

Kansas Memory



Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

Section 20, Pages 571 - 600

This is a collection of letters written by Wesley Tally and Elsie Hasenbank in the mid-1930s. During this time, Wesley and Elsie were dating and the letters tell about their developing relationship. In 1933 and 1934, Wesley was a teacher in Council Grove, Kansas, and worked part time for the telephone company. Elsie worked as a housekeeper and au pair for several families in Emporia, Kansas. Elsie also spent some time in Fort Riley and Alma. In March 1935, they wrote about the dust storms and how they impacted their lives. That same year Wesley had difficulties finding a job and he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp. He was sent to Camp Burns Lake at Cass Lake, Minnesota, where he served in the 1765 Company working in the forests of northern Minnesota. Wesley describes the work he performed in the camp and his leisure activities. Elsie wrote about her work, the weather, her family and friends, and her leisure activities. After leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps in April 1936, Wesley enrolled in the Davey Tree Expert Co. He left the tree service training before finishing the course and returned to Kansas. The last few letters are about their impending marriage and moving to Kansas City, Kansas, to live. A searchable transcription is available by clicking 'Text Version' below.

Creator: Tally, Wesley, 1909-1977

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I got a card from Raymond to-day. He said he was chosen in the this, and probably in the mixed octette in school. He said he also got his class ring. There were six families of friends and relatives at our house to celebrate Raymond's birthday last Sunday.

The folks plan to come to Emporia either Saturday or Sunday to visit with us.

Kay is going to be alone to-night, so she is going to come over and get me, so I can sleep with her.

I received your letter mailed on March 2nd yesterday and it was very glad to know you were o.k. I am feeling fine again too. I sewed my other blouse dress yesterday.

It seems like news are about the scarce things around here, at least I don't hear many.

Lora said she was still using the little store and to tell you she still enjoyed it very much. It surely won't seem very long now until school will be over again.

Well, a week will soon be gone of March. It can't go too fast to suit me, because then maybe I will be seeing you again, which will surely seem good. I don't know how I did without that big picture of you before, because I surely enjoy it and look at it very often. Everyone who has seen it said it surely was good looking. and that you must be

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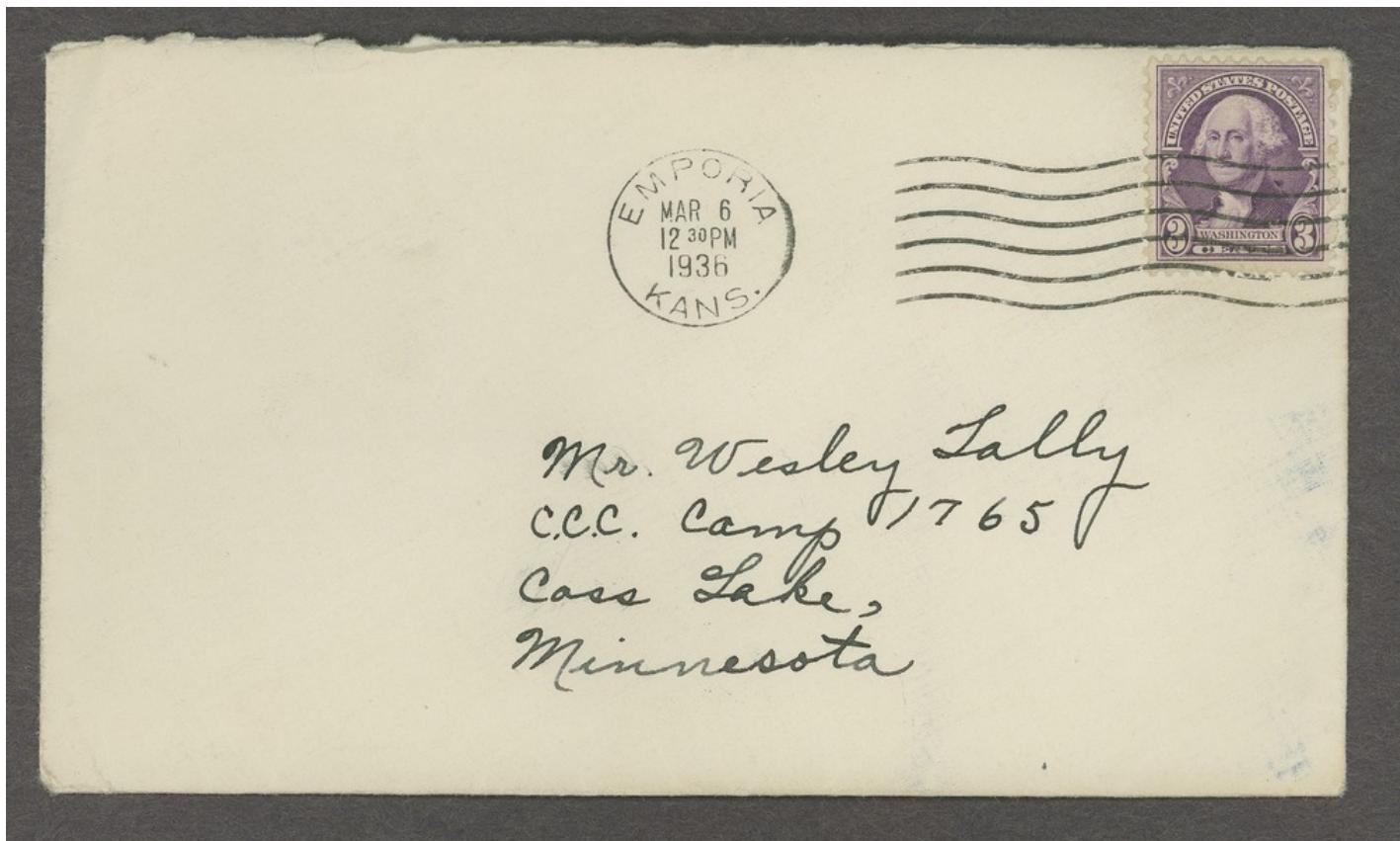
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a very nice young man, but that was
not anything new, because I already
knew you were all that.
It is about time for Kay to come
so I will close for now.

