



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE

Good
Band trip
to Mayport
otherwise not
very interesting

Sept. 11, 1942

Dear Folks.

Yes. That was a right
smart idea of Nancei, wasn't it?
I thought you sounded a little
far away, I could hear everything,
and though very little was actually
said, even for three minutes, that
wasn't what counted, was it?

It's nice to hear about the
success of the vegetable garden.
I'm amazed at the variety of
crops. How about the pine
rows? Badly weeviled again, I
suppose, but perhaps considerable
growth on some of the trees? How
fortunate that the weevil seldom
kills, but how unfortunate that

many weeded trees remain deformed
for life.

Life goes on here about the
same. There's another hot spell
in progress with the temperature
reaching 90° F. or nearly so daily,
which has discouraged visits
to town, the only ^{this week} one, having
been last night to a fairly good
movie, which I shouldn't have
bothered with except that a
friend wanted company, and he's
a nice fellow.

The training program is not
too rigorous and actually enjoyable
though the continued half day of
ground training is dull and amounts
to not too much as yet. My new
realt gunner - radio man likes to
fly and has proved a mild success.



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It is official rank in Aviation
Mechanical Mate Second Class.
Though he is a good bit older
than I am. On most of our
flights we go out in four planes
plus a chase pilot in another.
We have been lucky and not
missed more than a flight or
two because of bad weather.
Though one navigation hop I'll
have to repeat because I came
out too far off. It is not easy
for me to determine the wind
correctly if its light and
then figure a course relative
to an imaginary ship and
then to another that was in

such and such a position at
such and such a time and is
over changed destination sent
by radio or otherwise (sealed
envelope or blinder or hand signals
from close simulating radio
reception of which is sometimes
poor). Then too one has to
fly the plane without wavering
too much from compass course
(figured to allow for deviation
because of engine, etc., variation
from true north ^{and finally} difference
between true heading and course
because of wind!). For the
time being we are through
navigation and gunnery (just
finished to-day) and have
instrument flying and bombing
before the final four to five



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how hope involving everything.

Beginning next week we are not supposed to have liberty except on week-ends, and, though there is little reason for this, there are lots of letters to write and some nice books I've lined up to read. I just finished "Cross Creek," the first in some time and though not swiftly moving like a novel, very entertaining. If she were a better ornithologist, Margorie Rawlings would really be an all-around gal!

Last Sunday was the best bird trip in some time.

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Four of us for H&K each each
way arranged for a Taxi to
take us from Atlantic Beach
to Mayport and to pick us
up three and a half hours
later. We passed marsh, mud
flats, creeks, beaver and the
^{in the meantime} river and saw rails, plovers,
sandpipers, yellow-legs, stilts,
egrets, herons, terns, gulls,
hawk, eagles, etc. As usual
I've made no plans for the
coming week-end, and as far
as "dates" are concerned seemed
to have become a stick-in-the-
mud. Heat and no car just
sap one's ambition in that
direction.

Love

T. R.

P.S. Any extra brownies? And Pa. look in
Goodspeed's sometime and see if they have "A Florida
Sketch Book" - nature book by Bradford Torrey. Don't bother with telescope stand.