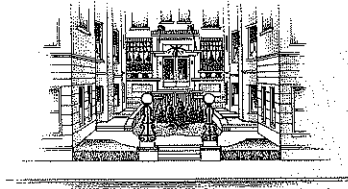


1-1

The  
CORTLANDT HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE



Friday night Jan. 22  
1937

dearling Mother:

This letter will be in installments,  
As there's no mail service, it's useless to  
mail letters -

The rain turned to sleet about 3 - 30  
P.M. brought me on home, as the streets  
are quite slick. I got oranges, grapefruit,  
bread & butter in case of a shortage during  
these next few days.

Down town everything is closed except  
Blue Board & several other eating places.  
No street cars except on 4th. Electric  
signs out, only a few people on the  
street - I've never seen the place  
so deserted as it is tonight -

There's no telegraphic service to E town or Glasgow -  
but the girl said the line to B.G. was  
clear. I hope you got the wire - as I  
don't want you to worry. High water  
won't reach me I hope. The back  
water from Beargrass Creek on upper

2

Broadway is reported to be about to overflow more - It's quite serious & distressing. We don't know whether we'll be able to work tomorrow or not.

Poor little Harry has the responsibility of the whole Building, as Mr. Shelby left today. He's been all over the place - I'm busy as the very busiest person you can imagine - This afternoon we were requested not to use light unless absolutely necessary. Our office stayed til 4:15 - the others who lived out left early to try to get home.

Tell me about the lughrwater there - Mrs. Fowler is here so I stopped to chat a few minutes with her in the lobby -

More later - signing off at 17 1/2 minutes past 7 p.m. Friday night

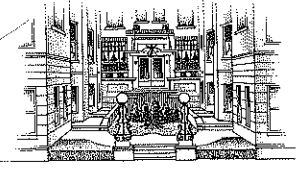
Sunday 1:30 -

We met for a seance - (2nd night) a Mr. Scott here who is a spiritualist - fun - The radio announced the water off tomorrow - so I took a shower - my last for goodness knows when - & did my washing -

Saturday morning backwater from the sewer covered 4th at York & I had to go by 5th - Only a skeleton force - the three of us in my office Miss M. & a few others - & we worked all

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL LOUISVILLE

3



morning. She believes in work & said there was nothing else to do - so we stayed. It's quite difficult to work under such trying conditions.

His house is under water nearly to the second floor. He's going to try to get out to get his clothes & some things - the engineers said they'd try to get him a boat - don't know whether he was successful - as I haven't seen him since.

The river was 50.3 Sat - 3.2 feet higher than flood of 1884 - The entire west end of town is inundated. It's distressing - Both radio stations keep going day & night announcing & directing emergencies & rescues. It's gets on your nerves & it's nice - early to get away from it everyone in awhile.

The surprise party for Miss I was of course called off - But Maud & I had our salad & cake & went to

4

the apartment for lunch - she made  
coffee & furnished bread; butter &  
Vienna sausage - I brought home  
lettuce, peanut butter, mayonnaise &  
bananas - preparedness.

Water covers York (the street  
this side of Broadway) from 2nd  
thru 7th. There is only 1 street  
to the Highlands - Eleston - it's  
impossible to go west at all -  
Only street car on second for a  
while - but backwater is up there  
from about 20th -

Three of us from the office (there  
at lunch) left our names at the  
Red Cross station. I came home &  
donned my boots & back to town  
to wire you & stop at 4th & Market  
to volunteer - they needed no help.  
Walked on down to view the river.

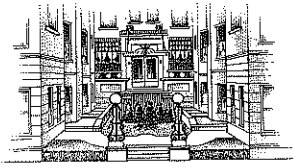
It's not particularly cold - & ac-  
tually stopped sleeting - but snowed  
over that - we got home safe -

Water was turned on from 8-9 &  
again from 4-5. Every available  
pitcher, glass, & bottle is filled -  
Lights & radio are still on thank  
goodness - The plant is covered -  
the doors & windows boarded up

1-3

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL LOUISVILLE

6



✓ sand bags piled high to keep out the water & the supply is supposed to last several days.