Love to you,
Elsie

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Cass Lake Minn
March 8, 1936

Dearest Elsie:

I find seems to be the
night for writing letters so I will
try to write a short one to you.
Part of the boys have gone to
Tatun and the rest are all
either reading or reading letters.
I am sitting here in its office
trying to think of something
to write about. I can't write
about the stars & moonlight
because it is cloudy and the
stars & moon are not able to
shine through so without
moonlight it is hardly possible
to get very romantic. If I was
with you I could probably get
that way without the moon.
How have you been making
in the past few days? I have

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been going along just fine
working hard and waiting for the
time to pass.

We however had only very cold
weather this past week. It would
have more frost night but was
not cold.

It is quite possible that cl will
be home before the end of this
month. I am not sure yet ~~as to~~ and
I will let you know just as soon
as I know. I think I will be there
about the 20th.

I got a letter yesterday telling
me to report to West on April
6th, for training on my job. I
want to spend a few days with you
first so I will have her just
as soon as I can.

We have many things to talk
about and plans to make.

See "Waney" I can hardly wait
to take you in my arms and squeeze
you tight and give you a great
big kiss.

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I heard some good programs over the radio last night. The best ones came on about 9:00 o'clock or later. Before that time there are so many programs on that they bother each other.

Did you get my last letter before our? In case you didn't start at the outside of the first page and follow the lines around until you come to the center, on the second page, start with corners and read out.

I got a letter from Beulah the other day and she seems quite lost with her boy friend gone.

They just finished filling the ice house here at the camp. The ice was cut right out of the lake in chunks weighing about 450 pounds each. The ice on the lake is about 32 inches thick.

"Wards of Law"
Wesley

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24 Merchant
Emporia, Kansas
March 9, 1936

Dear Wesley,

It seems good to think one week is gone out of March. I hope the others go still faster, because then I will get to see you.

The folks came down yesterday and I surely did enjoy visiting with them. They liked your picture very much. Dad said he surely liked the calendar too. Raymond got a nice new suit and Sara also got a blue Spring suit. I liked it very much. Raymond forgot to put on his class ring after washing his hands, just before he left home and he surely hated it, because he

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wanted Alvin and I to see it.

Mary and Bernal came Friday evening and we had a very nice visit. I had Bernal give me a shampoo and wave Saturday afternoon. I think she did a very nice job.

We are having real spring weather. I took the hose and scrubbed the porch, both the front and back porch, the side walk and some of the windows. They will probably be dusty again by evening because we haven't had any rain yet, but they were so full of dust I just couldn't have them that way any longer.

I didn't have time to start this letter until now 11:00 clock and it is a lost time for the postman; so maybe I will not get it mailed until this PM.

I plan to wash to-morrow; so I tried to clean up the house to-day, so I could get to my washing a little earlier to-morrow morning.

