1943

It's Mail Time

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Recommended Citation

Rocke, Beth (1943) "It's Mail Time," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 23 : No. 3 , Article 10.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol23/iss3/10
Writing to friends in the armed forces is a vital activity of every college woman today, for mail is a great morale builder, ranked above food in importance by some servicemen.

Letters to men in the service are the essential link which keeps them in touch with civilian life. They are eager to hear about the small daily happenings that are familiar to them. The topic of the latest bull session or the excitement caused by a minor explosion in the chemistry laboratory may seem uninteresting as subjects for a letter, but it is about such everyday events that the serviceman particularly enjoys reading.

By contacting his friends, more news of personal interest can be added to the letter. He is anxious to hear about the activities of former classmates. One of the best methods of keeping him informed about his friends and recent happenings in his home community is to enclose items from the college or local newspaper.

Snapshots are another invaluable morale builder. A cartoon from a magazine or newspaper adds interest to a letter, especially if it concerns the armed forces and has the serviceman’s name penciled over one of the uniformed figures. If there are no cartoons to illustrate the letter, a drawing sketched in the corner of the stationery will amuse him, regardless of the writer’s artistic ability.

The man in the armed forces doesn’t want to read a lengthy discourse on the work of the soldiers, sailors or marines. The movies, radio and newspapers provide that material.

Legitimate questions about the armed forces give the serviceman an opportunity to exhibit his knowledge of his work and make it easier for him to answer the letters. He won’t enjoy answering questions about the routine facts of army, navy or marine life, but questions about his particular position in the armed forces are a certain challenge to him.

The type of stationery used depends upon the man to whom the letter is being written. Plain white stationery is usually preferred.

Exactness of rank and address helps to insure delivery of mail to men in the service. Overseas mail should be sent to the postmaster at the port of embarkation for forwarding.

—Beth Rockefeller