Three ate in my room - toast - fruit juice & bananas - Mr. P.H. called to see if I'd play cards with A.C. & Petie - (she's the pretty little girl I met a few months ago) - We played bridge, rummy, hearts, poker & finally quit - sorta on edge & listened to the radio - music - It was a beautiful night - moon so pretty - & not so cold -

Was awakened this am - by a motor pumping water out of the basement - boiler room. Heat was turned off at 8 - as a larger pump was ordered -

It started raining last night at 11 & has kept up a steady downpour. Father, would you believe it - I exercised - Not even in such trying

6

Times - would I quit - I exercised  
& drank my grapefruit juice -  
There is a big open wood fire  
blazing in the parlor - everybody  
is down -

Mrs. Fowler & Ethel Bettison  
went to some place in the Highlands -  
Someone came for them. There are  
no taxis as <sup>safety</sup> gas was ordered  
stopped yesterday morning - I  
didn't have a bit so I don't know  
how he managed - All who  
could left the hotel - but I  
feel safer here than I would  
anywhere - The downtown hotels -  
I understand are closed - They  
didn't have any heat yesterday -  
Nothing is open -

At two the ferry arrived -  
As soon as the cellar is emptied -  
heat will be furnished & The  
clerks & bell boys are all staying  
here - Only a few maids - in town  
The worst hardship is no water -  
I boiled the water for over 30  
minutes - Mother, that grill  
is priceless - I only the current  
isn't turned off -

The girls worked downstairs

1-4

The  
CORTLANDT HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE



in the dining room - & work again  
for supper. Breakfast one could  
have toast, coffee, eggs or bacon. I  
had fastidious make with milk.  
Tasted it once - it isn't so bad -  
Soup & 2 crackers for lunch - I  
ate a piece of lettuce & a banana  
just now.

At present I have on my  
wool dress (brown - in fact the  
only one I have) Lee's pretty  
funt scarf she made & since  
sitting down to write - I added  
my padded bathrobe & wrapped  
a blanket around me.

I'm not worried except about  
not being with you all. That's the  
drawback. I know, mother,  
you'll worry your head off -  
but just think in how much  
worse predicament I could be -  
I do hope you received the two  
wires I sent - You might not

have gotten them as they were getting  
thousands to send.

When you mention about  
going to Park tomorrow - everyone  
thinks you nuts -

Mrs. Farmer just told me  
that Mrs. Meredith fell this am  
down some dark steps breaking  
her hip + arm - Isn't that <sup>How absurd if</sup>  
terrible. Theresa'll probably <sup>she can get here</sup>  
have to come home before taking  
her tests. I'll never get time  
off if I have to do Mrs. M's work  
+ mine too - But I'm not going  
to let it worry me - now - But I  
come later -

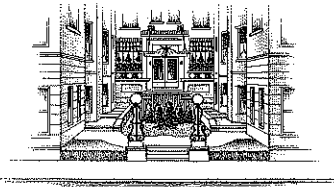
Will inquire at the desk if  
there's any likelihood of this mail  
being taken up - There's no  
trains with - as far as I know -

Just hope you all are well -  
Will be thankful to hear from  
you - It's nearly impossible to  
get a long distance call in from  
this end. Signing off at 2:23 -  
central standard time - AVS  
broadcasting - Sunday January  
twenty-fourth



1-5

The  
CORTLANDT HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE



9

Monday - 25th 2:40 -

Starting where I left off yesterday -  
I got sleepy & fell in bed to sleep until  
4:30 - To awaken to find it still raining -  
It's rained 24 straight days -

The girls helped in the dining room &  
kitchen - Had a good supper - roast beef,  
gravy, beans, turnips, biscuit & butter  
coffee or tea - Children could have milk.

Sand bags were placed in front  
of the basement doors, as water had  
started rising in the street -

It had risen over the sidewalk to  
our first step when I retired - It had  
stopped raining about 8:30 - or thereabouts -

so I walked out to see it -  
Heat was on about 6 - The furnishing  
was resumed at 2 - & was low enough  
to be allow a fire to be made in the  
boilers - My room got quite comfortable.

Put in the call to you all about 7 -  
& it went thru so promptly - central  
calling at 7:20 - Oh - it was such a relief

to hear your voices<sup>10</sup> - That's the worst part  
of it - not being with someone you love -  
Not wasn't the least afraid - never  
have been so calm - Feel like this  
is the safest place to be. Felt much  
better knowing that you are all okay.

