

Letters Written By C. Earl and Hazel Hulburd To Betty Seward Hulburd - 1936

(Compiled by Ted Hine – March 2003)

Elizabeth Seward Hulburd prepared a detailed scrap book documenting her trip to Europe in the summer of 1936. Included were a number of letters written to her from friends and family which were addressed to her care of American Express in various European cities including Paris and London.

The following are scans of the letters written to her in Europe by her mother Hazel and father C. Earl Hulburd. During this period (mid July through mid August 1936) the letters indicate Betty's mother Hazel ("Mother") and older sister Harriet ("Dede", "Sister") were vacationing at Wentworth By-The-Sea, a ritzy resort in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Her 7 year old younger brother Bud ("Buddy") was at summer camp in New Hampshire (evidently not camp Mowglis which he attended first in 1938) and her father Earl ("Dad", "Dutch") was living at home and working as usual in St. Louis though it is indicated that he planned to join his wife and daughter at Wentworth By-The-Sea shortly after the letters were written.

Note: The letters written by Hazel Coudy Hulburd are the only known examples of her writing currently known to have survived.

The letters are presented in date order.

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Sunday, July 19th '36

Dearest Old Betts -

You will recall that a week ago today you said "A week from now I'll be in Paris." - Well, it's NOW - so having heard naught to the contrary, suppose that you are!!! - Me, I went to the ball game and, oh, it was so different. We won two games 8-1 and 7-2. A nice breeze came up from somewhere and all together had a swell time.

There is so little news to pass on I'm a wee bit ashamed to call this a letter. The weather has been much hotter since you left. In fact according to record it has been the hottest three weeks ever. Something like 370 people have died in St. Louis and the ambulances have clanged almost continuously.

After seeing you off last Monday, bumped into Big & Little Bobs Grote. Big Bob had his left arm all done up like an Egyptian mummy. Had broken it at ball park day before. Skidded on a ramp. Little Bob's ears were done up in cotton - infection - & Ethel Grote has been in hospital for a week - ear operation.

Bobby Schure phoned Monday eve & asked all about the boat. Acted as though he intended sending you a wire. Will he?

Bud tells us in his irremediable way that he finally made the necessary ten target scores, so I suppose he will get the gold medal.

Mother & Dede arrived at Wentworth on schedule & seem to like the place very much.

Am enclosing paper pictures of Eppie & you. Real good I think.

Betts, it has been so beastly hot the past week I cannot understand how any one stood it. One 24 hour period the thermometer didn't get below 95° and that's damned hot for middle of the night.

I've done nothing but work live here all day & sweat all night. However about 6 this am, came a nice rain for 1/2 hour & now it is pleasantly hot - around 90.

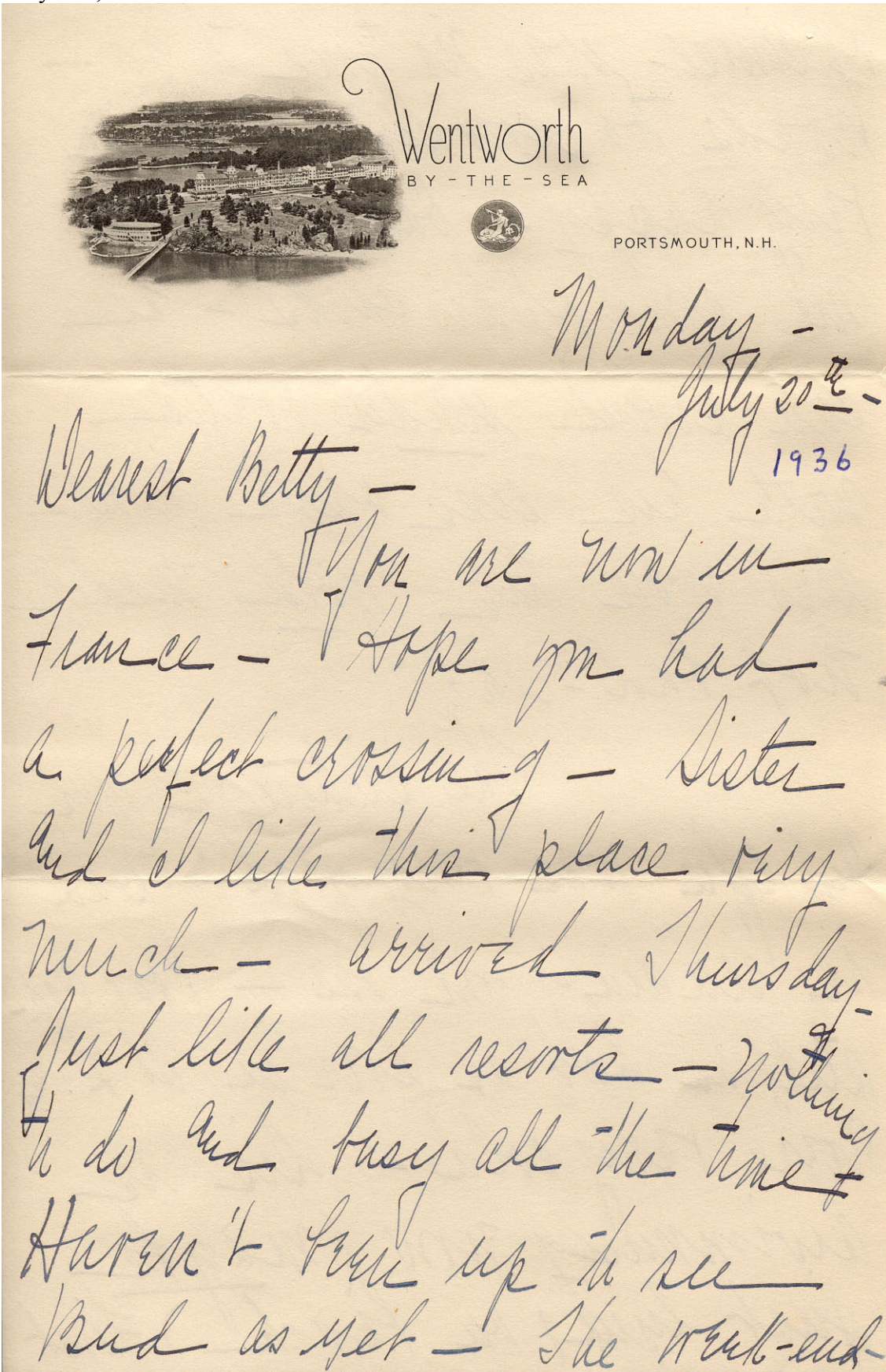
Judge Hitchcock left St. L. today noon, sailing tomorrow for Europe.

