts, she has quite the sense of humor as she writes about her sister’s landlord. She writes, "The old woman Julia rents from is the funniest woman out of jail. I pretty near laugh myself to death at her. She is the most wrinkled old hen and homely as (skinner), she stood looking at me the other day, & she kept looking and made me so nervous I thought my waist had come unbuttoned and I kept looking down at myself and finally she said do you know I had a young man offer me one of those things? And she meant my lovelier (my necklace in English). She said he owned a jeweler shop & she refused it. She said he come back too & I wouldn’t let him in. Oh she said I was so mad I could have stomped him. Then as she went to go she said I think he had an eye on my property & Till replied to her parents “she’s got some tacky looking property the best looking part is the toilet."

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Sr. Gillette asked me this morning how you was getting along. She said that Elva said last night grandma, when is Otilla coming home. She said she told her that Otilla would not be home till she was 10 years old. She told her grandma that she thought Otilla was such a nice girl. I wish you would drop Mrs. Gillet a few lines. You know that all old folks likes to be noticed. Emma Banks said to me one day downtown, I guess Otilla is too stingy to write to us. I told her that you had so much to do. I would drop the bishopric a few lines too if I were you, it will show that you think of them.” Till took her mothers counsel and wrote on Aug. 27, 1919, "I will try and write to sister Gillette and the bishopric and Emma Hanks.” It is not clear if Till wrote to Sr. Gillette however it appears she followed Ellen’s counsel since Sr. Gillette wrote her a letter and sent her some stamps. Till wrote on Oct. 8, 1919, "Sister Gillette sent me some stamps. Thank her for me, will you? Tell her I sincerely did appreciate it.”

Till often confided to her mother about the boys she kept company with, she wanted the information kept between the two of them as she stated in the letter written Aug. 18, 1919 saying, "Elder Cottam is still hoping and praying that we will be able to labor together. I received some real good letters from both he and his companion. If I ever
send you a letter from them mother please keep them as I want them I don’t want anyone else yourself and perhaps Phil and Julia to read them. It will save some gossip perhaps. You know what I mean. I must close now and again let me thank you for my present I never was so tickled. Write me soon and tell me how you like my picture and George’s letter. Lots of love your loving daughter Till”

Sept. 8, 1919 Till wrote, ”I am going to send you some pictures so please take good care of them won’t you?”

Ellen and Till loved to wear big hats. They often discuss them together. Ellen felt sheepish buying a expensive hat but came home with it any way when talked into it because it matched her coat. On October 13, 1919 Ellen said, “I went and looked for me a coat and found one that I liked fine, but it was $43 and pa thought it was too much so if I can’t get that one I don’t want any. I can go without as usual I wasn’t saying anymore about it. Well Otilla I went and got that coat. Pa said when he went to work this morning for me to go and get it and I got a hat too. I don’t know what he will say, it is $16 dollars, it is a big hat. I am almost ashamed to show it to him. But it went with my coat so well. So the girl said take it Mrs. Shields you want [sic] miss (sp?) is a life time. So I brought it home.”

On Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, ”I am awfully glad you got you a pretty hat & coat. Try and have your picture taken in front of our home and send me one. I get lonesome to see your dear old face. Give grandpa & grandma my best regards & kiss daddies cheeks for me. Write soon with lots of love your daughter Till PS also hug little Fern for me.”

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”I have got your picture out, that puts me in mind of that you wanted me to have my picture taken. I will as soon as I can get someone to take it. I don’t know who I would get to do it…I would like you to have a picture taken in your hat when the sun don’t shine and make shadows all over your face, so I can see how you look in it. It looked like there was a feather all around the crown is it? I could not tell, and how much did you pay for it? I sent that big hat back I told you I got for myself. I thought it was too much and I got me a much cheaper one. I paid $6.50 for it. I sure like my coat.”

Nov. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”I think it will be a fine trip for you and to see Emma and Horace and then it will be a fine trip to Detroit and have a chance to see your friend there. And I guess they will be glad to see you as well. I hope you can go and see that part of the country too. It is a good experience, it will be a site you could not have seen in any other way.”

Nov. 24, 1919 Till wrote, ”So Mary Anderson is married. Gee, every pig has to burn his nose don’t he? (26) is soon enough for me if I can find anyone to have me by then.”

Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”Have you heard from George or not?…I hope you like the pictures we sent you. I will send one of pa eating a piece of hair (sp) bread like you know he does and Ed’s kiddies. I must close now as it is 12:15 o’clock and time all was in bed. So will close now with blessing you and hoping you will have good health so you can do your part in all things is the wish of your mother and pa, best love 12:30 now so good night.”

Jan. 30, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”Did you get your blessing? I wish you would send me a copy of it while you are in the office so you can type write it.”
Till remembered how John had counseled her to read good books especially the life of Wilfred Woodruff and she thought about his counsel saying on Feb. 1, 1920, “The joy that comes to one through doing missionary work is wonderful. But I feel very weak at times and realize how much valuable time I wasted at home when I should have been studying and I have often thought of dear old daddie how he used to ask me to read that wonderful book “The life Of Wilfred Woodruff.” It wasn’t so interesting to me then but I appreciate now what I missed by not reading it.”

On May 4, 1920 Till wrote, “I cannot tell you mother dear how happy your darling letters make me. They encourage me more than you can understand. I am glad you had such a good conference at home. I wish you could have gone to Salt Lake but I suppose it would be hard to get away and the weather was so bad.”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, “You telling me about Rolan Ostler playing such a beautiful violin selection Mother’s Day and bringing many tears to people’s eyes, makes my mind drift back to that day and as the little girls were pinning the carnation on all the mothers & missionaries. I had to shed a few tears and wondered, in fact Emma and I both said, I wonder who is pinning carnations on our darling mothers.”

June 6, 1920 Till wrote, “I received your letter mother and I was very happy to hear from you again. I thank you for the advice you gave me. I know there is not a thing in the world you wouldn’t do to make me happy...There is a little girl here her name is Margaret Creger and she is going west for the summer and she wants to come and see you so you may have company from Chi most any time.”

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, “Mother I’m afraid I have given you the wrong impression of Elder Horsley really he is a splendid missionary. He worked here in the office for almost a year and is a good conscientious worker and is doing fine work. It may have been a little different for him out the field until he got used to it because the field is vastly different from office work. I don’t think it is hurting Elder Cottam’s feelings because he is not hearing from me he has a number of girls that he writes to. After a while perhaps I might drop him a letter. Horace doesn’t know that I have stopped writing to Elder Cottam if he does he never says anything about it.”

June 29, 1920 Till wrote, “Yesterday your most welcome letter was received and I was so happy to hear from you and to know that you are all feeling well. I am well and happy and I am enjoying my work as much as ever.”

July 7, 1920 Till wrote, “No one knows nor appreciates my darling mother like I do and you and dear old daddie will never know how grateful I am to you for the big sacrifice you’re making for me. I am trying to be as careful as possible with my money but it seems to go rapidly.”

July 16, 1920 Till writes, “Phyllis sent me a sweet pair of bedroom slippers and I received the sweetest letter from her. She said she has a position site for me when I get home. She thinks I should be released in January but I think I will be released until next April anyway. I cannot realize that I am starting on the downhill part of my mission. Just think mother it won’t be long before I can take you and daddie and Fern in my arms and hug you as long as I want to. Give my love to all and write me soon I am your loving daughter Till”

Pres. Smith and his wife took pictures of The Shields when they went home and showed them to Till when they returned. Sept 10, 1920 Till writes. “I think the one you and Leone had taken among the flowers is just grand. It surely is good of both of you.
The others are fine. I will get some printed as soon as they get through with the films and I will send you some of them. I said I wish I could pick you out of the picture and hug you. Emma and I both stood with tear dimmed eyes as we admired you all.”

Till writes her mother, "Oh mother, I am just hungry to have a good long talk with you. I believe when I get home I will talk to you and dear old daddie to death. There is so many little things I could tell you but it seems that I can’t express myself on paper”. In another letter dated Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, “Honestly mother I have a lot I want to tell you but it is getting late and I will have to wait until my next letter which won’t be far off. I’ll bet you think I am nonsensical but you know you’re my pal. Load of love and blessing and remembrances to grandpa and grandma with love Till.”

Oct. 15, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, “Otilla, I got a letter from Julia and she told me that she had not heard from you for a long time and wanted to know how you are. I hope you have wrote to her by this time. She said she had not heard from Edna either. So she felt quite blue. You said in one of your letters that you’re going to write Edna. I hope you have done so as I am afraid that big boob will coax her to go back to him and I don’t think he is a fit subject for her to live with now since he has been turned loose to go and do as he pleases. I wrote to Edna and told her to be very careful what she does because she will get herself in a mess, that she could not get rid of. I am inclined to think he had more to do with that mess out here before he went to Idaho and that is the reason he was so ready to do the same thing up there. I got a letter from Phil and she told me that she was afraid that he will coax her to go back to him again. As for myself I think that Edna will be a whole lot better off without him and there is another thing too, I don’t like for her to stay with Marion’s sister. You know as well as I do that they are all going to do all they can to get them together again. I wrote Edna and told her to stay with Phil and she told me that Marion was so mad that she did not like to stay with her. I can not see why she should care how mad he was at Phil, that did not cut any ice with them. I think that he knows that Phil knows too much about him and he thinks if he can keep Edna from her, that she will not get the chance to tell her all she knows about. I don’t think he cares for her half as much as he pretends, if he did he would not treat her like he has and I can’t see how she can care a snap for him. He has done nothing but to deceive her in all sides all the time they have lived together. She can’t believe a word he said, it is like Pa said that he thinks she has got all her clothes for winter now and he would like to have a bed partner for cold weather. He is as cheap a guy as can be found anywhere. I hope you will write to her and give her a little advice and show her where she stands. I told her I thought she could get rid of him and after a while she could get her a nice man, one that would treat her as a wife and is what Mr. Marion has never done. She could do much better. I know quite well as she is young and is liked everywhere she goes and I know that she could get her a good husband to live with and be happy and that is more then she has been with him. I wish she would come home away from him where he could not come near her. It just makes me sick to think of him trying to coax her back to him. I’m afraid he will do it the way Phil talks in her letters to me. I hope you will use your influence with her. You said in one of your letters that you hoped to strike a rich man so you could pay us back the money it has taking for you and that you knew that pa was thinking of the time you and Edna went to Idaho . He stopped reading and said no I don’t think about that I am only glad that we have got the honor of you being where you are. We don’t miss the money that it takes when we
know what a great blessing it is to all. Say Otilla that rich guy you spoke of would be all right if he was the right one, them kind is not easy to get now a days...Yes I got your pictures and like them fine. I'm still looking for those pictures you said you would send us.” (The rich man comment was in response to the letter Till wrote home on Sept. 10, 1920 saying, ”The Smiths said that Daddie was working so hard and I know just how hard he is working too. My I do wish he could find an easier job. He is getting pretty old to do such hard work and have a young imp like me spend it faster then he can make it. I hope I can land a rich guy and pay him back. Now daddie I know just what you are thinking you are thinking about the time I went to Idaho and said I would get a job and pay you back. But I am sure if I can land me a rich husband ??? I will pay you back. Can't you just see it coming in? Vot!”)

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, ”You said in your letter that you felt like you would be ashamed to come home. You don't know that the people of Tooele knows about his conduct then we do. I don't think they know just now, that Edna is getting her divorce, but you know that it will not be long till they all know as Pa was talking to Mr. Brown the other day and he told Pa that Marion's sister had told him that he and Edna was not living together. Pa told him that she was getting her divorce and that Marion was a papa now. He did not say a word, just sat there like he was struck dumb. I don't know if his folks know or not about the baby, but I don't think that the shame is at our door. Everybody had an idea what Mr. Nelson was doing before he left here. Mr. Mc Close told pa at work one day that he saw Marion do things down at Salt Air the last summer he was here, that he knew he had no business doing and I think the eyes of the Tooele people was on him more than he had any idea of. You never will know the time we had the summer you went away. I thought Edna would go wild then, but she tells me that she is happy now. I think myself that she is lucky to get rid of him as I know he has been living that kind of a life longer than we have any idea of and then going back to his wife. I don't think he has one spirit of manhood in him. He never did think to pay his debts and would get all he could and did not care if he ever paid it or not that was their first trouble and it kept going from worst to worse. He came and got pa to sign a note in the bank with him so he could get his car out of the garage in Salt Lake two years ago and he has not paid a red cent on it nor the interest and now if they can't find him, pa will have that to pay, which is $50. I told them at the bank that they are to get after him, they said they have been trying to find where he is working but now he has gone. I guess Edna will have the divorce to pay for herself, but even at that she is lucky to get rid of him at that if it had not been that the girl had a baby. I guess he would kept on doing the same thing but the truth will come out some how. I'm afraid he will try to do her some harm, but pa says that he's too big a coward to do anything like that. I told her I knew she would be much happier without him.”

In a letter dated Oct. 25th, 1920 Till wrote, ”Honestly mother I have a lot I want to tell you but it is getting late and I will have to wait until my next letter which won't be far off. I'll bet you think I am nonsensical but you know you’re my pal. Load of love and blessing and remembrances to grandpa and grandma with love Till.”

Nov. 15, 1920 Till writes, ”Oh, mother I am just hungry to have a good long talk with you. I believe when I get home I will talk you and dear old daddie to death. Doesn’t it seem a long time since we last were at dinner together at Ed’s place. There are so many little things I could tell you but it seems that I can’t express myself the way I
should on paper. I must close now mother dear as Joe (missionary companion) is getting supper ready and I want to help her. I do hope and pray that you are feeling better...I could tell you so many more things but you will think it is rather boastful of me. Don’t think I do it boasting-ly [sic] because I don’t. I wouldn’t tell anyone else in the world these things mother but you, and you have always been my pal and was always interested to know these trifling things. I think the world of Bro. Witney and he surely treats me nice.”

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, "You was saying you have met a new friend and that they seem to all come at once. It is so nice to have so many friends, but do be careful Otilla, don’t get too many on the string and be like Phil, you will not know which you like the best and then turn out with the worst of them all. But I trust your blessing will come out okay if you have put your trust in the Lord. He has promised that you will get the man that is the desire of your heart. So put your trust in him and I know that the right man will be directed to you if you asked the Lord to make it known to you. I know he will if you’ll ask him in faith. So that is the best way to do it...You said in your letter for me not to think you boasting. I don’t think that at all. I just love to have my girl put her trust in me and then I know she will never keep anything away from me that I ought to know. I like to hear these things that make me feel like you was here with me telling me them, just like you did when you was at home with me. Do your remember when you was at home when I tried to get you to get you the kind of a man that you always wanted, you said that there was none to pick from. I told you the world was full of men the kind you would like now. I think you have found that I told you the truth. No girl needs to marry a man that she doesn’t care for because there is so many that she can pick from if she goes were they are. I sure do think that you and Emma both has got the best chance of your life to decide the kind of man you want. I do hope you both choose right...Otilla, pa said that he would rather you did not send Christmas presents home as he thinks it takes so much and we are doing all we can to make ends meet. Of course you can please yourself about that, but that was what he said. I know that you would feel better if you send just a few little things. I know I do”

Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, ”Oh, Mother dear I wish you were here for me to talk to. I can’t tell you things in a letter like I can when I am talking to you. But the friend Mr. Wasson which I told you about, has become quite serious in spite of the fact that I have told him that love affairs must not be carried on in the mission field. He has asked me two or three times if I could go out to some good opera or theater or even out to supper with him. Of course I have told him that, that was not permissible in the mission field. I have received a couple of letters from him that have made me think. I like him quite well and his chance for a happy future is very good and he is well-educated but of course I have never been alone with him and I don’t know whether I could love him when I am released or not. I have made that plain to him that I am a missionary and cannot do justice to my work and have things which must be considered very seriously, on my mind. He told me that I was everything he wanted and he wanted me to believe him when he says he loves me. He has been caring for me silently because he knew that I couldn’t go out with him but he says that he will be unable to attend church for two or three weeks and he wants to know just how he feels towards me. He has been interesting to talk to and I never dreamed that he cared for me as much as he says now that he does. Louie Anderson told me last Sunday that he was madly in love with me
and I was talking to Mr. Wasson after Sunday school one morning, Louie came up and asked me when I heard from Elder Lee last. I told him and then asked him if he heard that he had been transferred. He said no where? So I told him to southern Illinois and he said is he coming to Chicago before he goes, and I said I don’t know. He said I hope he does I would like to see him and I said so would I. The conversation was changed then and I went away and Louie told me that Wasson called him to one side and asked him what Elder Lee meant to me. Louie told him that we have been old friends for some time that we are both from the same town. Staff treats me nice too and a Mr. Minor a medical student here. So I guess Mr. Wasson thought he would have to explain himself before he went away as his business called him out of the city for three or four weeks. Don’t think that I’m breaking mission rules mother but you see I see these people at church and after church here. Everybody goes around and shakes hands and chats because they only see each other once or twice a week as they come to mutual or Sunday school and night meeting and of course we have a number of parties. I hope I have made a part of this clear to you so you won’t misjudge me because it is hard to express oneself in a letter. Mother please don’t breathe this to any other soul because you know how the people of Tooele talk. If they should hear that someone back here cared for me they would add a lot to it and you know what it would mean to me. Burn this letter as soon as you read it. Mr. Wasson said in his letter that he would be the happiest man in the wide world if I would say yes to his asking me to become his wife. He said how he has longed to be with me alone where we could plan a most devoted future. He said the world and life would be a wonderful dream and oh, how for years, I have prayed and longed to spend my future just the way I think you could make it for me. He seems to think I treated him cold last Sunday for he says oh, it haunts me and for my sake Miss Shields please don’t shun me as you did last Sunday. Please don’t let any little thing that has come interfere with my trying to gain your attention. Then he goes on to tell me that he will be out to mutual Friday and for me to please be just as wonderful and pleasant as I have been in the past. It is such a complete surprise to me that it has almost swept me off my feet but in my letter to him I have explained my position and I think everything will turn out all right. It seems I can’t rest until I have confided in you though cause you are the most wonderful pal in the world to me and I know the most interested in me...Write to me soon for I hunger for your letters. May our Heavenly Father bless you abundantly that you will have health and strength is the continual prayer of your loving daughter. Till"

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "I am sure glad that you told me Otilla about Mr. Wasson so I will prepared for the shock. I just don’t know what to say about it as I have not seen him to pass judgement on, but you know that it is so easy for a man to say that he is in love with a girl. Of course you know best what kind of a man you want, but all I ask is that you consider well before you make any promises. Wait until you get released and have the chance to be with him alone and to associate with him. You know that it would be hard for you to decide on anything that is as serious as that is. Get well acquainted with him. Otilla I am so glad you told me about it. I feel that is we put our trust in the Lord that all will be well. Go to him for advise and ask him to make it known to you what to answer him. But I would sure love to see him before you make any serious promise. You sure have got the best chance in the world to select you a companion. You ought to know just what kind of a man you want now that you are both
old enough and know just what to do. I sure will be glad when you come home so we can talk these things over together. Otilla I don’t want you to think that I feel you are breaking missing [sic] rules because I don’t. I feel quite sure that you will do just what Pres. Smith wants you to do and there is one more thing, I want to call your attention to and that is you said you was afraid that we would be disappointed in you if you did not get more field work. What more can a person do then to do all that are asked of them. So I feel that we are going to be well paid for the means that it has taken to keep you there. I am not worrying about that part at all. You said in your letter that young man that you speak of was from the east. I can tell you that if he is figuring asking Mrs. Shields for her daughter’s hand, he will have to come to the west, as I could not think of letting her go away from me again. I just could not stand that. I don’t know where his business is, but I am afraid it will have to be in the west if he gets my girl. I don’t know what you will think about this letter, but I can’t help but to pass my opinion on it. I am so glad that you let me know so I could be prepared for a shock. Haha If I were you, I would just treat them all the same as I had done before…We got a letter from that Mr. Minor you spoke of. He sure do praise you highly. I will send it to you, but I want you to send it back to me as I want to keep it. You said in your letter that you had bored me by such a long letter. I don’t know what you will think about this one, but it is just like you said that it is so hard to make one’s self understood in a letter. Your letter was sure a surprise to me, but it is all in the program, it is just what we all have to do and I think that we ought to consider it well. You said in your letter that Elder Lee was coming to Chicago. I guess he would like to stay there. His ma told me that he did not like it where he was. Mr. Lee told pa the other day that he wished they would release him as it was costing them so much and he was not at all well. You said you would try and write me once a week if it was only a short letter. I don’t care how short they are or how long so I get one. Of course I do love to get long ones. I have read it over and over. It seemed to have such a good spirit in it. I just could not put it in the box. I have got one of pa’s big shoe boxes that keep the letters all in. I am keeping them to remember your mishen [sic] for years to come…I am so glad that you are having a such a good time. Hope the Lord will bless you and Emma with health and his spirit to guide you both in your personal affairs. Give my love to all and the best to you. From ma and pa XX”

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, “Your letter Otilla made me feel good, as I was worried about you. I was afraid that Horace would want you to go with him again and it would hang around you. I had to smile at Mr. Lee that day he was up here, he said that it seems that Horace did not care to come home. I came very near saying that if Otilla was on this end of the rod that he would not think twice about coming home. So as we was talking he said to me, say Mrs. Shields had Otilla got a fellow that she goes with? I said you know they are not allowed to go with anyone in the mission field. He said oh I know that, but I thought maybe she had one that she paid a little more attention to then the rest. I said that she did not tell me anything about it. So the next day I saw him downtown and he told me that he had sent a telegram for Horace to come home and that he knew that if Otilla and Emma was coming home that he knew he would come that he did not like to come home before them. I told him that Horace went before them he said, well men stay longer than girls do. I just had to bite my lips together to keep from laughing, it sounded so funny to me. I told your pa what he said, he said it sounded
just like him. I'm so glad that you give him to understand what you mean and don't let him have the idea that he is going to go with you when you come home. You said in your letter that you was cut out for a old maid. I would not like to see you be a old maid, but I would rather see you an old maid then to marry a man that you did not care for. You know that Aunt Cora said there has never been an old maid in the family yet and that she believed you was cut out for one as she did not think you would find one that would be just right ha ha Otilla, don't forget to send Mr. Miners letter back so if I take the notion to drop him a line I will have his address. I can't spell good enough to write to him and pa don't seem to care to do so...Treat all the boys the same as you always do, then there will be no room to find fault. You know how you think the most of. I don't think anyone could tell you what to do, you must be suited yourself. Good night from ma and pa, Roy has just got to work"

March 26, 1921 Ellen wrote Till and Edna saying, "I do hope you girls will not mix up with Marion. I don't know what people will say when they see you girls dance with him. Pa said for you all to keep as far away from you him as you could and don't give him the idea he can come and mix with you in the dances. As for him being ordained an Elder, He sure don't know what he is talking about. He don't seem to know that they don't do things that way. He must be well known before he could be put in any kind of a office. Pa sure did laugh when he read that part of the letter, he said it shows how much he knows about these things. I hope you do come down to conference and bring Edna with you as I would love to see her and tell her that Pa wants her to get that divorce and don't wait for him as he will never give her cooperation to do a thing with, he is too cheap a guy."

Aug. 30, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I got a letter from Julia. She told me to tell you girls that if you did not come this time, she would not try to find you any jobs any more. She said that you could work in a bank and that Edna could clerk in the store. She sent for Roy to go up too. And none of you went as Roy works up in the Vivian Park for either ($13.20 or $3.20 a day)? and he don't like Pocatello. So I guess Julia will think you all have turned your back on her. She said in her letter that it made a ass out of her to ask for a job and then none to take it. But I want you girls in there as pa may stay with Mr. Brown and I will come in for the winter. Write soon and tell me if you have got your I job and tell me all the news. Give my love to all and the best to you and Edna. From Ma and Fern Fern said to tell you to tell us when you get a job."