Mr. Vitt, who runs a filing station at  
6th & Broadway, was at the hotel &  
told us about how little of the city isn't  
under water - It's up to 7th on Broadway  
& from 1st - but that'll be covered  
in a few hours as the river is still  
rising - There is water in the P.O. -

I gave anything to know where H  
is & if he's safe - where he stayed

Thursday & Friday is now inundated -  
Jeffersonville & New Albany are completely  
flooded -

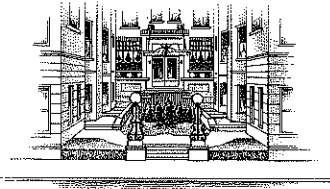
Our lights went off at 10 of 8 - Candles  
were furnished the guests - Lamps etc  
were placed in the halls - Everyone  
was unusually calm -

We sat around & sang songs awhile -  
others played cards by candle light &  
" watched the water rise - Men &  
women brought up dishes & groceries  
from the basement. The men brought  
up the tables & chairs.

Bruc & Theodore, 2 of the hotel

1-6

The  
CORTLANDT HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE



boys were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes & were stretched out. The doctor was out to see them. He also gave shots to quite a number. I felt rather (typhoid) as I had mine last July.

Katherine Mason & I went to bed in my room - completely clothed - but the fumes got so bad we went to Vera Henderson's room - she has two beds -

E was in one - saying she ached - etc - had fever - so three of us got in 1 bed - she couldn't stand that & I said I'd get in with her - but she said - no - Kath was smaller - but Vera got over - & put her head at the foot - she's still in the most deplorable of conditions, completely selfish & self-centered - that's to be expected from her - tho' -

Just as we'd gotten quiet - J. P. Jones who moved from the basement to E's room called Kath to see how many pills to take - she got tickled - but slept fitfully

He could hear<sup>12</sup> the roar of the water  
& the tractor going up & down the  
street pushing stalled cars & trucks -

But I personally got a good night's  
rest - awaking at 7:25 - The water  
rose about a foot during the night -  
but rose rapidly during the day -

The river is now over 57 feet - the crest  
not being reached yet - We'll probably  
be here for 3 or 4 days maybe a week -

I exercised & actually bathed - It's  
surprising how little off one takes a  
sponge bath in - I felt like a new person -  
The sun's being out helped everyone's  
spirits -

The water's was on an hour & we  
filled up - That's the worst <sup>hardship</sup> feature I  
believe - as everyone needs water -

The pump stopped at 9 - I don't know  
why - unless the water is coming in  
faster than it could be pumped out -

My room holds heat well & it's quite  
comfortable - There won't be any more  
heat for some time -

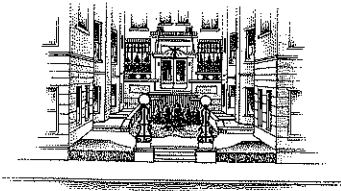
I asked several girls in to eat a  
slice of bread & butter - I took mine up-  
stairs to eat with Luita & Jane - Had a  
glass of milk - I got it yesterday -  
Also had grapefruit juice -

Spent the morning in my room with  
Kach - playing rummikub & cards - The

1-7

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



13

ventured out about noon. to look the  
situation over - water still rising - now  
up to the 3rd step - Boats in the  
street + trunks still going thru - town  
is of course crowded -

Mary Va Hodge called me from the  
Yw as they are having to evacuate  
water is up to the 3rd floor - Told her  
to come on out here - but I doubt if  
she can get here - Boats are taking them  
out - but where -

More tomorrow 8:25 pm -  
Tue 8:10 pm  
26th It's difficult to get situated long enough  
to collect your thoughts long enough to  
write. I've pulled out bed + am wrapped  
in a blanket.

Yesterday afternoon (mon) the water rose  
rapidly out front + now is all around us -  
In the basement the water is knee deep +  
out front up about 3' - I'd guess -

The kitchen was moved up to the new  
mess room - + the tables are placed in the  
long hall - we girls take turns helping

with the serving.

A bucket brigade is formed several times a day from the street to flush the toilets. Everything is as sanitary as possible. The Health Dept. was out to see us - we won't be forced to evacuate unless the water backs up thru the toilets -

We're really better situated here than most places - We have the two fireplaces - food + Mrs. Bailey boils water + allows us a pint each to drink. I have a good supply of boiled water -

We had a nice supper of beef, beans, potatoes 2 slices of bread + butter + coffee. I didn't drink it but took it as W. P. wanted it. He managed to get out + get some food + gave me a pint of milk. Despite how little I eat, just know I won't lose any.

