

Chicago, Illinois

June 6, 1948

My little Darling,

You should be in the city this week-end; it seems as though every other Swede is here. Just now I am listening to the centennial worship service over station W. M. B. I. This is the same station on which your father spoke and Elaine sings on in her chorus and solo work. C. George Erickson of our own conference just read the Scriptures. The meeting is being held in the Moody Memorial Church, the largest church in the city and perhaps the most influential Christian church in all America. They are thoroughly fundamental. A number of my friends from the city and from Wheaton attend there. H. William Nordin, the director of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club (and my tentative vocal teacher for the fall) is the director of the centennial 300 voice choir. Just now the Arch-bishop of Upsala ~~just~~ began to speak. My crazy sister Elaine is sitting across the table, and between her joking and the arch-bishop, I'm having an awful time to type. I hope you will bear with me. Mom and Dad are at the service at the Moody church, so it is only Elaine and I home (it should be Dodo and I).

The meeting on ~~Saturday~~ <sup>Friday</sup> night was well attended, filling an auditorium holding about 20,000 people. I believe everyone was impressed. Most rallies of that type of other nationalities are rather noisy and there are those selling liquor. But on Friday night it was more like a church service. The meeting was opened with prayer by the dean of North Park Swedish Covenant School. This school, on the North side of the city, is a fine Christian institution. Without exception, I believe everyone on the committee planning the centennial were outstanding Christian men (C. George Erickson representing our conference, . Other acquaintances of Dad's <sup>WETA</sup> ~~was~~ also on the committee. Then on Friday night a huge chorus sang, "A Mighty Fortress is My God." In the course of the evening ~~the~~ Prince Bertil spoke (and excellent English). Of course, the high-light of the meeting was a speech by President Truman. He mentioned particularly the religious contribution of the Swedish people (which every one appreciates in America). There were a number of other fine numbers, including a talk by America's outstanding poet, Carl Sandberg. During the whole week-end, all the Chicago papers

have been head-lining the centennial. As for myself, I don't dare wear my vest anymore for fear of popping all the buttons. They make mention that of all the Swedes in the world, one-fourth are in America. But as far as I am concerned, that is not enough; it should be one-fourth and ONE. Do You understand what I mean?

This wee<sup>K</sup>-end I have been hitting the books rather hard. Starting Tuesday, as you know, my exams continue. On Tuesday morning I start out with a Bible test. On Thursday at six o'clock I finish with a test in Archaeology. So, you see, I'll be kept quite busy.

About a quarter of a mile from where we live is the Swedish Baptist old peoples home, called Fridhem. Two of the fellows representing Upsala are staying there. Yesterday I went up there and had the privilege of meeting them. The director of the home there is a good friend of the family. I believe these two fellows and I talked for two or three hours. I asked them much about the Swedish educational system. I tried to compare it with the American education methods, but found such rather difficult. In about a week I believe I'll go down to the University of Chicago and ask a lot of questions. If anyone should know and can compare the systems of education, they should be able to. Whether or not it will be possible for me to make any change I don't know. As far as standards are concerned, there are few or few American schools higher than Wheaton. I'll let you know the results of my "research."

The wisdom of my going to Sweden is sometimes doubted. Neither Dad nor Mother are too well and I believe it might be my duty to remain near home. I have been getting home every week or two and have been helping with various jobs around the house. This has taken the burden of the heavier work off the shoulders of Dad. He has never had a sick day in his life; but lately he has developed a bad heart. In his younger days he was in business and worked too hard and this is probably an after effect of that. He may live for a long time and he may go tomorrow. But, I'm sure it is in the Lord's hands. Of course, I still want to come for a visit (if you want me). And you had better say that you do want me!!!!!! But again, the wonderful will of our Lord be done.

The chorus on the radio just sang "Ingin-bora." That is the way it sounds; I'll let you decide what it means. Just now a former member ~~and~~

of our church is playing the violin. Mother and her used to go out together as they were growing up. Her name is Mrs. Jernberg. Mrs. Jernberg has now finished and Dr. Anderson of the Covenant school (president) is now speaking.

Well, Sweetheart, I'd better get back to my books. There is much to say; it will have to wait.

I am not looking forward to the exams; but I am looking forward to getting to my mail box. Do you know why? And remember, now as always, I love you. I covet only your love for me. But even more, I covet the Lord's will for me.

All my love to you my Sweetheart,

Bernie  
x

P. S. Dr. Anderson has finished his speech. He mentioned about a Swedish friend of his who payed a bill in a certain store. The store-keeper offered to give him a receipt. But he declined to take it, saying that God knew that he paid his bill. the store-keeper laughingly asked him if he still-believed in God. The Swede answered "yes," and asked if he merchant didn't. The answer was "no." Then the Swede said, "In that case I'd better take the receipt." Pretty good, huh? And it sure is the truth; all that we are is truly by the grace of God. Prince Bertil has just said a few words and now C. George Erickson is presenting the arch-bishop a Christian flag. The Swedish flag was formerly given to the committee; now they are presenting the Prince with an American flag, the good old red, white, and blue. And now apparently the meeting is being closed with the American national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner." No. there is now the benediction and the three-fold "Amen." Good-bye, Sweetheart, I'll be thinking of you always. (mentioned that 7 seven thousand attended the meeting and hundreds turned away and that C. George Erickson was the chairman of the service).

Always something. From here on you had better address my mail to my Chicago home: 11342 S. Church Street, Chicago, Illinois.