Jan. 1/20 1932

Dear W H recd your letter sat was glad to hear from you we are all well. got your report mon. so here is what you made Bible A citizenship C chimestry A English B mathematics B psychology B physical education C. Spanish A work assignment B conduct B room A. I think that real good yes I sure have lots work to do dont ever have any time for rest milk 4 cows ever day cook 3 meals day and you no how many other things they is to do dont have much help.

Your aunt Belle [Della's sister and who may have had pellagra and was in a bad marriage] just went all to Pieces a gain last sat but she is some better now. Ellen [Della's sister] said she believed that Belle wonted to die the worst of any body she ever saw. I think its her mind What makes her be that way You no I wrote you a way back bout the house being broken into Well we have found the things or part of them. Jerry [Della's brother] got on to it and told us bout it so Mr Price [Della's second husband] gat Allen Connington [sp. ?] searched Mallie + Frank Dowdys house and found it you no fronk was already in the gang Mallie out under bond. So Mallie

[Remaining page(s) of this letter from Della not found]

2/17 1932

Dear W H. hope you are enjoying good health and your work right on. we are all well able to eat bout all we con get. Went to see Belle [Della's sister] this PM. she is not getting long so well now. Leahr. [?] is spending this week with me she has gone to spend the night with Ellen [Della's sister]. we went after her sun. we hove [?] to famlies Claud felts he has wife and 3 small children I think they are good folks. I sure like Mrs. felts she has been real good to help me ever since they have been here we havnt had to help them any yet. Carles does right well hes right smart like boy. Buren [Della's younger son] enjoys being with him. Exums folks [presumably tenants on her farm east of Nashville, now W.H. Outlaw Farm, 789 Mark Watson Road] are getting a long all right I think I havnt saw any of them latley WH I got bunch Valentines on the mail yesterday. they was one for you. I got one from Sam. Rentz. it sure was Pretty. They have all been teasing me a bout it I no Mrs. Rentz sent it and signed his name on it. Your uncle George [Della's brother] is rushing Versa Cola Griner now I believe he really likes her. and she does him to.

the girls havnt paid me yet Mr. Baker is still sick dont know when they will get paid off. Buren and Norman [husband of Della's sister Susie] have just come in from fishing said they got 7 cats Buren says tell you he never does have any big time I ask him what you told me to he, says what did you ask that silly question for. Buren getting to be some site. Norman says tell you him and Buren stayed to gather ever other night they are here to night. Buren has growed so you wont hardly no him when you come home. seems like I cont hardly wait for you to come home. are you having Plenty to eat now well recon better close and get in bed its most 10. oclock. so ans soon

from Mamma

I dont no where you can read this or not my lights was dim

3/28 1932

Dear W H recd your letter sat sure glad to hear from you we are all well Belle is not much better her mind is bad right on she eats little by forceing it on her. We had bad windy day yesterday and also some rain last night but its fair, and windy this am. Mr Eason, Carles + Nora takened dinner with us. Newt [Della's brother] and the children came the P M. little while. Mr. Eason said ever time he come over here his mamma asked bout you. Mr Eason Mr Price [Della's husband] Buren and turner are gone to court Buren [Della's younger son] wonted to go because he hadnt ever been, and they wont have school to-day. Mr Clements had to go to Court. school will be on fri. your grandma [presumably Della's stepmother Eliza] has come since I started your letter. said Belle was bout the same. it wont be but little over month before you come home I will be so glad to see you. Hazell [Della's brother Newt's daughter?] is over here she says tell you hello. W H recon you was kindly up set when the storm was on I no I would have been. Buren is some sight you just aught to see him. I dont no how I could get a long without him. hes takened in with Claud. He thinks hes trick. I think Claud is right good fellow You must be good and hurry home for I want to see you real bad. and ans soon

[?] your mamma.

PS. soon as I get paid will send you enough money to come home on I also got your card.