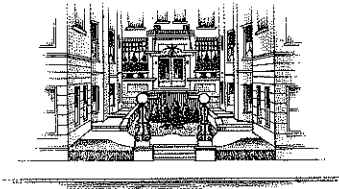
After supper - while sitting by the fire a boy who runs a boat stopped to warn - someone from the outside world to tell how bad conditions really are - He did manage to raise the spirits of everyone that we might rest comfortably. He didn't seem to think the river would go very much higher - It is 58 today.

We get bits of news by incoming phone calls - It's impossible to get an outside line unless it's for a doctor - I'd like to talk to you all

1-8

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



10

As my room is so very damp - I slept in 202 with Nancy Collins - she wanted someone with her anyway. I slept in pajamas the pink flannel robe you made & wool socks & did I keep warm - Got a good night's rest - practically 10 hours, as it was 8:25 when I awoke.

The water is up to within 4" of the water plug it stayed there all day - The current is very swift & flows north -

I always take time to <sup>Exercise</sup> fix up. It was too cold to bathe but I did use cold cream liberally & dressed in new underwear - the best I have. Always wear something different as long as its warm - Today I's my wool suit & tan sweater with muff.

Harper - who left last night at 10. to see about his car came back about one - Conditions are fearful down town - The Seelbach on 4th & Walnut, has heat - water (artisan) & its own current - Today 4 from Chestnut to main is above water - The Kentucky Hotel is also managing nicely - By tomorrow the Courthouse, the Highlands & Crescent Hills will be the only dry spots - Gas is still going

strong -

Various reports come in & one doesn't know which to believe. But martial law has taken over the city - this is the 1st time since 1919 - 600 men arrived this am by plane. About 300 were sent to Sanborn.

The crest was reached at Cincinnati & is falling. The crest will be reached here by Wednesday morning.

Time means nothing to us here - we can't keep track of the days nor the hours. I can't knit, as my hands are too dirty & because there is no heat & I have to follow directions -

Yesterday 2 people left in a boat & today 4 left. I really feel safer here. I have no place to go - & here there is food, also water -

The breakfast was cereal - your choice - with 1/2 a pint of milk, toast & coffee - 25¢. I drank the coffee as it was warm.

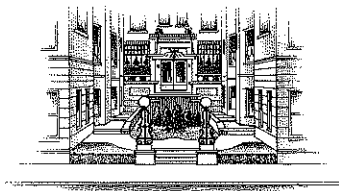
Harper bought a paper downtown - It's the Courier-Journal flood edition #2 - published in Shelbyville - I read every single line - something I rarely do - It took me an hour - Milton was the one who loaned it to me - It's alarming - so we don't say a thing about it to the others - E - just ran around like a chicken with its head off - Her family is in Paducah & they're in a bad fix too -



1-9

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



17

Airplanes passed overhead all day -  
Other radio stations are calling for help  
for L. Wells - The president responded  
to the governor's plea but money is  
valueless to us.

I've been keeping unusually well -  
The cold doesn't seem to have gotten anyone  
here yet - The small ration of food is  
good for us all - Being in active we should  
eat a small portion only. There is enough  
here to last us for sometime -

Must stop + go out by the fire 3:50pm.  
There have been several large fires - if only  
we won't have one -

2 - pm 27th Wednesday

Actually I've found a warm room -  
The 3 rooms above mine on the 3rd floor.  
get the sun + they are delightfully warm.  
I was up an hour before "soup" + came  
right back -

But to get back to where I left off  
yesterday - The days are more or less  
stale - the hours pass rather quickly -

Everyone is in good spirits + seems  
to hold his temper - Occasionally you

see a burst of temper - caused by seeing  
to much of people - I find it a big help  
to get off by myself - alone -

The thing that gripes me is for anyone  
to complain when we're better off than  
most people - We have 2 fireplaces that  
are kept going - Someone back of the hotel  
donated 15 baskets of coal - of course we  
had to go under water after it - but  
it's drying out nicely -