I guess maybe it is a little warmer up there now too, is it not?

What did you do yesterday? I hope it was an enjoyable day for you. I enjoyed myself very much because the folks got to come up or down.

Well, the postman just went past and I read your cute letter. I could read it alright, but you surely would have had a good laugh if you would have seen me turning the letter and read it. I had to laugh so while I was reading it, that I hardly knew all I read when I finished it. I am going to read it again though.

I guess you won't need to spark me, because I was good and my throat is feeling fine.

I surely hope you can get in the office at Kansas City, so you won't be so far away.

Have you been reading about Germany and France? I wonder if they will go to fighting. I hope not, because war

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is a terrible thing.

P.M. same day - I tried attempt to write this letter. Well, I'd just put my finger on the flour of the porch and was it ever full of dust. One would never know I scrubbed it. The wind is blowing, and so it is carrying plenty of dust around.

There ~~is~~ must be a fire somewhere because the fire truck just went out some place. It is an awful day for a fire.

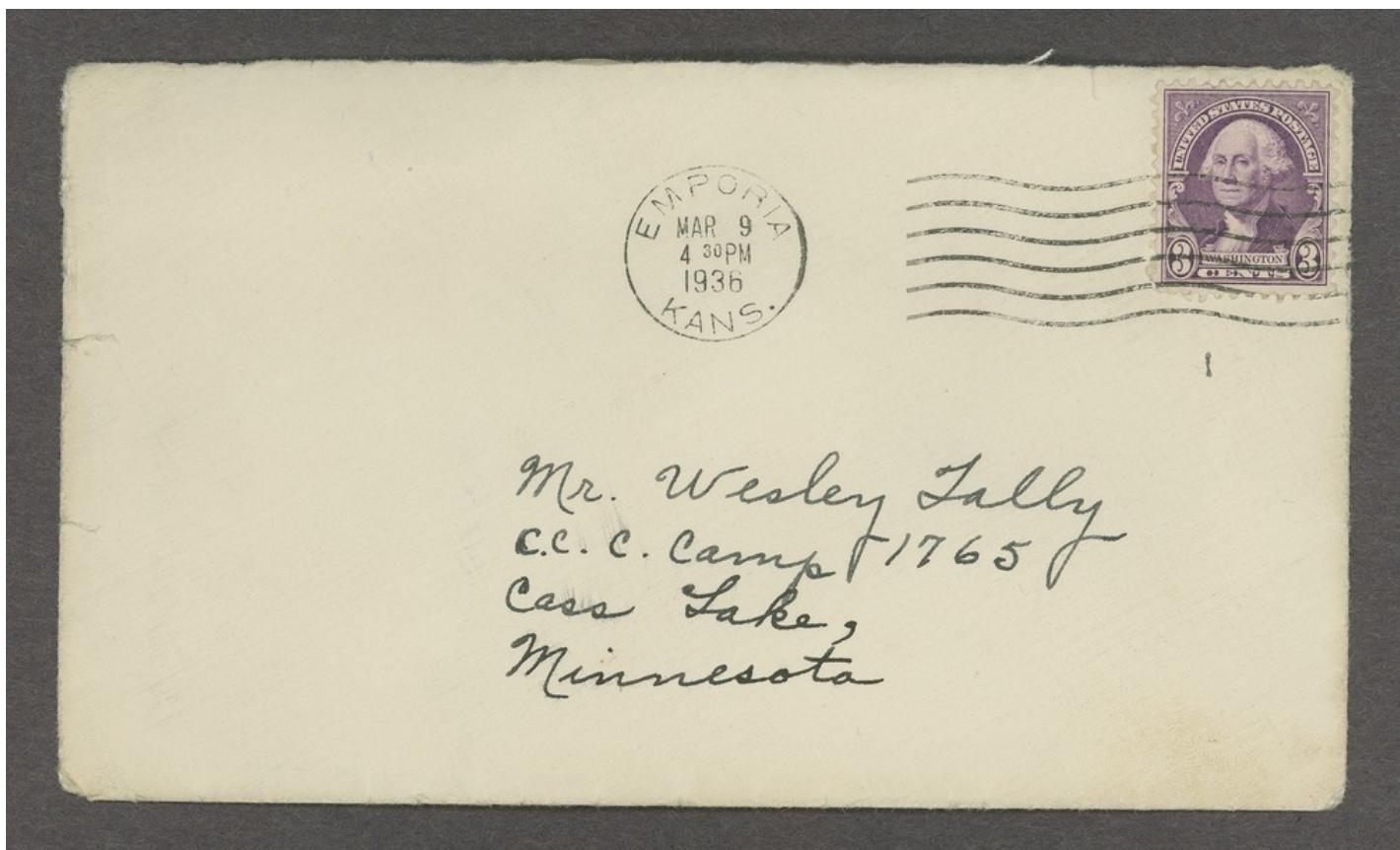
The radio must have been playing "The Music goes Around and Round," while you were writing to me. Ha! at least I felt like I was going round and round when I finished reading it. Well, I just can't think of anymore to say only that I enjoyed hearing from you even if I did have to go round and round to hear from you.