Sept. 2, 1921 Ellen wrote Till and Edna, "I want you girls to pay Aunt Hattie for your trouble when you get on your feet again. You said that your wages was small. I think that when you have worked for a while you will get a raise or maybe find something better at least. I hope so... I think that Otilla will find her a better job after a while and I think after they get better acquainted with you that you will get a raise...Otilla Mrs. Atkins came down to see you. She said that the Daughters of the Pioneers was giving a big party and that they would love to have you sing for them. She said that they wanted you to sing Silver Threads Among the Gold, that she thought it was so nice for the occasion. I was over to ma's the other day and grandpa told me to tell you that he sure did miss you and that he did not have anybody to sing for him now that you was gone. He told me to tell you that he wished you could be here. He said it seems so strange how much he liked you that you was a wonderful girl and to give you his regards. I have a complement for Edna too, as Mr. Lee asked me the other day how you
girls was getting along. I told him fine, he said that Edna was a wonderful woman that she was a perfect figure and a good looking girl that there must have been something the matter with a man that went like Marion did when he had such a sweet wife. That can you beat that?"

Sept. 13, 1921 Ellen wrote to Till and Edna saying, "Otilla I want you be very careful, I don’t know just what kind of a man Mr. Green is. Is he a Mormon? Remember you must very careful what kind of company you keep. You did not say what Edna was doing when you was having such a good time. I hope you don’t go and leave her alone. I like to hear of you having a good time, but be careful. I want you to give Mr. Jensen a fair chance. I must close as I want this to get this mail. Hope to see you soon your loving ma. Pa is home."

Sept. 20, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I am sure surprised Otilla that you do like you are with Mr. Jensen. I want you to be very careful and don’t get the wrong fellow. You know just how people will talk especially Horace. So do be careful. Don’t Edna ever go out with you? I sure hope you can get a cheap place to live in so you don’t have to spend all you make in room rent and board. Take good care of yourselves and be good girls."

Sept. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, "We got home okay that night, but I have been wondering how D Rees (Mr. Jensen) found you or if he ever found you. I just can’t get it out of my mind the way you did with him. Otilla I want you to use good judgment about that. Remember you want a man that can take you to the Temple. It seems strange how hard it is for a man that tries to live his religion to get the girls to come to him he wants. It seems too, if they are in some big sports, it is no trick to get the girls to come their way. Now Till don’t get foolish play your cards well, it is like Pa said, that man is not going to take any nonsense. He means just what he said. Pa seems to like him fine. I hope you get yourself a cheap house that is awful price to pay. Say Otilla, what does that letter mean I sent back to you that came from some bank? Have you got some money from them at some time that you have not let us know anything about? I did not let pa see it as I know how he would rave. So tell me when I come into conference if I can get the chance to come or maybe you will come home before then to get your trunk. Well Edna I guess you will think this letter is all for Otilla it is for you too. How are you? Have you got your coat if not wait until after conference and they will get cheaper... Miss Howard is down here and came down with her (Emma). She wanted to know which was the lucky man. She looked at the two pictures on the piano and then she said, the wicked scamp? (definition of scamp, rascal, rogue 2. An impish or playful young person.)

Emma told her that we all was up the stump to know which it will be... Say Otilla why don’t you try and get some of them jobs that we read about in the paper. You’ll make more money at that, then what you are doing now. Don’t forget to write to me and tell me all the news and how you and Mr. Jensen are getting along. Don’t be foolish trust in the Lord and all will be well. You know what your blessing has told you. I must close as it is getting late and I want to mail this. It is five o’clock now. Be good girls and let me hear from you both from your loving ma and pa"

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, "It seems that Otilla don’t have time to think of us any more. I guess that sad Mr. Green takes up all her time and she don’t have time to drop us a few lines. Tell her not to get serious with him as she knows he is not the kind of the man I want her to get. I hope you girls don’t forget to go to Sunday school and meeting. Don’t forget your duties whatever you do. I get so antsy at times I don’t know why it is,
but I do hope Otilla will be very careful who she goes with. Yes Phil was in here to see us. She did not feel very good about you girls not writing to her and letting her know whether you was coming up or not after her getting both of you a job. I don’t think she wanted to go to your room for fear Mr. Green would think she wanted to see him. She told me that she hoped Otilla had better sense than to get the second handed man as she knew she could do better than that. She wanted know how her and Mr. Jensen was making it. She said if Roy was in there then she would go up to your room and you could go out together but she did not want to butt in… I do hope you girls get a different place to live in. I think that is altogether too much to pay for a small room. I know you can get a place that you can cook you something to eat in after paying such a big price for a room and then jump on us for staying there. I will bet that she don’t get me to come in there again.”

Partial letter without a date, Ellen wrote, ”How are you getting along? I hope Otilla don’t get too much gone on Mr. Green. It worries me to think you turned Mr. Jensen down for a man that is second handed. Why not get a first-class man that you know is a man that will live his religion. You don’t realize that just now when you are looking for a good time. Remember Otilla when you are married always things takes a big change and the safest way is to look to our religion, and we know we are on the right track. Don’t forget your blessing you got. You know it is only on condition if we don’t live for it. We will not get what has been promised on our head...Did you see the Bishop so he would not wait on us. I hope you did. I guess you both went to meeting Sunday morning and in the afternoon. I would love to have been there to have been with you. I do hope you girls can get you cheaper place where you can cook something, at least there is no convenience there. I would try and find some other place if I were you. I must quit we are all well hope you are the same, from all of us. Love to you both and be good and take care of yourselves from ma and all. Roy was down Sunday and went back.”

Ellen’s and John’s hard work

There was so much work to be done at the Shield home. Ellen worked really hard with cooking, cleaning, doing the wash, putting up fruit and vegetables, and taking care of the flowers outside.

July 28, 1919 Till wrote, “I must close and study so please write me often....Take good care of yourself & don’t work too hard. You are both getting old and being imposed on more every day...Oh say mother. I never got my patriarchal blessing will you have it sent to me. Write soon & give my love to all & tell Sister Gillett hello for me. Your loving daughter Till " PS Kiss the boys for me"

July 29, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”We have had a house full since you left. We have so much expense but Julia sure is good to do her part in getting things. We are putting up apricots today...

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, ”The tomatoes is beginning to get ripe and I am going to bottle all I can get hold of. They look fine and we have got some fine ones over to Julia’s place.”

Sept.10, 1919, ”I have been so busy I have had not had time to write. I’ve been making pickles and putting up tomatoes and peaches and pears and plums. I have just got through for today and it is now 10 o’clock. I put up 20 quarts of pickles today. Pa
helped me pick them before he went to bed as he is on midnight now. I was going to wash today but when I went out and looked at the fruit I found it was getting too ripe. So I had to get to work at them as fast as I could the tomatoes is getting ahead of me now. I must get up early in the morning and pick them. I have got the big churn full of pickles ready to boil in the morning and I don’t know when I will get time to wash. I did not wash last week either...Pa is just getting ready to go to work and I must get ready to go to bed too, as it is late and I must get up early in the morning and pick tomatoes...say what do you know I was sitting here so busy trying to get this letter finished and pa was ready to go to work. And I just had 15 min. and I began to look for his lunch. And I did not have it up. Maybe you don’t think I jumped around here for about 5 min. but he got off in time. Now I must quit and go to bed too as I am so tired I will have to write another and tell you all I want too.”

Sept. 17, 1920 Ellen said, ”I have been putting up a few peaches today. I don’t think I will put up very many this year as we have not got but about a half of bushel. There is not many up in this part of town but I believe Mrs. De La Mare (Emma’s mother) has got a quite a lot. They are going for $3 dollars here in town, so with sugar the price it is I don’t think I can get any. I had to put what few I put up today with out sugar as there was not any to be got in town here. I went to all the stores and they had none. So I put them up with out sugar.”

Sept. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”I have not done anything to your suit yet as I have had so much to do and I have got that tree of clings to do as soon as they get ripe and some more tomatoes to put up yet. We put up 33 quarts for Julia yesterday and we washed today. I had a 3 weeks wash as I could not do it when I had so much other things to do. I guess we must do mothers wash tomorrow as she can’t get anyone to do it. It is Friday tomorrow and we have got to iron too and Julia is trying to get ready to go to Salt Lake by Sunday. I don’t know how we will manage. I have got so much to do that I don’t know how I am going to get it all done and Cora now is here too. She is rooming and boarding with us but she isn’t any bother as she helps as much as she can and will be lots of company for me this winter...I have been up since 5 o’clock this morning so I will quit and finish some other time. Good nite [sic] Otilla we have just got through with ma’s washing. She said she just had a small one but we had all of our lines full and had to put all the colors on her line, so you can see how much we had. I must try and fold my clothes now so I can iron. Fern is waiting for me to get this ready so I must quit and hope your head ache is better. Have you got any more of your pills? Don’t forget to take them. Write soon and don’t forget and tell me where your waist is. Good by from your loving mother and father John and Ellen M Shields. PS we are all well this is a short one but he is standing here hurrying me.”

Oct. 8, 1919 Till wrote, “I received your dear letter and was very glad to hear from you. I can imagine just how busy you are mother but don’t try and do it all in one day. I received the sweetest letter from Sr. Gillett she said she seen you every day and you were always working. She said you had the most beautiful bouquet of flowers on the parlor table. I can just see them, I’ll bet your flower garden is beautiful...Edna said the peaches and tomatoes you sent were grand.”

Even though there was much to do around the house Ellen still took the time to enjoy her home and how it looked. She wrote Till Oct 13, 1919, ”I must get my heater up so I can have a fire, I wish you could see my parlor now, it sure looks cozy. I have got a big
flower pot as big as a big water bucket and painted it a robin blue. It has the saucer to sit in and I put my Oleander in it and I got 4 small ones and painted them the same and got rid of all the tin junk.”

Oct 13/14th 1919. Ellen wrote "This is the 14th, and 7:30 in the morning. I have just got pa off to work. The train is just going past now."

It seemed that Ellen was often involved running errands for her children, mending clothes, mailing clothes, sewing clothes and running their errands. Till asked her mother to return a electric vibrator she forgot to return before her mission on Oct. 17, 1919 she wrote, "Say mother when Doc came home from war he left his electric vibrator with me. I took it down to Edna’s and I forgot to give it back to him. Do you think you can get it sometime and return it to Doc. I am ashamed to think I forgot it. Tell him I appreciated very much his kindness for letting me take it.”

Oct. 26, 1919 Ellen said, "I was going to wash this morning but it had been snowing for a couple of days so your pa would not let me. I will try and do something today. I must make Fern a waist and myself a house dress as I have not washed for 2 weeks, so I have ran out of clean clothes. I guess you think I am getting mighty lazy, but I have not had the time, one pair of hands to do it all and there is so much to do in this house. I go all day and the biggest part of the nite[ sic] Your pa says I am a regular nite [sic] hawk, but I just can't get around it all after pa went to work last nite [sic]. I thought about his garments not being marked, so I sat down and done them and it took me until 12:30 to do them so he could have a dry pair to put on this morning."

November 4, 1919, "It is time I answer your dear letter we got. I intend to answer it right away when I got it, when I got around all of my work I can’t find a starting place I have not washed three weeks until yesterday. And I sure have a big one and I have been to meeting today."

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I must quit now as the 11:30 train is going out and your Pa will be home on the next train...I took docs things home, he said he forgot all about it."

Nov. 14, 1919 Till wrote, "We haven’t any heavy snow yet but the weather some days are awful cold. I was so glad that you returned that electric vibrator to Doc. Thank you mother. Tell George Davis hello for me and I send my regards all my friends."

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I can’t remember just when it was we have had so much company for about two weeks Aunt Cora has been up here about that out long and Aunt Annie and her better half came just one week ago today. Victoria went to Salt Lake and went through the Temple and got married and came back Friday night and they was going back to Delta last night, but it snowed so bad that they thought it would be better to wait until today. But it has bled (sp ?) and drifted all afternoon and the train is several hours late. It won’t get here until 11 o’clock tonight and Jim Shields is here to. So young Pete Shields is going to take them down to the train in a bobsled and Walt that is Victoria’s man, he wanted him to come up and get them, but he told him that they could not meet them down by the district schoolhouse. Walt told him that he would pay him if he would come up and get them because they had three suitcases and a baby to carry. But he told him that he did not want to drive up there, so they went down to meet him it was about 9:30 o’clock...it is soon time for me to put up pa’s lunch so I must close...It is time to wake Pa up and put his lunch up so I must quit so good night and be sure and write soon.”
Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Pa is the 11:30 o’clock shift I don’t go to bed till late so I thought I would drop you a line. I thought I would get a letter today but no such good luck.”

Feb. 13, 1920 Ellen wrote, "The kiddies is getting up, so I must quit and get their breakfast as Ed’s kids are here. Cora has went into Salt Lake. Ed came down to help her find a place so she can move in their as she has been tending her grandma up until now, and she is given out. So I must quit and then when she is in their Ed can come home more often. We are all pretty well. Joyce’s got the croup and I have got a little cold grandma and grandpa’s about the same...The first part of the letter was in the morning now it is four o’clock. I have been a busy woman since I quit writing this morning. Ed and Cora came out on the stage and was going back on the train at 130, so we had to get a move on us. I tell you he went down and got ? and him and I packed his fruit and now I must hurry and finish this and send it down and get supper as pa will be here soon.

March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I must quit now as the train is going up with the 11:30 shift, good night. I’m going downtown to put some money in the bank for you. I have just got pa’s lunch up and it is soon time the bank is closed.”

March 31, 1920 Till writes, "I wish dear old daddie didn’t have to work so hard I know just how stiff his arm must be. Bless his heart he never complains though about going to work. It would do him good to lay off and go to conference.”

In the letter dated June 6, 1920 Till mentions what a hard worker John was she said, "Dear Old daddie is working just as hard as ever I suppose. I wish he wouldn’t have to work so hard.” July 7th, 1920 Till mentions how much she appreciates all the hard work her father did to keep her on a mission she wrote…“dear old daddie will never know how grateful I am to you for the big sacrifice you are making for me. I am trying to be as careful as possible with my money but it seems to go rapidly.”

Once again Till mentions John’s hard work in the letter dated Sept. 10, 1920 she wrote, "The Smiths said that Daddie was working so hard and I know just how hard he is working too. My I do wish he could find an easier job. He is getting pretty old to do such hard work and have a young imp like me spend it faster then he can make it. I hope I can land a rich guy and pay him back. Now daddie I know just what you are thinking you are thinking about the time I went to Idaho and said I would get a job and pay you back. But I am sure if I can land me a rich husband ??? I will pay you back. Can’t you just see it coming in? Vot!” July 27, 1920 Till wrote, "I know that you and dear old daddie are working awfully hard to keep me out here. I realize it takes no small amount of money. I wish Daddie could find an easier job I often think of him for how hard he has to work.”

May 4, 1920 Till wrote to her parents, "I’ll bet the dinning room looks nice. I wish I could step in and see it and help you. Don’t work too hard mother I know there’s lots of work but don’t wash every old rag you can find & save suds wash all the rugs...I Pray the Lord will bless us all and that he will preserve you and health and strength & cause that dear old daddie won’t have to work so hard is the prayer your daughter who loves you all. Till”

On May 20, 1920 Till wrote to her parents, "She (Julia) also told me mother dear that you were not well at all... Honest mother just worries me sick. Then to think of you having to work so hard and doing those large washings. I feel that you need my help"
more than anybody else does. Let the old house cleaning go until you can get some
one to do it. I wish Edna could help you because she could take right a hold of things
and you wouldn’t have to worry. I know there is an awful lot of work to do in our home
and it just keeps one going all the time. Then you have been busy other ways too. But
listen mother do be careful and not work so hard. You’ll have to let your flowers go this
spring because they require so much work.... I Pray the Lord will bless us all and that
he will preserve you and health and strength & cause that dear old daddie won’t have to
work so hard is the prayer your daughter who loves you all.”

June 6, 1920 Till wrote, "I do hope you get along alright in your house cleaning.
Edna says she sure wishes she was near enough to help you. I hope she feels
better....I bet your garden and flowers look grand how I would love to peep into Tooele
with its new spring coat. Dear old daddie is working just as hard as ever. I suppose I
wish something would turn up that he wouldn’t have to work so hard.“

June 21, 1920 Till writes, "I received your very sweet letter and was very glad to hear
from you again and glad that you have got the hardest part of your house-cleaning
done. I know it has been a big job for you and I surely wish I could drop in and see it. I
can just imagine how nice it looks and it makes me sort of homesick to see our dear old
home. You said you have not been feeling well but kept on working anyway. Mother
please don’t work when you don’t feel good it surely does worry me to think how hard
you work when you are in the condition you are. Let the hardest work go and just do
what you have to. I can just see the kitchen how clean and nice it looks with its new
dress of paint and linoleum and the bathroom in its new dress of white and the stair
case all stained as well as the other wood work. I am glad you have all your curtains
done because that is surely some job.”

July 27, 1920 Till wrote, "Mother please don’t try to sew and work so hard during this
awful hot weather. You can’t stand it. You must guard your health above everything else.
I know that you and dear old daddie are working awfully hard to keep me out here. I
realize it takes no small sum of money. I wish daddie could find an easier job. I often
think of him how hard he has to work.”

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote, "Does it seem to you that I have been away from home 14
months? I’m so glad that you’re feeling better the Smith said that daddie was working
so hard and I know just how hard he is working too. My I do wish he could find an easier
job. He’s getting pretty old to do such hard work and have a young imp like me spend it
faster than he can make it. I hope I can land a rich guy and pay him back. Now daddie I
know just what you are thinking your thinking about the time I went Idaho and said I
would get a job and pay you back. But I am sure if I can land me a rich husband??? I
will pay you back. Can’t you just see it coming in? Vot! Some new missionaries have
just arrived and it takes a back to the time when I came in. I’m glad it isn’t me just
starting out. Because to look ahead it is a long long time. But to be able to look back I
can’t see where the time has gone. I must close now mother dear and hope to receive a
long long newsy letter from you soon give my regards to all the girls. Your loving
daughter Otilla”

Sept. 28, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”I have been busy with my pickles and tomatoes. I have
not got much fruit this year as our trees did not have many on and I just could not afford
to buy them. They asked $3.50 a bushel for them so Pa said we could do with out. I am
making preserves out of the tomatoes. They are fine. I don’t feel very well today. I had a
big wash to do yesterday. I had not washed for three weeks. Can you imagine your mother leaving her wash that long? But I just could not get the time to do it. I caught cold. I guess as I have got such a bad cold, I have got mustard plaster on my chest. I was in bed all morning but when Fern came from school he had a letter from Ed and your card so I got up to get him some dinner and then I answered Ed’s letter and I got pa some dinner, and he brought all the clothes in off the line for me. I washed the breakfast dishes and dinner dishes and now I am writing to you. I have got a big pan of pickles sitting out here on the porch ready to cook tomorrow. I hope I am well enough to do them. I feel much better this afternoon, so I think tomorrow I will be all right.”

Oct. 11, 1920 Till wrote, "I do hope mother you are feeling better. I know you must have been worn out after doing such a large wash and so busy with pickles & fruit and household duties. It surely keeps one busy."

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "I must close now as I must try and get ironing done. Hope to hear from you real soon. May the Lord bless you with health and strength so you be able to do all you can is the wish of your mama and papa, we are all really well”

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I washed yesterday and I have been stretching curtains and cleaning windows today. I must go as I can’t keep my eyes open give my love to all there that I know. I am the most sleeper person I have ever seen. I will try and finish this letter today and send it. I’m going to town so I want to mail it. I want to catch the store to get my meat for mince."

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen said speaking to Till, "I can’t sew much now as Roy and pa are on different day shifts. So you can see that it takes all of my time to cook and wash dishes...The work here at the smelter has backed up to the place where pa was working closed down and pa has been sent over on the Sindres(sp?) plant to work over there where Marion worked. He likes it fine. He don’t come home all wet now. It is not so hard work there and he gets better pay. Mr. Brown gave him the best job over there...It’s 5 to eleven so I must wake pa up and it is time for me to go to bed. I get up at 6 o’clock in the morning to get Roy off and then pa comes at 8:30 and I don’t get to bed until nearly 12:00’clock. So you see I have some long days and I am on the go as hard as I can and then I don’t get much done. Well Otilla I will try and finish this letter now. It is about 9:30."

Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, "I was glad to hear that daddie has a better job...You must be kept awful busy with Roy on one shift and daddie on another."

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I must take time to write to you as it is soon 11 o’clock and I want to get up early in the morning so I can wash. I have a big wash...I am sending a small box of Christmas things to you but it will not be much as I could not get time to do any sewing and everything I looked at it was all out of sight. I hope you won’t look for a box of cakes as I made my cakes and pudding for Christmas at Thanksgiving time and it is all gone and I have not had time to make anymore as Mrs. Beens (sp) was up to Nellis Harris and was very sick and she died last Sunday at five o’clock and of coarse I had to go up and see them one day and then one day at the funeral and they had quite a number of folks come to the funeral. I had one of the ladies come and stay here overnight and got breakfast for her and then I took her to the train as she did not know where to go. So you see, that took most of all last week and I have washed today. I had Myrtle help me as the school is closed until after New Year’s. I had such a big wash I could not do it alone. I made a house dress for Edna for Xmas. I thought it would
come in handy when she is so busy in the store. She don't have time to make any. I'm going to make mother one too. It takes so much time shopping when one is alone and don't have sales to suggest what to get. I just have had the hardest time trying to think what to get for all and it just wares [sic] me out to stand around in the stores...I was glad you all like the pudding. I wish I could send you some for Xmas, but I have not any made and have got so much to do that I will not have time.

Aug. 30, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I washed yesterday and I had a big one too. I did ma's and I don't feel very good. I have been laying down off and on all morning. I helped wait on tables at the lovely party Friday...I must close and get some dinner for Fern. I don't know when I will get all this ironing done. I have not got them sprinkled yet. I am going to try and make some pickles this week. I let Mrs. De La Mare have some onions and she is going to let me have some cucumbers...Mr. Brown came up to see me and the folks told him I was down to the lawn party. So he came up Saturday after noon. He had his baby with him and she went to sleep here. And he laid her on the lounge while he was here. Mr. Brown brought his wife home. He told me she was sure glad to get home. He said that all the folks where she was did not have much to get along with and that she sure did feel glad to get home. And that she was going to stay home as he expects to be up at the mine this winter and that he wants pa to stay with him too. He sure does like your pa. He told me he could not have gotten another man that could help him as pa does. He told me that if he made good at the mine, he may sell out there and move to SLC. To live. I told him that if he intended to keep pa up there, that I was going to go in there and stay with my girls. He told me that if he could keep pa there this winter he sure did need him. He said that if he made good that it would mean lots to us too as he sure did like pa. I sent pa some clean cloths by mail Saturday and a letter. I hope he will write to me and tell me what he is going to do. I will rent this house and come in there where he can come down once in a while to see us."

Sept. 2, 1921 Ellen wrote to Edna, "I got a letter from Pa he is fine and got the clothes I sent him. He said he did not know how long he would stay up there but he hoped it would only be about 2 weeks. So I don't know whether Mr. Brown will be able to keep him up there or not. There is not a thing for him to do here so if he don't stay with Mr. Brown I don't know what we will do this winter as your pa will not look for work...I had my mind all made up that I was going to come in here this winter but if pa don't stay up there, I guess it is all of the way Mr. Brown talk to me he sure did want pa to stay with him so I don't know just how it will all come out. Of course it will not be very nice for pa up there a way from home but they have got it fixed up nice. So Mr. Brown told me he said he sent up a bed and mattress and that they have got moved in just a time as the rain started, just as they got the last trip down from the cabin they had been staying in."

Sept. 20, 1921 Ellen said, "I have been so busy putting up tomatoes and pickles. I got 64 quarts of them and I guess I will have a few clings too, so I think that was mighty fine, I have a big pan of tomatoes on the stove now to fill up and a tub full to scald. So you see I have got my hands full. Pa is digging the potatoes now. We sure have got some fine cabbage too. I have made some pickles but have some more to make...Mr. Brown was up here last night. He did not say a word about seeing you girls, he sure does want pa to go up to the mine with him. I don't know if he can get him to or not? Pa
don’t seem to care to go and when he left he told him to be ready to go back with him. I don’t know how they will come out if he goes. I’m coming in for a visit ha ha”

Sept. 27, 1921, “I have been talking to pa ever since we came home to go in there for the winter, but he don’t seem to see it that way but I don’t know what we will do here. There is not a thing to do to earn a dollar I been trying to get him to get an apartment house or rent a home big enough to take some roomers but you know how he raves about that...I must wash tomorrow. I have been putting up tomatoes and I have got two lots of pickles ready to cook. I did not get my ironing done last week so I must try and do it tonight if pa will let me do it. He tries to be boss now. Ha ha What do you girls think about us coming in there? Do you think it would be wise for us to lock up the house up and come in there and try and get an apartment house? I see by the paper there is lots of them for rent.”