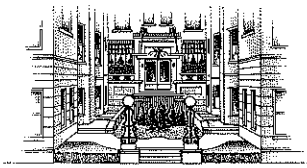
We really have entertainment -  
Scotty - an accountant from Chicago -  
is a spiritualist - & is no end of fun -  
Eugenia Johnson is so amusing -  
Arnold, is a born comedian - & Mac  
Cardigan's trick is taking off a shirt  
by undoing the two top buttons & the  
cuffs - It's good & always gets a laugh -

The best yet is the one King started -  
It takes 5 people, one sits in a chair &  
the others alternate their hands on the  
head of the one seated - Each is removed  
quickly & the 1st two fingers of each hand  
are ~~are~~ placed together - under the arms  
& under each knee - The fun is in  
being raised - very suddenly & quickly  
high above their heads -

We did all of this after a nice dinner  
of baked ham, potatoes, beans, butter, 2 slices

1-10

The  
CORTLANDT HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE



19

slices of white bread & coffee - which I gave away. & yet there are some who complain of the food - It's disgusting.

An Episcopal lecturer conducted a short service - very sweet -

Word came the crest has been reached at Cincinnati it was 80 - Incoming calls continue to come in - but I'm unable to get B&E as the lines are down -

We sat around quite late until 10 - I got sleepy so off to bed I went - Slept so warm under cover & my fur coat - At 12:30 Nancy got a call from her mother in Stutterville - I again tried to call you - went on back to sleep until 8:30 to wake in the warm sunlight - I just lay in bed awhile - but I did go thru all my exercises - Father, don't you think that's well power when the room is about 40? - My room - 143 - is too damp to stay in for any length of time - the basement

20

about 4' of water. I'd guess -

Nother, due to your good training,  
I manage nicely in this emergency -

Bathe in cold water - only a wee bit -  
as I don't want to take cold - My

cleansing cream does wonders - but  
dirt is ground in my hands so I  
wonder if it'll come out. I break-

fasted in my room on ~~an~~ bran  
wheaties, sliced banana, + 1/2 pt

of milk - a slice of jelly bread -  
I found the jelly - it was what I  
brought back from the trip  
to Herrington Lake last August -

Last night I was dying for some-  
thing sweet + Miss Huber gave  
me some - she was truly a friend -  
as I don't crave cigarettes or coffee - but  
that bit of sweet helped me wonders -

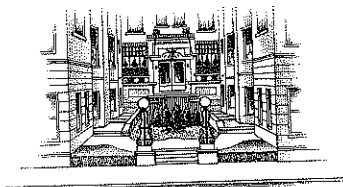
We get no authentic outside news -  
You probably know more of the  
horrors than we do - We hear  
reports of fires - etc -

Today 2 people got calls + to each I  
had them send you a wire collect -  
I'm so anxious for you to get some  
word from me - I know how you  
worry -

1-11

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



21

The "Burkesters" work quite efficiently  
& have it down to a small point -  
It's keeping things as sanitary as  
possible -

Wandered out several times for a  
breath of air - it's grand out -

I can't help but wonder about  
little H - as Saturday was the last  
time I've seen him. I hope he's safe -

We were "doled" out one towel  
today & did we like it - The ones I  
have are filthy - It'll be a wonder  
if we don't get sick - an epidemic  
or something.

The 5-weeks old baby & her mother  
were removed to Norton's Infirmary  
to keep warm - There are few sick -  
but the old people so very well -

I took Gladys an orange - E. helped  
her drink her last can of grapefruit  
juice yesterday & then wouldn't give  
her any of here - She's always willing

to help you eat what is in your room  
but I've yet to see her. divide -  
That's what to expect from her -

Most everyone is willing to divide.  
Guita & Jane brought me a box of  
crackers & a bit of jelly -

It's hard to write now as  
there are three talking - one eating  
an apple & one a saucer of grapefruit  
with canned cream. My it's hard  
to take - but it's so warm up here -

Hoops, I'm going to try to knit  
a while now - don't know what  
the outcome will be - Quitting at 3pm -  
the 27<sup>th</sup>

3 - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

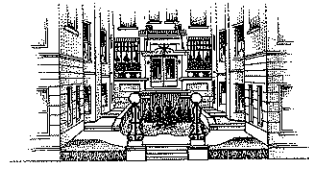
My knitting was a flop - Knit 2 rows & had to take  
out the last. so just quit - Don't do that pattern & listen  
or talk - Forgot to tell you about walking from 202 to  
my room & losing the pants to my green pajamas - I  
retraced my steps - but they disappeared completely -  
Does that bring to your mind the slip I lost several  
years ago -