Pop. Eye is still in the ring fighting the big fellow - don't know whether or not the Jeep forecast the outcome correctly.

Betts, I am happy as can be that you are "over there". I know you will have a whale of a time.

Love to all

Dad

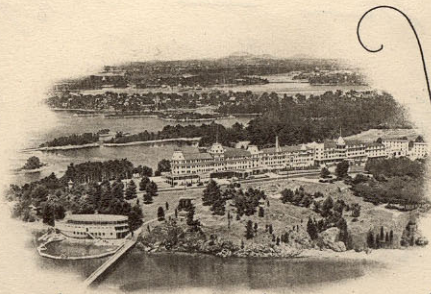


Monday -
July 20th -
1936

Dearest Betty -
You are now in
France - I hope you had
a perfect crossing - Sister
and I like this place very
much - arrived Thursday -
just like all resorts - nothing
to do and busy all the time
Haven't been up to see
Bud as yet - The week-end

Of course - was no time to go -
roads too crowded - He is
very happy - Dad has sent
me some of his cards - he
can swim under water
with his eyes open now -
also won his gold medal -
not bad - eh?

The picture of you
and Effie was very good - Dad
is sending you one - Poor Dad -
still as hot as ever in St. L. and
were very cold - his is
swimming now (maybe
just lying on back) Just



Wentworth
BY - THE - SEA



PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

day she's been in -
I know all sorts
of interesting things are
happening in your life -
now and I know no news -
Dad says house cleaning is
about over - says it didn't
bother him - his letters
consist mostly of the heat -
Please excuse this rambling
letter but wanted to write
you and have nothing ex-

trying to tell you - Give
my love to Mrs. Lincoln and
Effie - Save loads for you
dear self -
Mother -

July 25, 1936.

Dearest Old Betsy Girl:

We haven't heard from you as yet but I suppose you have not heard from us, so we are both Elks. (Heck of a way to begin a letter, but one DOES have to begin). And speaking of beginning reminds me of the closing paragraph of Dede's last letter describing the thrills of Wentworth---- quote; "Dad, do you know that people have more fun than anyone?"

So far as THIS end of the line is concerned, nothing of great moment has happened except two showers. Getting lots of sleep, heat permitting, and not losing any weight- albeit effort along those lines is being made --- Oh well, SOME effort anyway, or at least a gesture. Have had one free meal and saw a double header, period. Just sort of counting the days until time to go east, which will be August 8th or 15th depending on something or other.

Mother and Dede are having a swell time. Dede already is laying plans for NEXT summer at Wentworth. She has met some folks with a packard, a sail boat and a yen for picnics --- just why the picnics I'll never know. They do say the spot is lovely and they love it. Dede must have found some sort of evening entertainment because I received a hurry, hurry call to send on the two remaining gowns; Blue with tomatoe colored spots and chartreus being O so sickly green, plus once gold sandals.

We still receive the funny postals from Bud. He has made the necessary ten target scores for the gold medal. A letter from Matt Werner indicated that Bud is about a 100% kid although I suppose Matt tells all parents the same. Mother hasn't been to camp as yet and I suppose it is just as well to wait until I get there as a visit now might throw Bud off his stride.

Ralph Bell of Dallas has been a house guest since Tuesday. He is here in connection with what we laughingly call our oil well at Harrisburg, Illinois. Thought Ralph might as well stay at the house to keep me company. He is a quiet sort of chap and loves the front porch, so thar we have sat to these several evenings.

I have received notice of my admission as a member of Bellerive so that's that. Suppose I'll have to buy another golf club or two to keep in the attic. However, no doubt you kids will keep up the family tradition so far as club activities are concerned.

See that Elenor Holm was kicked out of Olympics because of champagne party aboard ship. Was given a return ticket on next boat. Her husband says that if more members of swimming team drank champagne more events would be won. Maybe he's right

Betts, girl, I am afraid I have sort of let you down on letters so far, but there's been absolutely nothing to write about. Just hot weather.

However, let's see. You have been away two weeks and the promise was to write once a week, so I am not really behind am I. Wouldn't do dirt to my Betts for worlds and worlds.

Judge Hitchcock sailed Tuesday. Henry received a letter from him this a.m. One "crack" was, I thought, particularly good, to-wit; Some woman gave him some pills to be used in case of sea-sickness. He didn't want to accept them but is darned glad he did as Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labor in Roosevelt's cabinet, is aboard and such close proximity to the administration is bound to make him deathly ill.

Well, Cutey Pants, it is time to close shop and go home. Have fun and fun and fun. Would love to see you but guess I just can't until Europe sees you first.

Much, much love and a big squееееее, and a big "Hello" to Mrs. Lincoln and Effie.

