

Alva Oklahoma Jan. 1947

Dear Sister-in law Emma.

Since the holidays are over and all the children went home or are back to work I am again by myself, therefore I will write a few lines to you and tell you how we spent Christmas here. All my children and grandchildren came to visit me; all in all 21. 5 children, 3 son-in-laws, 1 daughter-in-law and 12 grandchildren, yes, that was a family reunion, a great joy for me. If this will be possible/ happen again in my life nobody knows.

Now to you; how was it for you? Hopefully you received some information that Herbert is still alive; I do hope you heard from him. We are now in the year 1947; what will it bring us/have in store for us, hopefully not another war, but a good reasonable peace, that would be good for the whole world. How unspeakable and gruesome are the consequences of this war; I read in a daily newspaper January 7, that in Berlin alone in the month of January 1946 1809 people committed suicide to avoid dying from hunger; oh, that is dreadful/atrocious.

Dear Emma I hope you and Anna received the packages; I would like to send more if only I knew they arrived. My children as well as all my other relatives want to help. Please let Anna and the other relatives know that we consider it our duty to help now that you are facing such hardship. For clothing and shoes we need to know the heights, bust measurements and for shoes put the foot on the piece of paper where you write the letter, use a pencil and trace around the foot that would be helpful in getting a fairly accurate measurement.

Now I want to address more about your last letter; as you mentioned, Herbert was married but is divorced from his wife; it was better for him, he would not have wanted to live with a woman like that.

You are under the impression that Hildegard lives with me since she is unmarried; however, she teaches in New Mexico. First, she really enjoyed her school years/college education in that state; second, in New Mexico teachers get a better salary/higher pay. And thirdly, she has already taught 20 years and is eligible for a pension should anything happen and she could not work anymore. She spends between 6 weeks to 3 months a year here with me.

Anna wrote that her Father and Mother are both dead. God rest their souls.

Right after Christmas, December 27, 1946 it got cold; on the 28<sup>th</sup> we had 15 below and snow came with it. Hildegard had come by automobile and was expected to be back home by January 6<sup>th</sup> but since the roads were covered by snow drifts she did not leave here until January 6<sup>th</sup>. It took her 2 days, other times she can make it in one day.

Here we are all well and I wish that these lines reach you and all other relatives in good health as well.

With this I remain as always your brother-in-law

Gustav

Side remark: please let us hear from you when you and Anna receive the packages so we know.<sup>a</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> This letter was returned to sender/see cross reference #18 Berlin January 28, 1947/ Oskar Koerner