

Subject/Background Info re: the J. Flagg Correspondence Collection, RPL Archives

The letters from the **J. Flagg Correspondence Collection** were written by James S. (Jim) Flagg in the summer of 1930. They are addressed to Jean Smith, an eighteen-year-old incoming student at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) from which Flagg had graduated that spring.

While at UI, Flagg had been on the staff of the student newspaper, *The Illini*, which no doubt reinforced his interest in a newspaper job. In late June 1930, Flagg was hired as a reporter for the *Rockford Daily Republic*.

Each of these letters contains at least brief references to the city of Rockford, Illinois and/or the *Republic*.

- *The physical items in this collection are kept in the Historical Section of The Rockford Public Library (RPL) Archives, 215 N. Wyman Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101.*

June 18, 1930.

Jan, dearest -

Tonight it'll be a rather short letter because I want to get to bed so I can get up at 5:15 o'clock in the morning. Among other things, I'm going to Springfield tomorrow to bring my dad home & see about a job for myself. Got a card from the Senator today & he said there was a guy in the Legislature from Marion, Ill. who might need me on his daily paper, so if I can't get anything else maybe I'll take that job for a while. It probably hasn't got more than 15,000 people, maybe less.

However, it would be nice if I could get on the Journal at Springfield because I could see you a lot of times next year. Also, they just moved into a new building on 6th street.

That is a fine idea of yours about coming to St. Louis, that is, if it materializes and if I am still at home. Sure, I will

run down and meet you there if you want
me to, but are you sure your dad isn't
kidding like he was Easter time when you
also wanted to go to St. L.?

Jan, your last letter was the best
yet and I am really glad and think
it's the best thing that you told Elbert
about the pin. When I got home for lunch
yesterday noon, I was so full of paint it
wasn't even funny, but I read your letter
before cleaning up anyway, thus getting
a certain amount of red paint on it. Tomorrow
I'll be gone to Springfield when the mail
comes, but I expect to find a nice
letter from my Jan when I return at
night.

It is possible that I may mail this in
Spfld so you'll get it quicker. It wouldn't
even leave Moro till about 5 in the afternoon.
The other way

Good night, dearie, and remember, I love you,

Jim @

J.S. Rose
No. 20,
ILL.

#221

Miss Jean Smith,
Jebias,
Nebraska.

M C R O
JUN 21
P.M.
1936
ILL.



Friday night.

Dearest Jean -

Enclosed you will find, revealed to you at last, the secret of my success in growing extra-long eye-lashes. Long had I made an attempt to seclude this miraculous but eventually effective method of beautifying myself even from my closest friends. But now that the ever-watching eye of the all-powerful press has stolen the secret of my most treasured sequence to beauty, I have deemed it permissible to let just you, the ambitious eye-lash fan, in on the secret that for centuries, maybe since the days of Cleopatra, has baffled and eluded the elite of would-be eye-lash stretchers. Included in the clipping is the photograph of a girl who, at one time was not beautiful. She couldn't figure out why she wasn't, however, and even her best friends wouldn't tell her. Whereupon, one day she happened to see me peering over the edge of the Grand Canyon. She looked wistfully at me, then

in a more or less perplexed manner. At length, after gazing intently into my eyes, that had now turned toward her, she shriekingly exclaimed, - "I've found it, I've found it." At last she had discovered why she wasn't beautiful. After persuading her to go into a Mexican pool hall nearby, I revealed to her the secret of my success in growing long eye lashes. And now, as mentioned somewhere far above and in the adjacent article, even you, dear Jean, have unveiled before you, the most important secret of beautifying man and woman since the invention of Shinola.

Are you out of breath yet? Well, I don't get this way very often. However, I hope you do appreciate me sending you the most helpful clipping.

By the way, Etivor just blew in from Normal & we didn't know she was coming. She came over to where I am writing, picked up the paper to see who I was writing to and sez "Tell her Howdy fer me."

This is a terrible pen I've got. Think I'll try another.

I'm glad she came home so we can have a Ford to run instead of a Chevrolet for a few days.

Tomorrow we may go to St. Louis - us kids - I want to see the Post-Dispatch & see a ball game - Cards vs Phil. - & we will go to the Municipal opera at night. I'm not sure we're going, but hope so.

Went to Springfield yesterday & talked to about 3 men on both the Journal & Register but there simply ain't no jobs. I have a good friend on the Journal who is pretty much of a big shot, & the editor of the Register was all for me because he is well acquainted with my dad, but all for nothing cause there wasn't anything open.

Yesterday I got a letter from Paul Courtney in Rockford & he said if I was there then (Tuesday) I probably could have gotten a job. He said they needed a man on the copy desk (writing leads, correcting stories etc) but that the editor had a Wisconsin man in mind. He said he would keep reminding him of me & today I wrote a letter to the managing ed.

and hope I can convince him that he should hire me instead of the Wisconsin guy. So I still have a few hopes of landing in Rockford.

At Springfield yesterday I saw the editor of a daily paper at Marion who is a senator. He wants a new city editor & I talked to him a while & he said he'd talk it over with his partner when he got home. Marion only has 10,000 people & is in Williamson Co. I'm not crazy about going down there, but will do that rather than nothing. Also, I've learned that I'd better take any job I can get whether it is sports or not.

Now, I suppose you are tired of reading this line about jobs, but I don't blame you.

I'm sorry I didn't stay in Troy a day longer and possibly could have seen you. We left Sunday afternoon, tho'. If you happened to go past a place they are building a new bridge, my brother was there.