With love,
Elsie

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Cass Lake, Minn
March 11, 1936

Dear Elsie,

I guess winter is with us again for a few days. It has been fairly warm here the past few days. This morning it was 34 above at 7:00 o'clock and about an hour later it started getting colder. To-night it is down to almost zero again. It snowed again to-day also.

You know, I sometimes think that the weather is the most talked of subject in letters and other conversation. It is something that everyone is interested in and makes something to talk about.

I started to get ready to write this letter about an hour ago but just as I got started something else came up and I was delayed for awhile.

It sure will be messy around here when the snow all melts. It has already melted some and

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formed slush. It will probably freeze again to-night.

I sent my "dad" a card this morning. Friday of this week will be his 56th birthday. I don't know how I came to remember it but I do. Birthdays is something that is hard for me to remember sometimes & almost forget my own.

I got your most welcome letter this morning or rather this afternoon. We didn't get our mail today until about 1:30 this afternoon.

I sure was glad to hear from you again.

Is Raymond a junior or a senior in Highschool? He told me weekend was their Christmas break seems to have forgotten.

I think I will scrub the office floor to-morrow. It hasn't been scrubbed for sometime and could stand a good cleaning.

How are you getting along with the new member of the family? I hope she doesn't make you any more work.

To-day is the eleventh day of the last month & will be my

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here. & has made it less
days until I will be back and give
you a lot of "Loving."

The camp was inspected yesterday
by Major Birks, an officer from
Fort Riley. He didn't find much
wrong with us. He only asked me
two questions and I was able to
answer both of them.

I have been reading the papers and
listening to radio reports about France
and Germany. I don't believe that
they will start fighting for awhile.
But, and even if they do I believe the
United States will be wise
enough to stay out of it, at least
I hope so.

Our radio here in the office
is on the blip to-night so
I can't listen to any music
so I guess I will have to go
to bed shortly.

almost two weeks of this month
gone now and I am the much
closer to being with you again.

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When I got started to work and our
lucky enough to get assigned to
work out of the Wmns city office
I will get to see you more often.

I am glad that Mother & Dad
Hasenbank liked the picture. I hope
they will like me as a son-in-law
also. Tell them hello for me and
give my regards to them.

I have been writing altogether
and haven't said much so I guess
I will quit and go to bed.