[Undated] Lenox Ga

Dear W H hope you are getting long fine I am bout sick this am. have got to where I cant sleep at night My heart bothers me so bad I cant sleep. recon just need some rest. WH I dont no where I can get all the money by Christmas or not but think I can before long Elma has been here 3 weeks will be one more week before she pays. dont know where she will draw her pay then or not.

I sure would hate for you to quit school before its out. just part of term wouldnt be much good for you. Buren [Della's younger son] has been to school ever day this week. We have been with Elma over to her house 3 nights this week to the cane grinding sure was large crowd their. some of them danced. all the rest are getting a long very well. Your grandma has done gone back she couldnt leave George [Della's brother]. he said she wouldnt have no body to quarrel with if she left him. Have you eat all your pecans will send you some more pop corn candy if you like it. Havent heard from Lena [née Outlaw, Della's adult step-daughter] since I wrote you last will try to send you some more money before long is it dry up their it sure is here. Son wont to see you but still I wont you to go to school. ans soon. from your Mamma [Della]

Lenox Ga aug 10

Dear W. H recd your letter sat no I dont think you write to much am always glad to hear from you recon I am some better can sit up some but dont go to the kitchen yet Dr said I would have to stay in 4 or 5 days yet Mr Price [Della's husband] is gone to adel to see the Dr this am. he wanted to come back to see me to-day he come sat. havnt heard from Lena [née Outlaw, Della's adult step-daughter] since you went a way. I think all the rest of the folks are getting a long very well. Lucile [daughter of Della's brother Jerry] is here with me spent the night here Buren [Della's younger son] is off trying to get hogs out of the field. W H just dont where we can raise any money or not. I dont no how much tobacco Mr. Exum [presumably tenants on her farm east of Nashville, now W.H. Outlaw Farm, 789 Mark Watson Road] has sold I no it wont be much dont no where it will be enough to take care of the guano bill or not. I tell you things begin to look serous I am sending the contract to you so you can give it to them. is your work all in doors or out and how bout the weather is it as hot their as it is here I just Imagine it is hard job. I just wont to se you so bad. I have worried bout not getting your trunk off to you but I just couldnt. Cant do any thing, but just sit here and worry. Buren says tell you his fussing to go to Uncle Noahs [Della's brother]. ever body you see is talking hard times still that dont help us any we are having plenty rain ever day. recon the cotton will all ruin. its not worth any any thing selling for 5 cts Pound. Now you no that wont pay debts. much and. its still raining this am Our cousin from Atlanta came to see us last week they were going back to

[Remaining page(s) of this letter from Della not found]

Lenox Ga aPril 30

Dear W H Have looked for letter ever day to no where you would come home and and how much it would take to bring you home I was just waiting to find out and if hear to day I will sent it on with this letter thats why I havnt wrote you no when I dont hear from you I am uneasy. I am just able to be up and look and not very able to do that I was in bed bout week W H I hope you get home before your aunt Belle [Della's sister] Passes out I no she cant be here much longer or it dont look that way she is so poor its Pitiful to look at her I just cant hardly bear to be a round her I havnt been to see her but twice since I been sick. I am not able to go and walk. we had some bad weather round here this week but it didnt strike here they was bout 10 killed in the Co. son be care ful on the way home and when you get the money to come on dont let no one no bout it. they is much stealing I wont have but just bout enough to bring you home will close hope to see you next week. from Mamma

[Following is from the back of this letter.]

Buren says to tell you he is going to give you fits in his new ground when you get home W H if you can get off think you had better come on when you get this dont think Belle will last but a few hours longer. [Have only page 2 of this letter]

dog fight Mon am + Mae [?]went to frank dowds and then went to town next day and got warrant for him and Charlie skipped out. their trouble was bout Malley Dowds old man Eason [father-in-law of Della's sister Susie?] is sure hot about it cant blame him. Buren [Della's son] has had bad case of sore eyes this week we had to take him to the Dr. Mon night fellow by the name of Haeton [?] moved in the little house this pm to

[Have only pages 2 and 3 of this letter]

He came home with Mama and Dady Saturday night. Them and the boys taken him home Sunday Mary Beth [daughter of Della's brother Jerry], Franklin [son of Della's brother Jerry] and myself spent the day with Aunt Ellen [Della's sister] She lives at Mr. Jim Watson

There was a bad rick in Lenox Monday. A train ran in to Jack Lindsey's sister Gladys she had her four children in the car with her. she died before they got to the hospital. One of the little boys died Wednesday evening at five oclock. The Dr. said this morning that he thought the other three would live. They are in the Adell Hospital.