That will be great if you can come to St. Louis soon. For that reason I hope I don't have a job till after then. I'll keep you informed about getting a job, & I do hope we can manage to get together some way.

Lots of love,

Jim

Daily Society and

The Secret of my Success!

BEAUTY CHATS

by EDNA KENT FORBES

LONG LASHES

If you want for yourself the lovely long, sweeping eyelashes that you admire on your favorite movie star, or some good looking friend of yours, here are some hints that may be of use to you.

Lashes do improve, in most cases, by being clipped back a little. So if

darkens the hair a bit too, which is an advantage. Eyebrows can be treated with hair tonic, but I never advise using anything on the lashes except this oil, which of course cannot hurt the eyes. Some people advise vaseline—it is useless for making the lashes grow; it is a mineral oil. Vegetable oils—olive or castor—will do good.

You can make the lashes look thicker by putting vaseline on them or by rubbing them with brilliantine or oil, the very last thing, after you have powdered your face. This gives them extra gloss, removes the powder and seems to make them darker—just for the time. You can use a mascara at night, for special effects, if you are clever enough to know how to put it on, which most people are not.

As for the long lashes of your favorite screen star; some of the length may be clever make-up, most probably is, in fact. But never mind, you can do a little towards making your lashes long, and that little counts as a lot in improving your looks.



You Can Make Your Lashes Look
Thick and Long

you are willing to go for a month or two with shortened lashes, you can trim them yourself. Use curve blade manicure scissors, with the points turned out away from the eyes, bend close to your mirror in a good light, and gently clip off only the very tips of the hairs. As these are usually too fine to have much color in them, you won't look so very different.

Rub them every night with castor oil. This is a very good tonic and it

U.S. 1. 1930

THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois Union Building

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Daily Republic,
Rockford, Ill

Miss Jean Smith,

802 Indiana ave.

Urbana, Illinois



Republic offus

Saturday night

Dearest Jean---

Thought I'd start a letter to you while I was down here getting ready to go home. It's only 11:15 and will get to leave pretty soon. I had to work straight through today since 7:30 in the morning with the exception of a little time off for meals. We got out our regular editions this afternoon and since then have been putting out tomorrow's Sunday paper. There aint no rest fer the wicked.

I was certainly glad to get two letters from you in one day yesterday. I got the one the folks forwarded and the one you sent Wednesday I believe. Jean, you're a peach for sending me another picture. I havent seen it yet but I know I'll like it. The folks sent a letter saying that there was a photo at home for me from 802 Indiana, but they didnt have enough sense to send it up. If it didnt come today I'm going to write to them and bawl them out. I havent had a chance to go home yet today to see if I got any mail.

I've written columns and columns today I bet, and will be ready to go to bed when I get home. Two of the boys who were thinking about getting an apartment with us have changed their minds now so I may get a room with Courtney. He doesnt like the one he has now.

Hope your dad has something to come up this way for soon so you can come with him. I thought about you more than ever yesterday after I got your letters.

You should hear the people talk about Dixie Smith up here. The latest dope is that he has asked every girl in the office for a date and none of them will give him one. Either they dont like him or they are all forming a mutual protection society for each other so that they wont be jealous of each other. There are a couple of fairly good looking dames here but the best one is the editor's

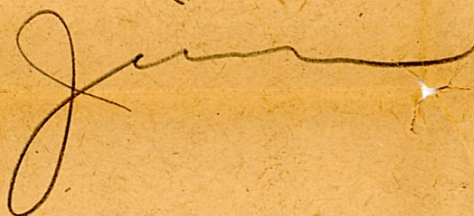
daughter, also his secretary, and its kinda dangerous to date her cause if she got mad at you then she'd get you canned. I havent had a date for so long I wouldn't know how to act if you came up here now. Really, I havent had one since I was with you. I met Ruth Hanna McCormicks daughter yesterday and she isnt so bad, but on the other hand nothing exceptional.

You havent said much about your trip to California lately or to Atlanta, Toronto, and other points north south east & west and I'm wondering if you're going.

Time off to read a little proof.

I'm so tired I think I'll go home now, Jean.

Lots of love to you, and thanks so much for the picture,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean". The signature is written in dark ink on aged, yellowish paper. It features a large, looping initial "J" followed by a series of connected, fluid strokes that form the rest of the name.

J.S.F.

THE DAILY HERALD

Minneapolis Union-Printing

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

618 N. Main
Rockford, Ill.



Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana Ave.,

Urbana, Illinois.

The Associated Press.

Monday night.

Dearest -

Tonight I am glad to tell you that I have just finished playing a lot of bridge. Four of us boys got together & had a good time playing my favorite indoor sport. This pen hasn't been used for so long it is blotting something terrible. I find that The Republic is a good paper just like the Illini because you get show passes from it every week. I got some today and will probably use them tomorrow night. It's a good thing I got them or I'd never get to go to the show much. I don't get paid till Wednesday & that will be only for the half of last week that I worked. And now that I've been here awhile it looks as though \$25 a week would not go very far. You'd think Ruth Hanna McCormick could spare more money than that. You know, my dad is a Queen man & I bet if Ruth knew that she'd

(2)

The Associated Press.

can me. However, she hasn't been back here to find Jim on the paper yet.

Had the pleasure of running up a \$3.00 taxi bill in behalf of the Republic Today. I had to take the cab clear out to the edge of town to get a picture of a guy who was killed by lightning near here yesterday. The editorial department has a word, but someone else was using it, hence the cab.