Dad

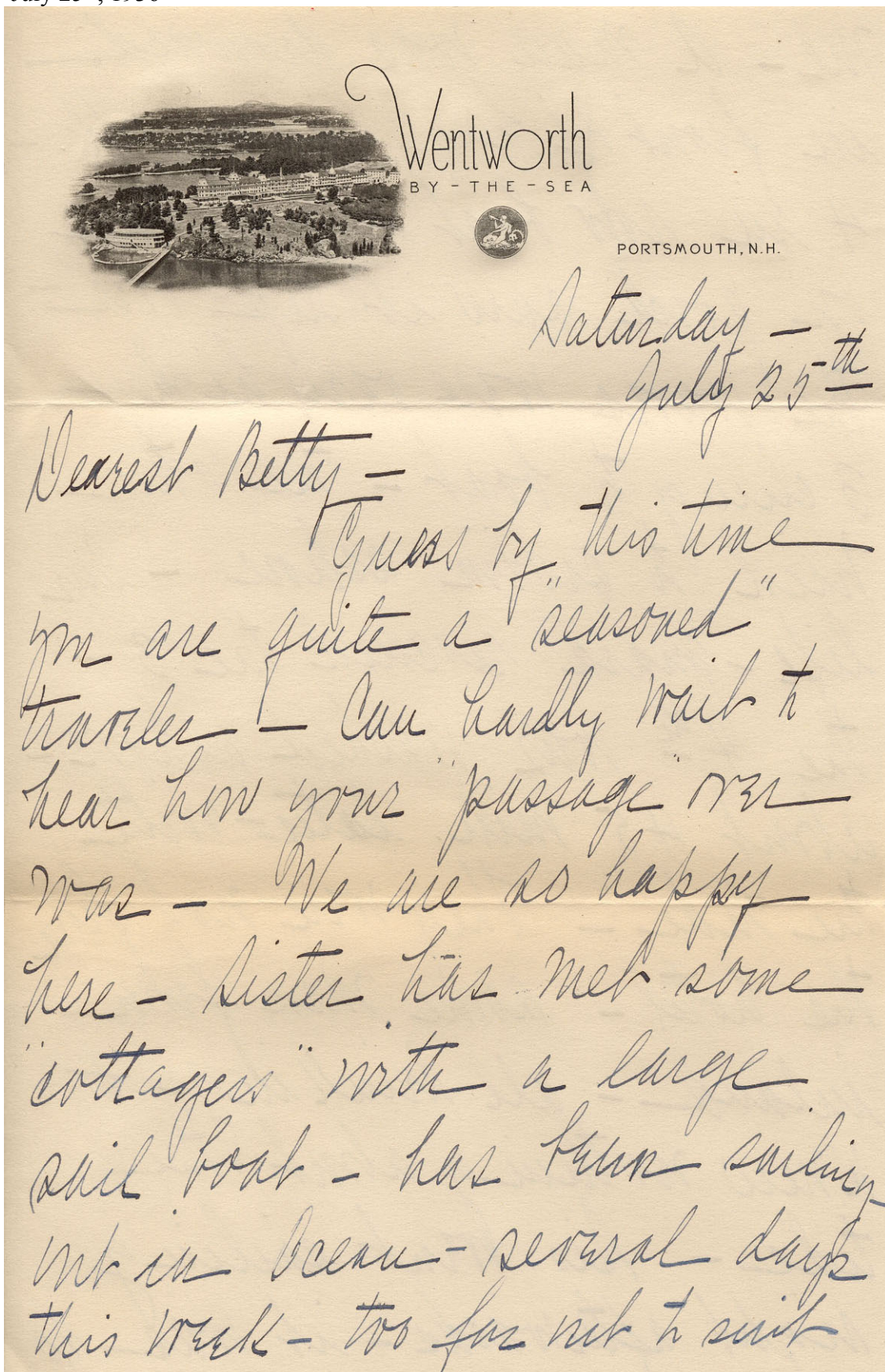
... I bet there is a little more about you off the ...
... been to camp as yet and I suppose it is just as well to ...
... I suppose that tells you ...
... that you are ...
... the necessary ...
... the ...

... of so ...
... the ...
... and ...
... and ...
... the ...
... the ...
... the ...

... of other ...
... time to ...
... a ...
... and ...
... of ...
... of ...
... so ...