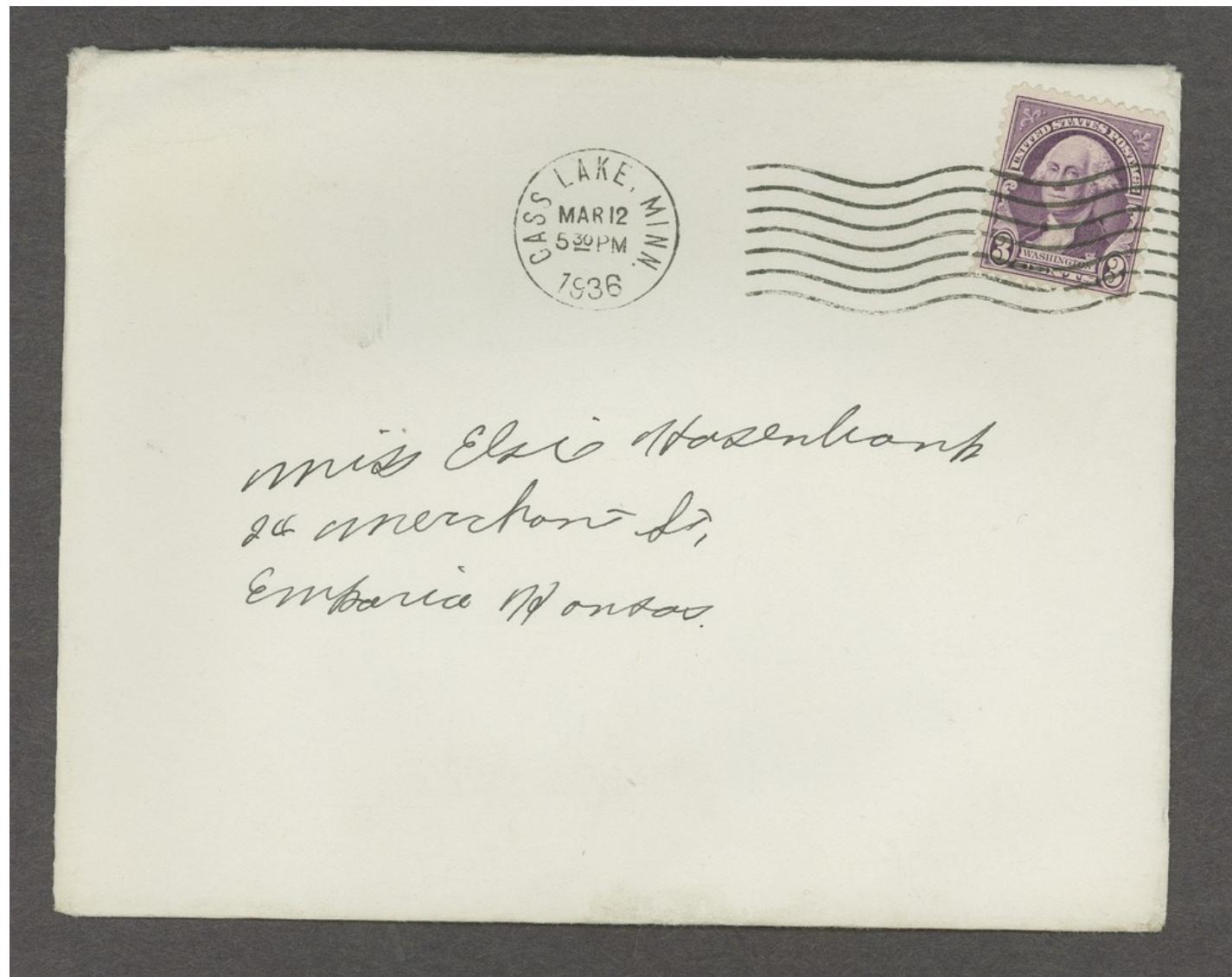
Dont work too hard.

Yours truly,
Wards of Lake

Wesley

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24 Merchant St.,
Emporia, Kansas
March 12, 1936

Dear Wesley,

your letter mailed on
the nineteenth came yesterday
P.M. and I surely was glad to
hear that you may be here
soon, because you can not
get here too soon to please
me.

We had slightly cooler
weather the past few days, but
the forecast is for more warm
weather to-morrow. I read in

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the paper to-night that Minnesota had more snow, so I guess your place is still cold.

To-night was bank night at the theater, but I didn't go. Polykes did go though and they said a lady got \$80.00. At least she was happy over that much money.

To-morrow is Friday already. I may have a guest for dinner to-morrow night, a girl friend of Harriet's, the girl who is visiting here and going to Emporia business college.

Sunday is my cousin in Florence's birthday and my cousins here in Emporia are going to take Alvin and I along to help celebrate the birthday.

I hope to be seeing you by a week from Sunday and maybe before.

The lake surely must have a big sum of ice on it. That would really be a big block of ice, which they cut from the lake up there.