I stayed in my cold room (44° - but so very  
damp on account of the basement being full of  
water) long enough to do my face, fix my hair &  
wash my hands in the ice water - making myself  
presentable to help with supper - Went out front to  
watch the boats go by - that's our chief diversion  
- forgot all about it until too late - So I was in dis-  
grace I'll redeem myself by working double duty.  
Our supper was delicious - ham, butterbeans, potatoe  
bread, butter & a bit of fruit gelatin -

The doctor was here again today to see if anyone  
needed attention & to give arrow shots -

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



The water out front shows only the knot of the fireplug - It didn't rise any - Reports come in the river is falling a little - that was certainly good news - I only hope one of the three collect wires did reach you. Another person promised to call you - I hate for you to be so worried.

You know much more about the conditions here than we do - We can't possibly know how bad they really are - nor how many are dead. If only the after effects are terrible -

The moon is exquisite - we wandered out several times to see "moonlight on the Riviera" - There is beauty even amidst tragedy & pestilence -

Gladys got out her guitar & played & sang by the firelight - The different people here keep things from getting low - I even had another osteopathic treatment today - just for fun - He stayed by the fire 'til 11 - one is kept going all night to keep those on all night duty warm - Had short services again at 6:45 -

The room in which I sleep isn't so damp - we even had a window up & I slept 'til 9:30 - Talked a while Nancy is a Yankee & never stops - she's rather interesting father - I can take it you'll have to admit when I still continue to exercise daily -

It was very disappointing to awaken to the sound of rain - which kept up nearly all day - The sun makes the 2nd room warm & delightful -

I didn't get down 'til 11 - I take time always to get fixed up & change clothes & match my sweaters - Have worn my suit 3 days - It's warm & the shirt

coat isn't bundle come. <sup>24</sup>

My breakfast was in my room - banana +  
bran-flakes, buttered jelly bread.

Some people are never satisfied + always complain.  
One of just such person called the City Hall saying  
there are 200 at the Courtlandt starving for food -  
they get more food really than one needs just sitting  
around - all day getting no exercise - They might think  
themselves hungry, but they certainly talked us into  
martial law - Provisions arrived in response to the  
police call + police brought them. Lord, he was nearly  
+ said if there were any more complaints, soldiers  
would be stationed here.

We were getting on so nicely - our first of boiled  
water twice daily + water turned on so we can bath.  
Somebody really squawked too much this time -  
our sanitary conditions are the best possible.

An incoming call said there is no music on  
the radio only flood reports - This is the major  
flood - I suppose - in the U.S. The entire area  
is covered with from 3-20 feet of water.

A call was put thru to ~~Western Union~~ <sup>WPA</sup> that the  
report is false + that the Courtlandt is well fed -  
really these here are better off than anyone else  
known.

This really brings out the good or bad in people  
there is no middle ground.

It's dark in my room now it's only a little  
past 3:30 - more tomorrow -  
water dropped 4" Thursday

Fri 29th - 2pm.

By the time I got dressed + shaved up + went out to work,  
the ban had been lifted by the mayor when he found only  
farson was hungry. Mrs. Kinnard + Mrs. Rodman are credited  
with starting it but well as LA Hopper + Milton who reported to  
policing police that coffee is 55¢ a cup. They were just late  
for breakfast + only toilet + coffee was left. But it's straightened  
out now - a very disagreeable experience.

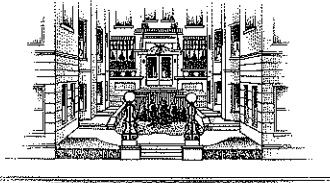
The most edifying thing is to be a waitress. People  
don't want this cup as it cracked - I don't fool with it  
just fill it + go on - another wants Irish potato wedges  
+ sweet - such ingratitude - The supper was delicious  
roasted ham, peas, corn, baked sweet potatoes (they were out when  
I got ready to eat as I served) bread butter + tea -  
milk for children lettuce + mayonnaise. I never had



1-13

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



At night I drink <sup>25</sup> my first of boiled water - but during the day I make tea - bring the tea bag from the living room - Moore for me about 2 - he has a kind of codlins, meat, cheese & apples - some luxury.

