

Dearest Mom.....

SEPT.
4

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE
HOW I COULD POSSIBLY LEAVE BY
THE 19th. I JUST DON'T THINK I
CAN DO IT.

My wage is \$18.85 A WEEK.
THAT CERTAINLY ISN'T TOO MUCH. A
WAITRESS HAS TO DEPEND ON TIPS
FOR A LIVING. WHAT SHE GETS IS
NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT MOST
PEOPLE ARE MAKING NOW-A-DAYS IN OTHER JOBS.
YOU KNOW THAT.

^{BUT} SOMEHOW, I HATE TO GET TIPS;
ESPECIALLY FROM THE ISLAND BOYS.
THEY TREAT ME SO WELL AND
TIP SO HEAVILY. I FINALLY WROTE
AND ASKED THEM NOT TO TIP.
THEIR FRIENDLINESS IS MORE THAN
ENOUGH. (THEY TREAT WAITRESSES LIKE PEOPLE)
AND I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL.
OUTSIDE OF THEIR TIPS I GET
VERY LITTLE. ^{BUT WHAT I GET} ~~SAVED~~ FROM NOW ON, I'M
NOT EVEN GOING TO SAVE ~~TIPS~~. I CAN'T

EXPLAIN WHAT I'M DOING WITH IT.
THERE'S A MILLION WAYS TO USE
MONEY.....AND I'M USING IT FAST.
THERE'S ALOHA SERVICE, CRUSADER~~S~~ STUFF,
STAMPS, CHURCH OFFERING (HAVE BEEN
SENDING TO SAN PEDRO SINCE I LEFT
THERE).....~~AND~~ THERE'S SO MANY OTHER
THINGS TOO.

SOON AS YOU LEFT, I OPENED
THE "TOMATO-CAN-BANK" TO SEND OUT
READERS DIGEST ARTICLES, CRUSADER
BOOKLETS. THEN CAME THE RENT
FEE, THE TYPE-WRITER FEE, HOUSING
^{EXPENSE} FOR "THAT CERTAIN COUPLE
~~CERTAIN~~ FAMILIES." I SEEM TO
ALWAYS BE STARTING FROM SCRATCH.

BUT MOM, PLEASE DON'T DARE
SAY YOU'LL HELP FINANCE ME. YOU
KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE TO BE
"HELPED" WHEN IT'S NOT NECESSARY.
I'VE GOT TO STAY TO THE END OF
THE MONTH. I HOPE YOU'LL UNDER-
STAND. I WANT TO "EARN" MY OWN
MONEY. I HATE TO KEEP LEANING ON
YOU AND ART AND PETE. YOU DON'T

KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE THAT. IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE I'VE HAD TO DO IT
BEFORE. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE A
FULL-TIME JOB AND WITH PAY, I
WANT TO HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF
HAVING "DONE IT" MYSELF.
~~WORKED~~ FOR IT.

I ASKED MR. FINCH IF HE
COULD HELP OUT IN THIS "HOUSING STUFF."
I TOLD HIM ABOUT "THAT COUPLE." I
WAS SURE HE WOULD HELP. I ASKED
FOR \$45.00 SO IT WOULD ALLEVIATE
WORRIES FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS.
(15 A MONTH). BUT I GUESS HE
JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT THESE
LITTLE THINGS.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE.
HE'S DONE SO MUCH.

BUT I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT
I'VE GONE THROUGH. ANYWAY, MR.
WHITTEN WARNED ME BEFORE I CAME
UP HERE. HE SAID THIS WOULD
HAPPEN AND IT DID. BUT I'M NOT
SORRY. I'VE RECENTLY HAD A CHANCE
TO TASTE LIFE; ^{AND} THE BITTER SIDE FOR ONCE.

Mon. IT'S BEEN THE RICHEST
EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE. SOME
DAY, WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, I'LL
TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, ALL ABOUT
EVERYTHING I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE
ELSE.

I GUESS YOU KNOW THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS THE ALOHA SERVICE.
SO MUCH OF THIS IS CRAZY — AND
FANTASTIC.

I WANT TO RUSH HOME AND
YET I WANT TO BE COOL-HEADED.
I'VE KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON THE
AD-SECTION OF THE PILOT. JOBS ARE
SCARCE IN PEDRO. HOUSING IS WORSE.
I FEEL IT'S WISER NOT TO RUSH
BACK TOO FAST. YET AGAIN, WINTER
IS COMING. IT'S BEST TO TRAVEL
WHEN THE WEATHER IS STILL MILD.

I KNOW YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO GET
BACK TOO. Anyway, Mon, I PROMISE
I'LL LEAVE BY THE END OF THIS
MONTH.

Love, Mary