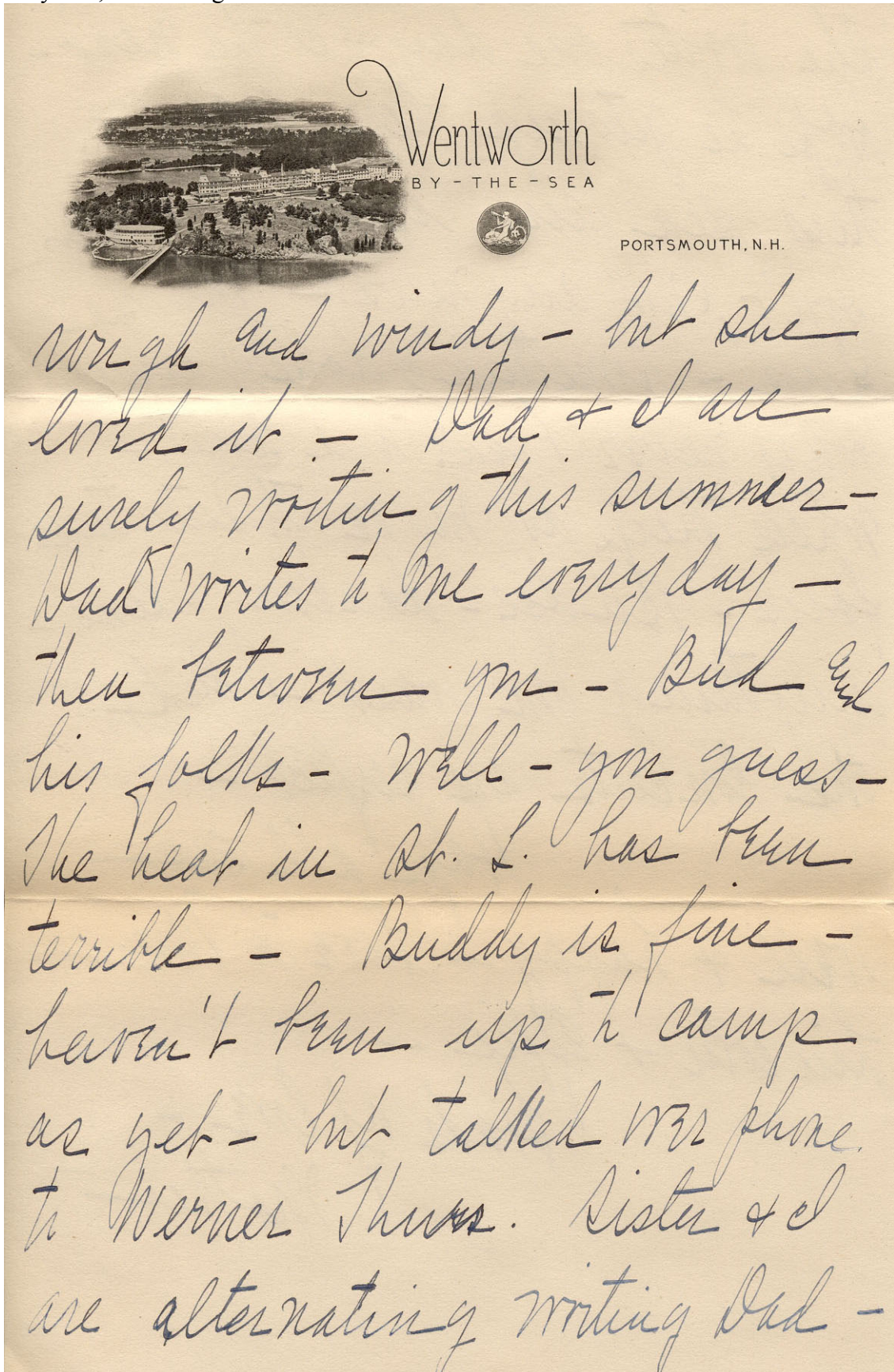
... people ...
... the ...
... a ...
... not ...
... the ...

Dearest ...



me - A man was drowned
in front of here. Thurs. aft. -
4 in row boat - some one
on porch saw it tip over -
The waves were very high -
3 clung to boat - The other
tried to swim ashore - Our
life-guard rescued the 3 -
the 4th was washed ashore -
about 45 min. later - with
the tide - They were not from
the hotel - some men from
inland - all drinking - &
knew nothing about the
tide - His boat sailing
right afterwards - it was so