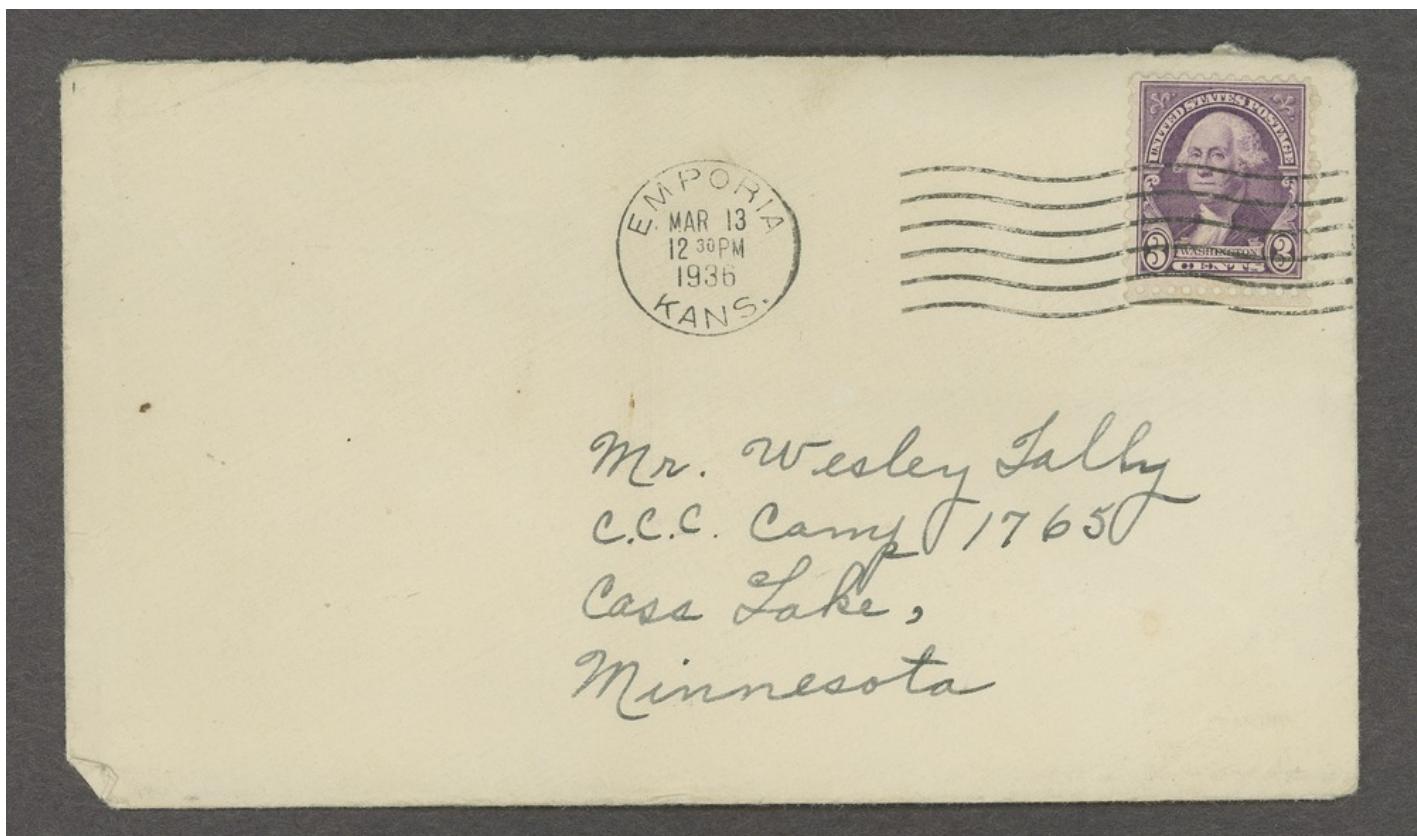
If I should get a letter from you in which you said you were going to be here this Sunday; you could count on me being here, because it would have to be awful important if I did leave.

Well, I just don't know anything new to say so I guess I will get ready for bed. I went to church, a Lenten service, with my cousin Wed. eve. Hoping to see you soon, and that you are O.K. I am fine. The air is still filled with dust. With love,

Elsie

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Cass Lake, Minn
March 14, 1936

Dearest Elsie,

Yesterday was Friday the 13th and nothing unusual happened to me. I thought at first I would stay in bed to make sure that nothing could happen to me, and then I decided that perhaps I had better get up and keep on the watch for bad luck.

I will probably be on my way home by the time you get this letter. I am leaving here sometime Tuesday morning. I will be home, I think by Thursday about noon.

"Gosh" I can hardly wait to see you again. The next two days here will seem the longest ones since I have been here.

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The snow is still with us here.
It snowed again to-day, not much
but enough makes a light blanket
or top of what was already on
the ground.

I haven't done too very much
the past two days. I have been
teaching my successor a few tricks
of the trade.

I don't know much to write about
to-night except that I sure will
be glad to howick you again for
awhile.

Most everybody around headquarters
is gone to-night. Back the officers
again Remondi and most of the boys
have gone to town.

For myself I am being a good
little boy and staying at home.

according to the papers and radio
some of the state south of here has
already been having floods due to melt-
ing snow. I think all the snow we

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have here a rapid thaw could very
easily cause a flood.

I am so anxious to get started
on my way home that I don't
think of anything to write about
so I think I will go to bed now
and maybe write a little more
in the morning.