The Republic is having an awful fight with the Register-Gazette, the other evening paper here, for supremacy here & we have to be on our toes all the time to get stuff that they don't. The R-G has Fred Sterling, lieutenant governor of Ill. for its editor.

Bill Dutton, who was engaged to Albertine Hatcher, was here this week-end. He worked on the Republic last year & is with the Chicago Evening American now. I'm not sure whether he is engaged to her now or not, but I heard him say he was engaged to her for a year & a half. Maybe you can figure it out from the time element. Yesterday we celebrated Sunday by going out to an auto race where a guy was

supposed to go 500 miles around a dirt track. He quit after 230 mile so it wasn't so good. Since I didn't work yesterday I thought about you all the more, and sometimes I felt as though I just had to have you here right then. I must see you before school starts, and if I can't come to see you I hope you can get up here some way. If you could be here right now I'd give most anything. It's a cruel, cruel world when you can't see the one you love so much.

Since my last letter I've moved over to where Courtney is staying & we have a double room now. And you can still send my letters to the same place as usual. I was disappointed that the folks didn't send your picture today, but I wrote to them about it, so it'll be here soon. Got a letter from you today mailed in Jobias June 25 & which was forwarded by the folks. They must have had it along time or else the mail service was slow. I'll be anxiously waiting for another letter from you when I get home from work tomorrow evening. You're the best I've ever seen about sending letters.

Good night, dearest,

Jim.

J. J. F.
THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois Union-Building
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

618 N. Main,
Rockford,
Ill.



Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana Ave.,
Urbana, Illinois,

The Associated Press.

Wednesday nite.

Dearest -

There isn't much to do in this town tonight, or any night, for that matter. At least I haven't found much around here yet even if the town has got 90,000 or 100,000 people. So, since things were pretty dead around here I thought I'd write to you, & for that reason only, of course! Paul & I did go to the show but it wasn't much good & here it is only

9:15.

The other day my dad sent me a bunch of post cards with his name & address stamped on them so now my correspondence obligations are not so great cause I only have to write a card home now instead of a letter.

I certainly enjoyed your letter yesterday, & will be looking forward to another tomorrow. About the snapshots you took, of course I'd be glad to see them, if you have some extra ones. Don't think for a minute you're giving me something I don't want when it's a picture of you. Tomorrow I expect to

get the picture you sent home because I wrote to the folks about it Monday. I'll tell you whether I like it or not.

If you want to know just what I'm doing - I'm writing a lot of stories on whatever the city editor tells me to - in other words, reporting on regular city news + everybody has quite a wide variety of stuff to write - for instance stories on a lot of picnics, Boy's club, a new ice plant, obituaries, conventions, + chamber of commerce are a few of the things I have written up which might give you some idea of it.

Yesterday The Republic had a big picnic for kids in town under 16, + they gave a pony away. When the time came to give it away, we had to move a lot of pianos out of the way so the pony could get through a passageway to the stage of an amphitheatre at Central park. Then when all that was done, the pony balked and we couldn't get it to come on the stage after all. But anyway, they ran pictures of the picnic with my story so I don't care.

Friday the 4th we aren't going to have a paper but are going to broadcast the news over the Republic station KFLV. We each have to work 3 hrs. only during the day to prepare news for the radio. I can't figure out what to do the rest of the time. I'm running out a news so I'd better quit.

All my love to you, dearest. Jim

J. S. F.
THE DAILY ILLINOIS

Third-Story Union Building
Rockford, Illinois

618 N. Main,
Rockford, Ill.

Jean Smith

MISS JEAN SMITH,

802 INDIANA AVE.?

URBANA, ILLINOIS



Jean, dearest---

Today is the fourth of July but I havent bought my firecrackers yet; in fact I haven't even gone on a picnic. I slept till after nine this morning and had to be at work at 10:15. Maybe I told you before that we were broadcasting over KFLV, the Republic station, instead of printing a paper today. We each had to work about three hours at various times. It is about 4 o'clock now and I just came back to the office. Paul is working now and I will go out to eat with him after he gets through. I am quite elated to see that the Cardinals won their morning game, 15 to 4, today, and hope they do the same this afternoon. And to think that ~~and~~ the Cubs could do was split even in a twin bill...

Since receiving your letter yesterday I have read it over three times and all day I've been thinking of what a good time we could have if you were up here. And I think it would be just wonderful if you would go to Minneapolis because you would probably go up on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad or else the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul that goes through here. If you do go up, please stop here a while cause I'm crazy to see you.

I also think it would be a dandy idea if your mother could bring you up some time. If you ever know ahead of time that you can come, I'll let you know what Saturday I can get off at 5 o'clock. Wouldn't it be great if we could be together a Saturday night and Sunday too? I've been thinking a lot of what we would do if you were here--maybe it's all dream castles, but I hope not.

The folks said they sent up your picture Wednesday but I didnt get it yesterday so I surely ought to tomorrow. They've been so slow about sending it up that it looks as though I never would get to look upon the newest depiction of your bright and shiny countenance. And I'll be looking forward to those snapshots too-- if you still want to send them.

This office is right on the edge of the Rock river that

runs through the middle of Rockford, and I am sitting right by the window overlooking it. Every once in a while a motorboat comes through the water. I was just thinking it would be nice if we could have a little gondola and parade up and down the river in that!