From Hazel - July 25th, 1936 - Page 3

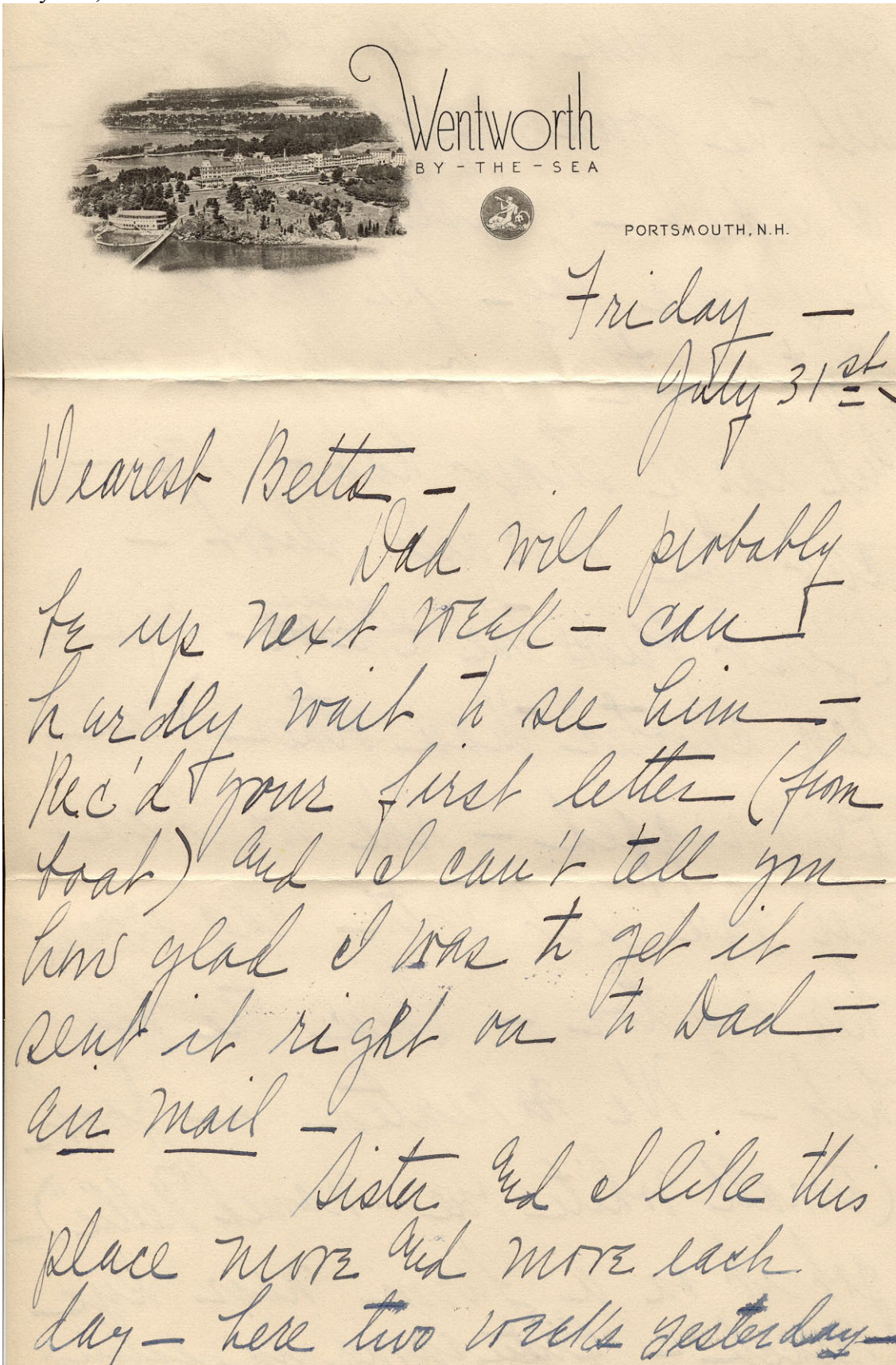


From Hazel - July 25th, 1936 - Page 4

She writes one day & the next -
 Hope he gets up here soon -
 this "sea air" is just perfect -
 Don't know any news - but time
 slips - something doing always -
 Harry never found a hotel
 where they do more to entertain
 folks - Bridge - dancing - keno -
 anything you want - and
 the concerts are perfect -

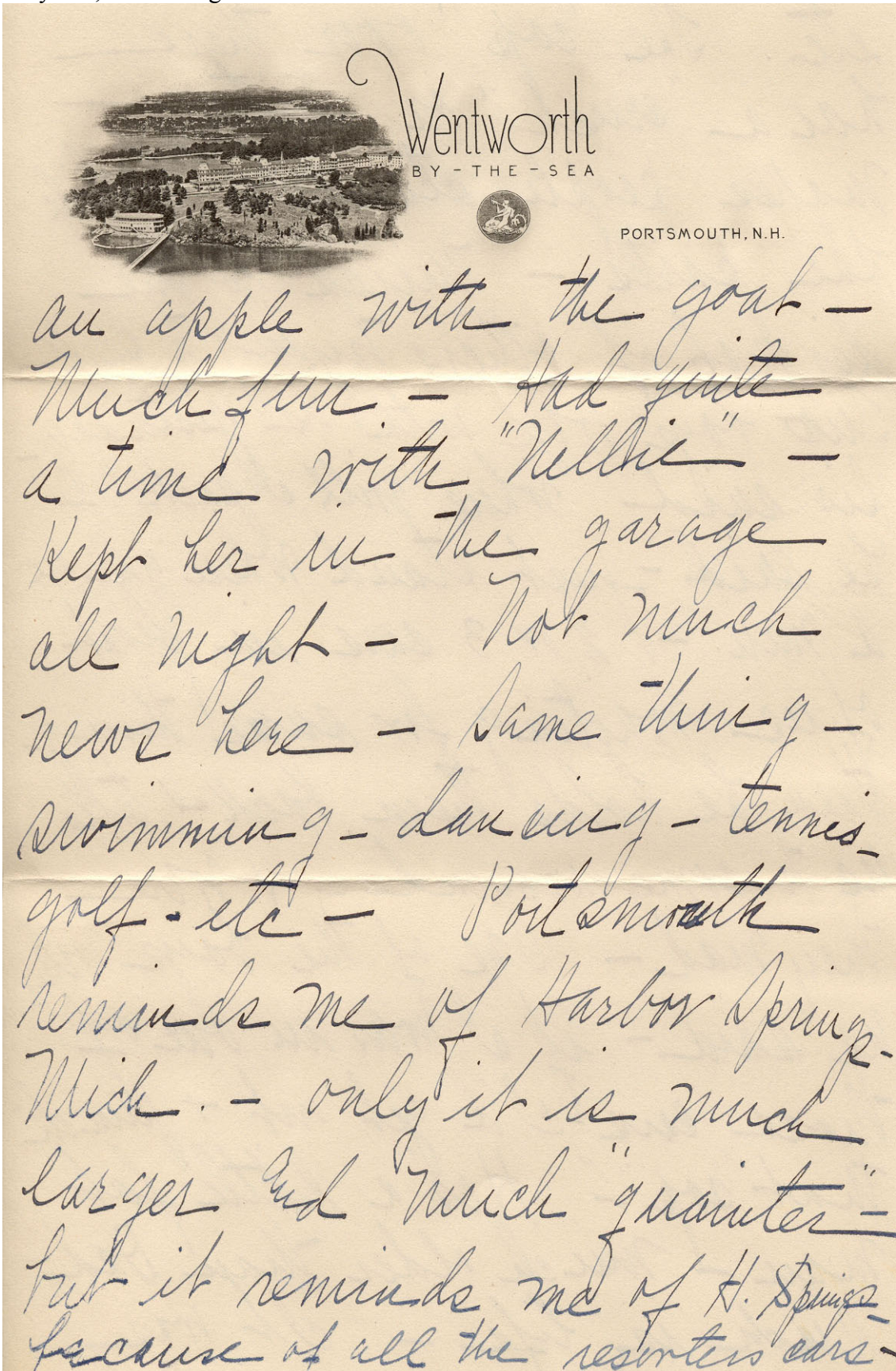
Hope all are
 well & happy - Love to Mrs.
 Lincoln & Effie -