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, “I looked for you out here Sunday. Pa and I worked all day Friday and Saturday to clean the place up. I wish you could of seen it. We could hardly get in for leaves and the house was so full of dust and then I got veal roast, made rolls and made a cake already for dinner but you left. So I am not going to bother anymore unless I am sure you are coming because I can do without these thing when we are alone. I thought when I told you in the letter that I would look for you on Sunday that if you were not going to come you would’ve let me know as you know I would get things ready. Pa felt quite disappointed as he had done all he could to make the place nice...Fern has come for his dinner, so I must hurry and get it. Let me know when you’re coming out, so I can have something to eat ready. Love to you both from your loving ma and pa and Fern”

With all the housework Ellen did, they also had lots of company to keep her busy. Cora and her children often stayed with Ellen and John while Ed was away working. Ellen also took care of their children so Cora could work to get out of debt. Julia and her children also stayed with them while Jack was away working. They also took in boarders which is how Julia met her husband while boarding with the Shield family.

Ellen worried that Till had all the clothes she needed for her mission, sewing many for her.

Till loved the many things that Ellen had sewn for her and she let her mother know how much she appreciated the work and beauty that Ellen put into it. Till received many compliments from others commenting how beautiful and professional Ellen was with her sewing. Till let her mother know when she needed her to make changes on her clothes which typically meant that Till did not want her clothes too fancy because she felt that it was not appropriate for her to wear as a missionary. Ellen asked Till if she liked her blue dress because she has not seen her wearing it in any of the pictures and asked her to get a picture taken in her hat when the sun does not shine and make shadows all over her face so she could see how she looks in it. Ellen and Till often had conversations about their hats. Ellen asked Till how much she paid for her hat, telling her that she took back a hat that she bought and exchanged it for one that was less expensive. Ellen also expressed how much she liked her coat. Till loved most of the
things her mother sewed for her and was very appreciative of all the time spent sewing for her.

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I hope you have got your waist by this time and how do you like it? I hope it suits you. The corset cover was a present from Julia...It is trying to rain here this afternoon. It is sure warm here but we have got nice cool nights. When you need some winter garments don’t you think that I better get them for you so I can mark them here. You know it is a big job to mark them and I think we better get 4 pair don’t you?. Did you get you another hat, or did you get along with what you had? I think I will get silk lile garments this time. Do you want me to line your suit that you left here and have it cleaned, and have that blue pleated skirt of your fixed up for colder weather? You know that has got good cloth in it so when it is cleaned it will look fine. I can fix it over if you want me too or leave it as it is. Just as you say you know you must have some good warm clothes for cold weather and it will soon be here before we are ready for it.”

On Aug. 18th 1919 Till wrote, "This morning I was so happy I nearly cried; when I opened a parcel from home and found out what it was. Oh, you could never have sent me anything that would have pleased me more. I just love it and many thanks cannot express my appreciation. Mother you dear old darling if I had you here you would think I was a bear. Those dainty little buttons on the waist just look like you. I showed the landlady and she couldn’t believe you made it yourself. My companion says you sure have some taste. When I first came out my companion nearly took a fit over my garments. When we wash she says sister Shields every time I look at your garments it makes me just sick. She had already sent home for hers & wished she could have her mother make them instead. She said I guess it is to late now but hereafter mine are going to be just like them. I do love them. The waist [sic] and little camisole came just in time. I must close now and again let me thank you for my present, I never was so tickled.”

Sept. 8, 1919 Till wrote, "You spoke in your letter about my skirt and suit. They would certainly come in handy. You see I have just got my black dress and suit and of course my purple dress but those two skirts and my suit would be very useful. I don’t believe you will have to do anything to the pleated skirt. I don’t know whether it would be in style are not, but I don’t care, I can wear it under my coat. You asked me if I got a new hat. No I made my other do. When I was in Chicago I wore my big black one. Emma bought her a new fall hat. It certainly is pretty she looks so good in. I am wearing my old winter hat now but think I will get me a new one the last of the month...Well mother dear, send my suit and skirts as soon as possible will you?”

Sept. 10, 1919, "Oh say Otilla where is that blue waist [sic] of yours, like that pleated skirt of yours. I want it so I can fix that dress up.”

On Sept. 18, 1919 Ellen wrote. "Otilla where is that blue waist [sic] like your pleated skirt, I can’t find it. Did you leave it at (Edna/Emmas?). Are there any more of your things in there or did you get them all...I have not done any thing to your suit yet”

On Oct. 8, 1919 Till wrote, "I got my suit and skirts mother and they look fine. I’ve got to let the hem down, but say you certainly made a good job of my coat, the lining is just beautiful and as good as any tailor can put it in. Many thanks mother dear.”

Oct. 13, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Send that skirt back and I will fix it. I did not think about it being short and I have got the waist [sic] too now.”
Oct. 17, 1919 Till wrote, "I was certainly tickled to get my suit and skirt they looked grand. So pretty and clean. I am going to get lots of wear out of my suit."

Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "I received my garments mother and they are fine, thank you very much for them."

Oct. 26, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I don't know if I told you that I only sent 2 pairs of garments so to see if they fit so you can tell me so I can sew you some more soon...I have been fixing your green dress up for you and if I can get it ready to send tomorrow, I will. I also cleaned your white slippers so you can wear them with your dress. I thought maybe you would give a concert or something during the Holidays and it would come in quite handy. I sent it to Salt Lake and had it cleaned, it cost me $20.50 and the cloth I put in the sleeve $2.50 so you see it is a good dress now and I want you to take good care of it in this box when you don't use it and put it in your trunk...You must take good care of yourself so you don't get laid up so far away from home. Don't go out without your rubbers and get your feet wet. Tell me if those garments I sent is heavy enough, if not let me know so I can send you some more. Wrap up good when you go out and don't get more cold then you can help."

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I do hope you are better by this time and be sure and take good care of yourself and don't go out without wrapping up good and be sure and get you some good rubbers, real rubbers and put your falnon/flannel petticoat on and if you don't think those garments I sent you are not heavy enough I will send you some heavier. I'm waiting for you to tell me if they will do or not. I will send you some more. Be sure and send your pleated skirt back so I can fix it...I hope you have got your dress by this time, and if there is anything that you want, let me know so I can send it to you. Have you got enough under skirts and don't you think that it would be a good thing to get some dress and where over yours like I do in the cold weather? How does your blue dress work, do you like it? You don't seem to have it on in any of your pictures."

In a letter dated Nov. 6, 1919 Till writes, "I received my dress and oh, it is just too pretty to wear. It was certainly thoughtful of you mother to send it to me. I don't know how ever you got those slippers so clean, everything looked so nice when it arrived. Some days it is just like summer then the next day it is cold enough to freeze you. I believe I will have to have some heavier garments. Not too heavy or wooly but some heavy enough to be comfortable."

Nov. 14, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I will get some more garments as soon as I can get some. That is good enough when they get some in. That was the best I could get that I sent. I have tried to get some but I can't until they get some more in. I am glad that your dress got there all right and that it suited you. I got some stuff to clean those slippers and was going to send what was left to you and I went in for it and I could not think what I went for, and the next day I saw it sitting on the buffet and I could have bumped my head good. I will try and not forget the next time I send something."
Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I am so glad that your sweater fit you and that you liked it I did not know whether you would like it or not. I will try and not forget and send you that dollar if I can get a one dollar bill. I am sure glad that you like it in Chicago and that you have got where you can be in out of the cold for a while and I think it will give you a chance to go over your work that you have done last year. I do hope you keep up your shorthand work and your typewriting."

Dec. 31, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I am wondering if you got those things we sent you and how your dress fit you and also that bathrobe Edna sent you? I do hope they got there okay and that box of things...I was downtown yesterday and helped Cora pick out some goods for dresses for the two girls. She and Polly came up last evening and we cut them out and I am going to make Gladys and she is going to make Joyce's today as she could not get them until Ed sent her some money...I'm still in my bathrobe. Aunt Cora is just come down is getting her something to eat. Edna and the rest are still in bed yet, so I must not take too much time this morning as I must get dressed and get ready to sew. I don't know if I will get them ready for the new year or not?"

Jan. 5, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Please tell me all the news and how you like the collar of your dress and how it was made. I could not have got a long very well if Edna had not been here. How is the length? You can put a tuck in the under waist [sic] to make it shorter if it needs too. How do you like that bathrobe Edna made you? I think she made a good job of it. Ma thought it was fine."

On Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Mr. Lee told pa that he had a letter from Horace and the he told them that you had such a bad cold. You told us in your last letter that you was feeling fine. I do hope that you take good care of yourself and don't take cold. Wrap up good when you go out and don't put on things close and then heavy ones. Keep the same weight clothes on so you will not get cold. I do hope you wear your woolen under skirts. I can't see why you take so much cold all the time if you keep good warm clothes on. Don't go out with your suit. Keep your coat and sweater under it when you go out and your rubbers. I do hope the Lord will bless you with health and strength so you can do your duty every day and that you will be blessed with the spirit of the gospel which I know you will be if you are prayerful and ask the Lord to help you in all you do....I wish you would have your picture taken in your new dress and send it to me so I can see how you look in it. Have you worn your green dress yet? Did that bottle of stuff that I sent to clean your slippers in get there alright? How is your voill garments holding out. Are they worn yet? Take good care of them. I have some more stuff. We can fix them when they need fixing. Otilla don't let any one wear your clothes and don't wear anyone else's please."

Jan. 30, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Don't let your things get scattered around, keep your clothes in your trunk that you don't use every day and that green dress of yours. Keep it in that box I sent it in so it won't get dirty that is what made it so dirty hanging in the clothes closet. It don't take long to press it if you need it. Have you worn it yet? I want you to take good care of all your clothes. If you send me that pleated skirt, I can make it over and fix the waist [sic] to it and it will make you a fine spring dress. Do your voile garments need mending if they do I have got some of the goods here. I can send to you. Have you worn the first two pair of garment I sent you, why was it that you was still wearing your voil ones when you got those heavy ones. I hope you got them. I sent you four pair. Was that bottle of stuff I sent for to clean your slippers alright when it got
there? You did not say. I was afraid it would get broke. You can put those bottles in your trunk that I sent you. I was thinking if we sent as many things the 18 month as we have done, you will need another trunk. I hope you have been taking good care of your summer hat as it is such a nice one. I think it will do this summer too... We are trying to keep from $40 to $60 dollars ahead all the time, so you will have plenty to use for your needs. I think you have quite a lot of clothes now. Mr. Nelson called me to the window the other day when I was down and told me that if the flu was so he could go, he intended to go to Chicago in the last of February. So if I had anything I wanted to send he would take them for me. So if you need anything let me know as soon as you can, so I can get it ready. Have you heard from George any more and how is he when you write to him. Give him my love. Did you send Milton one of those pictures in return for the one he sent us. Did you send Mrs. Crandall a Christmas card. She told me about Horace sending her some cards, but she did not say she had got one from you."

On Feb 25th 1920 Ellen wrote, "I want you to know I got some cloth last night to make your corset covers and two undershirts and will send them as soon as I can get them ready. How are your boots? Will they do for a while? I want you to take good care of your coat and when you can spare it and it is warm enough with your suits, I want you to send it home and I will take it and make a short coat out of it, and put some lining in it. I wish you could see Edna’s coat, I cut it off while she was down here and she looked like it was new. She had it cleaned and it looked new. That is what I will do with yours, but it will look more stylish as it has got the fur on it and that is what makes them look nice. I don't want you to look shabby, I want you to have all you need to look like you had some folks who cared for you. I got me some glasses that cost us $20 but I think we can get you what you need."

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I sent you something yesterday and I do hope you get them alright and that they fit you. I will send you some more as soon as I can get them made. Tell me what you need can you? Wear your big hat you got last year I was thinking that if you got the chance of a nice coat this spring when they are on sale that perhaps you could get one quite cheap or maybe if you got a spring coat that you could wear it with your dresses as the suits is out of sight this year. And your two suits is not bad are they? Can you make them do if you get a spring coat? I can fix the lining in your big coat. I have not any statements this month from the bank but we put your money in every payday just the same and I don't want you to go looking shabby if it takes all we have got. I want you to look as good as the rest and have plenty to eat too. Don't go without all you want to eat. Of course I want you to make good use of all your clothes that you have got. Don't lay them aside and get what you don't need but I want you to have all you need to look nice. You know what I mean. What dress did you wear to Detroit? Did you wear your velvet dress? I hope you did and your sweater as that will keep you warm."

On Feb. 29, 1920 Till wrote to Ellen, "I will send home my coat home as soon as I can. I know you can fix it over real pretty. The lining is all gone it is broken everywhere. (I have felt awful in it especially the night at the Terris Gardens, but I took my coat off at the entrance & none saw it only the one who checked it.) Will be glad when you get my corset covers made."
March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I sent you a house dress for you to wash in and more under skirt and a pair of garments today. I got them for me and when I washed them I could not get in them. So I think you can wear them."

March 19, 1920 Till wrote, "I received the garments and apron and underskirt and hdkfs [sic] and thank you so very much. I was in need of everything you sent."

On March 31, 1920 Till wrote, "I received a beautiful package from home today no name was signed to it but when I beheld what was inside, it had mother & daddie [sic] written all over it. Not in pencil or ink but the wonderful taste showed where it came from. The waiste [sic] and corset cover are very very pretty and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for them. The mutual is giving a big party tomorrow nite [sic] and they have asked me to sing so you see mother you always send things just in time."

April 18, 1920 Till wrote, "I was happy when I returned from Peru to find a sweet letter from you and the surprise of my life when I opened a parcel and found contained therein a beautiful dress. Honest mother you are surely thoughtful of me and I cannot tell you how I appreciate your kindness. The neck is a little low & my sleeves show up awfully plain through those large sleeves but otherwise it fits fine. Almost too fancy for a mishie [sic] but I don’t suppose anyone will say anything. The color is very pretty & the beading is beautiful. I like it very much if the people don’t think it is to fancy for a missionary. I don’t think it is but you never can tell what these people out here think."

May 4, 1920 Till wrote, "I almost ruined my hat in Peru because it got so wet but I can wear it. That little turban straw hat I had last summer, I got some colorite [sic] and blocked it & put some horsehair lace on it and it looks very pretty. I’m wearing it for best. I can fix my large one up too I think. I love my dress mother. It is such a beautiful piece of material and made so pretty. I was afraid at first but the more I look at it I don’t think it is too fancy only we have to be careful because every eye is upon us you know. It was thoughtful and sweet of you to send it. I have kept it nice until mothers day...Thanks for sending the little snaps for my dress. They will be just fine. I can fix the neck alright it isn’t so very low. It would be impossible for me to wear my green dress out here mother. We must be as inconspicuous as possible. I am taking very good care of it. You certainly fixed it beautifully. My iron is in safe keeping and surely comes in handy. My satin skirt will be fine for this summer. And that pretty flowered waist you sent me will look very pretty with it I think. Emma thinks my dress is very pretty and she is going to buy one for mothers day. But O, the prices are outlandish."

On May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "We certainly had a nice time here Mothers Day. Our meetings were well attended and splendid programs were arranged and rendered in a pleasing manner. I saved my dress to wear and O, I love it. I surely received lots of compliments on it. Do you know what I would like is a waist made to match it. I mean a tight fitted one to slip on under my dress so my white garments won’t shine through. I thought just a little georgette to cover my garments because the white doesn’t look as good as a dark covering. The sleeves are very pretty & it isn’t too low in the neck. I believe I ought to have some more summer garments mother when you get time. No rush for them and if it isn’t too much work I’d like you to make them of voile or whatever you think would be nice. Cut them rather low in the neck. That is a little lower than my others."

Till didn’t want to burden her mother with sewing knowing she had so much to do, yet she felt free to let her mother know what adjustments she would like. On June 6, 1920
Till wrote, "O, about my dress mother, I don't want the sleeves or waist made of taffeta. I want just a tight fitting waist of Georgette. I am strapped for clothes to wear to work. My blue satin dress is split all over and my waists are gone. I have been wearing my sweater an awful lot but it is getting too warm for that now. Yesterday I bought a little waist to wear to work and had to pay $3.48 and then bought a little vest and collar set and took the purple collar off my black dress and am going to fix it up to wear. Sr. Freddie sews and she says she will make me a skirt I am going down town Tuesday and buy me some material I believe I can get things just as cheap out here as you can there. So don't worry about sewing for me. You have all you can do. Only I would like about three or four nice pair of garments...I will be very careful about my clothes mother. I understand what you meant in your letter and I assure you I am not going to lend my "underwear" or anything else and I'm not going to anybody else's."

July 7th, 1920 Till wrote, "Your very sweet letter was received and it surely makes me feel good to hear from you. Yesterday a package came for me and when I opened it I grinned from ear to ear. I surely needed a waist badly. My white flowered one is almost gone the sleeves are all in threads. My pink one is the same, I can't wear them much more especially out anywhere. I saved it to wear with my white skirt. I wore it the night Pres. Grant was here. Everybody complimented me on it and I surely like it. The waist you sent me yesterday mother is surely a darling I just love it. Mrs. Wenzel the lady we room with says I am surely a lucky girl to have a mother that sews so splendidly. She thinks it is wonderful the way everything you send fits. No one knows nor appreciates my darling mother like I do...I must close this letter that feel that I could write all day I have so much to tell you. Many many thanks for the garments and waist you sent me I surely do appreciate them."

A week later Till writes on July 16, 1920, "I received the dress and garments you sent me and words fail me when I attempt to tell you how much I appreciate your kindness to me. Many many thanks I don’t know of a girl in the world that has such grand parents as I have and who has been more blessed. I am wondering if my dress will be too bright for a missionary. Do you think I could dye it with good results. I love it but I am afraid to wear anything that is too flashy. You know we have to be careful out here because every eye is upon us. Our clothes should be just as plain as possible."

11 days later on July 27, 1920 Till wrote, "Don’t think Emma discouraged me about my dress mother. She thinks it is very pretty, I like it too but our things should be more plain and when every eye is upon you it makes you feel rather uncomfortable if you feel that you are over dressed or have gay colors on. I am going to wear it but if you make me any more dear heart don’t put too much trimming on such as beads. I know that is an awful lot of work for you and the way you feel I don’t want you to bother about sewing for me. I can buy something here and can get them quite reasonable at the sales. My suit coat is wearing out. I think I must have burned it because the front is all breaking. Mother please don’t try to sew and work so hard during this awful hot weather. You can’t stand it. You must guard your health above everything else."

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote, "Yesterday I mailed my old coat home. Remember you asked me to last winter and I didn’t get a chance too. So I thought if you think it is good enough to cut off and fix up that it will be all right to wear in the stormy weather and to work...I bought me a dress the other day mother and is very nice one I got a good price on it when you take into consideration the price clothes are now. I just had to have a fall
dress as everybody is wearing their fall things now. I also had to buy me a pair of slippers. So my expenses this month are going to be heavy.

Sept. ? 1920 Ellen wrote, "Dear Ottila we got your coat and it sure looked a piech (? sp), it was quite damp. Was you out in a rain storm with it before you wrapped it? I never saw anything look quite so tacky as it did when I unwrapped it. I hung it out on the line to dry and when your pa came home, I took him out to look at it and asked him if he thought I could do anything with it. He said no, don't try, send and tell her to get her a new one. I think I can do something with it when I get time, but I can't just now as I have got more than I can do. I got the tomatoes to look after and the pickles to do and the rest of the work. So you see I have got all I can do just now. So I will go down to the store and make arrangements with them for you to get you coat there and you can go and fit yourself, as I would not know what you would like. So pa said for you to get it your self. They will give us 20 per cents off of all you get and we can pay them here. Just you let us know, just what it is. Then we will do the rest....I hope you'll have good luck getting you a nice coat. Don't get a cheap one get a nice one that you can have for a couple of years and still look fine. I could get a cheap coat here in Aurbachs, but I can't go into get it, there is a big sale on in there and the coats is dirt cheap. I thought maybe you could watch the sales there and get you one quite reasonable. But don't go with out if it is cold, get you one so you will have it when cold weather comes. It's getting quite late in the afternoon and I must go and see about your coat. So will close and write to me and tell me all the news."

Sept. 27, 1920 Till wrote, "I guess my coat did look a sight when you received it. The weather is very damp here and we had an awful storm. My trunk is in the basement of the church and of course the things in it are all wet. I shook them out and left the lid off my trunk up for a day or two until it dried out. So that is the reason my coat look so wrinkle. It was thoughtful and kind of you to send me that letter to the Palmer House. I will try and get me a nice coat and just as reasonable as possible. Weather here lately has been frightfully hot. In fact hotter then it has been all summer. Last night however it rained and cooled things off a little."

Sept. 28, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Did you get your coat and what did it cost you?"

On Oct 15, 1920 Ellen writes, "You said you had not got your coat yet. Don't wait too long and not have it if a cold spell comes. I don't you catch cold....Otilla you said in your letter that your trunk is in the basement of the church. Otilla why is it that you have not got your trunk in your room? I can't see how you dare let it stay there. You can't never tell who might get in it and take some of your things, besides it will just ruin your trunk. Please get it out of there and take it to your room where you can look after it. Your trunk will warp out of shape and then you will have a time getting it shut when you want to bring it home. Otilla I hope your green dress is not in your trunk it will get ruined. Otilla I do hope you take good care of your clothes those first garments I made you I want you to take care of them because I can mend them when you come home and they will do to wear at home and all your old dresses take good care of them as I know I can make something out of them that will do to wear at home. I have not had time to do any thing to your coat as I have had so much to do."

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "If you are well enough mother I wish you would fix up that coat of mine. You know cut it off and it will do to wear to work. My new one is light and I don't want to wear it only to dress up in."
Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen said, "I am trying to fix your old coat. I took it apart yesterday. My it is going to be a big job. My this pen lets the ink fall out. It is Roy’s fountain pen.”

Nov. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "I know my coat is going to be a big job mother and I hate to have you work on it but it would sure come in handy for work. I have been wearing my suit and it is to light for the cold weather. I hate to wear my new one because you don’t feel dressed up when you go out in it if you wear it to work.”

Nov. 16, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Dear Otilla, I am sending your coat back to you today and I do hope you will like it. I have put in just about 3 weeks on it, so you can see that I ought to appreciate it or hate it. I will leave it to you to judge. It was some job, I took it all to pieces in every seam and cut it a new as the seams was so worn that it could not be done any other way. And I put a new lining in. I could not get any cotton lining here as the well wood store has gone out of business and the other stores did not have any nice lining. So I had to do the best I could with what I had to work with. It was some big job. I would rather have got a new piece of cloth to make. It would not have been near so big a job. Now Otilla, I want you to send and have it cleaned before you wear it and they will make the fur look like new. I did not want to clean it here as it gets all crushed packing it in a box to send there. It will be like a new coat when you get it cleaned as it is all new and I do hope you will like it as I had such a big job on it...I have not got a lot of my work done yet. I wrapped your coat up and set down to write the address on a slip of paper to paste on it and thought I would drop a few lines. But when I get started I don’t know when to quit. So I must go and mail this coat too. So good day. Write soon and tell me all the news and how you like your coat.”

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I hope you have got your coat by this time.”

Dec. 1, 1920 Till again expresses her gratitude to her mother for sewing and taking care of her clothes she writes..."I received my coat mother dear and if you don’t deserve a sewers medal I don’t know of any one who does. That coat is like a new one. You certainly did a fine piece of work on it. Mr. Wenzel our landlord took it down to his office and had it cleaned for me and you would never know it to be the same old coat. I just love it and am getting lots of mighty good wear out of it. The thoughtfulness of you to put that lovely belt in it made a big improvement on it. The fur is cleaned up so pretty and is all fluffed out and the plush is even prettier then it was when it was new. You old darling you, I don’t know whatever we would do with out you and dear old daddie. We wouldn’t do thats all.”

Ellen responded on Dec. 8, 1920, "We got your letter yesterday and it sure me feel good to get such a good letter from you. I was glad that the coat suited you. It was sure a big job but I liked it when I got it done. I would have put a nicer lining in it if I could have got some here, something like I put in your suit. And then it would have looked just like a new one. Did you get that box I sent you? I hope it got there all right. It was better late then never. I hoped you liked it. It sure cost a lot to send a small box now a days. I just don’t know what to send you for xmas... I just got a house dress made and it was none too soon as I did not have a thing to wear. I got the cloth last April. I have got 2 waist I cut out for Fern last July and I have not got them made yet.”