The doctor was here again giving shots - Medicine arrived by boat at 10 - having been on the way for hours - three women started out but didn't get any where after a two-hour trip & had to return -

Mary Frances called E from Bk & I hope she called to tell you we are okay. Just how many telegrams if any - did you get? Have you tried to call at all? Gustaf's family called her.

Oh. I found the J's - on the floor on the 3rd floor.

Vera went to the Brecon to do clerical work for the red cross. Milton went down to open his store as it + Selman's have heat & relief stations are made out of it -

A mother's shirt service - the negroes come in + sing - a regular after-supper ritual.

It stopped raining - so we could walk out for a breath of air - not cold - inside is much colder than outside -

The quiet sat around the fire & talked in small groups. Quite a few felt bad from the sad shot Marge was in bed all day & got a great deal of waiting on -

Mayor Miller is a national figure from the efficient method he has handled the flood - Thinned police from Pitt. Chi & other cities have

been sent here. There is no chance of insurrection.

Official reading of the paper is 56.4.

A committee was appointed - one man making himself very obnoxious - his now in the class with Father Reader - a hypocrite - Episcopal - the little fat Rector who conducts the services is a liar -

We make journeys out front to see how much it has fallen - about 6" I'd say - One step is clear.

Everyone hates to leave the warm fire to get in a cold bed - but it's soon warm - as Nancy & I put out fur coats over us - Sleep grand with the fresh air coming in - It's still quite amusing to lie in bed & hear motor boats fly up & down the river -

I didn't get up in bed 'til 9:30 - E. & I & ~~the~~ took a few baths - a little here & a little there. Breakfasted in my room on bananas & milk & a slice of jelly bread. Took Quita & Jane as maybunnies, peanut butter, oranges & 2 tea balls. They gave me canned peaches with pineapple & grapefruit & a piece of cake - E. still hasn't given anyone anything except Ray Hattenford from the L. will trust. She's quite sweet on him - Mr. Parson is the other prob. there -

The morning always goes swiftly -

Bob Miller came over from Livingston to get a man & scout. He's & talks me - but I couldn't go from there home - so the best place for me is here.

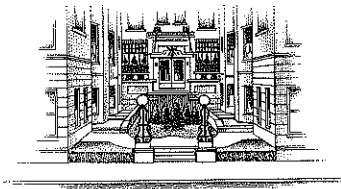
I'd give anything to talk to you - but won't reverse any more dranges. Haven't anyone called me - but I do hope somebody is thinking of me - Still no word from H. Just hope he's safe & soapy. Before the entire house is covered.

Water only down 5" during the night - well, think it's slow - but the sun is out - that's grand.

1-14

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



L.A. Hopper said to settle a case with you for \$600 cash. He was 2nd party or something in the case where a rock flew in a man's eye. do you remember him or the case. To my way of thinking his commiseration of a mess - slacker type - Miss Huber saved my life by giving me a piece of candy - I have a piece of gum I've been chewing on several days - Smoking is now allowed out front & in the two parlors -

If we only don't have a fire - Mr. Basket, our regular manager from Swell Trust, is here today -

Lights are on in the Highlands - it's reported - Signing off at 3:15 pm Today - Airships passed overhead all day. What I wouldn't give to see or hear what's going on in the world.

I weigh 124 - don't lose an ounce - damn! -

Saturday the 30th -

A whole week - seven days to be marooned - It seems ages - I'd give anything to get away if only for a little while.

Catherine Halling's friend called you - Yes I'd love to come home - but I can't get out - There is still several feet of water in the street - It falls about a foot a day - It really would be tragic to feel faster as it'd take everything with it. Water has

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weakened so many foundations. Sidewalks are  
caving in & some say the east basement  
of Stewart's is caved in - but one still doesn't  
know what to believe -

Got out the fire escape into the yard next door to  
listen to a radio in the car - It's wonderful to hear  
music again - the air was so refreshing -

Helped again at supper - E. has never helped -  
It was marvelous - Swiss chard with carrots & turnips,  
macaroni, cabbage & celery salad, hot biscuits & tea -

After our service, the niggers had theirs - really  
surpassed ours -

Lath Mason left us to go to her sister's - Mrs.  
Fish - She changed boats 3 times between here &  
Arlington at 1st. Hopper & Carrigan also left. I  
won't blame them - only wish I could go too - But  
by the time I'm able to leave, I'll have to go to  
work, as our office will be one of the 1st to open.