Lots of love -
 Mother -



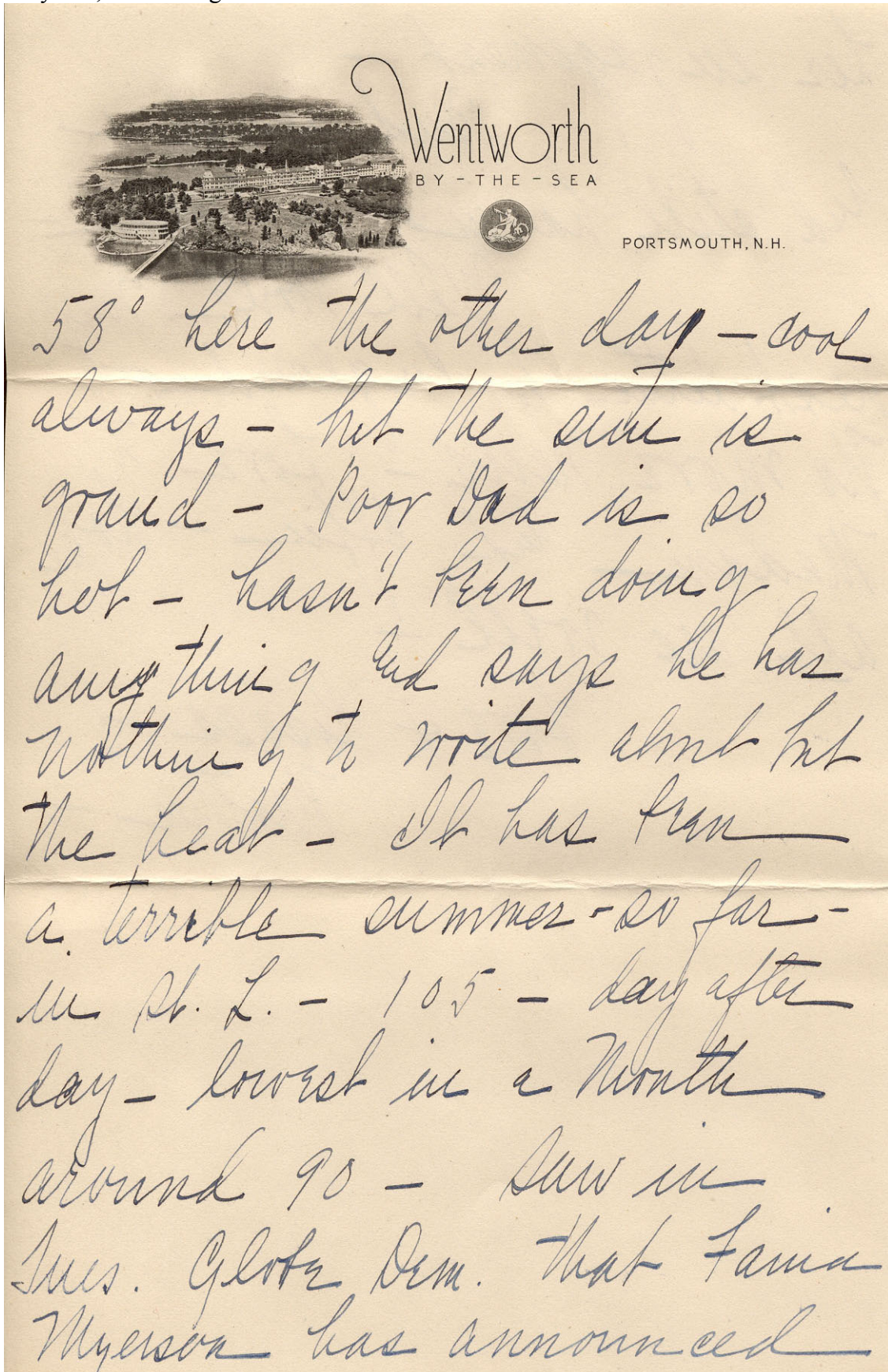
From Hazel - July 31st, 1936 - Page 2

Had a barn dance last night -
 All the young people dressed -
 I didn't - Sister went as
 a farmer boy - We went to
 Portsmouth - bought her overalls
 and large straw hat - We
 cut the overalls short -
 (just below the ~~waist~~^{knees} - one
 leg shorter than other) and
 very ragged - She went in
 her bare feet with rag around
 her big toe - Then the big
 hit - We "rented" a goat -
 (small white one - named "Nellie") -
 got it on a farm near Rye
 Beach - Sister came in eating



etc. The "cop" over there
has a "crush" on Sister +
makes people "stand by" while
she parks - Much to the
disgust of others trying to park -
Two boys were with us yesterday -
his said "where will I park" -
he said - "just stand where you are
a min." - 2 or 3 cars in front
of us waiting for same thing -
then he holds them back + tells
us to come around - + were
they mad - One of the boys with
us said - "if I was in one of
those cars - I'd get out + punch
that "cop" -" Hes a little fat
man - much older than Dad -
Such is life - It was

From Hazel - July 31st, 1936 - Page 5



From Hazel - July 31st, 1936 - Page 6

her engagement -
Bud is fine
and still having a "whirl" -
Will write my
next letter to England -
No more news - Love to
"Madam" and Effie - hope
all are well -
Love & Kisses -
Mother -

From Earl - August 5th, 1936

Wednesday, August 5, 1936.

Dearest Old Polywoggle:

Just received your letter No. 2 of July 26th, also the definite ~~istin~~-er-ary (there, golding it, spelled it right). The advantage we have over you is--- your letters come pronto, but our letters to you are received "if, as and when" you GET them. What I'm really driving at is--- it must be like reading May 30th newspaper, but I suppose maybe it's fun to learn of the doings back home. As usual there is no news at this end. Just work and read, with an occasional movie or "dinner out", but thank goodness, if fate is kindly, I'll leave next Saturday for the far east and the American contingency of the Fulburt family.

Perhaps you ~~have~~ heard that we have just passed through the hottest "spell" in 98 years and were we all draggy! The past week, however, had been rather normal -- 90 to 92 high- and it seemed like a real cold snap.

Bud is having a hey-day. His "letters" tell us of swimming 25 yards, building and sleeping a lean-to, etc. And he is always "having very fun". At anyrate he has not experienced home sickness for which we are devoutly thankful. He has been in camp six weeks without a visit from the family but as soon as I get ~~there~~ to Wentworth we'll ~~all~~ all go to camp - particularly on his birthday. Good old Bud! Camp is the best thing in the world formhim but it's a little tough on the parents now and then.