Yesterday I had to take the Republic's Ford and go out to a factory on the edge of town for a story. And the city editor went along with me and had me drive around to his bootleg joint so he could get a drink while I was gone. I brought him back when I returned but he wasn't particularly intoxicated. While I didn't even get a drink when I got him. The Republic has a little green coupe that is commonly known as The Green Flash. It is named after one of our late afternoon scandal editions printed on green paper which is the original Green Flash. Our first edition goes to press at 1:30 in the afternoon and is printed then so as to catch the trains to outlying towns. The main or home edition deadline is 2:30 and is sent to Rockford subscribers. Then at 3:30 and 4:30 we have two green editions that have mostly crime and sports news on the front page. They are printed mainly for street sales here in town with big headlines to attract attention.

While I was working this morning I was surprised to see a story on Bobby Jones from the International News service written by Henry Molden. It has his name at the top and everything-- called a "by-line" y'know. I think I'll write to him and congratulate him on it. The Republic has the International News service instead of the Associated Press but it's almost as good. It is quite interesting because they go for stories about Clara Bow and such as that.

Molden is in the Chicago office and the other day we sent a message to him over the wire saying that all of us were here. Have you ever found out whether he really was engaged to Bertha Enger?

Do you know what I'd like to do sometime? I'd like to send

you a letter printed in type on a linotype machine so it would look like a newspaper. I doubt if it can be done here cause I don't know the linotype operators well enough, but I could if I was at the Illini. One of the boys at the Illini was going to do it for me one time, but I never got around to writing the letter at the right time and that was over a year ago.

I wish I was in Champaign with you right now with nothing to worry about up here, and maybe we could go up to Robeson's roof garden and slide around a while on the glassy floor. I'd also like to see the boys at the Illini and play bridge at Feldkamp's again. It's really not such a bad town if you don't have to worry about studying.... I mean not studying. I never did tell the folks what terrible grades I got the last semester, but all they were interested in was whether I graduated so it was all right with me.

You must be having a wonderful time there with a lot of school teachers and principals around town, to say nothing of a couple of hundred Catholic sisters. Have they raided any fraternity houses yet or kicked anybody out of school. It must be pretty dead around there if they haven't.

Paul and I had dinner with Jack Adams the other night and Phil Redeker wrote to him saying that the Psi U house was under suspicion and was being watched closely by the dean's men. I guess they're making beer in the bathtub like they did last summer. I would imagine the Sig Pi house would be closed if any were cause with Harry Richman, Rosy Rosenthal, and Bill Spivey staying there, it's no telling what would happen.

This paper seems to be getting short on one end so possibly I'd better sign off till next time. I hope this gets to Urbana tomorrow. Lots of love and a big, long kiss, Jim

J.S.F.
THE DAILY ILLINOIS

Illinois Union Building
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

618 N. Main
Rockford Ill.

Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana Ave.,
Urbana, Illinois.



Rockford, Ill.

Thursday night.

Dearest Jean--

Here I am still up in Rockford and I suppose you will be at home in Champaign Sunday. I just started work today because I had Elinor's car up here and had to take it back to Bloomington Tuesday night. Then I came back here yesterday morning and loafed around in the afternoon. This is a dandy town except that 65 per cent of the population is Swedes or Norwegians. You see them running around them everywhere, in fact it is impossible to avoid them.

After only a day's work I like my job very well. I am on the city staff and nobody knows just what my work will be after we get settled, but it'll either be reporting news about the city or writing heads in the office. There are two or three new men in the office now and they haven't got us organized just yet. Anyway I'm here and glad of it. By the time school starts in the fall, I may have a chance to get on the sports staff--at least that is my ambition. You know, Dixie Smith, the SAE from school, applied for a job on the sports staff just two days before I did and consequently got it. So I hope to take his place when he starts to school or before if he gets canned--and that isn't unlikely.

The Rockford Republic has just moved into a new building and it is the most modern thing in newspaper offices in every way. Also it has a modernistic touch which makes it very beautiful. My boss is the city editor and he is a real nice guy--the kind most city editors aren't. They say he has to go up and have a beer every evening after work, but he's all right when around the office and

that's all I care about. All of the reporters on the staff have to take turns acting as guides for the crowds that come to look over our new building at our "open house" this week. My turn was tonight and about 3,000 came through. I got so tired of telling people the same thing that I bet I say it in my sleep tonight.

Am staying with Bob Jacobs, a Theta Alpha from school, because Courtney has only a single bed in his room. We three and another man from the paper expect to get an apartment soon but haven't done much about it so far. You can continue sending my mail to 618 N. Main until I tell you differently.

It's been an awfully long time since I heard from you--probably not your fault, but you see I left home Monday afternoon and the folks havent had time to forward any mail yet. Hope to see a letter from you forwarded by tomorrow or Saturday, however.

If I could have waited a week longer for this job maybe you could have come to St. Louis and we could have seen each other. But such is life, and with nothing ~~xxxx~~ except Sunday off, it's hard telling when I'll get to see you now. If you ever get a chance to come up, please do. I work from 7:30 to 5 six days a week but till midnight every other Saturday because we have to put out a Sunday paper for Sunday morning. It is an afternoon paper the other days.

I hope you had a nice trip home and that after you're there you'll continue to write as faithfully as you have before. Please dont let the cubs baseball games interfere with it!

Lots of love,

Jim

J. H. F.
THE DAY, ILLINOI

Illinois Union Building
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

*218 N. Main
Rockford, Ill.*

*Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana Ave.
Mankato, Ill.*



The Associated Press.

Monday morn.

Dearest Jean -

Just a few lines before I go out to dinner. Dixie Smith has a pass to the Palace show tonight so I "consented" to meet him where we were going to eat. I think I'll ask him whether he remembers you.