Milk was held at the office - each getting  
quart.

The mayor spoke over the radio & I suppose  
you all were listening in - 180 dead, 20 only from  
Crowning, 3 cremated at the request of their family.  
200 nat'l guards, 600 troops, 400 firemen from  
Chi. Phil. N.Y. - 54,000 taken out in boats -

People can't get back into their homes until  
cleaned out by the gov. - It'll be months & I  
wonder where people will live -

Got about 150 names on my paper - that  
lacks about 100 - 2 refused. Mr. Kahn & Miss  
Lowery -

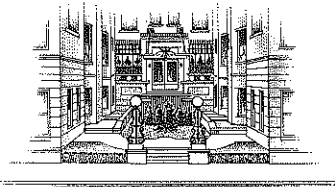
If you've never tried crackers broken up  
in canned milk, do - It really tastes good -  
MacBryer(?) fixed it -

Much colder - or maybe just damp - & I  
hated to leave the fire - Got to bed at 11:40 - up  
at 7:30 to serve at breakfast - which I ate there  
1/4 grapefruit, 2 biscuits, bacon & coffee - only 2nd cup  
I've had (20)

1-15

# The CORTLANDT HOTEL

## LOUISVILLE



29

Spent several hours just filing nails -  
no hurry not going anywhere.

Chilled a little & got 2 pins in which  
to take a bath. It's such a marvellous feeling  
to get the top layer of dirt off - the 1st thing I'd  
do if I got out would be to take a bath - then  
off to the beauty parlor - for a shampoo & finger.

A few left today -

After my bath - into bed I crawled to  
read several stories in McClure's - now that  
my right hand is out, it's getting cold -  
otherwise I'm quite comfortable - The night  
have heat tomorrow - Pumps are here -  
to empty out the water when it gets lower -

Honey, do' do wish I could drop in  
for a few days - I'd love seeing you all -  
more Sunday - A week ago today was  
the last time I saw H - & haven't heard  
from or about him -

at home -

Went out at 4 - to find McBrayer(?) had  
gone also several others - It just made me  
want to go so badly -

Special delivery & wires were in evidence -  
wish I'd get some (Father told me you all had wires)  
several times & called twice - Lucille too - There are 15,000  
undelivered wires - wonder if I'll ever get mine -  
Helped again at supper & it was delicious - sauer-  
cabbage, carrots, pear, & biscuits - I drank pear juice -  
Milton came back after several days in town &

brought me chewing gum<sup>30</sup> - I'd had only, piece all week. He says things are terrible - The report is out that the river is changing its channel thru Budd - where his home is - That's terrible!

After service - (Salway help ring) I called home & such welcome news - Father is coming for me tomorrow - Lucile Barclay is driving him up - & am I happy - Oh so thrilled - Could hardly sit still. But that was short-lived as reports came in the town would be quarantined - did it worry me - Tried to call to find out - but was unsuccessful - Despite that I slept well til nine - Exercised as usual & breakfast on my last banana & slice of bread & milk. Was so restless all morning - just waiting -

Mutton came in so he took me to City Hall to get a permit to leave & return - which I didn't need - but felt easier. It was marvelous hearing out. We had to go thru water - but you get used to that - There are a few dry streets - It was necessary to take a circuitous route thru alleys to get thru - the trip taking 2 hrs. Went by the P.O. - saw Lon. He told me I had been there all the time & that he doesn't know where his grandmother is or any member of his family is. That's distressing.

When I got back to the hotel Father was waiting & was a happy little girl. Had a grip packed - but decided to take my clothes & new coat - left 3 coats, suit, radio & lamp with guests. Asked her & E - both to come - E - wouldn't leave her bean -

Told Janet Jane to call me when to return to work - as I told no one in the office - It took Father 3 hours to get from Crescent Hill & Frankfurt Ave to the hotel - he came via a train, car, & shanks mare. Mutton took us to the train & room 4:10 we got off & Lucile was waiting - she had been worrying if Father had been gone 4 hours.

Sandwiches, fig newtons & cake awaited me & did it taste good & was I happy to get away -

Picked up some refugees at Bardstony & brought them to the Brown part of the way home. B.G. never looked so good before - ~~you~~ fed me - & after a hot bath in which I soaked to get some of the dirt off - Next to get my hair clean -

Hope this isn't my last experience with floods - My love -

A. Genger