Dede is quite the sailor, always writing of "reef-winds" whatever that may be. Mother and Dede love Wentworth and never tire of singing its praises. Have met loads of people and from all reports are doing right well for themselves.

Gosh, Betts, I'm all thrilled about the wonderful time you are having. Wouldn't it be grand if all of us could do it together sometime! Well, maybe, some of these days.

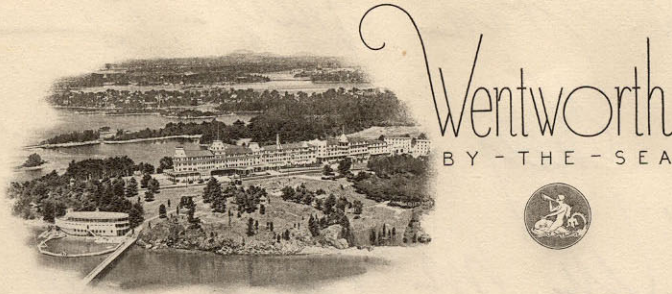
It's terribly stupid trying to write when there's just nothing to write about except the doings of others--- and you get the others' news from said others. ----- The Cardinals eased into first place again yesterday by taking a game from Chicago. Poor old Cards, right up there at the top even though the Jinx has taken away for two or more weeks through sickness or injuries, Stu Martin, Pep Martin, Durocher, Parmelee, Collins--- and Paul Dean is out for probably the entire year with the same old glass arm. Tough luck but the old fighting spirit!

Goodbye, my little nest gnat. Write when possible and have fun.

Much, much, much love,

Dad

*Should my next letter miss you -
Happy, happy birthday, Betts.*



PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

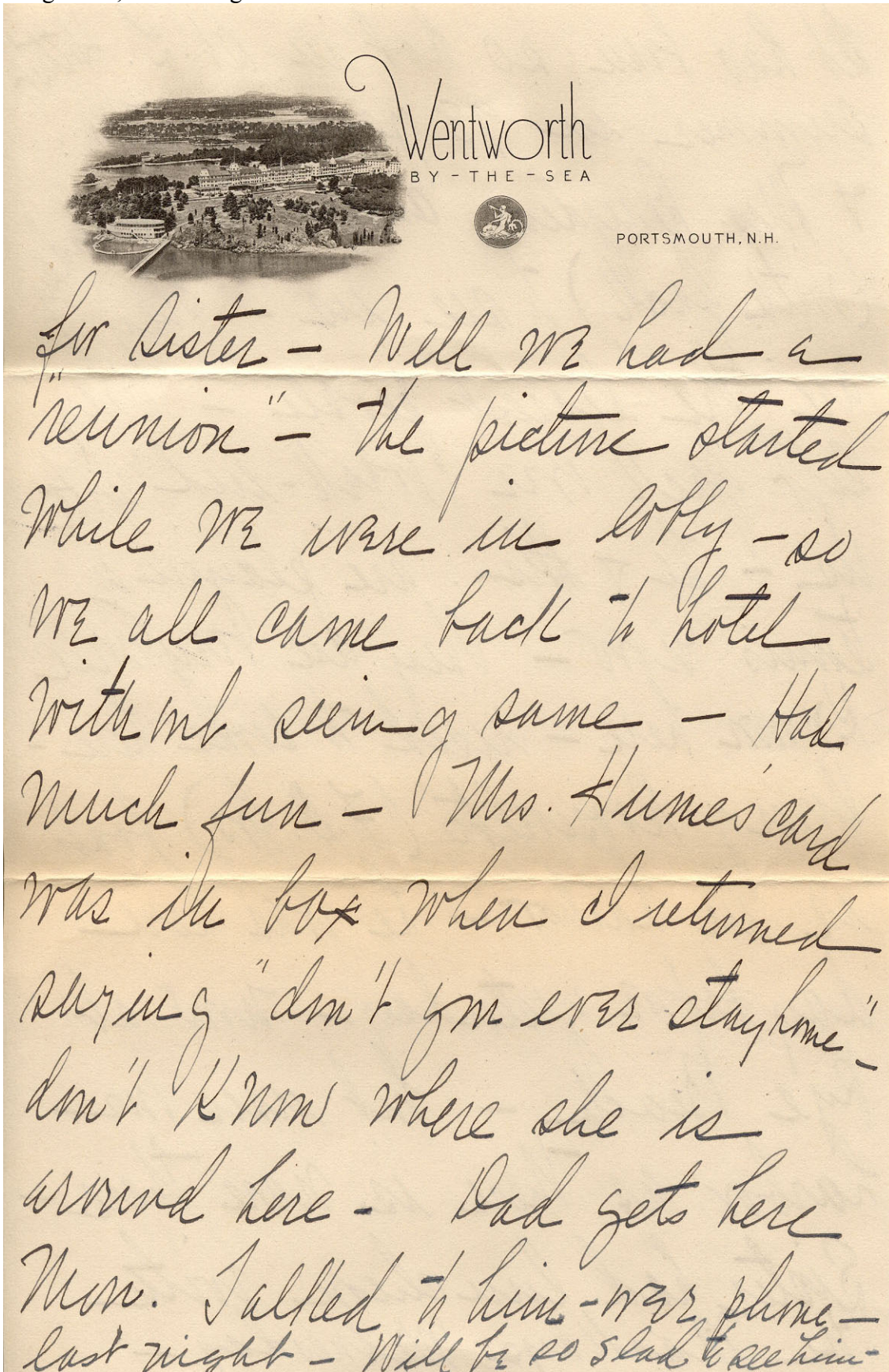
Saturday -
Aug. 8th

Dearest Betty -

Rec'd your grand
letter a few days ago - Please
don't worry about gloves or any
other gifts - spend your money
on "right seeing" - We don't
want a thing - please ^{remember}
that - Tell Mrs. Lincoln
there are some people who know
her - here at the hotel -