Oct. 27, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I have got started on your dress Edna, but it is slow work. I can’t make it like the pattern you gave me as it is too narrow at the bottom. I will do the best I can with it by the time I get three meals a day I don’t get much sewing done.”
Partial Letter without date Ellen wrote, "Edna I guess you think I will be a long time getting your dress done."

Ellen’s baking

Till, her sibling and the missionaries were grateful for Ellen’s baking. On Oct. 20, 1918 Roy wrote. “If I had your food I guess I would weigh two hundred the way I have gained on this food. So you see it ain’t the food out here that makes me fat it is the climate. I would give a hundred dollars for a slice of your bread it would taste like coke to me”

Dec. 6, 1920 Till let her mother know how much the food she sent to her and the other missionaries was appreciated she wrote, "Today a wonderful box of goodies was received by me from you darlings. Honestly that was too thoughtful and sweet for anything and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for it mother. Everything was so good and the missionaries all said to tell you how good it was. They just raved about the rolls and cake. The pudding is lovely too but we haven’t had that yet. I guess we will have that for dinner tomorrow. Emma’s mother sent her a lovely box of things too so we have decided that we have the most wonderful folks in the world.”

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”I asked Ed and Cora if they did not want a cup of cocoa and some new bread and butter. So they was just as busy as they could be when Roy came in from down town. He stood in the middle of the floor with both hands in his over coat pocket turned on first one foot and then on the other. And he grinned all over his face and then he said to Ed. It feels mighty good to come home and have some of mothers good bread don’t it after having a long trip?...I was going to do my ironing tonight but I got busy making some pies and I just got through. I made one Apple and 4 pumpkin pies, they sure look nice. I’m wish you had one of them.”

Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, "My mother but the pudding you sent us was just grand. We had it for dinner and Joe made some lovely dip for it and the missionaries said to tell you many thanks and that it was awfully good.”

Jan. 1, 1921 Ellen said, "I have been making pies and a big fruit cake. I wish you had a big piece of it.”

Aug. 30, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I have baked bread this morning and it looks good.”

Ellen taught her children to be responsible

Ellen taught her children to work, to provide for themselves, to be responsible and not to take advantage of others.

Ellen wrote on Aug. 17, 1919, “Sister Gillette asked me this morning how you was getting along. She said that Elva said last night, grandma when is Otilla coming home. She said she told her that Otilla would not be home until she was 10 years old. She told her grandma that she thought Otilla was such a nice girl. I wish you would drop Mrs. Jillette a few lines you know that old folks likes to be noticed... Emma Banks said to me one day down town, I guess Otilla is to stingy to write to us..."Did you send Mrs. Crandall a Christmas card. She told me about Horace sending her some cards, but she did not say she had got any one from you.”
Julia followed the example of her parents keeping a garden, Ellen commented on Aug. 17, 1919 while speaking about the tomatoes they were going to bottle saying, “We have some fine ones over to Julia’s place.”

At the time that her husband John was out of work Ellen wrote on Sept. 2, 1921, "I want you girls to pay Aunt Hattie for your trouble when you get on your feet again. You said that your wages were small. I think when you work a while you will get a raise or maybe find something better at least I hope so...I think that Otilla will find her a better job after a while and I think after they get better acquainted with you that you will get a raise."

Ellen encouraged her children develop their talents

The Shield children were encouraged by Ellen to pursue their talents particularly music. She loved music. She wrote many encouraging comments to her girls especially Till while she was on her mission telling her not to be afraid to sing but to share her talent. Edna along with Till loved music, she played the piano and sang. Ellen encouraged Edna to accompany Till when she sang. Julia also loved music, she wanted her piano sent to her in Idaho.

July 28, 1919 Till wrote, "I do a good deal of singing, but I am handicapped because there isn’t anyone that can play for me. Oh! I miss Emma so much. I love my little companion but I do wish she could play. But she is so sweet to me. Has a very sweet disposition." (interesting to note that the same day that Till wrote she had no one to play for her, Ellen wrote as if responding although there would not have been time to have received the letter with that information)

July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I am so grateful you get along well with your singing. I think it will be a great help to you...take all the chance you have to practice your singing and if you have time try and practice on the piano and when there comes a time you don’t have anyone to play for you, you can do it yourself that would be fine wouldn't that?...I know that you sing well, that is a answer to my prayers, that your songs would penetrate the hearts of your audience."

Ellen believed that music was as much needed as teaching the gospel was.

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I send you and your companion the warmest love and hope you both have good success in your tracting from door to door and in your singing too, I think that singing is as much needed as the preaching. I sometimes think that a good song will take the attention of the people when nothing else will and now when you have such a fine player."

Ellen writes, “I hope you will be able to go about your duty and that the Lord will bless you with his spirit so you will be able to teach the gospel to the people and be able to sing the beautiful hymns to them. How do you and your new President get along with the singing I can imagine you singing and him playing.” In another letter dated Jan. 30th 1920, she wrote, "One more thing and that is when ever you are called to sing do not refuse because the Lord has blessed you in that way so cultivate that spirit and the Lord will bless you in doing so even if you have not got a solo ready get one of those lovely hymns which has been written by inspired men so do not refuse but get the hymn book, always have that with you. I make it a special prayer that the Lord will bless you in your singing so don’t turn the opportunity down when it comes to you because every
hymn has a great sermon in them if you do feel timid about it go to the comforter for help, he is ever ready to assist us in all things no matter what it is. I know this by many experiences. Remember that good song, Don't forget to pray so when life gets dark and dreary don't forget to pray. How many times this have drove the clouds away. What a comfort it is to know that we have got some greater power to look to then our self. I can't imagine how people can get along that do not believe as we do. I am so glad that this great blessing has come to us that you have been called to go on a mission. It helps to put the spirit of our duty in all of us…I don't see how you left your music in Peru, do be sure and send for it, don't let your things get scattered around…I went down there yesterday and to their Caddack (sp?) back and she was asking all about you and your singing. I want you to write to her. She told me that you ought to try and take a few lessons while you are in Chicago, she told me that the teacher that gave Edna lessons was there and if you could only take a few while you were there it would do you the world of good. I sure intend to let you try and take a few while you are there. She told me that she would write you a recommendation letter, and that she would get her sister to write too. That solo teacher, you write to her and she will tell you what to do. She told me that you can't imagine how much good you can get out of one of these teachers. So I want you to try if you have to stay a month after you are released.

Ellen was very pleased that Till’s singing was well received she wrote, Feb. 29, 1920, "That was some letter that Elder Weaver wrote to you. I never in all my life heard one thing like that letter, so much flatter. I know you sing well, that is in answer to my prayers that your songs would penetrate your audience and I feel that my prayers has been answered in that respect."

March 10, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "How did you know that Elder Weaver could play. I sure do feel sorry that he had to go home but I do hope he will be able to go back and finish his mission. Where is he from?…I can't help but think about Elder Weaver raving about you and Milton when he only seen you that 1 time. Cottam must have been talking to him about you for him to be thinking about it when he was delirious. It is strange how people will meet up with one another and feel so well acquainted at first sight. It sure does seem that we must have known one another in some previous time."

March 31, 1920 Till wrote, "Where did you get the sheet music you sent? Roxie sent me a piece just like it. I thank you very much for it. They sure come in handy here."

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen wrote Till wanting her to take lessons after her mission saying, "I sure do hope you can stay and spend a month after your released if I can get pa to see it that way. I would like for you to take a few lessons while you were there. But it seems that everything that could come to use our money has come. But if we have faith, the way will be open for us to do what we would like."

Jan. 1, 1921 Ellen wrote, "We are sure enjoying Edna’s company she plays and sings for us."

April 17, 1921 after Till’s mission both Edna and Till continued to share their talent. Till wrote, "We went to Sunday School and I sang during the passing of the sacrament. I sang “Rock of Ages,” Edna played for me. We got along nicely…Uncle Charlie is going to let us have his piano this summer. We have been over there twice. They feel fine."

A good education and learning skills was important to Ellen
Music was not the only avenue that she encouraged her kids to pursue. She wanted her children to go to school and learn skills so they would be prepared at the appropriate time. Till went to school before her mission learning many skills. Among them was short hand. Wanting to keep up on her skills she wrote the college and asked for the short hand book to help her keep up her skills. On Oct 17, 1919 she wrote, "I sent to the college and had professor Davis send me my short hand book. It will help me lots."

Ellen thought it was important for her children to receive training and education and wanted them all to get what they needed. It was not always possible because of limited funds particularly when Till was on her mission when Roy wanted to go.

Dec. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I am sure glad that you like it in Chicago and that you have got where you can be out of the cold for a while and I think it will give you a chance to go over your work that you done last year. I do hope you keep up your short hand work and your type writing."

Ellen was glad that Till was able to use the skills she had acquired prior to her mission and felt like the money had been put to good use as expressed in her letter dated Jan. 30, 1920, "I am so glad that you have got through with your books and have done it satisfactory. It makes me feel good to think that my girl was able to do what they wanted her to do. Maybe we will see what your schooling was good for even if it took lots of money. What is money if we don't put it in something that we can see the benefit from, that was my prayer all the time you was in school that you would learn your lessons well and that you would be able to put them to good use in doing his duty so it makes me feel good to hear that you are able to go right ahead in all they want to tell you."

Feb. 9, 1920 she wrote, "What do you think about trying to take if not more then one lesson a month that will keep you busy if your Pres. will allow it. Of course you will have to get his consent but I thought that would not make it too hard on us but I sure will like to see you in touch with your Vackel (sp?) study but that lays with those over you to decide as I don't want to interfere with your work because we are so glad that you have had the opportunity to fill a mishing. [sic]"

Sept. 17, 1920 Ellen said, "He (Roy) wanted to go to school but we did not have the money to keep his western loan up. It seems he will not have any as long as he is away from home so he could save his money. We could not keep his expense and yours too or I would made him go to school. Good day."

Till wrote, "I was glad to hear that Roy has a desire to go to school. I do hope that he can go next year. He must like it up in Nevada. Give him my love when you write and tell him to write to me. Tell Ed and Cora hello for me."

Ellen worried about her family’s health and safety

A constant worry to Ellen was her children’s health, she mentions it in many of her letters.

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "We are all feeling fine at present and hope you are feeling fine. You did not say how you are standing the walk, is it hard on your feet I do hope the Lord will bless you with health and strength."
Ellen tells Till, "When you go to that girls place to sing be careful and don't get to close to her, they say that disease is quite contagious, so don't take any chances. I do hope that you will soon get rid of that cold of yours." Another time she writes, "I do hope I get a letter from you tomorrow I hope you are well by this time. Julia has got a terrible cold she has been sick since she came. In another letter she writes, "I hope you are feeling fine, you did not say how you are standing is it hard on your feet? I do hope that the Lord will bless you with health and strength so you will be able to do your duty everyday and I know that if we are faithful that he will do his part. Be prayerful and ask the Lord to help you in all that you undertake to do and I know that the Lord hears and answers our prayers in all that we do if we have but put our trust in him. Be wise in all that you do and the Lord will bless you."

Oct. 13, 1919 she wrote, “Otilla I am sure glad that you ain't working in that place where the mob is but I think that the Lord is able to take care of his own. I am glad every day that you have this opportunity to go on a mishing [sic] and I hope that the Lord will continue to bless you with health so you will be able to continue to do your duty. I hope your cold is better by this time so you won't be stopped from singing."

22, 1919 (no month my guess is Dec.?)) Ellen wrote, "I was sorry to hear that you don't feel well. I can't understand why you can't get rid of that cold of yours. I think you had better go to a doctor and get something to work that cold off. I think if you would get Emma to put a (muster plaster) [sic] on you that it would do you good. Take 1 spoon of mustard to 6 of flour and mix with the white of egg and put it on for a couple of hours in the evening and after you take it off, put some ointment on and go to bed. I think that you will find that it will do you lots of good, so do it Emma please. You said you were still wearing your thin garments. How is that, I sent you some other ones. Why did you not wear those and be sure and wear your warm under skirts and keep yourself warm and don't go without your rubbers and keep your feet dry. That is the way to keep well. Take good care of yourself Otilla."

Jan. 30, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Was sure glad to hear from you and hear that you are all well at present. I see by the paper that the flu is raging there. I do hope the Lord will protect you missionaries from it which I think he will do if we put our trust in him for protection. It is so fine here today that it makes us feel that it is spring and then I think all this sickness will be over at least we hope so.

Feb. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "The flu situation in Chicago is bad, but no need of you worrying because it that flu gets me it sure will have to fly. (Then I'll sweat it.)...Praying our heavenly father to ever bless you with health and strength and preserve you from the terrible disease that is going around is a prayer of your loving daughter Otilla

May 4, 1920 Till wrote to Ellen who was concerned about her health she wrote..."You said you hoped I didn’t take cold from getting so wet in Peru. No mother dear I surely got a good soaking but fortunate for me and only through the kind protection of my Heavenly Father was I spared. I didn’t take much cold. I got some medicine from a druggist over here on Milwaukee Ave. He treats me very nice & recommended this medicine I took it & it surely helped me."

March 26, 1921 Ellen wrote Till, "How is your cold getting along? You don't say anything about it. Have you got any more muctone or will I send you some or can you get it there. Don't forget to take those capsules, and take your sun baths. I wish it was here so I could tend to you."
There were many illness that plagued them during these years. Ed writes that many had passed away from the flu and pneumonia. It was also during this time that small pox was going around. Ellen mentioned there were many she knew who had passed away from illness. Till wrote about small pox in one of her letters and told Roy, “I was taken to the river and we were going to take a boat and go into Canada but were unable to because of too many cases of small pox there. In a letter dated Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, “I was awfully sorry to hear that Gladys has small pox. Joy where did she get’em?” I do hope Cora won’t take her out until she is entirely over them. I am glad to hear that Grandma and Grandpa are getting along so nicely. Give them my love and blessings.” (Gladys Ellen Shields who had small pox was the daughter of Ed and Cora, she was born Oct. 4, 1909 making her 11 yrs old when she acquired small pox. She passed away April 15, 1999 living 90 years according to church records)

Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, ”I guess you saw by the paper that Grace Leaver and Gurtie Sheets died with the flu. Gurtie left a baby 3 days old and 6 others. There is a few cases here but it is not as bad as it is in Salt Lake.”

Feb. 29th Ellen writes about a friend who had bright disease and passed away. She said, ”Rollen Ostler came home to his mother’s funeral which was held last Wednesday. She was actuated with bright Disease. It came on her in the nite [sic] and Ostler was awaken up by her (his wife) making a strange noise and he found she was unconscious and he called for aid but the end came at six o’clock that next evening. Rollen was speaking to us today, he sure talks fine and Norman Anderson dies too from the flu, his funeral was last Sunday March.”

Ellen takes sick

July 29, 1919 Ellen writes, ”We are all feeling fine all but me and I have got such a bad foot I can’t hardly get around on it last night when I took my shoe off I could hardly get in to bed, it was so swelled it aches shear up to my hip. I don’t know what is the matter with it but I think it is the high heels that throw all the weight on the front of my foot.”

The problems with her foot got better, she mentioned it in the letter she wrote on Aug. 3, 1919 saying, ”We are all feeling fine now. My foot is much better, the swelling is nearly all out now.” Aug. 5, 1919 Till replied, ”I am fine and I hope your foot is better.”

Feb. 9, 1920 Ellen stated, ”I went to Sunday School yesterday morning but I set and sneezed and wiped my nose until it felt like a big turnip so decided to stay home the rest of the day. I have got such a cold in my head. Aunt Eliza has got the same, all of the girls have been sick with this cold but they are all going to school again.”

Feb. 15, 1920 Till wrote, ”I received a letter from mother & she said she had an awful cold. I hope she is better by now.”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote to her parents, ”She (Julia) also told me mother dear that you were not well at all. You never told me about it. Please write and tell me just how you feel. She says you are on a diet and have a heavy blood pressure. Honest mother it just worries me sick.”

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, ”The last time I heard from you mother you are not feeling well. I do hope you’re feeling better by this time. Are you sick is the reason I haven’t
heard from you for such a long time? I get awful lonesome to hear from you and when it goes so long I began to worry about you and wonder if you are well.”

Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, "I am glad to hear that you feel a little better. My it is terrible mother that you have to be troubled with that awful hoarseness. I do wish you could find something that you could get relief."

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen said, "I was going to do my ironing this morning and got the board (sp)? out and put the iron out and I felt so miserable that I went in and laid down. I think I caught cold when I washed Monday. I just ache all over."

It seemed that Ellen often had a hoarse voice as expressed by Till who said in her Nov. 15, 1920 letter, "I do hope you are feeling better. Joy it seems that you and I take cold quicker than anyone else in the world. Miss Valstead has returned to Chicago and she said you sent your love to me. She liked Tooele just fine and she told me you could hardly speak when she went over to see you. I cannot understand why you get those hoarse spells mother and I do wish you would get relief because it is surely miserable to be so you can’t speak. It is so hard on the woman folks.”

Shield family Holidays

Nov. 24, 1919 Till wrote, "I suppose now that I will get to eat Thanksgiving dinner with Sister De La Mare and Elder Lee. So mother dear when you are all comfortably seated around the table at home, think of me and know that my mind is with you if not myself as a piece of flesh. Eat some good plum pudding for me, and kiss Bud, Gladys, Joice, Elmo, Hyrum [all names sic] and that dear little toe headed brother Fern for me. And let dear old daddie eat my piece of lemon pie. I him feeling fine and hope you were all enjoying the best of health. I was so glad to hear from you and Julia. Write me often as you can. I know you are busy."

Dec. 10, 1919 Till wrote, "Sister Smith has invited the missionaries to her home Christmas day. There are 26 of us and we are all going to her home for breakfast and then go out for dinner then go back there and spend the evening. She is going to arrange a program. The office is going to hold all the parcels that come for the missionaries we are all going to open them over to Smiths. I wished if you could, send me a nice fruitcake and some candies in it or anything like that to eat. That is if you get time mother we expect to have a good time, that is the best we can for being away from home. I would love to be with you and help Fern trim his tree. But my thoughts will be with you if not myself as a piece of human flesh. Perhaps Elder Cottam is coming to Chicago for Christmas. He said to give you his kind regards and best wishes for a happy Christmas with your sweet little daughter. It is late mother dear and I will have to write again I have so much to say, I never know when to stop."

Dec. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "Just a little note to let you know I am well and getting along fine and hope that the Xmas holidays will be pleasant for you... I’m over the church while writing this and I’m going over to Smith’s today to help again. I cooked breakfast for the girls this A.M. my mush was burned so bad I can taste the dark brown taste yet. That’s all I gave them."

Dec. 31, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Except my warmest love yourself, write soon and tell me all the news and tell me how you spent Christmas day your loving mother and pa”
Dec. 20, 1920 Till wrote, "I have all my Christmas shopping done and mailed you a box today. I hope you received it all okay. If your present won’t do mother dear send it back and I will send another just like it only different...I am just as happy and contented with my work as can be I hope that everyone at home will have the merriest Christmas they have ever had and that the coming year will be a very prosperous and happy one... We are all invited over to Smiths to spend Christmas. We will all open our packages there just like we did last year. They are hiding our packages and we don't know whether we get any or not until Christmas Day. We are anticipating a very good time. I do hope you will enjoy Christmas. I am sorry to hear that Edna couldn't be home for Christmas Eve. I'm sending Ed's box to Tooele because I thought that perhaps they would be out to Tooele to spend Christmas...I must close now and ask you to give my best regards to grandma and grandpa and everybody I know and wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from for me. May our father's choices blessings rest down upon you that you will be the very happiest parents of the world Christmas day. At 12 o'clock you think of me and know that I'm thinking of you. God bless each and everyone of you is the prayer of your loving daughter Till"

Dec. 25, 1920 Ellen wrote, "To our dear daughter Otilla, we your dear parents send you a merry and happy Xmas greetings and a happy new year and we do hope that the Lord will bless our dear daughter and all her undertaking while in the mission field and that the Lord will bless you with his Holy Spirit and comfort you that you may enjoy your labors and be able to do much good while you are working in his vineyard in helping to gather the honest and heart to come into the fold is the wishes of your parents Papa and Mama John J and Ellen Shields. I do hope you will have an enjoyable Christmas who would have thought one year ago today that you would have been where you are today and in the service of the Lord like you are. What a blessing has been bestowed on us to have this grand opportunity. I do hope that we will have the pleasure of seeing our boys going on a mission too, that would be the happiest time of my life. We have sent you a box of things for Xmas and do hope they get their okay and don't get broken and that you give them right away, so that the things don't spoil before you can take care of them. You can put those rolls in a warm oven and warm them and they will be like fresh. And take the pudding and steam it and take just enough of that sugar to make just enough to make the amount of pudding your warming. Pour boiling water on it and is ready to use. I sent a small parcel to Emma and Horace and I do hope you will like the Christmas present that your daddy and I sent you. I do not have time to make the vie (sp?)for the front of it, but can finish it yourself. We sure had a hard time to get it ready to go that night as I wanted to go that day so you could get it in time."