Yes, I got your letter this p.m. & I always get them the day after you write. Awful you still think you can come & I am certainly looking forward to seeing you. Hope you will be able to decipher my map o.k.

Ruth Hanna got into town Saturday & came into the office this afternoon. I didn't get to meet her & had a terrible time trying to keep busy while she was hanging around. So did everybody else. & we all combed our hair & got fixed up when we heard she was coming. Hope to see you Saturday, dearest. This was written in about 3 minutes & I sure looks it.

Lots of love, Jim

J.S.F.

THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois Union Building
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

618 W. Main
Rockford, Ill



Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana Ave.,
Whitman, Illinois.

The Associated Press.

Wednesday night.

Jean, dear -

I can hardly wait till I see you Saturday, and I hope you don't find that you can't come. If you do come, I also hope it isn't as hot as it is today. We just about melted down in the office this afternoon, but the paper had to come out just the same. And yesterday it rained so hard that I got all wet even with my slicker on. My feet were soaked from 9 to 5 but I guess it didn't do any harm. The best thing to do is to go swimming, but I haven't a bathing suit here + don't know of any place nearby where we could swim anyway.

I think I'll better go to a show tonight cause the shows will be the coolest place in town.

Since starting I've decided that this is the very short letter because it's too hot to write. The sweat is just rolling off of me, drop by drop. Now don't forget to come!

Love to you, Jim.

J.S.F.

THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois Union-Building

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

618 N. Main St.

Rockford, Ill.



Miss Jean Smith,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis,

Minnesota

Prof. W. F. Johnson



The Associated Press.

Tuesday night—

Darling Jean—

yes, you said you like "darling" so I thought I might as well use it -- and then, I don't mind it myself. Your letter I received today was wonderful, especially the latter part, and I hope you remember a little of what was in it. However, I'm sorry we couldn't make connections so as to see each other again tonight, but of course I understand. Instead Paul + I went to the Orph, but I was thinking of you, nevertheless.

Since I left you Sunday night, I've been just living those few hours over again and recalling what a perfect time I had while I could be with you. To me, also, it was the best weekend I have ever spent -- and you, dearest, are the one who made it that way. You must stop here on your way home from Minneapolis -- understand?! What wouldn't I give now if I could have you in my arms and give you a big, long kiss. But from the sad looks of things now, it seems as though

I'd have to wait quite a few weeks for it.

By the way, have you read anything in the papers about "tree-sitters" - boys who are trying to set endurance records for sitting in trees the greatest number of hours. There are 26 kids here in Rockford trying for the record in trees now & by tomorrow there'll probably be a dozen more. I had to write all the stories about them yesterday & today & it's an awfully complicated job keeping the contestants' times straight etc. The town is just going plain nuts over the fad, & I think it's the dumbest idea anyone ever thought of. A few boys in Rockford are starting bicycle, roller-skating & rocking chair marathons too.

There is a Baseball Magazine right under this paper I'm writing on, so you know I'm in the proper frame of mind when I write. Also you know how that we been reading A - 1 literature. If you ever write to Meryl, (?) have her tell Joe to stop & see me when he's here & tell her my address etc. I hope this gets to you in this indirect manner thru the O. of Minn. Don't go swimming & play bridge so much that you can't write, but I do hope you have a glorious time.

Love to my Jean,
Jim

THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois-Union Building

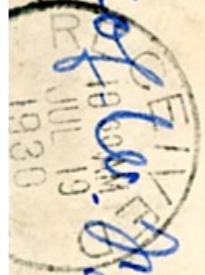
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

1618 N. Main's
Rockford, Ill.



Miss Jean Smith,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota

40 Prof. C. D. Holman,
Rockford, Ill.



The Associated Press.

Thursday nite

Dearest -

I have just returned from Beloit, Wis. where a couple of us went tonight. Courtney has a fraternity brother here who has a car & he took us up. It was the first time I had been in Wisconsin. Early in the evening several of us had to be down in the office to answer phone calls about the Mandell-Singer fight in New York because, you know, Mandell is a Rockford boy. But he was knocked out in the first round so that didn't last long. Then we went over to Bob Jacobs' house & played bridge a while. Later we went for a ride & ended up in Beloit. There's a place up there something like New Prehn's (not as good, of course!) called the Spanish Tavern. We loafed around there quite a while so it is now 62:45 (C.S.T.) and all is well -- because I am writing to you.

I didn't hear from you today but I suppose

you are having a wonderful time in
Minneapolis. Tell me all about what you are
doing because I am interested in everything you do.

I imagine your new green bathing suit is getting
a good workout these days if you are near a lake.

The boys at the office are beginning to take their
vacations now so that files more work on we
unfortunates who are there. Just think of poor
me who doesn't get a vacation till next summer.
And they're giving the boys only 5 days vacation
at that. I guess I'll be lucky if I get home even
late next summer.

Good news - I got a box of cookies from home
yesterday, and they're not all eaten yet.

I'm missing you awfully lot, dear, since
you left Sunday (or Monday, rather). And I'm already
looking forward to seeing you when you return from
Minnesota. By the way, one of the reporters said to me
early this week: "Say, who was that keen-looking
girl I saw you with Saturday night?" So you see,
I'm not the only one that thinks you're good
looking!

I hope you get this Saturday or I might have
a guilty conscience about not writing soon enough.

Love to you, dearie,

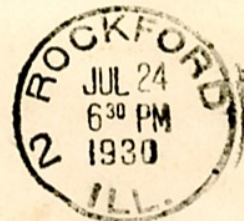
Jim.