I love you a lot "dear" and will
always do my best to make you
happy.

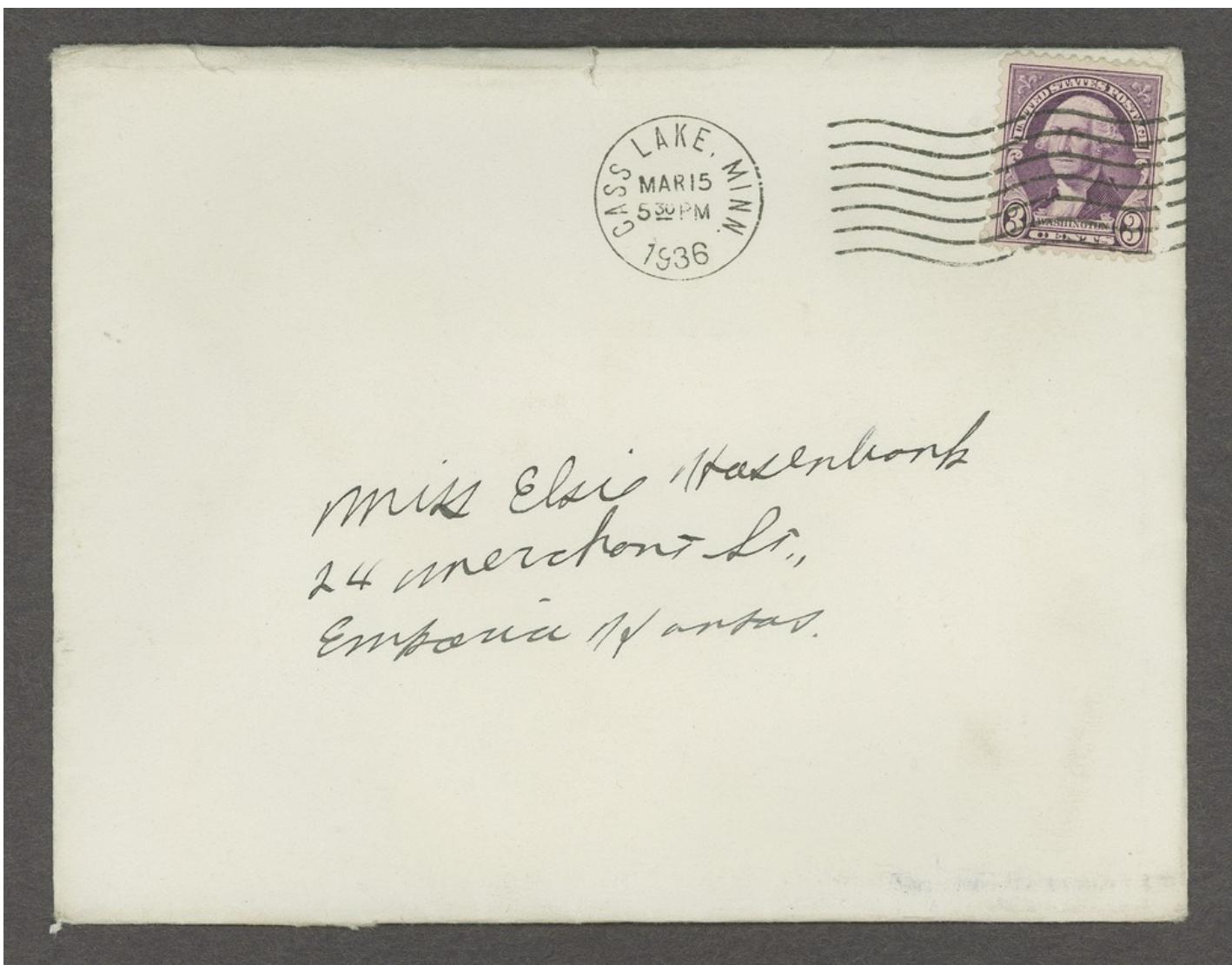
Lane
Wesley

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Chicago, Ill
43-36

Dear Elsie,

You will probably wonder why I am writing from Chicago, well its because Kansas City was about 10 minutes late so I missed the 8:40 by way of St. Louis.

By coming this way I will arrive in Illinois at 11:15 A.M. instead of 5:25 A.M. I arrives in Chicago at about 3:30 P.M.

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afternoon and will leave
7:15 after train 6:20.

Had a nice trip so far, there
is quite a bit of snow on the
ground here in Chicago and
the weather quite cold.