Dec. 27, 1920 Till wrote, "Christmas is over and I hope that every heart is as glad as mine is this morning. The thing that makes be the happiest is the fact that I have such wonderful parents, brothers and sisters. You have made me happier than I can tell you. Christmas morning Emma and I went down to Smiths where a number of the other missionaries had are reassembled and there we receive our packages and had breakfast. Dr. Russell permitted Horace to come up and spend Christmas with us and we were certainly glad that he was able to be in our midst. He looks pretty good but is terribly thin and very weak. The doctor thinks now that most of his troubles over and I hope so too. He had to go and lie down during part of the afternoon but he enjoyed himself with us very much and said he felt fine. I received a nice letter from his mother.
Now to tell you the things I received. I first read all the cards and letters which were on top of my packages. Among which was your darling letter enclosing the money from Sister Speirs and Dr. Phipps. Was certainly sweet of them to send it to me and I must write them a letter and thank them for same. I think Emma was just a little disappointed because Dr. Phipps sent me something and didn’t her. As she said I don’t know Dr. Phipps very well and you have sang a great deal for him. I said yes Dr. Phipps has treated me very nice. She said that Sister Speirs gave her mother and father when they went to pay their bill at the store they knocked off $10 and told them to give that to Emma. I was very sorry to hear the death of Sister Bean. My that would be an awful blow to Nellie. I suppose she wouldn’t have a very happy Christmas. I will write to her if I can ever get time to do it. Please give my best regards. As I sat on the floor unwrapping my parcels a telegram came for me and at once I thought it must be news from home because of letter which President Smith received last week stating that it would be necessary for me to be released at once. I hurriedly opened the telegram and it was one from cousin George wishing me a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. It pleased me so much to think that he remembered me. It made me just as happy as a present would have. I received a nice letter from Sister Sanders enclosing a beautiful handkerchief and she was in Los Angeles California. She said she was having a lovely time. Sister Miles gave me a nice book of friendship, Sister Smith gave me a lovely little French trim box of powder. She gave Emma one just like it. Joe gave me a pretty handkerchief with a pretty little sachet bag. Emma give me a beautiful box of initialed handkerchiefs. Pres. Grant and Smith gave each of the missionaries a lovely book. Mine was the Path Back Home. Most of the other missionaries received O Heap O, Livin. But as Pres. Grant gave Emma and others in the office including myself a nice book of Heap O, Livin the last time he was here, they gave us the second volume of Guests books. Edna bless her heart sent me a lovely box of handkerchiefs some lingerie pins which were very pretty and a dollar bill. I didn’t expect a thing from her this year and it made me doubly happy to be remembered by her. Phyllis sent me a very nice pocketbook some lovely silk hose and a beautiful handkerchief. Mr. Wasson gave me a beautiful beaded bag. Horace gave me a grand box of candy. I didn’t expect a thing from him this year and told him I didn’t want him to give me anything because he has been under an awful expense and things that he has given me in other years make up for several years I think. I thought it was sweet of him as he is been in the hospital for two weeks and didn’t get a chance to buy anything. He got Elder Horsley to buy that for him. Staffs present to me you have to see to appreciate it. So I will tell you about it and then show it to you when I get home. I never dreamed he would give me anything because he’s an art student and his expenses are outrageously high. He took the parcel to my room or at least gave it to Mrs. Wenzel to put in my room. So when I got home that night I found it and it is a lovely little book and green binding. It was the value of a smile. He wrote the sweetest letter and drew an imitation of himself on the bottom of it. It is certainly clever. Then he gave me a wonderful green Batek handkerchief which is made only by artists and are rare things. This letter started out like this. “This is not a Christmas present Till” and, I don’t you do exhibit as such please. It is just a little relic to put in your big trunk with your other things that you might remember Staff, dear old Chi. and the wonderful times we had together. On the bottom he drew a cartoon of a poor artist with brush in hand and his hand on his chest which conveyed the idea “I am at
A PS near by the cartoon said, I will not always be a poor art student and then I kin buy you a present. I appreciated it as much as any present I received because after all it isn't the gift as much as the spirit of the giver. Mrs. Wenzel gave me a lovely box of handkerchiefs. And your dear box made me oh, so happy. I opened it and there I found things that made me happier than if you would send me a million things. The thoughtfulness of you to send those things to Pres. Smith and Sister Smith, Joe and Emma and Horace was too sweet for anything. Then to send a beautiful stocking of candy peanuts and taffy sticks for those around the room was more than I would ever have thought of. Everyone thought it was so sweet of you dear folks and had I had you and dear old daddie here your lives would have been endangered as I would have hugged the ears off you and smothered you in kisses. The hose you sent were beautiful and just what I needed. That big brother of mine is to be commended for his thoughtfulness to his sis. The blouse he sent also the warm knitted underskirt was just grand and I thank him very much. I hope I can give him something nice some day. (When I land a rich husband) ha ha. Don't hold your breath Roy until I do or you will never live to receive your present. Anyway I shan't forget your kindness to me. The little letter written by that sweet old toad head of a Fern was enjoyed more than I can tell you and I want to thank him for that too. It made me very happy. I had a very happy Christmas indeed and thought of you most every minute of the day. I guess I followed Edna from Idaho Falls to Tooele. What time did she get home about six o'clock. Especially did I think of you about 12 o'clock and I could picture mother cleaning up the peanut and walnut shells and picking up orange peelings after Roy and Fern. Then she starts to prepare dinner after wishing grandma and grandpa a Merry Christmas. I could see daddie slowly opening his package which might have contained a shirt or pair of socks with a smile of approval. I know that mother would receive some nice things and I know little Fern wouldn't be forgotten by old Santa Claus or Roy either. I hope you all had as happy Christmas as I did. This morning I received several cards wishing me a happy Christmas. Sister Gillette sent me a lovely card enclosing many stamps. It was so sweet of her. A little boy in Kokomo sent me a lovely package of name cards. He is the sweetest little fellow and I thought it was such a thoughtful gift because we use so many cards in the mission field. They were neatly printed. That's all I can think of now that I got so you see even though I am a lonely sheep out in the world Santa still has my address. I know you have been awfully busy and I didn't expect you to send me a box of eatables like you did last year. Emma received in her Christmas box some handkerchiefs a fruitcake and little hard candy. After I gave her the parcel you sent to me in a little while she gave me a box of handkerchiefs and said her mother sent them to me. I don't think her mother did because there wasn't any card or anything and she made excuse that her mother didn't send a card. I felt sorry for her. Please don't say anything to anybody because I wouldn't say anything to hurt Emma's feelings for anything in the world. I think from what Horace told me that Emma's folks are having a hard time to keep her out here. PS I hope you received your Christmas box I sent you and that your gloves fit. If they don't mother send them back and I can change them. We were with all the other missionaries, had breakfast and dinner and with Smith's. We had it in the banquet room of the church. We had a wonderful dinner and such a good time. Sister Smith prepared for 45 so there was some crowd of us. We played games
and made all the noise possible. We spent part of the time at the home and part at the church it is just one half minute walk.”

Dec. 31, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Dear Ottila we got your letter and was so glad to hear you enjoyed Xmas as well as you did, as we was afraid that your Xmas would be whacked (sp?) as cold as your pa’s and mine was?...I’m must close as I must go downtown, so will say good day for this time, was glad the box pleased you, that is the best of all.”

Jan. 1, 1920 Ellen wrote again saying, "Otilla, I forgot to tell you about our Christmas presents. Edna got here Sunday evening and was sure glad to see her. She gave me a nice pickle dish – and two salt and pepper shakers of China. They was just fine. Roy gave me a lovely watch chain. Aunt Cora gave me a nice corset yoke and pa a neck tie. The gloves you sent me was just grand and fit fine. It was just what I needed. I gave pa two shirts and a chain for his work watch and a chain for his good watch. I gave Roy two pair of socks. Edna gave him two pair. Fern got a gun and tools chest a bath robe and house slippers and a storybook from Edna and a knife. I gave Edna a house dress and waiste [sic] and a pair of hose..Otilla, that under skirts was from your pa and me. I thought it was good of Roy to send that waiste. [sic] I sure had a hard time to get one that I liked. I went downtown to or three times before I can decide on it. I just could not get one I liked. So I thought that would be a change to the rest you have had. We don’t have much to pick from here. I got that petticoat of yours and Emma’s ma came down here one day and I showed her it and she thought it was nice so she said she would get Emma one just like it. But I thought she would get her something else too.”

Politics for Ellen and John

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "It is election today so after meeting I went and voted for a new mayor. John Gillette is one and Haslen Englen in the other.”

When Till was on her mission Ellen went to a political rally and seemed interested in politics. She writes Oct 15, 1920, "We are having rallies here. I went to one last night. Senator King and the man that is running for Governor and a (campaigning??) They sure gave us a fine talk on the league of nations. I can’t see how a man can vote against the league after hearing King talk. We are going to have Senator Smoot talk tomorrow night. I sure do hope the Democratic wins this next election.”

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "We went to a rally last night pa and I. Brother Robert spoke. I tell you he sure did give Mr. Smoot the lecture (sp?) for using the church auditorium in his politics. Elder Roberts is strong for the league of Nations.”

Nov. 16, 1920 Ellen wrote,"Pa and I was at one of the rallies at the Strand.”

The Shields and Pres. Smith

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote, "The Smiths surely did have a good time while they were out home they keep talking about it. They have the pictures finished and oh, my they are good looking to me. I think the one you and Leon had taken among the flowers is just grand. It surely is good of both of you. The others are fine. I will get some printed as soon as they get through with the films and I will send you some of them. I said I wish I could pick you out of the picture and hug you. Emma and I both stood with tear dimmed
eyes as we admired you all. The Smiths were disappointed at not seeing daddie they wanted to meet him so badly. They didn’t understand about the work out home and thought surely they would meet you all. Sr. Smith said that perhaps they would meet him when they come home in October for conference."

Sept. ? Ellen said, "Give my love to Emma and the Smiths folks and the warmest of love yourself from your loving parents ma and pa"

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "We expect President Smith back Sunday. Did you get to go in for conference? If you did I suppose you seen him."

Oct. 15, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I was to conference and sure had a fine time. I saw President Smith and he told me that you and Emma was getting along fine. I did not see Sister Smith, I sure would love to have seen her. It seems that we can’t ask a man the same questions that we can a woman, but he told me that she did not feel very well and thought she had gone home. I sure think President Smith is a fine fellow. He seems so fatherly. We sure had a fine conference. I stayed at Ed and Cora’s. I was going to stay at Aunt Ester’s place but Cora was there so I had to go to Ed and they just have two rooms and Polly was there and her youngest girl we got along."

Oct. 25, 1920 Till wrote, "Pres. Smith said he saw you, but Sr. Smith said she didn’t get to. They are certainly good to us. I am glad you went to conference."

March 31, 1920 Till told Ellen, "I told President Smith if he dared, to kiss you for me if he saw you and he said that I’ll have to return it. Vot would den appen! We surely like him he is jolly and good to us. He left last Tuesday morning and he came into the kitchen where he I was eating breakfast and shook hands with me and said goodbye and for me to be a good girl while he was gone. He is carrying my regards with him also my love to you so if you see him relieve him of the load."

Dec. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "It was kind and thoughtful of you mother to send that menu you and Sister Smith says it will be dandy for us during the holidays."

Dec. 6, 1920 Till wrote, "PS President and Sister Smith just came into the office and they said to tell you hello and send their best regards."

Ellen had a unique friendship with Till’s friends, she sent gifts and they corresponded with her

Ellen sent Christmas presents to the Mission President, his wife, Horace and Emma On Dec, 27, 1920 Till writes, "The thoughtfulness of you to send those things to Pres. Smith and Sr. Smith, Joe, Emma and Horace was too sweet for anything. And then to send a beautiful stocking of candy peanuts and taffy sticks for those around the room was more than I would ever have thought of. Everyone thought it was so sweet of you dear folks and had I had you and dear old daddie here your lives would have been endangered cause I would have hugged the ears off of you and smothered you in kisses...The Smiths said to thank you very much for your kindness and Joe said she was going to write to you. She thought it was so sweet of you to send her something not even knowing her. Everyone said to thank you for the candy and thought it was so sweet of you. Emma said to say thank you and so did Horace. I am sure it would make you happy to see how they appreciated your kindness and to say nothing of how it pleased me to hand them their parcels."
Till would give Ellen updates about her friends in most of her letters saying on March 31, 1920, "Emma and I are very happy to be laboring so near each other. I see her about a dozen times a day. Horace doesn’t feel at all good he has been taking treatments for his neck and isn’t as well as he might be. I am feeling fine and am doing my best which isn’t very much. May God ever bless you all and preserve you with health and strength is the prayer of your loving daughter Till”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "Emma sends her best regards."

Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, "Emma and everyone sends best regards to you and dear old daddie.”

Dec. 30, 1920 Ellen received a thank you card from a Miss Josephine Smith, she said, "Dear Sr. Shields, I just had to write to thank you for the lovely handkerchief, you sent me. It was very thoughtful of you to think of me, and I surely appreciate it. Since coming to Chicago I have met a great many people, and among them I have met your daughter and Sr. Shields, I can truly say that I have never met a more sincere girl. She is loved by every one out here. I have heard Sr. Shields talk in meeting two or three times, and is wonderful. You surely can be proud of her. She & Sr. De La Mare have meant more to me than I can tell. When I left home to come here, I missed my family, and they have been like sisters to me.

I wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness and I hope you have a Bright & Happy New Year. With Kindest thoughts, I remain Josephine Smith” 2555 N. Sawyer Ave. Chicago"

There is hardly a letter that Ellen didn’t mention to Till to give Horace and Emma her love. July 28, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Write soon, give my love to Emma and Horace and receive the same yourself.”

Aug. 17, 1919 Ellen wrote, "How is Emma getting along and Horace? Are they still in Chicago I heard that Emma was going to the same place that Elder Cottam is. Has she gone yet?...Give my love to Horace and Emma and except the warmest love yourself from your mother.”

Aug. 18, 1919 Till wrote back, "I haven’t heard about Emma going to Michigan nor Horace going to leave Chicago. I heard from them both this week.”

Sept. 10, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "Give Horace and Emma my best wishes and tell them I wish them both good success and I hope you will have the very best of success in the world.”

Oct. 13, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Otilla, I was to meeting last Tuesday and saw Mrs. Del a Mare and she told me to give you her best regards. That she is going to pull your ? for not writing to her. She told me that Emma said in her last letter that she was going to write to Mrs. Shields. They got a long letter from Horace and he told them that it was five months since he had gone on his mission that he had not been lonesome since he left home that if they was doing their duty they would not get time to get homesick. Mrs. Del A Mare said to me that if Otilla was not on her missing [sic] that he would soon get homesick. I had to smile at her. She is coming down some evening and have a chat with us.”

Feb. 1, 1920 Till wrote, "Emma and Horace send their best regards, give my love to all.”
Feb. 9th, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Give my love to Emma, Horace and Milton and all and except my warmest love your self is the wish of your mother xxxxxxxx good day and write soon."

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "Emma sends her best regards and Horace also said to remember him to you. He often asks about you."

Dec. 8, 1920 Ellen voiced her opinion about Emma liking Jack she wrote, "I was glad to hear that Emma feels like that about Jack because I did not think he was the man for her and I know that her ma feels all ok about it."

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "Tell Emma that I wish her a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. Give all the folks my best regards and accept my warmest love yourself."

Till gives her appreciation to her mother for the time she spends with Emma mother Till writes on Sept. 10, 1920, "Emma sends her best regards. I am glad to hear that you and Mrs. De La Mare (Emma’s mother) visit each other occasionally. Don’t you ever go over to Lees? (Horace’s parent) Tell them hello for me when you see them."

Although Ellen appreciated the letter that Horace wrote and wanted to respond she felt inadequate because of her spelling. She expressed it in a letter dated July 21, 1919 saying, "I must answer Horace’s letter. I don’t know how I will write to him as I am so poor at spelling. Did he get my letter I sent him?" Again on Aug. 3, 1919 she wrote, "I have not answered Horace’s letter, I just can’t make up my mind to write to him. I am so poor at spelling I don’t know if you can read my letters or not but I am going to try one of these days. He sure wrote us a nice one. I must thank him for taking care of you while you was with him for I forget."

Horace’s parents paid the Shields a visit. Ellen helped his mother cut out some garments for Horace. Ellen wrote on Oct. 13, 1919, "Oh I forgot to tell you that Horace’s Pa and Ma was over last night and got me to help her cut a pair of garment out. As this was for Horace. He is sick and the doctor told him to have a home made pair of garments to sleep in so they would be cooler than them he had. I told her to get the voil (sp?) like I made yours of. I was going to go over and show her to make them today but I have not got time now as I have wrote to Roy and wrote this few lines to you and have been down town and have not got any of my work done and it is 11:00 o’clock and I am going down and mail this letter and get some things for dinner so good day hoping to hear from you soon. Horace has got that swelling on his neck again he said it was worse than it ever was so his pa and ma said last night."

Horace wrote to the Shield family on Nov. 18, 1919 saying, "Dear Folks,- This letter has been a long time coming but it is better late then never. I have some good news for you if Till doesn’t beat me to it. Elder Jackson the Mission Sec. told me that Till was coming here to Chicago to work in the office, and from what I can learn they are going to have me in Chicago for the present. They send word to her a few days ago to come when she wanted too, that there wasn’t any hurry, the girl who is going to take her place left yesterday morning. I would surely like her to come for Thanksgiving, Emma and her companion along with my Companion and myself have an invitation to Sister Howards, when she ask me, she said, “Have Sister Shields come if she can,” she said “I thought you had planned to spend the Holidays together.” She doesn’t know that plans like that are only (Air-Castles) in the mission field, but here we are, the chance is open if she wants to come. I am afraid it will be quite hard for her to leave Peru after making so
many friends that we must remember that where ever we are called to labor that is the place we can do the most good.

I have been under the weather for some time but I am now holding my own fairly good, I suppose the folks have told you all about that so all I can say is, I am feeling much better. My companion and I still have the “itch” But that is much better too. My companion said he is not going to take a bath until he is over it, it has been over ten days now. We are using some kind of a salve. It looks something like sulphur and Lord we are buying it by the pound, $1.80 per pound. We are on the second pound now, we are in hopes this will end it. There was a lady missionary here on her way home who had just the same thing, she was scratching 3/4 of her time.

We had our conference here in Chicago a week ago last Sunday. For our missionary meeting we had Dr. James E. Talmage with us, he surely gave us some wonderful instructions for the up building of our work & lives.

They are starting a drive here in the East to put down the Mormons, one statement was “Why not send Mormonism to the Grave?” Several papers are coming out against us, and a woman who claims to be one of Joseph Smith’s wives is out preaching against Mormonism. So you can see we are going to have our troubles. But as long as we are faithful and prayerful and work hard there is noting to fear, because this is a promise most of us received before coming in the field. My companion said this morning while reading in the Doctrine and Covenants “Say we are going to have something to fight before long because things are shaping just that way, and if every one would read the D, and C. they would know why those things are to come that we are going to see before long.” The question is why do the churches of the world want to put Mormonism to the Grave? Because they know there is too much truth; and they can’t stand to see people leaving their church to go where they received the blessings and the food they are looking for.

It is time I am going to work so will close for this time. Please give my love to all and I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. I am ever your Bro. In the Gospel. Horace"

Dec. 31, 1919 Horace wrote saying, "Dear Folks, Just a few lines today thanks you for the box of handkerchiefs you sent me for Xmas. It was surely thoughtful of you. When I stop to think of the support we have at home, if we do not fulfill a good mission, it is our faults, first we are not going to think of anything else, because we are going to do all we can.

It surely seems good to have Till live in Chicago with us, I do not know just how long they will have us here but I hope it will be for some time. It is quite hard for us here, everyone has their eyes on us because they know we have gone together for a long time and they are forever springing some thing on us. I am afraid Pres. Smith will separate us if they keep it up. We are nearly afraid to treat each other “civil” for fear of some one noticing it. I have to treat her cool & she treats me the same, if it had any effect on us I would rather be somewhere else. But if not of course I want to be where she is. I am afraid I would have been quite homesick if Till had not been here. If I thought of you once I thought of you a hundred times, I was thinking of you one year ago and how little any of you thought of where Till would be this year. But no one feels any better about it then I do, it is the greatest experience in the world for anyone, one thing above the others it makes you “humble” and makes you realize what you are on earth for, and how necessary it is to have a good life, it also makes us “appreciate” our
parents more and to devote our lives, in making them happy, and always take advice from them, how thankful we should feel to have been from of such parents as you are, and as mine, we as missionaries represent our family and to do so, we cannot put forth to much effort in our work. Till was saying the other day of how we used to come home from Salt Lake or a dance and when she went to get in bed it was warm with irons, and there was always something to eat if she was hungry and next morning she could sleep late, these were just a few she mentioned. And with me it was just the same and a boy at that. And mother all though she is not my own mother she couldn’t be more dear to me then she is, and for her folks there isn’t anything they wouldn’t do for me, in fact I have so much to be thankful for, I hardly know where to start. And it is the same with all of us....

I think you will find us changed in many ways when we do get home, all three of us, but the change is always for the better, I think. I think I will change more then the other two put together, because they say one can change and never know it, but I can see mine already, not looks, but in mind...

May the Lord bless you all at home, and may we strive to live and work in accordance with your Faith and Prayers, and become what you would like us to become are the prayers of your Loving Bro. In the Gospel Horace N. Lee”

Jan. 24, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”Did you let Horace read my letter that I sent to you when we got that one from him? Your pa said he was not going to answer it but we owe him one without that one so if I can coax pa to write to him I will, I can’t write good enough to write to him myself you know how hard it is to get pa to write, so you must make excuse for him.”

Sept. 1920 Ellen wrote, ”I had Mrs. Lee and Horace’s first convert to see me the other day. I believe it was Saturday, they told me that she was his first convert and that he was going to baptize her as soon as she went back. They seem to like her fine, all of them. She was to Sunday school with Josie and to meeting with Rocky, they all like her fine. Mr. Lee and Josie had her up the Canyon for a horseback ride Friday and when they was done she could barely sit down on a chair. Mr. Lee told me that she has been getting $125 one hundred and twenty five dollars a month. And when she goes back she is going to get one hundred and sixty a month, that is mighty good wages for a girl. She is a nice looking girl. I think just right for Horace. When Leon came home from school today, she told me that it was Horace’s girl that was staying at Lees. I told her that she would make him a good match.”

Dec. 18, 1920 Ellen wrote, ”Give Horace my best regards from me. I do hope he will feel better for Xmas.”

Dec. 20, 1920 Till wrote, ”We went out to the hospital to see Horace after meeting and we found him sitting up and feeling fine. I am wondering mother just what was in that letter that you read to Mr. Lee. I don’t care cause you read it to him only I thought that it would only worry them and they worry so over him anyway. There is nothing to be alarmed over. I think after Dr. Russell gets through treating him that he will feel just fine. The doctor says that he thinks after he gets through treating him that he thinks that an operation will not be necessary. I hope so anyway. Horace says he will leave here as soon as possible after gets out of the hospital.”

Ellen had a unique relationship with Phyllis (PHIL) Edna and Till’s friend
Even while Till was on her mission she received visits from Phil. When Phil did not come to visit her she missed her companionship. Ellen knew about Phil and her boyfriends and would often comment on her relationships.

Aug, 3, 1919 Ellen wrote Till, "I am sure surprised that you have not got a letter from Phil because she told me and Julia that she and Judge had wrote you. We got a letter from Hotel Utah and wondered who it could be from. It was for you and at first thought it might be from George and did not know your address and wanted to send it but when we opened it, it was from Phil. I don't know why she sent it to Tooele when she knew where you was as she had a letter from you and came down and read it to us. So I am going to send it in mine. Her sweet heart was here for 3 or 4 days. Last Sunday I just happened out on the porch and saw her go down past with her grip in her hand alone like she was going to go away. She and Southy was here two or three times but she did not say anything about her going away. She is not back yet that I know anything about. She sure acts queer to me. One day she came in and she said I guess you folks will think I am crazy when I tell you I have broke off my engagement but I have. I don't know what to make of her."

Phil was close to Ellen calling her “Mother Shields” She wrote her several letters, one of which was written on Oct. 4, 1920 saying, "Hello Mother Shields, I have not forgotten any of you, even if I don't answer very promptly, the reason for the delay was that I don't have very much time left. I must prepare Sunday School lessons, and I had part of the Church entertainment under my direction. I gave a selection dressed as a Dutchman and nearly surprised the Bishop and the rest of the bunch to death, for the Curtain had just gone down on a very pretty picture in which I was the Goddess of Liberty, and then a couple of little girls sang and then my selection came next and they all thought that I would come out in a pretty dress and give a reading but instead I wore a fat stomach, plaid pants, grey vest, red tie and a hard boiled hat over my ears so that they flopped down-when I walked out the Bishop was in the front row and he laughed so hard I was afraid he would collapse. Then the next week I was a model in the Fashion show for one of the big stores. Then next I am on the entertainment committee for the dances to be given by the church, oh yes and all this month I am to give the Sacramental gem or thought, they have some one play the violin or piano while that is given.

I tried to encourage Edna to go home, but it is useless she wants to stay here, and I wish she would if that big boob of a useless human she calls hubby was not here. I hate him, and he hates me, that is the reason Edna and I can't room together, he acts so crazy. One night last week I called Edna up- in fact called her twice- and she wouldn't go cause he was over to the house, and then finally we did go to a show and when we were coming home he followed us-honest it made me so mad that I just wished and wished that I was a man and I sure would have beaten him nearly to death. Edna still cares for him and I'm afraid that maybe he will coax her into going back to him. Edna looks fine and is so interested in her work-if he would only leave it would be fine.

Give my best regards to any one that asks about me, and to Daddy Shields. I'm going to write Til [sic] a long letter tonight after the show. With love to all, Phyllis"
Ellen wrote of one her visits with Phil dated Jan 5, 1920 she said, “Phil was in Salt Lake on Saturday and came out with Cora now last night. I don't think she intends to marry Bish. He came here the Saturday after Xmas and heard Phil went up to his folks in Ofer (Ophir) and he went back on Sunday evening. She don’t ware his ring. He came and found her with his ring off, she told him that she did not want to get it dirty, but she told us that she did not want to ware it. She told me that if she got out of his hands that the next man had to run faster then her if he got her. So I don’t think she knows what she wants. She got a letter from Sathey [sic] telling her that he was going to get married, so he beat her to it. She had Roy take her to the depot in there last nite [sic] so she is a wonder. I can’t make her out can you?”

Ellen worried about Phil as if she were her own daughter she wrote, "I will not tell you one thing about Phil, Julia has told you all about her. So you can see what she has missed by not going on her mishing [sic] but I don’t think she is to blame all together. I don’t think she thought her Pa could keep her on a mishing. [sic] So we don’t know it all but I do hope she will use good judgment about her chose.” [sic]

Feb. 9,1920 Ellen wrote, "Have you heard from Phill? I have not seen her for a week. I don’t know why she don’t come down.”

Feb. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote, "When I came home from meeting today, Phil was sitting here reading the paper. As pa was home and was gone to bed. And she came down to see me and thought I was in to, but I was to meeting. And her and I sat down and had a cup of cocoa and a pickle together and she stayed and chatted for a while and was telling me how she will be glad when she gets rid of that ring of Bishes as she don’t want him at all. She looks quite worried about it. She don’t want to see him. She was to the dance with Lunnen and had a fine time. It was the Mitler dance and she is going to meeting with him tonight.”

In Phil's letter she said, ”Do you know Horace’s mother & father both show their age much more then your parents do, they look exactly the same and your mother bless her heart always feeds me pickles when I go down which isn’t often.”

