September 9, 1937

Dear Mother,

I suppose you have wondered what has happened to me and what I have been doing.

Well, my experiences have been numerous and varied - many of which I'll have to save for some longer discussion. I arrived in Syracuse OK Monday evening. Mr. Benner met me at the station. They already had an uncle and aunt visiting them so that with me they have had rather a crowded household most of the week. They have been very cordial to me but as you can imagine it's rather a peculiar set-up and there is no doubt about my being under somewhat of a nervous strain.

I started work Tuesday morning at seven o'clock and boy what a job they started me on. I spent the whole morning unloading a freight car-load of malt. Each box weighed a hundred pounds and they were very awkward to handle. The heavy bags took the skin right off the backs of my fingers; consequently my fingers are pretty sore. After I unloaded the car and loaded the malt on the truck we took it up to

the brewery and dumped it in the grain elevator. That meant rehandling the bags and then when you dumped the bags in the chute all that grain dust got into your lungs and head. In the afternoon we loaded a freight car with cases of beer. Although my muscles and back were pretty sore, it ~~deed~~ didn't seem to bother me particularly.

Now for the pay-off! Wednesday they gave me another job and I have been on that the rest of this week. I bet you never expected to have a bar tender for a son. Well you have! They have quite a large bar and a regular tap room for the employees and visitors. Let me tell you - I bet you have never seen a busier bar or bar tender. I start at seven o'clock, cleaning up the room, emptying the spitoons etc. From seven o'clock to five I am on continuously. Yesterday I topped and emptied about eight (8) halves. Honestly, it's a ~~baby~~ biological mystery the amount of beer those fellows drink while on the job. Some of them start at seven o'clock and drink right through to five. Two weeks ago I would have said no man could do it.

They are a rough and tough crew but actually pretty good scouts. I

seem to get along with them pretty well. They have all been pretty decent to me.

It's really very interesting and one of the best experiences I have ever had including Postal. For actually learning things it has it all over the bank.

I don't know what I'll be doing next week but I imagine that I'll be out with the yard gang again.

Their week ends on Thursday so I drew two days pay yesterday. For the two days work I drew nine dollars (9.00) less the social security which means that for a week's work I'll draw $27.00. I won't make as much as I had hoped but even so I think it is pretty good money and I certainly won't lose anything. It so happens that I am not on a job yet where there is apt to be overtime. However, if it should suddenly become terrifically hot it is probable I may get some overtime. I am not too sure I could stand it if I did.

Kay was pretty much worried as to how things would turn out - about the pay and everything. I told her that it wouldn't be her fault and that I realized that anything like that is somewhat of a gamble. She has been working all week over at the State Fair. She is working for the Standard Oil Company and is making very good money.

Apparently jobs seem to be chasing her all the time and the funny thing is they all seem to be pretty good jobs.

I don't think that I'll be able to get home before school ~~is~~ starts. I believe that this job will last right up until the time school starts. I regret very much the fact that I won't be able to get home but there doesn't seem to be much else to do. There wouldn't be very much sense in quitting early as long as I am making a little money. While we are on the subject — Am I going back to school? I think next week I'll talk to Dean Powers about a loan and if he doesn't have anything I'll have to write Lloyd and see what he has to say when I actually lay it on the line. It's a cinch I'll have to ~~be~~ have a lump sum of money so I can meet monthly bills.

How is Dad and has he had any interesting news lately?

I may have a big surprize for you all in a couple days. I don't know yet. The surprize if it goes through will be alive and you will probably want to shoot me —— at first.

Well mother — this will give you a general idea of what I have been doing the past few days. Wish I could talk with you as I know I could keep you and Dad laughing telling you some of my experiences as a trendy worker.

Let me hear from you and ——
until that ship comes in, keep your
chin up.

Your loving son,

Bob