Col. & Mrs. John Gray - of
Nashville - They are friends of
the Percis' (in Mr. Place) - also -
Bob Black was near here on
business the other day - over
in Manchester about 50 miles
away - it was Tues. & for
the first time since we
left here - decided to go &
see Bing Crosby's new picture
in Portsmouth - well - Bob
called here - they told him
we were at show - so I happened
to look up & here was Bob
going up & down aisles looking

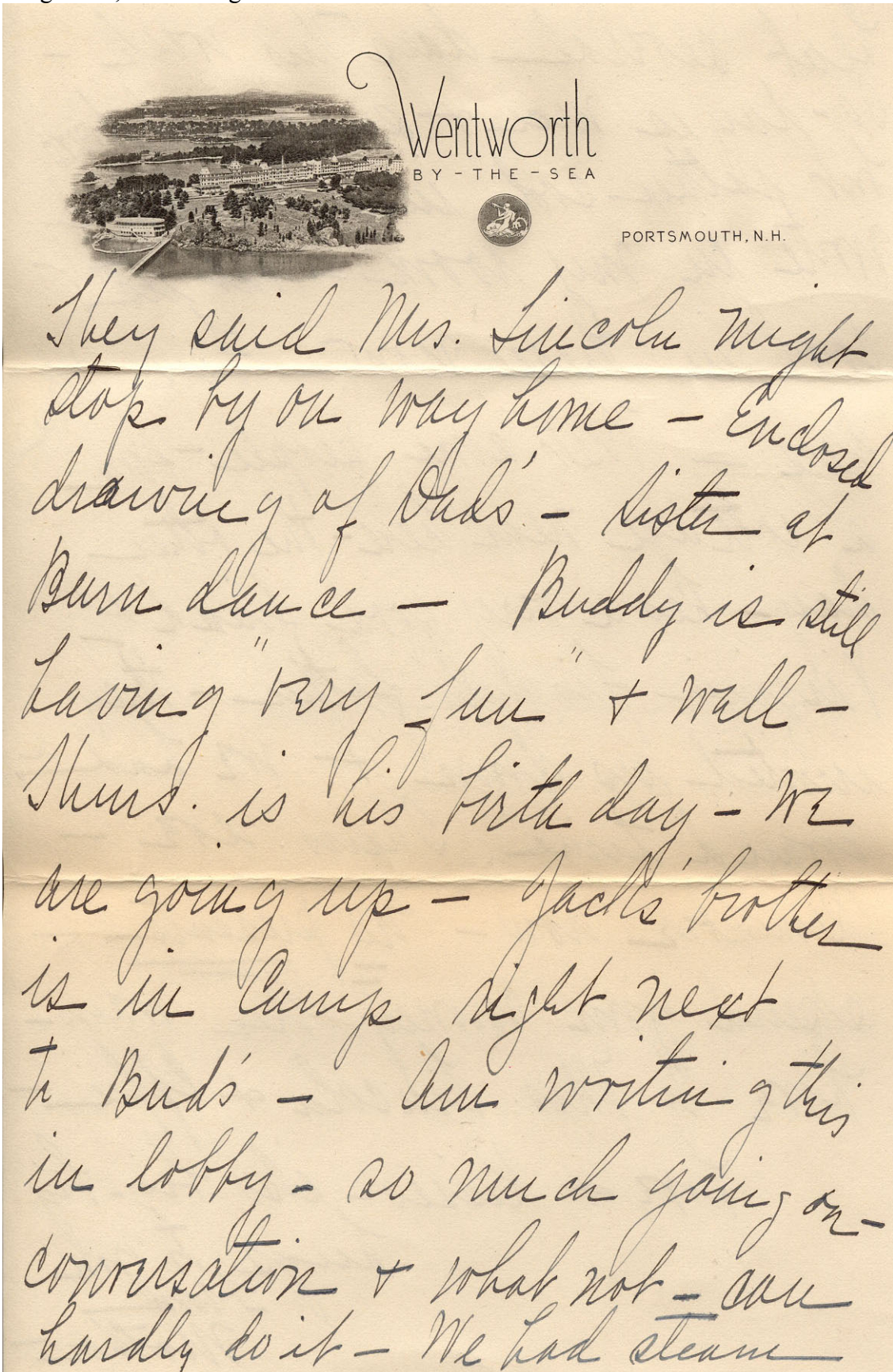
From Hazel - August 8th, 1936 - Page 3



From Hazel - August 8th, 1936 - Page 4

It has been so hot in St. L. ^{Hottest}
summer in 98 years - Mr.
& Mrs. Hayden came up yesterday
(with Jack) to see us - They
are the dearest people - They
left Jack was week-end with
us - he & his. are playing
tennis now - They are very well
known here - used to come here -
Young Roosevelt (F.D. Jr) boat
is in harbor - he was here
day before yesterday - now at
Pye Beach - but uses our
harbor as there is none there -
Sister had luncheon with
the Mackays Wednesday -

From Hazel - August 8th, 1936 - Page 5



From Hazel - August 8th, 1936 - Page 6

Heat several days this week -
 So-day is nice + sunny out doors
 but rather cool in - I usually
 write in my room - but its
 cool in there now - Fine
 here - Met some people - from
 a cottage near here - the other
 day - he's a very good friend of
 Virginia Fisco's father - they
 invited us down + we had a
 grand time Thurs. eve -
 Remembers now - no presents -
 spend your money other ways -
 Love to Mrs. Lincoln + Effie -
 Love + kisses - also big-big
 hugs to you
 from
 Mother -