May 20, 1920 Till wrote to Ellen, "I received a letter from Phil and she says they are as happy as can be and she likes her job fine. She told me that Lunnen came up to see her and now he is working there. But she told me she guessed God hadn’t made the man she was to marry yet.”

Even after Till returned from her mission Phil kept in contact with Ellen. Phil wrote her a 4 paged typed letter on March 17, 1921 it starts out, "Happy Birthday Mother Shields," She described her day and talked of Edna and Till saying, "Tomorrow evening Til [sic] and Edna are to attend a big Elks Ball, but poor me-I am in a play for the Mutual and must go to dress rehearsal, however the next night Til [sic] and I are going to the Junior Prom. I had a dickens of a time arranging it so that we could both go with out it looking like I was just asking some one to take my chum. But the opportunity came when a real good looking Mormon boy with back hair and eyes named Parley Rigby - asked me to go and when I said that I had a partner he said Gee I wish you were twins--so I hurried and said --Well I am, then I told him about Til [sic] and he said “Hurrah I'll take her”, fix it up for me to meet her soon will you Phil? He is tall and very nice, the manager of the Farmers Grain Company for Eastern Idaho. I’m sure they will like each other. Edna, Til, [sic] myself went to a dance last week. And a dark complexioned man that had been in Chicago developed a case on Til [sic] at first sight. He was very nice.
Oh how good it is to have Til [sic] here, she can influence Edna so easy, for Edna is depending a great deal on the Lord to help her out and Til [sic] being just home from a mission can put in just the right words to help matters.

We all went to church Sunday and then last night we took Til [sic] to the Colonial—a great big theater and heard a girl sing. Til [sic] said she would be frightened and I am going to arrange for her to meet Mr. Lewis the manager soon.

Mother Shields how I wish yourself and Mr. Shields could be here this afternoon, and see this building, the basement is all fixed up in booths and it is so big that they have half a dozen autos in there on the ground floor...

They want Til [sic] to sing in the L.D.S auditorium soon, Mr. Morley asked me about it this morning and if I thought she would. Til [sic] talked to my Sunday class Sunday, and several of my fourteen year old boys told me Sister Shields was some class, and hoped that she would help me teach right along.

Well Mother—we are all well and happy and after wishing for you many, many happy birthdays I will close, Kiss Pa Shields where the hair is thin on his head for me. As ever, Phyllis"

Ellen was close to her daughter in law Cora

Ellen was also close to her daughter in law Cora married to Ed. They corresponded in letters and Ellen took care of their children while Cora worked and while their daughter Joyce was ill. Cora wrote the family on Aug. 27, 1919 saying, "Dear Ma & Pa & all at home. Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter we just received. And glad to know you are all well which leaves us fine & dandy. I thought I’d write right back and see if you folks couldn’t all come out to Salt Air on Labor day. As we are going down Friday to get a house and expect to have one by then and then Ed and all of us will go out to Salt Air Monday and we could all have a lunch and go in for a swim and all be together once more, as Ed expects to come back up here and work for another month. So try and make arrangements for you all to come Julia & all and lets have a taste of another’s good (bread?) Once more as Ed said. He has just gone back to work, it is noon. He has a splendid job and hates to give it up. He isn’t out side mother. He is in the compressor room in side all the time. But I think he will only stay up here until he gets you folks paid up, for the snow gets from 10 to 20 feet deep here and they don’t work much here when its cold. And then Ed will give you some money and that bill of Mr. Spiers. Thanking you Pa for your trouble in asking him. Polly wants me to take her place down at Jordans, but Ed don’t want me to. Says it to hard work for me and nothing in it. They say Mrs. Short skipped out and left and want Polly to take it which she has. I may come out Friday and put up some fruit and come in a Sunday when I get settled. Well I will close for the mail man will be gone. So hoping you can come in and we’ll see you all Pa come to. With love to all, we’ll close from your (kiddies?) Cora & Ed Wish you would write and let us know if you can come for Labor day. Just address... Mrs. Cora Shields Salt Lake City, Utah Gen Del and I’ll send at the office Saturday. Excuse writing for I am in a hurry and such (again?) Good bye, Mother come in and stay a day or two before School starts while Julia’s there.”

Ellen grateful to the Saints in the mission field
Ellen was grateful to the Saints who were so good to Till she writes, "Be shore [sic] (sure) and thank them all for me for what they have done, I hope I can have the chance to do as much for them someday, Tell them that if they ever come to Utah that I shore [sic] want them to feel that they have got a place to come to."

Oct. 8, 1919 Till wrote, "Sister Crim said to tell you hello that she hope she can meet you sometime. She's planning coming out West some time. She is going to write you a letter. She is a second mother to me. I have a cold and she sent Bro. Crim down for some turpentine and she says she's going to rub me tonight. But I felt fine."

Oct. 23, 1919 Till wrote, "Sister Crim said to give you her best love and regards and said she hopes to see you sometime. They are going to try and come out West next summer."

Nov. 14, 1919 Till said, "I read a part of your letter to sister Crim and she thought it was grand and she sends her love in regards to you. Really mother, she's just grand to us. She came up to us last night as we were leaving and put her arms around us and hugged and kissed us like her own girls. They were coaxing the conference president to leave us here until after Christmas, anyways you see we may be transferred at conference time which will be the first part of December. Sister Crim just cried she and Sister Short and said you just can't take the missionary girls out before Christmas and if it is possible please let us keep them. It makes us feel so good to see they love and appreciate us...Sister Crim was in Chicago a week ago Sunday and Horace met her at the depot and treated her fine. Emma was also very nice to her. Which pleased me very much. Emma told her as she put her arms around her that she almost loved her because she was so good to Sister Shields."

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "Yesterday President Smith and family left for Salt Lake. Pres. is coming back in about a week but Sister Smith is going to remain in Salt Lake all summer. She is coming out to Tooele to see you and Mrs. De La Mare. She said they would drive out some day in the machine. She is the sweetest thing. We all just love her. She's just like a young girl. And my she is good to the missionaries. I told her you would love to have her call on you so don't be surprised if she visits you and gives in a report of your daughter. Nora Butler the girl who stayed with Sr. Smith wrote me the sweetest letter and she says she surely wants to meet Emma's and my mother. She said she is going out to Tooele especially to see you, so I know you will welcome her & treat her very nice. She is a wonderful girl."

June 6, 1920 Till wrote, "There is a little girl here her name is Margaret Creger and she is going west for the summer and she wants to come and see you so you may have company from Chi most any time."

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, "The office force received a letter from Sr. Smith the other day and she said she hoped the next time she wrote that she had been out to Tooele. So I suppose she will be drifting out there one of these fine days. She is the sweetest thing she surely treats the missionaries grand."

June 21, 1920 Till wrote, "We had a very good visit with Mr. Lee and he thoroughly enjoyed his visit with us. He said he would be in Tooele in a short time and he would call on you and Mrs. De La Mare. I told him you would be very glad to see him. Sunday he came up to Sunday school and invited us to go with him again to dinner but we had already promised Sr. Creger that we would go over to her home for dinner. She sure
treated us fine we had the loveliest dinner. Her daughter has gone out West for couple of months I believe I told you about her, she said she wanted to go out to Tooele and visit you.”

June 29, 1920 Till wrote, "Say mother dear you are going to have lots of company this summer at different times if everyone calls on you that comes to Tooele from here... Mr. Lee is planning on going to Tooele and I told them to be sure and call on you and he said he surely would. Gordon Howard student and saint here and who paled with Louie Anderson is leaving here Friday for Tooele. He is surely going to visit Mrs. Shields and De La Mare so be on the lookout for him. You remember me telling you of what a good time I had Thanksgiving day? It was at his home and they surely treat as grand. So if he comes there and if it is convenient for you ask him if you can’t prepare a little lunch or something. I know Emma has written home and told her mother to treat him extra nice. It is because they have been so nice us. They invite us out to their home real often for dinner. In Mrs. Del La Mare’s letter to Emma she asked her if she thought she could cook things nice enough for Sister Smith when she visited them. Sister Smith isn’t all that stuck up but is the grandest little woman. So mother when they call on you I know that you can treat them just as nice as they will be treated at Del La Mares. Has Norma or Margaret Cregger been out to see you yet? I know they’re planning on going to Tooele. There’s a bunch of people leaving here this summer for the West to spend their vacation so every once in a while I suppose you will be visited...I surely had a good laugh of the way you described yourself as looking when Louie called to see you. You didn’t tell me why he called or anything about his visit.”

Sept. 10, 1920 Till wrote, "How did you like Sister Miles? Isn’t she a dear. She is a sample of the good people we meet every day. The mission field is a wonderful place to be and I’m enjoying my work very much...Did Elder Jackson come out to see you? He is a splendid little fellow. He labored here in the office as secretary but his business called him home. He just hated to leave and we hated to see him go but of course it could be helped. He said he was going out to see you perhaps Labor Day. I was wondering if he went. Emma got a letter from her mother and she told her that Gordon Howard’s father had been up and had dinner with them. I suppose he called on you to. I hope so he is a fine man and they surely treat us fine out here.”

Ellen received visitors from the mission field. Sept. 28, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Sunday was priesthood meeting. We sure had a good turnout and while I was to meeting, we had a visitors, Elder Jackson and wife and that little girl that lived with Mrs. Smith last winter and her sister came and found no one home. They went to Mrs. De La Mars and Lees, and they was like myself at the meeting. So when meeting was out Floyd Lee told his pa that there was some folks from Chicago looking for Mrs. Shields, so Mr. Lee came and got me in his car. His mother and Mrs. Lee was in the car, they brought me up but there was no when here. So when Lees got home there, they was so hungry they had lunch with them and Mr. Lee brought them over after lunch. They had been up to Emma’s folks too. I sure think Elder Jackson is a fine fellow. He had pink dalai (sp?) in his hand when he came in and he held it up and said to me, do you know, I got that up to Mrs. Del La Mars. She said you had sent them up to her.” We had a big storm so I went out and picked all my flowers and I sent some of my neighbors some. I have a big vase on the table in the parlor and dining room. They sure look fine. I did not get the chance to talk to Elder Jackson as Mr. Lee had so much to say, that no one else
could get a word in edge ways [sic] he was telling them all about the different arrests he had made. He put me in mind of Horace when he is talking no one else can get a word in. They did not stay long as it was getting late and they had so far to go as they had to be back home that night. Mrs. Jackson went in the bathroom with me and she told me that her husband was going back as soon as he could get his business fixed. Louie was here and bid us goodbye he said he would see Otilla before next Sunday.”

Oct. 11, 1920 Till wrote, “I am glad Elder Jackson went out to see you. He surely is a splendid man. Was might nice to Emma & I. We hated to see him go and will be very glad to have him return if he can. I sure had to laugh you know what you said about not being able to get a word in edgewise? Mrs. De La Mare said the very same words as you did. Emma and I had a good laugh over it. But I certainly like Mr. Lee he is a splendid man.”

Dec. 6, 1920 Till wrote, “Did you receive a letter from Mr. Miner? He said he was going to write my parents and asked me for your name and address and I wondered if you received a letter from him.”

Dec. 13, 1920 Till wrote, "The letter which Mr. Miner wrote to you was certainly nice wasn’t it. I wish I was deserving of such a wonderful letter. I’m glad that my talk impressed him the way it did. He is a nice fellow and treats me very nice. He went with us over to the auditorium last night after church and had supper with us. He told me he had written to you and asked me if I had heard from you. I believe he would appreciate getting a letter from you. I will send his letter back to you if you want to keep it.”

Oct. 15, 1920 Till wrote, "We expect President Smith back Sunday. Did you get to go in for conference? If you did I suppose you seen him. Has Mr. Hammond been up to see you yet?

Till had confidence in Ellen’s hostess abilities. She mentioned to many of those she met in the mission field to visit her parents. One of them was Bro. Witney. Ellen responded to Till on Dec. 8, 1920 saying, "You said in your letter that Bro. Witney told you he was going to look you up when he comes to Tooele. That would be nice but you would have to introduce him as I would not know him I just can’t place him.”

Ellen really appreciated the money that her neighbors gave her to send to Till for her mission. She writes on Dec. 18, 1920, "I must tell you of us getting some money for you from Mr. Spears, $50 dollars and Dr. Phipps, $50 dollars. They gave it to me and asked me if I would send it to you. I thanked them and told them that it would be greatly appreciated. It seems good to think they would think about that.”

Ellen describes her Sunday and other church activities/ Temple

Oct. 26,1919 Ellen wrote, "We sure had a fine conference here last Saturday and Sunday. They had the house dedicated. We had three visitors out from Salt Lake. Apostle Ivens dedicated the house on Sunday after noon. Pa and I went all day Sunday. It sure was fine. We had some fine singing too with Mr. Nelson at the chorister, he sure makes them get down to it. I never saw such a large crowd as we had on Sunday afternoon. They had to open the sliding doors back as far as could see them and we sure had a feast...The bishopric gave us a nice party for all the priesthood last Wed. evening and the sisters all gave a cake. So I took one and went. Your pa had
to go to work so he would not go. We had a nice time. I took Cora and Fern with me and they served ice cream and cake and fruit. We had a good time.

Nov. 9, 1919 Ellen wrote, "I have been to meeting this afternoon and the daughter of the pioneers had a meeting on honor of Mckeller and wife and we had a good full house and a good program and Grace Herdenson sang. I will do what you want me to do and she done fine."

Jan. 30, 1920 Ellen wrote, "They are going around now gathering money for that great Mormon Battalion Monument. I guess they are doing the same there. There's a big basketball game here tonight Grantsville and Tooele and proceeds are going for the Monument at the school. The school kids have been asked to donate too the fast day donation on Sunday is going for it too. I think I will go to the game tonight."

Feb. 1, 1920, "Dear Otilla as I did not get a letter today and as it is Sunday and I have been to meeting and also mutual, I thought I would tell you a little of my days experience. I first hurried and got Fern ready for Sunday school and then got my work done and dinner ready as pa is on 3 o'clock now so after dinner (put his lunch up too) I got ready for meeting. As it is fast day I had to get my fast day donation ready which was 1 dollar. We had a fine meeting and after meeting I went up to Emma’s ma and had the chance to look at some or yours and Emma’s pictures and talking awhile. And came home and Fern and I had lunch and then I set down and read a few chapters in the Book Of Mormon and then went to mutual. But I did not tell you what I hear in meeting. Ida Leaver died this morning with the flu and that Mrs. Shite and Edith and one of her brothers had it too. I do hope they will all get better. Emma’s ma is quite worried about her. I told her that we will have to leave you all, in the hands of the Lord, he knows best what to do. I sure do hope that you will all be blessed with health and strength so you can perform your duty while your there. I think that if we put our trust in the Lord all will be well. We sure had a nice meeting tonight. Mr. Haydon the music teacher in th high school has sure got a big class and they sure did give us some fine singing. They did all the singing and we had Richard from Salt Lake talking to us. He took the text about the great city of Babylon and the great wall that was built around it. He told us how large it was and then he told about the great King Nebuchadnezzar about this great dream he had. And about great Daniel interpreting it and then he told all about all the different kings since that time and told all up to this present time. How I wished while I was setting there listening to him that all my children could hear that same sermon. And then he told us about him seeing the Savior 3 different times and related the way he saw him each time. I tell you it sure was fine and then he told about the resurrection. I can't spell that word and I tried to find it in the Book Of Mormon but I could not. But it means when the dead rise. My it was, I could write all night about what he said. So I will ring off for tonight as it is at late and must go to bed. Hoping to get a letter tomorrow so good night. Mother"

March 19, 1920 Till wrote about her relief society celebration and thought of Ellen saying, "Wednesday night the relief society sisters prepared a big party in honor of the 70th anniversary and we surely had a good time. I thought of yourself and Edna all day. I knew that you would be busy helping the relief society as I read in the paper where you were going to celebrate as you usually do. I hope you spent a Happy Birthday and wish you many more of them."
Sept. 28, 1920 Ellen wrote, "I would sure like to go to conference, but I am afraid I can't get away."

Oct. 15, 1920 Ellen said, "I was to conference and sure had a fine time."

Oct. 29, 1920 Ellen wrote Till, "We had conference here Sunday and had some good instructions. There was visitors from Salt Lake. The county has been hunting the mountains for over a week for Alma Turner’s son he got lost deer hunting and they have not found him yet."

Nov. 21, 1920 Ellen wrote, "Ottila, Fern and I have just come back from mutual and we had a fine meeting so I will try and finish this letter as I must wash tomorrow. I did not go to meeting today as Pa and Roy are on the three o’clock and I have to get them dinner and put up lunch so I can’t get ready in time. I met Gracie in meeting. She looks fine. She has got two babies now. She told me to tell you hello for her."

Jan 16, 1921 Ellen wrote, "I must cut this letter short as I am on my way to Relief Society meeting. We are going to quilt today and they want us to come this morning and bring our lunch. So I have been making some rolls to take and salad so I am late. So I thought I would send you just what I started Sunday evening but Pa got sleepy and wanted to go to bed so I washed yesterday so I must close as it is 11 o’clock and will write some other time."

Sept. 20, 1921 Ellen wrote, "Thursday is Tooele County Temple day, and if I feel well enough to go I am coming in and I will try and bring your coat and hat. I don’t know how much room there will be, you know just how tight squished we are when we go on that trip. Everyone has a grip, but will try my durnest, [sic] so come down at noon and I will try and leave them with that man at the East gate if I can, if not I will have to take them in the Temple with me that is if I come. It all depends on the weather as I have not been very well of late. I have been so busy putting up tomatoes and pickles."

Ellen did Temple work for her children and family. Maxcine’s stated that her father John had told her that Ellen was very religious. From Tooele on Sept. 6, 1933 Ellen received a letter from Olaf Miller while Ellen was staying with Otilla and Fred.

The letter said, "Dear Sister, I received your letter and was glad to hear that you got the papers, they are all numbered according to lessons, so it will be easy for you to arrange them in your book that way. It was nice of you to invite us in, and I am sorry I cannot take advantage of your invitation, because as long as the Smelter is running I must be within call, when it comes my turn to go to work. Orrin is running the Watkins business now all the time, there is not enough in it to pay all the expense of the house, and as he cannot get any other work I decided to stay with the Smelter awhile longer. Mr. Crandall is also working part time and will pay his rent, although perhaps two weeks later, because of the Smelter not starting till the first of September, otherwise everything here is alright. I certainly would like to be in there to help you through with that sheet of names, but in as much as that is not possible don’t you think you could try and get it indexed before the conference rush begins. All you have to do is to take it to the Index Bureau at the Genealogical Office, I believe now they have moved to the Joseph Smith Memorial Bldg. But you can easy find that out, leave it with them together with expenses for mailing it back to your residence unless you wish to call for it in person, they usually require a week to ten days for checking and then you are ready to go ahead with the baptism and endowment work. You must not think that because you are not acquainted with that part of the work that you are handicapped. You are rendering
an invaluable service to your committee, to the people in your ward and incidentally to
yourself by the visits that you are making by encouraging others to carry on, and
demonstrating your earnestness and sincerity by the great amount of Temple work
which you have already accomplished. In this way you have taken on added
responsibility though you may not have been entirely conscious of it, for through your
activity you have caused people to look to you and your associates for leadership,
representing as you do, what the Prophet Joseph Smith has termed, “Our greatest
responsibility in the world.” To place yourself in a position such as you have where
others are depending upon you for council, advice, and leadership brings to you not
only a sense of humility and responsibility but also an incentive, a spur(?) as it were, for
you to live up to all expectations and requirements, and it is in this inner urge or
incentive that makes for all self improvement, for the enlargement of your talents, your
view points and ideas, for thus we advance in general knowledge and make ourselves
more and more useful in the service of the Lord.

I have now said more than I had originally intended and hope that you will not regard
it as tiresome preaching, my pen could not keep up with my thoughts, that is why I had
to come back now and again to add a missing word, but I know you will understand the
spirit of the letter.

I shall come in if an opportunity comes but of course I cannot say when that will be.
Our Stake Temple day is Friday the 8th.

Respectfully Olaf A. Miller” (Olaf is the husband of Hilda Axeline Hansen Miller ½
sister to Ellen)

Activities and Amusement

Nov. 4, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Tonight Cora Noel and myself went to the picture show.
Pa is on the 3:00 o’clock."

Jan. 24, 1919 Ellen wrote, "Dear Otilla I thought I would drop you a few lines tonight
as we had just come from the show. And Cora and Fern and myself went together. The
play was Daddy Longlegs and it was sure fine, so I had nothing to do as Cora went into
grandma’s to see how they’re getting along. She sleeps in here."

Feb. 25, 1920 Ellen wrote, "My dear Otilla, I am in such a hurry this morning as I am
going to Mrs. Horslers funeral this afternoon and I want to drop you a few lines to let you
know that I got your long looked for letter yesterday...I bought me a pair of shoes and I
must change them as they are too tight for me and I must get to the bank before I go to
the funeral."

Difficult times for the Shield family

Ellen suffered the death of her father at the young age of 4 years. Her sister Julia
just 2 yrs younger then Ellen passed away when she was 10 yrs old in 1881, Ellen was
only 12 years old.

There were some really hard times for John and Ellen when they learned that their
daughter Edna was having trouble with her husband Marion. The whole family were
affected by the way that Marion treated Edna.
Ellen was strong in the faith as she endured so many personal family deaths and tragedies. Ellen had 10 children. Three of her children died when they were babies. One a baby girl named Ellen Mary was born Aug. 2, 1906 and passed away Aug. 30, 1906 at 28 days old. It is believed her son Robert Alma was killed as a teenager when he jumped off Black Rock at Salt Air, his death certificate stated he died from labor Pneumonia. He was born Jan. 12, 1890 and died Oct 9, 1907 at 17 years old. (Black Rock was very well known to the teenagers, LaRue talked about it as a place frequented when she was a teenager.)

The Shield suffered a tragedy when Floyd a grandchild (Ed and Cora’s son) passed away. His death certificate said his death was due to a concussion of the brain caused from falling from a telephone pole. Floyd passed away on July 9th, 1919 the day Till left for her mission. Ellen writes he died at 11:45. Ellen and John learned the news after having just returned home from taking Till to meet her train for her mission.

Ellen and John paid for the funeral expense. Ellen wrote, "I wrote to you the day after Floyd's funeral and told you all about him. He died at 11:45 after we got home from Salt Lake... Your papa had all the expenses to meet as Ed did not have one cent. Einglen charged $111.40 for his job, $10 for the lot and $500 for the grave. So you see we had a quite a big lot to dig up. We sold one of our bonds to meet it all but it is well that we are able to do it. It would be awful if none of us was able to foot the bill. Thank the Lord for it all. Where there is a will there is a way.

Ellen related how tough it was when all of her children left home and moved away at the same time. The house became empty it seemed all at once. Till left for her mission, Floyd passed away, three married couples moved from Tooele, Roy traveled with his employment, he was working at Grant Montana at the time, that left Fern as the only child left at home.

July 21, 1919 Till's friend Emma wrote to Till, "I was very sorry to hear about little Floyd, I just know how you would feel about it and being away from home. Dear things are going to come up in our lives that we can't understand but always remember our Heavenly Father is the only one we can go to and he is always ready and willing to help us."

May 20, 1920 Till wrote, "So the little kiddies took flowers up and put on dear little Floyd's grave on the 7th of this month. I guess we all thought of him. It will surely seem funny not to find him among the others when I come home. The dear little fellow I wonder why he had to meet his death like that. Sometime we'll understand. Was he baptized? I don't remember."

Ellen suffered another tragedy when her daughter Julia died. Julia's youngest daughter (Julia Maxine Powell) was just 10 days shy of her first birthday. Julia Maxine (who goes by Maxcine and who married Dean Thompson) was born Nov. 30, 1925 and Julia passed away Nov 20 1926. (Maxcine said that they thought she died of a heart attack but her death certificate said she died of Malaria Fever. Maxcine states that they think that Julia went home to Tooele as she typically did when she had her babies so her mother could help her. There were a lot of swamps and they think she got Malaria when she went home. (This was told to me by Maxcine. Some information show that the Ellen and John Shields moved from Tooele in 1922, so it is not clear what really took place.) In any event Julia never got better. Julia's husband John rubbed her legs by the hour to relieve the pain. Till took care of Maxcine for about a year after Julia died and
wanted to adopt her but when her father learned of it he came for Maxcine. He married Gertrude Teeples who became the only mother Maxcine ever knew. Gertrude and Till knew each other because they were on the same mission together. Gertrude called Julia’s husband John (Jack). Till and Maxcine remained close, Maxcine spent every summer with Till and Fred, she would get picked up from school at the beginning of the summer and dropped back home when school began again. Her sister Bernice also stayed with Till. They both stayed with Ellen, Bernice lived with Ellen when she came from Idaho to go to Henegers College in Salt Lake. Bernice who’s full name was Ellen Bernice Powell Chase passed away Jan 14, 2008 (on John Morrison Green’s 50th Birthday) It was also the day Maxcine had her back surgery. (Bernice was born March 10, 1920, 5 years older then Maxcine).