J. S. Flagg

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

97 EAST STATE ST.
ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS



Miss Jean Smith,

c/o Prof. W. F. Holman,

University of Minnesota,

Minneapolis, Minnesota..

Wednesday night

Dearest -

It was sweet of you to write to me two days straight as you did Monday & yesterday. I like your letters all the better when I get them after not expecting them when I come home. And don't ever think your letters are too sentimental, for as I told you recently, I like it, when other people are that way.

Today was quite uneventful except that I had to get a picture of a man that had died, and while I was there, I took all four pictures they had of him so the R-B. couldn't have any. It's an eye for an eye & a tooth for a tooth. And this afternoon I got some dope for a Sunday feature on a man here who communicated with Byrd when he was near the south pole.

This morning I happened on to Jack Adams downtown & we went up to the club his mother manages on the top floor of one of the tallest buildings here. It is a kind of a ritzy mid-day luncheon club for women. But Jack knows the cook & had her fix some of the best chicken sandwiches for us. So of course I didn't have to spend much for lunch.

I think the R-B is weakening because they just canned one reporter & have four other

men on "indefinite vacations." So, as our city editor said yesterday, now is the time to deliver the knockout punch. I hope the Republic doesn't decide to lay off anyone very soon.

If you decide to stay in Minnesota only two weeks as you intimated the other day, I guess it won't be long before I can see you again. At least, I hope you can stop off here on your way home. But don't think I'm trying to make you cut your vacation short just so I can see you.

Jean, that letter I got from you Monday was the best yet. And as to comparing it with Peg's - well, it's got it beat by a mile.

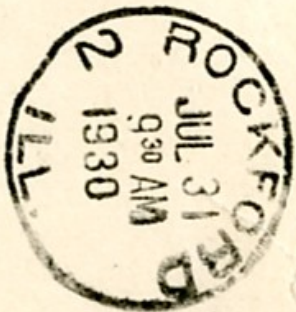
I'm running out of things to write dear, so please forgive me for writing a short letter. And here's hoping I can see you very soon.

Love from your

Jim.

P.S. My choice of stationery seems to get worse every week, doesn't it!

U.S. REG.
IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
THE DAILY REPUBLIC
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS



Miss Jean Smith
c/o Prof. W. D. Holman,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minn.



ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

THE REPUBLIC COMPANY
Publishers

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

Wed. mte.

Jean, dearest - It's hard for me to think that maybe I can't see you this week, but I am still holding out some hope after getting your letter today. I know you'll come if you can, but if you find it too hard to arrange it, of course I'll understand. Tonight I found out when the C + N. W. trains run, I will enclose their time card. However, I suppose you have found out how all the trains run from looking at time tables up there. The D. C. station was closed tonight so I couldn't find out when they leave town etc. If you find that you can stop here I'll be the happiest man in the world!

~~It~~ I had a visitor this morning - Wil Doebelin, a former Edwardsville boy + a very good friend of mine. He graduated from Ill. in '28 with my brother + is now state editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel. About 10 days ago he was married to a former Edwardsville girl who has lived in Milwaukee the last few years + they are on their honeymoon when they dropped in today. I had

lunch with them & we had quite a nice get-together. When I thought of them being on their honeymoon, I secretly hoped that I could experience a time like that myself in the not too distant future, and I couldn't help thinking of you all the time.

I had to cover a convention of the Ill. Telephone Co. today at the Vedras hotel & some of it was awfully boring. They had a luncheon at the hotel & I was invited but it so happened that I had to write my story on the morning session just at the time they were having lunch so as to get it in tonight's paper, so I couldn't accept. But about quarter to one when I was through writing at the office, ~~is~~ came Wib so I was in better company anyway. This was about the first big convention I ever saw where they didn't have a lot of liquor flooding the place. I was so disappointed!

Well, dearest, I'm not exactly counting on seeing you this weekend, but I'll still hold out some hope until you say you can't. And I hope that time doesn't come.

Love from your own,

Jim.

J. S. F.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

107-109-111 SOUTH WATER ST.

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS



Special Delivery

Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana ave.,
Urbana, Illinois.

Office...monday nite,
(or, the night AFTER).....

To the dearest girl in the world---

Needless to say I've been thinking of you all day and I wish I had you right in my arms this minute. It was so wonderful to see you again, and the memory of those few hours will be with me for a long, long time. Everything was perfect this weekend, at least until after I had kissed you goodbye, and you can't imagine how glad I am that I took that "crazy" notion to come down and see you. Please, dear, understand me--I don't get so romantic very often but I just have to this time. I love you so much that I could just crush you in my arms, but the sad part of it is that there is nothing here to crush! Since leaving you last night I have thought of everything you said and did--everything my poor memory would let me--and I have been thinking especially of Saturday night from 1:30 to 3, and of our last half hour together in the station. Every minute with you was wonderful, and even though a newspaper ^{man} is supposed to be able to write, I can't tell you how much I enjoyed it all.

I haven't been very ambitious today, but managed to stagger through all right. It's a good thing I didn't have to do a whole lot of work today or I might have been even too tired to write. You should have had a chance to hear all the remarks hurled at me today down here--such as, "How was the babe" or "Are you still single?" and so forth and so on. I tell you, it's a great life.

When I got to Chicago last night I went up to the apartment where Mart Maher and Harry Neil live, but Mart was out on a date and didn't get back until after I had to go. I saw Harry though and we exchanged "dirt" for quite a while. The train was about an hour late at Chicago, and they didn't start from Champaign until about 20 or 30 minutes after you left. If I had known that--well..... Rockford is the same as ever today except that we've had another gang shooting over Sunday. It doesn't make quite as good a story

as the other one, though, because nobody was killed. We were expecting another outbreak tonight, ~~so~~ but so far nothing has happened. The trouble is that some Chicago bootleggers are trying to take trade away from the Rockford bootleggers and they won't stand for it. So much for the bootlegging situation.

I haven't written to my folks yet, so I guess I'll do that after I finish this letter. They don't write to me any too often either so they won't have any comeback. I think Katherine is coming up to visit Elinor this week, and they said they might come out here Sunday. I hope they do and that K. brings a car with her.

After thinking over yesterday I've decided that I must have had an awful capacity to eat so much in a short time. Perhaps I should be ashamed of myself, but I just couldn't refuse. Your mother is a wonderful cook, and you can tell her so for me.

I'll be looking for a letter from you tomorrow, dear, and I know I won't be disappointed. I'm afraid maybe I'm writing this too late to get it to you tomorrow, so I may send it special if I can get a stamp anywhere.

My love to you, dearest, with a big, long kiss,

Jim

j.s.f.

IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
THE DAILY REPUBLIC
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS



Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana ave.,
Urbana, Illinois.

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

Friday...

Dearest Jean---

It's 4:30 now and I'm all through writing my radio speech and everything and am waiting for Courtney to get through with his work. There hasn't been much doing here today except that the paper came out as usual, and that I had to write two features for this Sunday's paper. They are all done now, thank goodness, and I can rest easily till next week.

I was overjoyed to get a letter from you three days straight this week, so I can hardly hope to have another when I get home tonight. I had a letter from the folks yesterday too and they said they would probably drive up here to see me Aug. 30 or 31. So with Katherine coming over Sunday I will get to see some of my family 2 Sundays in a row.

It looks as though Flaggin' 'Em is going to be revived before long because today I talked with the city editor and he then talked to the managing editor and they decided I should write my column for the sports page Sunday, and write it every week at first and then every other day or so later on. I am sure glad to get to do it again. Although I'm not on the sports staff yet, I may be in a few weeks, and I'm sure I will get to help out a lot on sports during the football season. If I don't put all my time on sports it'll be because they are too tight to hire somebody else in the place I have now. I don't have any idea what I will put in my column for Sunday, but then, one never does till he sits down to the typewriter and writes it.

"A Great Newspaper Growing Greater"

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

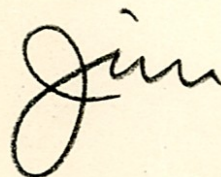
ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

You surprised me the other day by telling me you were going in for heavy reading now, and I suppose you will be a regular literati before long. Then, and not until then, you can be a star in one of Bruce Weirick's classes!

As to your going to Minnesota to school, I think it would be a good idea because I think it does everybody a lot of good to get away from home. I wouldn't go to college in my home town on a bet and I think it's more of a handicap than anything else to be at home while you attending school the last few years. But I realize that there is also another side to the question, and one of the biggest drawbacks in my mind is that I might not get to see you quite as often. To tell you the truth, I think a person gets a broader education of the ways and means of the world by going away to school. But then, of course, you wouldn't know many people up there, and you might not like the girls in your chapter. Well, don't let me influence you too much.... Do as you like and it will be O. K. with me. Yes, I guess it would have to be.

Goodbye dearest, till next time.

Love,



J.S.T.

IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

THE DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

and
Busey

Miss Jean Smith,

802 Indiana ave.,

Urbana, Illinois.



ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

1:40 am. Sunday.

Dearest:

It isn't quite time to go home yet, so I thought I'd write a little note. We had quite a bit of excitement here tonight when there was an auto accident south of town. It happened at 6 o'clock just when I was going out to eat, and instead I had to go out to where the accident was, and was getting all the dope, helping take pictures, and writing about it all evening and with a lot of other stuff to do, didn't get to eat until 10 o'clock instead of 6. There was one man killed and a kid who will probably die. If he's going to die I hope he kicks off before 2 o'clock so we can get it in the paper. After covering the accident, I ate and laid around the sheriff's office the rest of the time.

Did you ever know a guy by the name of Baker '29 from the AKL house? He dropped in here tonight and is from Stillman Valley, wherever that is. Since you are so fond of the AKL's I thought probably you knew him.

I received your letter today and it thrilled me very much to know that Leota Miller wanted a date with me. Sure, I remember her, and I always thought she was a nice girl, but just never thought about dating her.

Flaggin Em made its first appearance in the Republic tonight, and I had just finished it when that accident call came. Now that it's been published, I'm all ready to receive reports of how rotten it is.

"A Great Newspaper Growing Greater"
sez you

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC**ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS**

Paul has contracted the adventuresome habit from his roommate and is going to Chicago tomorrow to see some show that's on the stage there. He is going to stay with Jurgey, the tough-looking guy you met up by the old gym once.

So with him gone, I don't know whether I will be up in time to receive my sister tomorrow or not. Only time can tell.

You might be interested in knowing that Rudy Vallee was in town last night and this morning on his way to somewhere. I was sent up to the Faust to interview him at 8:30 this morning. I called his manager in his room and he tried to tell me that Rudy was out of town for a few hours. But having heard that one somewhere before, I hung around the lobby with the photographer waiting for Rudy to get out of bed. Then the Register-Gazette men came along and four of us went up to his room and pounded on the door, but all he could say was "won't you let a guy get a little sleep." We pounded on the door quite a while and finally went back downstairs and called the manager on the phone. He said if there was much more pounding there would be a couple of fists come out of the door. Har,har. Finally we gave up and decided to pan him in our stories. When I got back to the office I found that a girl on the society staff had called Rudy and he had told her that he would let a WOMAN interview him, but that he didnt like being interviewed by men! So she went up and got a story and even claims he proposed to her.

With that, I think I shall run home and grab some sleep.

Lots of love, dearie,

Jim
"A Great Newspaper Growing Greater"

j.s.f.

IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

THE DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS



Miss Jean Smith,

802 Indiana ave.,

Urbana, Illinois.

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

Office Monday night

Jean, dearest---

While I'm waiting to go up to Rockford high school I might as well use my time the best way possible, and there's nothing better than writing to you. I have to cover a board of education meeting tonight because Bob Jacobs is on his vacation. Here's hoping it doesn't last long or I will be bored to death.

I suppose you are having a good time with Lois these days. Although I've never met her, tell her hello for me and give her my love and all that dontcha know.

Katherine was here yesterday and she brought me a picture for the apartment and washed all the dishes and swept the kitchen and everything, so the place looks civilized again. We don't have time to clean it up in the mornings and are too lazy at night, so there just isn't much done about it. I am to have some more company this week when the folks come. Also Courtney got back this morning and said Jurgey was coming over next weekend too, so I don't know what I'll do with all the company. I also learned over the weekend that my brother and his wife had moved to Hannibal, Mo. to putnup another bridge.

I'm wondering whether you are going to get to come up and see Fran Campbell before school starts. Dixon is only 42 miles from here and if you got that far there surely must be some way to get to Rockford from there. I do hope you can get up either before school starts or soon afterwards because, strange as it may seem, I want to see you again.

"A Great Newspaper Growing Greater"

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

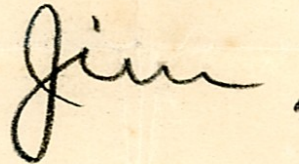
ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

There is a big farm picnic, called the Trask bridge picnic up here Wednesday and I guess I'll have to cover it. They have about 25,000 attend it every year from all,over northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. I've been writing the publicity for it so far and had a feature on it Sunday.

Yes, I guess I'll send you some of my columns some time when I think of it, but they aren't worth a whoop.

It's about time to run over to the high school so bye bye till next time.

Lots of love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

J.S.F.

IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

THE DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS



Miss Jean Smith,

802 Indiana ave.,

Urbana, Illinois.

ROCKFORD DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS

August 27, 1930.

Dearest--

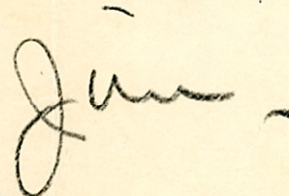
I'm kinda weary tonight because I've been tramping around at a crazy picnic all day--that T_rask bridge picnic you know where 25,000 people come every year. It was the biggest bore, and I had to sit and listen to a congressman speak, and they're even worse than members of the state legislature. He talked for an hour and didnt say anything except that this was a pretty good country we were in and that we should support the Republican party. It seems like I've heard speeches like that somewhere before. Well, the only thing that happened all day was that some S_wedish woman was hit in the jaw by a batted ball at the ball game and I phoned that in for the last edition. H_ad to use an old country telephone where you turn a crank to get central--like we have at M_oro, by the way. I never saw so many farmers in one group before in my life, and dont want to again for quite a while. The women were all gossipping and the men threw horseshoes and played ball etc etc...

So you think I'm a hard-hearted gent. Well, you havent heard anything yet but I guess I wont tell you any more or I might get bawled out worse than last time! I didnt know I was so hard on the people in the auto accident but perhaps you were right. But remember, you always were more sentimental than I was.

The folks wrote yesterday and said they would be up saturday so I guess maybe I'll get the apartment cleaned again (not before they come). Jurgey is coming over saturday morning and will probably go back Monday morning.

I think I'll go home and go to bed, dearest. I'm not very ambitious tonight.

Love to you,



Special Delivery

Miss Jean Smith,
802 Indiana ave,
Urbana, Illinois.

ROCKFORD
AUG 30
10 PM



Saturday night.

Jean, dearest -

Please accept my deepest sympathy for what happened and I want to extend it to your mother, as well. Although I have never had an experience of this kind, I think I know just how you feel, and I only wish that I could be with you right now to try to comfort you.

I could hardly believe your telegram when I received it this evening. It came before I had a chance to read your letter telling of your father's illness, and I couldn't imagine what had happened.

I know it will be dreadfully hard on you, dearest, but please try and bear up under it all the best you can.

Jean, just remember that this is one of the things that must come to all of us during a lifetime, and please be brave and remember that I want to do all I possibly can for you.

Dearest, I am dreadfully sorry,
but I find that it will be simply impossible
for me to attend the funeral. I know
that, above all times, you want me to be
with you the next few days, but I just
can't get away from here. Dearest, you
must understand me when I say this, and
I think you will. If it was on a Sunday
I would probably be able to come, but as it
is, the office will not let me go because
we are short of men now with several
taking vacations. My folks, who are here
this weekend, thought I should go too, but
I find that it is impossible.

But remember, Jean dear, I will be thinking
of you through thick and thin, and I would
give anything if I could be with you to
comfort you at such a time as this.

Again, I want to offer my most sincere
regrets, and remember, I will be in love
with you always.

Jim.