



Camp Merced, Calif.

December 13, 1942.

Dear Brothers of Signet:

What a pleasant surprise it was to receive that bountiful package full of good things, and what is more important, full of the good wishes of my fraternity. I'm certainly most grateful to all of the brothers and want you to know that I appreciate what you have done.

My father sent me the monthly bulletin which was addressed to my home, and in it I was pleased to note Signet still ranking. Too bad I can't be there for the annual affair, but I assure you that you bear my very best wishes for a successful 1943. It is a known fact that no matter how perfect one may be in certain branches of knowledge, he is bound to forget that knowledge thru lack of use. So, in order to avoid that, and in order that I may be able to assume my place in Masonry once more (when and if I return), I brought my Key and Monitor along with me, and find that it gives me almost as close contact with the Lodge as if I were actually there. Quite often, I pick up the key and run over the degree work, so that I don't believe I'll become "rusty", so to speak, as far as Blue Lodge work is concerned.

There happens to be a small Lodge here in Merced, California; and I have been invited as a visiting brother to take a seat on the occasion of their next Third, - which takes place, next Friday, December 18th. One of the men who is going to this special meeting has asked me to give the lecture, and I hope that I shall be able to do so in a manner which will exemplify the thoroughness of the teachings in Signet. I shall write you more about that later.

At the present time, I am still in the Finance Section of the Army Air Force, have a very good job in connection with Headquarters Offices, and am getting along very well. In an early future letter I shall give you a comprehensive description of California, the camp, our duties, recreation, etc. If you happen to think of it, please send my 1943 membership card along, and I shall arrange for payment through my attorney in Detroit who is handling all my personal affairs. Most cordial regards to everybody, and aske the boys to drop me a line.

Faternally yours,

Carl Kotkin, Bro.