

12 April 1943

Dear Dr. Staughton,

Two weeks ago I received letters from both Dr. David Kaiser and Mr. Baetz, informing me of your acceptance of the position of first stewardship secretary of The United Lutheran Church. Yesterday I finally got Wagner's February Bulletin. First of all Prof, my heartiest congratulations!

Perhaps you remember that I have attended an Augustana Synodical convention, (the implication being that I have at least a superficial knowledge of church organization) and so have some idea of the size of the job you are undertaking. Sincerely, I don't believe a finer man could have been elected.

Wagner has made tremendous progress to the good while you have been its president, perhaps phenomenal would be a better word. Why? Well, it hasn't all

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been due to you Prof., but to you goes the
lion's share of the credit. And here of course
I could make a long list of your attributes
and achievements, but like Al Smith, I'll
say "look at da record."

Mr. Baez thinks the world of you.
I am afraid he is now somewhat
apprehensive of Wagner's future. I had a
chance to talk to him when I was in
California. Palo Alto, where he lives, is
one of the prettiest little towns I have ever
seen. His daughter's health has shown
considerable improvement, mainly due to
California's sunny clime. (Dean Klintop
would mutter something about being trite
on that one.)

Mother and Dad are both well, and
quite cheerful. Naturally being somewhat
of a nomad, I haven't heard from them for
weeks.

Three

I might mention that back in the States, (State-side as it is known here) I qualified for o.c.s., Chemical Warfare. However, my shipping orders for overseas duty came first, so yours truly is a rifleman. Funny tho it might seem, they (riflemen) are pretty important over here, and I can understand Uncle Sam's recent avariciousness in gobbling them up first. Any young fellow, in good health, being inducted in the Army now, has one chance in one hundred of not being in the infantry.

Since leaving Seattle, Washington, I have taken a few boat rides. I can assure you that the trips were a bit longer than the nickle one I used to get on the S.L. Ferry. The most important place I have been was on Oahu, the home of Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, and Waikiki Beach. The Hawaiian Islands

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are attractive if you don't look too thoroughly. I was most ~~the~~ interested in the type of vegetation growing there, which, as one would expect, is both abundant and varied. Sugar cane and pineapple raising are the main industries.

On one occasion, we had been out in the jungle eating rations for too long a time to suit us. So being Epicureans, we decided to stomp off that nite and try to find some native cafe, even tho the menu would afford little more than monkey meat. So we went crashing thru the bushes that dark nite and finally hit one. Mine? Ham and Eggs! On our way back we stumbled into a genuine native hula hula dance!

At present I am in the Mariana Islands. They are fairly large, certainly look better than some of the coral atolls I have seen, but of course are not quite as well

Five
developed as Brooklyn. The nasty Nips are
still dashing around in the hills in a
most undignified fashion. A round about
are studied grim reminders that Sherman
was a man who spoke from experience.

I am starting to pick up Pidgin English.
(Melanesian). Although State side this may
be thought of as the babblings of a
Chinese laundry man, and while it would
make very bad reading in an advanced
English Literature class, it is definitely a
very useful thing to know down under.
Especially when you want to ask a
native which subway to take to get to the
nearest ice cream parlor.

It must have been devised by a
Republican, because it does make some
sense. viz:

tree = dingah ; baby = pickaninny
hence: fruit from a tree = pickaninny belong
em dingah.

Six

hair = grass belong em head
female = many
girl = monkey many
boy = monkey

They tapped an Isaac Newton haucuer,
in deriving their mathematics:

one (1) = one pella
twelve (12) = two pella ten two
one thousand (1000) = too mas [much]

The pidgin English of personal pronouns
is comical:

you = you fella
I = me fella
we = us fella
everyone = altogether fella

While the natives would never
take first prize on their knowledge
of Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," they
do know what to do and how to get
along in the jungle sans a Saturday
night pay check. This learning they have
passed on to G. L. to help win the
battles against the brush.

Seven

Naturally, we live fairly primitively. Not that we roam about in leopard skins, but if this were the Astor, I should most certainly complain to the manager.

The heat is fine. An ice house would do a terrific business here.

The good thing about living out here of course, is the fact that you can give an annual Brox cheer to the Income Tax Collector.

Now I'll have to watch my "p's and Q's," especially about that adjective "good." As I remember, you spent a whole hour at Tottenham High School lecturing on the proper use of the word "good" and there I went breaking all the rules.

Honestly, I have meant to write for some time. First of all I wanted some clean white paper and ink for my pen. I write thus to all respectable people over forty.

Eight

It might interest you to know that many more men are reading the Bible than on State side. Over there the craze was Detective Mysteries, the blabber the better. However, a man can mature mentally very rapidly. The words of our Lord have making a deep impression on us, and is there any poetry that will bring the heart of man closer to God than the magnificent simplicity of the Psalms?

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Staughton, Jeanne, and Donald.

And to you Prof. — my very fondest hopes and sincerest wishes.

Very truly yours,
Poland

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mail

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