Maxcine and Bernice father John (Jack) worked for the railroad when he was married to Gertrude. Maxcine remembers the 1st time they used to put a capsule in the margarine to give it color.

Ellen’s son Fern/Alburn lost his wife early in their marriage and remarried. Another son Ellaroy lost a premature baby girl on July 26, 1932. Ellen also spent many years as a widow when her husband John Jenkins Shields passed away Sept 26, 1925 which left her living alone for 25 years. She passed away Oct. 5, 1950.

When Till was on her mission Laura passed away. It appears she was a niece to Ellen as inferred in the letter Till wrote on Oct. 25, 1920 where she wrote, “I was awfully sorry to hear of Laura’s death. I hadn’t even heard that she was ill. I wrote a letter to Uncle Don and Aunt Ester. I am sorry that things were so that you couldn’t attend the funeral. I think like yourself that it wouldn’t have hurt Uncle Alex to have offered to take you in their machine. But some people are so thoughtless. Joe received a letter from her sister today and she told her about the funeral of Laura. She said it was awful sad and such a large one. She said her husband has fainted every day since her death and that she died in his arms. He is almost heart broken. I know it must be hard for him to give her up but when I stop and think it would be much easier to give them up the way he has Laura then to have living sorrow and disgrace (referring to the way Edna was feeling with her husband).”

All of these experiences gave Ellen a loving and understanding heart, she had great sympathy for others who experienced similar deaths with their family loved ones, particularly for little Susie and the Minnix family. March 10, 1920 Ellen writes, “I feel sorry for those people who lost their girl they have my sympathy as I have passed through the same thing and can feel for them.”

Ellen and John also took in borders. Maxcine explained that her father John was a border at the Shield home who later married their daughter Julia. After they married Julia and her children lived with them from time to time.

It must have been heart breaking for Ellen when her son Fern/Alburn suffered the loss of his wife. (Alburn’s first wife Virginia Cedarloff died because of poor health, he took care of her until she passed away.) At this time Ellen had outlived 3 of her babies, 2 children who had not lived a full life, a grandchild at 13 years old, a husband, and now a daughter in law. It wasn’t until her later years that Ellen lived with her son Fern/Alburn, his wife Ruth and children.

It was a mutual understanding that Ellen would live with Alburn’s family because she lent him the money that he invested in his property. Unfortunately things did not turn out
the way she had envisioned. She wrote Fred and Till letting them how hurt she was that she was not treated very well. She moved out and went to stay in Spanish Fork (at least that’s where the letter was written). She explains some of the conflict writing Aug 5, 1945, “Dear Fred and Ottila and boys how are you and Mrs. Green? We landed here Ok. Found Annie and Velma and Al’s girls and one of LaVern’s girls here. Al was fine and was glad to see me. LaVern has got her new baby boy, that makes her four boys, one girl, one stepson two step girls. That makes eight children to work for. The older girl is here working picking berries and beans but it rained so hard since I came they have not been able to do anything. Al’s boy is going to visit with Grace his sister and then he may go and visit his dad in Tooele. So you can see there is quite a houseful here. While they are all fine to me it seems nice to be someplace where people will talk to you. I don’t know of anything more boring then to be where nobody will talk to you. Now I do hope that they will be happy at 320 now that the fly is out of the ointment. I will have to change my mind more then I feel now if I ever go back there. But don’t say anything to Alburn I don’t want to hurt his feelings he can’t help it that the rest are bosses in that house. The only thing that hurts me that is that it is my money that give them that nice home and then I could get out. It will be a long time for me to forget it all. It is like Annie said, in about the time she will have to go to the hospital they will like you to come and tend the kids well that’s that. I don’t know when I have felt more hurt then when I was told to go some place else to live. Well Otilla I don’t know when I will come back, but I want to tell you just what I have got up there that is value to me. My big suitcase is full up on the shelf in the clothes closet and my green blanket is up in the top shelf in the hall and all the bedding on my bed and all that is in the chest of drawers, all my dresses and the things in the clothes closet and the sewing machine and in the clothes closet in the old house is mine and a lot of my bedding out there and my electric lamp. So you will have some idea what is there that belongs to me. And some jam in the basement I put in some boxes, and the washer. I don’t know just what I will to right now. I feel so bad about it all. I did not look for this or I would never have taken the stand I did in helping Alburn to get that place. I hope time will tell what I will do. I may go down to Roy’s when he comes for Hilda. Hope to hear from you soon from your quarrelsome mother that picks on those poor girls, Ellen M Shields

From Spanish Fork Ellen writes again (no date), "Dear Fred and Ottila and boys how is you all? I hope fine. Before I forget I’m asking you if you will get my rationing book from Alburn.. I want to get me some sugar. I can get all the apricots I want from cousin Helen. She has got two trees loaded. We have been putting them up for her and Annie. The two girls pick them for us we peel them all, they look lovely. So if I can get my stamps I can put me up some. They both told me they would let me have bottles and help me put them up so I think that is mighty fine don’t you? It sure is a change to be here were everybody makes you so welcome and don’t have to sit in the front room all day and nobody will talk to you. Aunt Cora said Roy I don’t see how you can stand this, well some day maybe there will be a turn in the way. Now Ottila don’t tell Esther not one word about all of this. I don’t want her to know anything about this affair. I hope you can send my rationing book so I can get me some sugar here. Have you heard anything from Alburn as yet? Maybe Roy will come for Hilda by Saturday and you can send it with him. Helen said she would loan me a sugar stamp if I could let her have it back. So
I may tell her take her up on that, so I can’t put them up this week. Lots of love to all for
your loving mother Ellen M shields

Even though Ellen is hurt she still has a lot of compassion for Alburn on Aug 26, 1945 3 weeks later she writes from Salina to Till, “Do you know what this day means? I
don’t forget that day. Well how did you enjoy yourselves here last Sunday? Billie has
been looking for a letter from home all week and as yet he has not heard a word from
home. You must be pretty busy when you can’t find time to drop him one line and send
him the money to go home and have you talked to Alburn since you were here? He
sure does not look like he is very happy . He don’t have that same smile he used to
have or do I think so. He came and kissed me 2 or 3 times before he left. I do hope he
is happy. Have you talked to Ruth since you were here? How did she enjoy her trip? I
forgot to tell you that my flower garden quilt was in the hall closet, also of course if
Alburn get the house ready, I may change my mind and go back to the house but never
will I go back to live with them. (there was a separate house). Ruthann (Ruth’s
daughter from her 1st marriage) looked just a little shy here that day but when they got
ready to go after her ma was in the car she came and kissed me good by so I don’t
think I was half as bad as they try to make out I am. But I will not give them the chance
to say I quarrel with the kids. That is not true. I wish you could of seen (? her
grandson) when he got out of the car that day he said grandma and ran an put his arms
around my neck and kissed me. So he know how many times I put him to bed and
kissed him good night and covered him up. But of course that is all forgotten as far as
Ruth is concerned. Well I guess the sooner we forgets these things the better but it
sure was tough when I did so much for them. How is Mrs. Green and Aunt Ester I hope
they are well. Give them my regards, hope they are fine. Billie is learning to milk the
cows, he goes with Howard twice a day to milk, they milk 5 cows . So he can milk one
now. He is having a good time but I think he is beginning to feel like he wants to go
home. I told him maybe we could find a ride for him but he wants to go on the train. I
guess that is what he wants to do. I hope you are all well as this leaves us all fine. Roy
works really hard every day he cuts hay and wheat every day as long as he can. He
comes home at 9:30 for supper, we wash dishes until 10 o’clock so we are all busy.
Give all my regards from your loving mother, tell Alburn hello from me Ellen M Shields"

The following October on the 10th 1945 Alburn wrote to his mother and asks for
more money. He wrote, "Dear mother, I have been a long time writing but I just can’t
find time it seems. I received your letter suggesting that I hold up on pulling down the
wall until spring. That is good as I have spent all my money and can’t do it now. It will
cost about $50 dollars to paint and fix up the rest of the house and I don’t have it now.
Could you loan me that amount so I can go ahead and fix it up. I will pay you back
some each month. I haven’t been able to do any thing on the house since the baby
came. Couldn’t get any help so had to do all the work myself. Ruth is getting on fine so
maybe I will be able to go to work on little house this week again. Our baby is fine and
is wondering when her grandma is going to come see her. I sure was sorry to hear you
are not feeling so good . Take good care of your self and don’t do anything to get you
down. Bud said you were coming up next Sunday we’ll be looking for you then. Must
close now as it grows late. A letter from Edna came will enclose it Love Alburn"
Ellen was a merciful loving person and not one to hold a grudge. She did lend Alburn the money he asked for and had Till write down all that she lent him and then Ellen signed it.

Nov. 12, 1945 Ellen wrote, "Mother has requested me this day to write down the amount of money she has invested in Alburn’s property. She tried to do it herself but was too sick and she wants all the children to know what has been spent. On February 2, 1945 she drew out of the bank as a loan to Alburn to make down payment on his home. $2000.00
She sent him from Spanish Fork for door $10 she went to Provo with him and bought a stove for little house which is been fixed up for her to live in. $107.05 $42.95 $2, 075.00
She drew out of the bank November 12, 1945 $150.00
She gave him the balance of $150.00 to buy paint and linoleum for the little house which was $42.95. She has bought bonds which are in Alburn’s name to the amount of $2,075 making total amount of money in Alburn’s procession $4,235.00
She has a balance in the bank as of today of $1,112. 53
Ellen wrote, "I requested Otilla to do this for me
signed Ellen M shields November 12 1945"

Letter from Ida to Mrs. Maria Shields, Jan. 31, 1918, "Dear Sister and all you all anyway, Ed has been laid up all winter with rheumatism and kidney trouble, but just ought to see Mary Ann and myself. You surely would think Idaho agreed with us. I weigh 150 lbs. And Mary Ann is a great big girl now. We sure would like to see you all but don’t know just when that will be, you never seen quite such a busy old woman as I am. I run a Oh-hell- or I mean a Hotel, a Hospital, and every body else I can. I am also “Pres” of the Primary here, we have about 250 children and It is sure some work to handle that many children, and we are doing a great work in the Red Cross. Iona Ward Primary has made the most articles of any ward in this stake so you see I am kept quite busy with one thing and another, and besides this we have John with us, he was stricken with paralysis on the 28 of Dec. and is helpless and we take care of him so you see I don’t have any time to visit. WE are having a regular blizzard here tonight, but we have had the warmest winter this winter of any I have ever spent in Idaho. How is the weather down there, where are all of your children now? I have lost track of them-since they got married. Has any of them gone to war? I have one brother called for examination, he is the next to youngest one he isn’t married. If he passes he will have to go and that will leave Ma with just her baby boy left but that is better then being alone but we sure hate to see him go.
Do you ever see Joe and Cora I hear they are on easy street now. I was very much surprised to hear of Johnny Miller going to Delta. I wonder where he will go from there. Well I must close for this time. Hoping to hear from you soon. Tell me about every body that you know, I would like to hear about. Love to all, write soon with love from your sister Ida.”

Ellen and John’s grandchildren Maxcine and Budd

Maxcine Powell Julia’s daughter and Ellen’s granddaughter stayed in touch with her Aunt Till. She wrote just on Oct. 2, 1950 just 5 days before Ellen’s funeral saying “Dear Till, Uncle Fred, Grandma & Bill,
It’s been quite some time since I wrote to you. I meant to do it long ago—to let you know how things were with us. Dean graduated from Idaho State College last June and got his bachelor’s of science degree in pharmacy. It brought an end to four years in college for us and we were happy to see it come to an end! He had to take the state board in pharmacy, examination which took three days—it also took six weeks to hear from them—if he had passed it. We were both happy to get the good news—he had I was very proud of him—he had a 86.05 average on the exam and he had to make 70-to pass it, or take it over again if he failed.

We’ve been very fortunate, he found a very good job here in Jerome—with a wonderful future. So good in fact it looks like will be making our home here. We never dreamed we’d be so lucky. He likes his work better every day. Likes his boss and we like the town. We couldn’t ask for anything better, or anything more. Jerome, in case you don’t know where it is—is in the center of Southern Idaho. We are halfway from Dad’s place to Hyrum in Boise which makes it very nice—we get company coming and going. We are about 125 miles from Pocatello, on the East- & Boise is about a 130 miles on the West. If we can go vacationing the Craters of the Moon and Sun Valley which is just 70 miles away are to the north of us and the Snake River and Twin Falls (3rd largest city in Idaho) is just 18 miles to the South. The city of Jerome is about 5,000 in population & it’s a county seat—also a good farming and ranching community. Not to mention a good fishing and hunting county. So we are quite happy the way everything has turned out for us.

We were in Pocatello last Sunday & Jessie told us she’d seen you all—and how grandma was—we were certainly sorry to hear about it and I certainly hope she recovers from it all right. Give her our love—I’ve thought of you often and wondered how everything was. Last I heard you, Aunt Till, were in Texas and grandma was in Salina. Uncle Fred & Bill were on their own.

I certainly wish there was something I could possibly do to help you Aunt Till—through these trying times. Help you in caring for grandma and help grandma in gaining her health and strength back—be sure and let me know if I could help in any way.

I hope everyone will have the strength to see this through and we hope and pray grandma, dear, you will soon be your own sweet self again. & happy again.

We are all well, the children are growing so fast, I don’t have a baby anymore. Say hello to Alburn, & family & to Jack & LaRue for us. Love, Maxine and family”

A Christmas card written to Claudia on Mon. Dec.15 2008 reads, "Dear Claudia,

Yesterday we had our 1st real heavy snowstorm. (Stayed on the ground) We did make it to Church, went early (12:30 p.m) (Sac meeting @ 1:00-4:00pm) and our Stake had it’s “Christmas Devotional” @ 5:00 to 6:30 pm. (Boise North Stake) So we stayed at the church thru it all! (Our Stake Pres) left us a message (tradition) of Christmas in scriptures” (To share with our families) (w/music program) I thought I’d share with you! This Christmas Devotional All the words prepare a musical and while they are exchanging places to & from their chair seats the congregation sings the carols in hymn book. Everyone sings the “Hallelujah Chorus” & “Silent Night” (I didn’t sing my Obligato) Didn’t want to outdo the chimes. (Mtn. View Chimers) =our ward’s youth haha! This is the 2nd year we haven’t song w/our ward choir! (It has been a tradition for our stake maybe the last 12 years!"
I’m still working on Powell & Shields Book, I’m going to send you (Bryanetta sent me some piece of my Dad & Julia Shields History. When Dad died that Bernice had, she sent me) Also Julia, Bernice’s daughter sent me pictures (copies) of Bernice, to identify- she passed away, the day I was in the hospital having back surgery! This year has been rough for Dean and I (in and out of the Drs. Office) Having 2nd surgery for me and back Inflamation (sp) falling several times! Last time June 15th at our Powell & Thompson family reunion, my right leg went out from under me getting into Craig’s van, fell on my back and head really hard. Had Bursitis in my left leg hip just in Oct. I was afraid I would be going thru another back surgery.

Dean =Pulmonary (on Oxygen)

I’ll get it finished for you as soon as I can (looking on our children’s records too) ! I like “detail” keep adding to it & trying to write my own history!

(Have pic. Of Bernice & Jack together when she stayed (1941or 2) W/Aunt Till while she was going to “Henagers Business College in S.L. before she joined WAC 1943 during W W II

As Ever W/Love Dean L. & Julia Maxeine Powell Thompson  (Dean enjoy’s “The Doctors” on retired pharmacist T.V).

On the back of card she wrote, ”(lives in West Jordan, Utah) Craig Wm. Thompson I think I told you our son went to the Navaho Indians in Arizona (1966-68) (learned the language in the field from other missionaries) We’re still supporting them...! (Had all 7 children went on missions)” (I think that is what it said)

Maxcine’s son Lynn Davis died at 34 from kidney failure. He had only 1 kidney from birth. He did dialysis 3 times a week for 18 months, he had just started treatment at home every other day but passed away right after he started. Bernice had a son named Raymond Chase who had heart problems and whose kidneys failed. Maxcine told Claudia that her father Jack Green who was 2 years younger then Maxcine really liked Jack and that he was her favorite cousin.

Bud Shields (mother spelled is name Budd, he signed his name Bud) Son of Ed and Cora Shields

There is a description of Ed and Bud Shields home in Provo found on the Internet sight, http://www.provolibrary.com/historical-sam-snow The interview was given by Sam Snow June 7, 1988 It states, "You come across the road on this side and there was a family by the name of Shield's. It was an old house. I used to admire the old guy. One of his boys went to school with me down at high school. His name was Bud Shields. He was a champion swimmer. His father owned that little old house there. Right up to the canal he had a beautiful garden. You go across the road there and there is a nice building there now. Sears and Roebucks used to be in there years and years ago. I think there’s a bike shop there now. They sell bikes. Right there was where Bud Shield's dad lived. It had a beautiful garden and here's the mills race.

Now here is Bud Shield's house and they had big garden right there on Main street. Just to this side of that was another two or three homes. When up to the corner where the old Kress building is across from Nu Skin. Right on that corner was a Interurban depot where the old interurban electric cars came in to pick people up. Across the road was a livery stable past the Kress building. It was built there and they're not there
anymore. Nu Skin is over on this side. Right across the road was a livery stable where they kept horses to rent and buggies.

You go down a little ways and there was one or two homes in there. There were no stores until you got down to where the Shield’s home was.

Ed and Cora moved to Provo Utah, their son Budd went to Provo High School according to the newspaper articles. He later attended BYU where he was on the swim team. He received many honors including National honors. The following is from the newspaper articles that were saved.

The earliest information found about Budd swimming

From St. Louis, Mo. a special to the Tribune, the caption reads-“Bud swims in workout”

The title said-“ Shields Takes Leisurly Paddle in Preparation for National Joust.

The article states, “Bud Shields, B.Y.U swimming ace, took his final workout in leisurely fashion Thursday afternoon in preparation for Friday’s trial heats in the 440 and 220-yard free-style events of the national intercollegiate meet in the local tank. The Utah star appears in fit condition to defend his titles in the two advents.

Eighteen swimmers from the cream of college tank teams in the country are fully determined to oust the Utah waterdog in the 220-yard event. Kojac, Colgate crack sprinter and Olympic champion; Schwartz of North western and Ault of Michigan loom as Shields’ greatest threats to lower the Utahn’s record of 2:19 8-10 in the 220-yard sprint.

Among the 16 entrants in the 440 are the same trio and again Shields honors are endangered, for anyone of the three is capable of negotiating the long race better than the Y star’s time of 5:08 2-10, which was good enough to win for him in 1928.

It appears at the last moment that Kojac and Schwartz may withdraw from the 440-yard event, leaving Ault to beat the Utah flash if he can. He pair intend to concentrate against Shields in the 220-yard race. A total of 17 colleges are represented.”

It states in another article very similar if not word for word to the prior one, but has the title “Swim Stars to Concentrate on Shields’ Events” (dated March 29)

Bud Shields won in St. Louis Mo. 1928

Caption of news article reads “Shields Bootleg’ Utah Water Wizard Is Champ Twice”

Title says “Set Two Records In Defending U.S Titles

From St. Louis April, 1 the articles states “-Special- Bud Shields, Utah’s premier and ace on the Brigham Young University paddling squad, again proved his worth in his swimming sport by winning the 220 and 440-yard free style events in the sixth annual national collegiate swimming championship and breaking two of his own records in doing so.

In the 440-yard event Shields clipped a full 11 seconds off his old time by covering the distance in 4:57 2-10. He also cut 6-10 of a second off his 220-yard mark by negotiating the event in 2:19 2-10. The 440-yard record was also a new intercollegiate record, thus making the Utah wonder a three-record holder. Shields was one of the sensations of the meet and is hailed as one of the greatest swimmer in the country.
The “Mormon Water Wonder” left for Provo Utah on Sunday night, accompanied by his coach Prof. C.S Leaf. The Utahn certainly demonstrated to the satisfaction of all concerned, that he is one of the greatest swimmers America has ever produced. No doubt a gala reception will be afforded Shields upon his arrival home.”

Another article has the title Bud Shields Repeats Utah Swim Star
Once again Utah pays tribute to Bud Shields.

Bud Shields Wins again in Philadelphia 1929

The Brigham Young university star, who last season astounded everyone by winning the 220-yard and 440-yard free style swims in record times at the National Collegiate meet at Philadelphia, Saturday night duplicated the performance in the 1929 championship at St. Louis.

Not only did Shields break his own National Collegiate A. A. mark in the 440, but he established a new American intercollegiate record as well in this event. Swimming the contest in time 4:57 1-5, Bud clipped eleven seconds from his own association mark of 1928 and broke by more than three seconds the American intercollegiate record of 5:00 4-5 set last year by Ault, Michigan. Bud’s mark is less than two seconds higher than Arne Borg’s 4:56 3-5 National American record.

Critics at the meet say that had Bud been pushed at all by the second place swimmer he would have lowered both the 220 and the 440 record still more. As it was, he swam them both in faultless style and pulled right away from all contenders.

Bud returns to his native state to enter A.A.U competition here, and he alone should draw record crowds to the coming A.A.U meet, as the most fitting tribute that Utah swimming devotees might pay him.”

Bud Shields is honored

Article titled “Big Welcome Planned For Shields On Swimmer’s Return Wednesday”
It states, “Provo,–Bud Shields, Utah’s most famous athlete, and Coach C.S. Leaf will be royally welcomed as the returning heroes at a special program being arranged by Brigham Young university students, when they arrive in this city Wednesday morning at 10 o’clock.

A delegation composed of Mayor Alma Van Wagenen, President Roy Gibbons of the Y student body, members of the Y athletic council, representatives of the Provo chamber of commerce, the Provo Rotary club, the Provo Kiwanis club and Provo post No. 13 of the American Legion will meet the stellar Provo swimmer and his coach.

They will be paraded through the business section of the city and then escorted to the Y, where at the 11:30 o’clock assembly they will be presented with gifts of appreciation from the Y students.”

Caption “Provo Citizens Plan Gala offers for exhibitions swamp Bud”
Subtitle “Reports Indicate Cougar Paddler Not Pressed in Victories”
Provo, April 2– Plans are underway to give Bud Shields, twice national intercollegiate swimming champion, a rousing reception when he returns to his home town Wednesday.
Although details are not yet complete, it is assumed that the Provo chamber of commerce, Rotary clubs, will join with the BYU in making the return of Shields, and his coach C.S. Leaf, a gala affair.

According to word received from Coach Leaf, they were swamped with requests for Shields to give exhibition swims at the various athletic clubs in the middle west.

Shields Exhibitions In High Demand

Last night Shields gave an exhibition at the famous Kansas City Athletic club, and is passing up several other exhibition offers to return home at once.

Provo townspeople and B.Y.U students hailed Bud’s twin victories with delight. National champions in this section of the country are few and far between, and Shields performance in shattering all records to win two national tank titles for the second year in succession has called forth plenty of pent-up enthusiasm.

Word received here indicates that Shields was not pushed in either race he won at the national collegiate classic, his record-shattering pace leaving the field—including the famous Arnet Ault, Michigan university and Canadian Olympic star—far in the rear in both events.

B.Y.U Place Fifth in Nation's Teams

Swimming critics believe it quite likely that Shields would have shattered Arne Borg’s American record in the 440, had the Utah marvel been forced to extend himself.

Incidentally, B.Y.U rates fifth in the nation's intercollegiate swimming by virtue of Shields two victories. While Shields garnered 10 points for his high-point honors of the meet, these 10 points also placed B.Y.U fifth among the best teams of the land.”