I will write more just as
soon and get to Kent.

Love,
Wesley

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NM	= Night Message
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1936 MAR 15 AM 8 23

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ELsie HASTENBANK=

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FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

STARTING HOME TUESDAY=

WESLEY.

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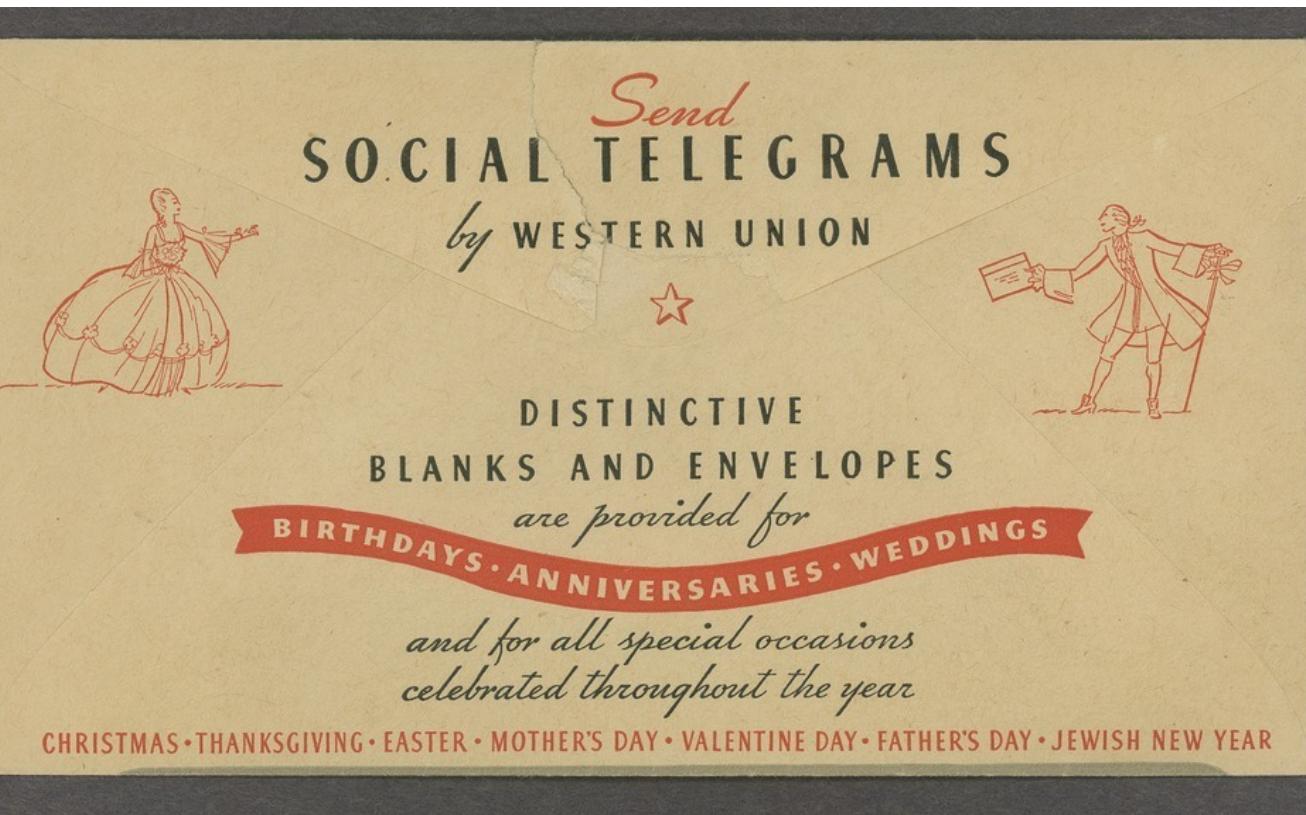
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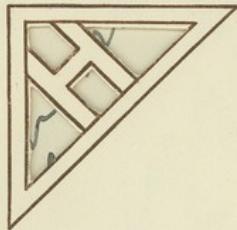


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24 Merchant St.,
Emporia, Kansas
April 3, 1936

Dear Wesley,

It seems like a long time since I have seen you already, but maybe I will get more used to not seeing you in a few days even if I do miss you. You will be at Kent, I hope, when this letter gets there. If you aren't there when you receive it let me know ^{as}! if such a thing were possible.

Alvin walked home with me and I washed the dishes and cut his hair and Mrs. Osdyke popped some corn and we ate