Mr. Tom Bryan was operated on Monday for apendix. He was resting very well yesterday the last hearing we had. They have gone down there now.

Mr Sam Arnal was burried at Pine Grove yesterday. A mule kiled him. He started to get on the mule, which had plow harness on, his foot sliped threw the trace chaine

[Have only page 3 of this letter]

it I would be glad for you to start to school. but it seems like its the hardest time to get money I ever saw. I sold few chickens last week to get this I am sending you they are only 10 cts Pound. I think Ellen [Della's sister] is bout to back out they have been hearing some bad reports on the boy Ellen talked like she might come live with me. Mr Easons talks [?]

William H. Outlaw Jr.; transcribed Jan 01, 2002

[Have only page 5 of this letter]

going to sell some chickens soon as I have time to care them off. now be a good boy and write to me. the Ford man come and got Noahs car last week they was bout \$20.00 behind on it. times looks hard a head. recon they will be some way for us if we work and try.

So ans soon. from

Your Mother.

WHI sure want to see you but I always want you to do what is best for you

[Have only page 6 of this letter]

spent the night with Sussie [Della's sister]. What you recon your aunt Ellen [Della's sister] is going to get mairred to Riley Hooper so I have heard hes just 23. years. old I havnt ever saw him. W H Buren [Della's younger son] in the cotton patch this am recon he wont write this time. he picked 95 lbs yesterday but I no he wants you to come home and I do you no. son I havnt any money this am to send you but I am

[Page 1 of this letter is missing.]

worries bout Nick [husband of Della's sister Belle] all the time its just bad case. they have moved her over to Jerrys but she begs all the time to go back home says Nick is going to leave her. W H bout how much will it take to bring you home. I am going to try to have the money for you to come on when your time is up. I cont hardly wait for the time to come I want to see you so bad. I dreamed the other night you came and was in before I knew you was coming. went to church sat. sun. had good meeting sun Noah [Della's brother] was sick sat so we didnt have any preachers. but in the class of the meeting sun Mr Cromwell. ask if he could talk little Noah told him to go a head. so he gat up and begin seemed like he wonted to tell them something they didnt no bout the bible. Noah soon ask him to have his seat and he did so. you remember that old lady that run filling station between Lenox Sparks. that stayed by her self. She shot woman last week it was mrs Stevenson she was selling gas just on the other side of the highway said she shot her three times old lady Falk [?] is in jail and the other lady is in the hospital. its sure cold bad weather this am. Julia was asking me about you sat. I think ever body will be glad to see you come home--ever body is asking bout you Will close as its most time for Jack. ans soon and long letter to your momma

PS has Leah ans your letter.

Lenox Ga Jan 4

Dear W H recd your letter sat was glad to hear from you and that you was getting a long good guess you are already at work by this time write and tell me what you have to do and how much they give you. Hope you will like it. You will have long hours. but most of the time I work longer than that. we have just begin to kill hogs killed 4 last week and fixing to go at it a gain this a m. we have 12 more to kill sure have some nice ones write and tell me if you want me to send you some sausage. Buren [Della's younger son] says tell you shep has 6. little pups he sure is proud of them. your aunt Belle [Della's sister] is going to come over to see me today she is still having to take the shots. Dr came to see her yesterday her mind seems to be lots better she had bad spell last week got to where she couldnt see and drawed just looked like she was going to die Dr said it was her nerves Well I will have to come to close. ans soon. from your

Mamma