In the last article the caption reads “Shields Royally Received”

The subtitle says “Famous Swimmer and His Coach are Met by Committee”

The photo shows Bud and Coach Leaf being congratulated by Coach Ott Romney

Provo– The returning heroes Bud Shields and his coach, C.B. Leaf, were honored by their home town Tuesday morning when they returned from their successful trip to the national collegiate swimming championship at St. Louis, Mo where the phenomenal Shields successfully defended his 440 and 220-yard free style records, besides clipping several seconds from both.

A reception committee, composed of E.S. Hinckley, secretary; Clayton Jenkins and Horatio Jones of the Provo Chamber of Commerce; L. C Henroid and John W. Farrer of the Provo Kiwanis club; Albert Kirkpatrick and D. Orlo Allen of Provo Post No. 13 of the American Legion; J Edwin Stein of the Provo lodge No. 849 B. P. O. E and Coach G. O. Romney, Chick Hart, Buck Dixon, and La Voir Jensen of the B.Y.U athletic committee, met the star and Coach Leaf at the depot and conducted them to the Y, where they were honored at the morning assembly.

Entire Student Body Congratulates Shields

A beautiful pen and pencil set was presented Shields in appreciation of his championship and congratulated him personally.

Coach Romney who made the presentation of the gift, called attention to the fact that when Bud Shields went to the meet a year ago he went unheralded and simply as another swimmer from another western school. But that this year he went as the champion, a defender of titles, having a much more difficult position to sustain, but that he had done the job well and in a manner that few expected could be ever repeated.
Romney stated that no other man had ever been able to win an event in national swimming meets two years in succession. Not only this, but Shields cut 11 seconds from his own record in the 440 of last year and was only two seconds under the world’s record held by Arne Borg.

Coach Leaf has shown more than just professional spirit in his work. He has given comradeship, the best attainable, declared Romney.

Following Coach Romney’s speech, Shields responded, thanking the student body for it’s gift and expressing his gratitude for being able to represent such a worthy institution.

Coach Leaf was also honored at the national championships, being made head judge of the breast-stroke form; a judge of the finish and also a judge of diving in both preliminary and final events.

He also received a vote of thanks from the National Collegiate association for revising the breast-stroke rule in regard to the execution of the stroke.”

Bud remembered Ellen his grandmother, he gave her signed pictures with these inscriptions.

The picture of Bud in his BYU swimsuit, had the writing on the back saying “Given to my Darling Grandmother after my being the leading Swimmer in every phrase [sic] of free style in the Inter-Mountain States of U.S
Given by her Grand Son [sic] Bud Shields June 19,1928
Now U.S. Champ in 220 & 440 April 1,1928
Another picture of Bud posed in his Y swimsuit reads “To My Grandmother Shields National Intercollegiate 440 and 220-yard Swimming Champion of 1928 and 1929 Charter Member of 1928 Olympic Team 220 and 440 yards for years 1928-1929"0

Ellen’s funeral Service Oct. 7, 1950

Invocation Ray Wilson
Vocal Solo Jessie Evans Smith
Remarks Winslow Farr Smith
Organ Selection Thelma Ryser
Remarks Bishop Luther H. Crockett
Vocal Solo Jessie Evans Smith
Benediction Sydney Isgren
Interment in Tooele Cemetery after Graveside Service at 2 PM under the direction of Sterling Harris, with Alfred Nelson, Speaker Benediction and Dedication of the Grave, Leo Bevan

Pall Bearers — Grandsons of Sister Shields
Jack Green John D. Powell, Jr.
William Green Bud Shields
Elmo Powell Dean Thompson
Organ Prelude  
Invocation by Elder Ray Wilson  
"Our father in heaven, we approach the this beautiful day to pay our last respects to one of Thy daughters who has left this mortal existence. Our father in heaven, we are grateful to the for the life of this good woman, and the privilege we had associated with her, and for the many good thing she has done well sojourning upon this earth. We pray, Heavenly Father, Thou will let thy spirit attend us during theses services that words of inspiration and comfort may be given to those who are bereaved at this time, that they may be buoyed up in spirit and be led to thank Thee for all the good things Thou has given unto them. We pray, Heavenly Father, that thy spirit will be here at all may be edified; that all may be fed the bread of life; that though the influence of these services we may all be lifted up in the spirit to be determined to more fully serve Thee while here upon the earth.

We pray Heavenly Father, Thou will bless the speakers and all who take part in any way, that they may be inspired to do and say those things that will be for the best good of all. Bless the family that they may see and realize the plan of life and salvation and the necessity of being taken away from this life in order to receive eternal life in our Father’s Kingdom. We pray that Thou will be with us today that we may all be built up in our spirits and rejoice in the blessings of the Gospel. We asked for these blessings humbly in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

Vocal Solo “In the Garden” by Jessie Evans Smith

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.
And he walks with me, and He talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.
He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, And the melody that he gave to me, within my heart is ringing.
I’d stay in the garden with Him, though the night around me falling, but he bids me go, Through the voice of woe, his voice to me is calling.

First Speaker Elder Winslow Farr Smith (Otilla’s Mission President)  
(He prefaced his remarks by reading the Poem, “A Woman” by Ferne Parsons Norris)

“A Woman”  
Her life’s held nothing save what comes to all, The simple dramas- birth, and love, and death. She has known pain, and drunk grief’s bitter gall, And watched by love ones bed’s with bated breath.
Though secretly she longed to travel far, her hands have never scorned her humbled deeds;
With eyes firm fixed upon the farthest star, She ministered to life and human needs. What has she missed of all life has in store, Although it is not been her lot to roam? Why, all of life has flowed before the door of that proud citadel- her little home.
A good wife, mother, neighbor, this is her fate how she would smile, if I call her Great!

He went on to say what a wonderful thing it is to come together on such occasions—“that we come together and endeavored to bring a measure of comfort to
those who mourn.". He told how Sister Shields was born in Norway on 17th of March 1869; how she came to Utah in 1875, married John J Shields at the age of 17 and settling in Lincoln, Park County, living since 1922 in Salt Lake City. How she lived to the advanced age of 81 in spite of her early day experiences of poverty and hardships. He told of how wealthy relatives in her native land had offered her comfort and luxury “if she would but renounce Mormonism and return to Norway.” But this good woman’s faith would not allow her to do such a thing. It was her faith that brought her here, and her faith they helped her to remain in that little dirt floor cabin in Ephraim. Later they moved to Tooele it was there that Sister Tillie was born. 10 children were born to this good couple, five of whom remain today. When I think of the 18 grandchildren the 17 great-grandchildren, this makes her’s a remarkable life indeed.

He went on to tell us some of the many things that have been accomplished in the 81 years of her life. He said the railroad came to the state of Utah (which was a territory then) the year that Sister Shields was born back in Norway 1869. When she came to the state of Utah in 1875 the city Salt Lake had about 15,000 population; the State of Utah had less than 100,000. She was able see the state grow to approximate 600,000, and Salt Lake City to 200,000.

He stated how he became acquainted with this family, how he came to love and respect them, and how he enjoyed visiting with them in Tooele...So I say, she has won a very great reward. She brought this wonderful family into the world- gained this marvelous posterity-and now having completed her journey has gone back home. You know, death is just a natural thing. Just as sure as we are born, just so sure we must die, and to those who understand the gospel death has no terror. This parting of the loved ones is just the same as the parting that took place in the spirit world before we were privileged to come here. I venture to say that when Sister Otilla went on her mission to Chicago back in the 20's, there was sorrow in the home, just as there is weeping and sorrow in the home today because of the passing of her mother; but it’s a fine thing that we weep, that our hearts are tender, so we can think of these things. The greatest sorrow, I believe that could possibly come to anyone would be when there is no hope of a hereafter to console us when death comes into the family. Much as been said and written on the subject, but I have here a few lines from a sermon from Dr. Madison C. Peters a Baptist Minister of Philadelphia Pennsylvania which I would like to read it’s called “Life after death.”

None of us wants to be loved in any other way than eternally, and if it were true that we should not meet and know one another in Heaven, then when our dead are laid away in the grave, our love for them ought to die. But we do not cease to love the dead, neither do we love them less but rather more than we love them living, with a love more unselfish and with less taint of earthliness about it; and if we, with all our restrictions upon us can love so ardently, how much more can those with ever broadening faculties, having entered into their fullness of life, love with deeper passionateness?

When our dear ones have crossed the river, we are some how bound to them by the cords of the deathless love; we can somehow never realize that they are gone-the looks, forms, the voices, the smiles of the dead are still with us. We feel their mysterious nearness. Love teaches us to still love them. And every tear that we shed, and sigh that we heave, we have so many proofs in the soul itself that the dead whose memory we so fondly cherished still live, immortal beyond the grave; we are richer for having loved,
although we have lost. As Tenny puts it: This truth came borne with bier and pall, I felt it when I sorrow most; Tis better to have loved then lost, Than never to have loved it all.

We have a greater hope to console us in our bereavements. When we are married for time and for all eternity and have children born to us, they are to be ours eternally; then their children, and their children, on through the centuries. It is a wonderfully comforting thought, and this family today, although they are laying their mother away, they can know it is just a short separation. They will cherish her memory. I know her quite intimately; saw her many times and the one thing I shall always remember is her cheerfulness. I never saw her but when she was cheerful. Dr. Frank Craig has said of “Youth”

Youth is not a type of life it is a state of mind. It’s not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips, and supple knees; it is the temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions. It is the freshness of the deep springs of life. Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. These often exists in a man of fifty more, than in a boy of twenty. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin; but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self distrust, fear, despair-these are the long, long years that bow the heart and turn the greening spirit back to dust.

Whether sixty or sixteen, there is in every human being’s heart the lure of wonder, the sweet amazement at the stars of the starlight things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for what’s next, the joys of the game of living.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear as young as your hope, as old as your despair. In the central place of your heart there is an evergreen tree; it’s name is love. So long as it flourishes you are young. When it dies, you are old. The central place of your heart is a wireless station. So long as it received messages of beauty, hope, cheer, grandeur, courage and power from earth, from man, and from the infinite, so long are your young. When the wires are down, and all the central place of your heart is covered with the snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, that you’re grown old even at 20, and may God have mercy upon your soul!

He went on to say that he thought this description fitted Sister Shields beautifully as he never knew her to be anything but cheerful and hopeful. He said he hadn’t seen her for a few years but he couldn’t help thinking that she radiated the spirit of interest and hopefulness and of doing good to those around her.

Death is a strange thing—it is a part of life. Only a matter of time until we all must go. We know not who will be next, but we know that it will occur. And when these types come, theirs is always friends who rally around to build us up in power and courage. That is why we are here today. We have come in the spirit of humility, and if we grasp the spirit of a service of this kind, we live more abundantly than ever before. There is possibly no theme that has given rise to more thought among men then this theme of death. Victor Hugo has left these few lines for us to ponder—“The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the world which invites me. It is marvelous, yet simple it is a fairytale, and it is history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose, verse, history, drama, romance, tradition,
satire, ode and song-I’ve tried them all but I feel have not said that thousandth part of
that which is in me to go down to the grave, I can say like many others, I have finished
my days work but I cannot say I have finished my life; my days work will begin again the
next morning; the tomb is not a blind alley it is a thoroughfare it closes on the twilight, to
open on the dawn. My work is only a beginning; my work is hardly above its foundation.
I would gladly see it mounting for ever. The thirst for the infinite proves infinity.”

We are taught of a preexistent life, and that our life here is conditioned upon the
manner in which we lived that life. We believe that the more valiantly we fight to
overcome our faults and imperfections here; the more perfectly we live, the greater will
be our reward when we pass into the great future. I have something that has always
given me great comfort-it is found in the 130 section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the
20th verse- There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this
world, upon which all blessings are predicated, and when we obtain any blessing from
God, it is by obedience to that law upon which is predicated. That is the Gospel of Jesus
Christ, the law of eternal life, the law of salvation in the kingdom of our Heavenly Father.
The law of the highest kingdom will be granted to us if we have kept that law that leads
us to that beautiful ending. So it is worthwhile to live right. I have no worries about Sister
Shields. Her reward is sure. I’m very concerned about Winslow Smith. I’ve tried to do
my part, but I am sure many ways have failed. If we would all list of failures to live up to
the laws of the Lord that would bring us to salvation, could we be sure of our salvation.
Could we be sure of an exaltation in his kingdom? So, as we sit here today thinking of
the passing of this fine woman, I trust we are all thinking of the possibility that one of us
may be the next one called to go. I’m a great believer in the reward of God to keep his
commandments-not only in the hereafter, but here and now. I believe in the resurrection
of the dead that we will be permitted to have our bodies again and receive the blessings
we have earned while living here in mortality.

That is life. That is what we are here for. I’d like to say to these children here-you
have a great example in your mother. She has given you a wonderful heritage. Here is
a little parable for mothers by Temple Bailey.

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. Is the way long? She asked. And
her guide said yes, the way is hard-and you will be old before you reach the end of it-but
the end will be better than the beginning.

The young mother was happy, and she could not believe that anything could be
better than these years. So she played with her children-gathered flowers for them
along the way-they put them in the clear streams-and the sun shone on them-and life
was good-the young mother cried nothing will ever be lovelier than this!

Then came night, and storm, the path was dark, the children shook with fear and
cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, the children
said, Oh mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, no harm can come. The mother
said this is better than the brightest of day, for I have taught my children courage!

And the morning came-and there was a hill ahead-the children climbed and grew
weary-but at all times she said to the children-a little patience, and we are there. So the
children climbed, and when they reached the top they said we could not have done it
without you, mother.
And the mother when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said this is a better day than last, my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave courage-today I have given them strength.

The next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth-clouds of war, and hate and evil- and the children groped and stumbled- the mother said look up-Lift your eyes to the light. And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, that guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. That night the mother said this is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God.

And the days went on-and the weeks-and the months-and the years-and the mother grew old-and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong-and walked with courage-and when the way was hard, they helped their mother-and when the way was rough, they lifted her for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill-and beyond the hill they could see a shining road-and golden gates flung wide. The mother said; I have reached the end of my journey-and now I know that the end is better than the beginning-for my children could walk alone-and their children after them.

The children said you will always walk with us, mother, even when you have gone through the gates.

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her-and they said; we cannot see her, but she is still with us. A mother like ours is more than a memory-she is a living presence.

So I say to you children of this wonderful woman, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, your mother, your grandmother, will be a presence to you as long as you’re worthy of that presence.

God lives, Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world, and through his atoning sacrifice there comes to us salvation, eternal life, and the resurrection from the dead. All conditioned upon the lives we live here upon the earth. May God comfort you all that you may more fully serve him, that his spirit may come into your hearts and lives, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ Amen

Organ Selection – Traumeri, by Thelma Ryse

Bishop Crockett:

I am sure brothers and sisters, you have been impressed, as I have been today by the remarks of Brother Smith. I particularly took note of the statement he made that we only grow old as we desert our ideals. In contemplating what I should say today, the thought of ideals was uppermost. I couldn’t help feeling as we came here that the date is ideal, and we are meeting under ideal conditions. Here we have the beauty of friendship, the beauty of flowers as expression of our love we have the beauty of Sister Shields herself she lives here in her presence in the beauty of her life as we contemplate its accomplishments: and we meet in the unity of faith having assurance of meeting Sister Shields again. All these things make for an ideal condition under which to live. I also thought of the high ideals of our country and how they are expressed.

Take for instance the Fourth of July is a notable day and plays a big role in the drama of American traditions. Let me quote something regarding this day.

Twas upon that day, in 1776, that a group of men met in Philadelphia as a Continental Congress adopted a declaration drawn up by Thomas Jefferson which dissolved all ties binding the American Colonies to Great Britain. War followed.
July 4, 1781 the British were on the way to defeat, and three months later Cornwallis surrendered, and America was free.

On July 4, 1804 Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in Salem, Massachusetts. You are all familiar with some of his books the Scarlet letter, House of seven Gables, etc.

On July 4, 1826 America’s troubadour, Stevens Collins Foster, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. His songs Old Black Joe, My Old Kentucky Home, Old Folks At Home and others, will live as long as our country endures. On the same day, two of the most distinguished signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, died while the nation was joyously celebrating the 50th anniversary of the adoption of that historical pronouncement.

On July 4, 1831, James Monroe, fifth president of framer of the Monroe Doctrine died.


July 4, 1828 the first rail of the Baltimore and Ohio rail was laid, each clang of the hammer tolling the death knell of the two modes of transportation whose birthday, as well as whose place in the world the steam locomotives had usurped.

July 4, 1836 the US Patent Bureau was created by Act of Congress, the efforts of Sen. Ruggles, will always be known as the father of the patent office.

July 4, 1848 the cornerstone of the Washington monument was laid.

July 4, 1872 with the natal day of the first President to be born on the nation’s birthday, Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States.

July 4 is truly a notable day in our history– hallowed with memories tragic and heroic.

I have read this, brothers and sisters, to indicate to you the great things that happened, and it comes to my mind now that Sister Shields lived during a good deal of this time mentioned. History abounds with examples of outstanding citizenship on the part of both men and women, but made great and small ripples on the sea of life according to the ideals and standards they lived up to. These examples are usually in harmony with the universally accepted standards embodied in a Good Citizenship Code, which I wish to read.

That I may live an upright, useful and happy life, I will endeavor to the best of my ability:

1. To serve God and humanity with my heart and mind and strength.
2. To honor my parents, and to be a credit to them at all times.
3. To be a good citizen of my town, my State, my Nation, and of the world.
4. To seek for others, and not merely for myself, a happier and more abundant life.
5. To be kind, courteous, and unselfish.
6. To be sympathetic with those who suffer, and more tolerant of the faults of others then of my own.
7. To be clean, strong and alert in mind and body.
8. To be honest, truthful, and dependable.
9. To be ambitious, but not envious.
10. To be cheerful and hopeful in thought and demeanor.
11. To be self-reliant and courageous, but not vain or fool hardy.
12. To control my tongue, my temper, and my appetites.
13. To play fair in all the games and relationships of life.
14. To help by word and deed the cause of peace and goodwill among the nations of the world.
15. To discover and uphold spiritual truth.
16. To learn to know and enjoy the beauties of nature, of art and literature, and of human comradship.
17. To forego comfort or pleasure when they shall be necessary. But not to be embittered.
18. To fit myself for congenial occupation whereby I may produce more that is of value to mankind than I consume.
19. To use my time profitably, my intelligence constructively.
20. To seek frequently opportunities through reading, contemplation or worship, to renew and increase my zeal for the finer things of life.
21. To leave the world a better place for my having lived in it.

Obedience to such standards make good citizens. There is another type of good citizen- those who diligently try to live the laws of God; they become good citizens in the Kingdom of God. Adam, Moses and all the Prophets obey the laws of that kingdom. The Savior is the best example of that kind of good citizen. We know what he did to attain it. His was a philosophy of service to others. You will recall the story of his visit of the Temple when but 12 years of age, how he conversed with the doctors “both hearing and answered questions” to their great astonishment; how his mother on finding him after a three days search asked why he had thus dealt with them, to receive this wonderful answer- “whist ye not that I must be about my father’s business.” We have recorded in Matthew 19th chapter, verse 16 to 21, the Savior’s teaching as to what we must do in order to be considered good citizens of his kingdom.

“And behold one came and said unto him, good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? and he said unto him, why callest Thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the Commandments. He saith unto him, which? Jesus said, though shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, honor thy father and thy mother; and, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure’s in heaven: and come follow me.”

It is a beautiful thing to look back on the life of those who left us and feel in our hearts that they have partaken of the spirit of those words and have become a good citizen in the kingdom of God.

I was also impressed with the fact that Sister Shields wasn’t born in the church; that she was a six year old immigrant, coming with her widowed mother to Utah in 1875, six years after the coming of the railroad into this territory. But she took her place beside her mother; honoring her by being obedient to the doctrines taught her, thus becoming a fine product of the Church and the community in which she lived, answering the thoughts expressed in this good citizenship code.

I wonder how we could expect more than she has exemplified to us. She has truly left the world a better place for having lived in it. She even went a little further- her eternal marriage with her husband resulted in the bringing of 10 spirits to the earth. To
me that is wonderful and deserves great credit. I think we fail to realize the worth of mothers- their love, their sympathy, their courage, their diligence in trying to give to their children the things that will make their life successful. In tribute to Sister Shields as such a mother I would like to read a poem which I'm sure will touch the heartstrings of all present.

It is a prayer by Tom Dillon, entitled “My Mother”

For the body you gave me, the bone and the sinew, the heart and the brain that are yours, my mother I thank you.
I thank you for the light in my eyes, the blood in my veins, for my speech, for my life, for my being. All that I am is from you who bore me.
For all the love that you gave be, unmeasured from the beginning, my mother, I thank you.
I thank you for the hand that lead me, the voice that directed me, the breast that nestled me, the arm that shielded me, the lap that rested me. All that I am is by you who nursed me.
For your smile in the morning and your kiss at night, my mother I thank you.
I thank you for the tears you shed over me, the song that you sent to me, the prayers you said for me, for your vigils and ministering. All that I am is by you, who reared me.
For the faith you had in me, the Hope you had for me, for your trust and your pride, My mother I thank you.
I thank you for your praise and your chiding, for the justice you bred into me, and the honor you made mine. All that I am you taught me.
And may the peace and joy that passeth all understanding be yours, my mother, for ever and ever Amen.

That last sentence be yours for ever and ever- I'm sure there is no doubt in the hearts of all who are here today about this being Sister Shields condition, and I'm sure as she looks upon us now that her heart is full of that joy that passeth understanding. I'm sure also that these children and grandchildren by following the example set by her will experience that same joy. Now some might ask is it worthwhile- should we feel it of value to set such an example to our children? I would like to read the words of the Savior as recorded in section 76 of the Doctrine and Covenants, the first 10 verses- “Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoicing inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, beside him there is no Savior.
Great is his wisdom, marvelous are his ways, and extent of his doings none can find out. His purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand. From eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail. For thus saith the Lord- I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth to the end. Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory. And to them will I reveal all my mysteries, yea, all the hidden mysteries of my kingdom from days of old, and for ages to come, and make known unto them the good pleasure of my will concerning all things pertaining to my kingdom.
Yea, even the wonders of eternity shall they know, and things to come will I show them, even the things of many generations.

And their wisdom shall be great, and their understanding reach unto heaven; and before them the wisdom of the wise shall perish, the understanding of the prudent shall come to naught.

For by my spirit will I enlighten them, by my power will I make known unto them the secrets of my will- yea, even those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor yet entered into the heart of man.

That, my brothers and sisters, is what we have to look forward to; that is what makes living the example set by our forefathers worthwhile. I do pray our heavenly father will bless us to the end that we will have his sustaining power to accomplish these things; that those who are left to mourn the passing of Sister Shields will see in her example the means of enjoying that peace which passes understanding. We of the McKay Ward mourn her passing, but we know we will have the privilege of associating with her again. For this blessing and all others we may be worthy of, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Vocal Solo “There is a Beautiful Land on High” By Jessie Evans Smith

There is a beautiful land on high to its glories I fain would fly;
When by sorrows press down I long for a crown in that beautiful land on high.

There’s a beautiful land on high and I here do weep and sigh;
My Savior have said that no tears shall be shed in that beautiful land of high.

In that beautiful land I’ll be free from earth and it’s cares set free.
My Savior is there, he has gone to prepare a place in that kingdom for me.

Benediction by Sydney Isgren:

Our Father in Heaven, we call upon Thee at the close of the service, thanking Thee for the spirit that has been in our midst, and for the beautiful day. We thank Thee for the love and association we have had with this wonderful family. We thank Thee for the life of Sister Shields. She was a neighbor of ours on the next block from where we lived in the Tooele First ward, and Tooele Stake, and being a member of the bishopric a number of years in that ward, I can appreciate the love, association and assistance of this family in the activities of that ward. Sister Shields could always be relied upon. She was always at Sunday School and Sacrament Meeting, and a faithful member of the Relief Society; and the other members of the family were always willing to participate in the programs and other things of the ward. We enjoyed their association a number of years. Bless each member of this family as though we mention their names one by one, that they may continue to live in accordance to the example set by their wonderful mother. Many of us have gone through just such an experience, and we know what it means, and ask Thee to bless us all with faith in Thy laws that we may have power to live them to be worthy of Thy loving care. Dismiss us with Thy peace and blessing. Take us to the cemetery in peace and safety that everything may be carried out in a pleasing and
acceptable manner; that all may be well with us; that we may meet in thine own due
time beyond the veil, we humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen