



U. S. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER
BAINBRIDGE, MARYLAND

15 Nov. 1952

Dear Mom & Dad,

I received both of your letters and I love the picture. In fact I cut it smaller and put it in my billfold. I'm dying to see little Mike. I can see that he's put on some weight. He's cute. It's been raining here all day. It looks like it might snow soon. I hope so.

The last two days I haven't been feeling too good. I had the runs from 4:30 am to 6:00 am. I should have moved my bunk into the head (bathroom).

We're no longer a Junior Company but a Senior Co. now since we're through with service week.

When a Company and its sister Company is close to graduation, they pick a girl from each Co. to be an honor student and one to be an American Spirit Wave. Sometimes if one is lucky she holds both titles. To be an honor Wave, a girl has to have good marks, then her teachers give a vote, then the Battalion MAA (who inspects all the barracks for cleanliness and gives a report on it) and then the Company Commander gives her opinion. Today they gave us girls the names of four girls to vote on. Guess what, I was one. Boy was I surprised! Everyone here is pulling for me. As for the

title of the American Spirit Wave, it could be one of the Honor Waves or one of the other Waves. Whoever is picked has to go to the Captain, which is a man, and he has charge of the whole camp here. He interviews the Waves and he knows nothing about the girl at all not even about her marks or anything. He questions her about everything under the sun. Then he and he alone picks the girl to be the American Spirit Wave. It's a fair judge. A medal is given to these two girls who are chosen. We won't know who it is until morning quarters and then the Lt. Com. announces it in front of the whole regiment of Waves. Then the girls stand on the review stand and take the review and salutes each Company when it passes in review. It's a great honor and a privilege. So say a prayer for me. I'll know if I make it by next Saturday.

I got a letter from Henry yesterday.

As for Rosie, I think she's still looking for a guy with money. She told me before I left that she was thinking of enlisting. I think it was the WACS she wanted. I say seeing is believing in her case. I know that she and Julia thought that I was shooting the bull when I told her about my going in the Navy.

Bonnie doesn't have a phone. It's a neighbor's phone she uses. I got a letter from one of the girls in the office and she said that she was going to write her. So I'm going to ask her for Bonnie's address. If I don't hear from Bonnie, I'll place a call to her when I get

³ home for I believe she is staying at the YWCA.

I received a letter from Aunt Anna and she acts like a mother. She says not to believe the men and to know all about their background before I get serious. Isn't she cute?

I'm writing this letter fast and the radio is playing plus the girls are making a racket. So you can expect mistakes galore.

Next Saturday and Sunday we have another liberty but I think I'll stay on the base for I have no urge to go.

Aunt Anna sent me some money to buy my Xmas present and I bought two shirts.

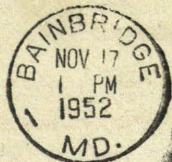
Monday we go into our blue uniforms for the winter. All I'll have to wash is blouses instead of dresses. Am I glad.

Well I'll guess I'll sign off for now and I'll be looking for the box.

Love and Kisses
Irene

P.S. I should be getting my dog tags soon.

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