

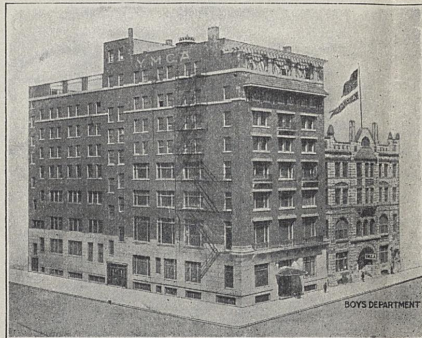
# The Young Men's Christian Association

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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
 TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 5, 1912.

Dear Mother: - Just got back (11 P.M.)  
 from a 7 hour stay at August Hardtk's  
 at 661 - 38th St. Had a very pleasant  
 and profitable visit there and some interesting  
 discussions.

That vacant plate makes me think  
 seriously.

Wish I might be able to see you  
 all, scattered so. There will be a grand  
 reunion by-and-by.

I'll have more to say about  
 worry when I get time. Always something un-  
 said on my side of that practical question.

This weather just suits me. I am  
 prepared for it with ear-protectors, ~~wristers~~  
 wristers, muffler, overcoat, mittens, etc. Hope  
 all is well at home.

The check enclosed is for \$19.00 only.

I will make it even next month. This  
is my word and promise.

If Lester has gone, please forward  
my letter to him, if I don't.

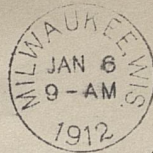
August promised me a position in  
his school if I would take it.

Played the piano at the Majestic  
Theatre Sunday night.

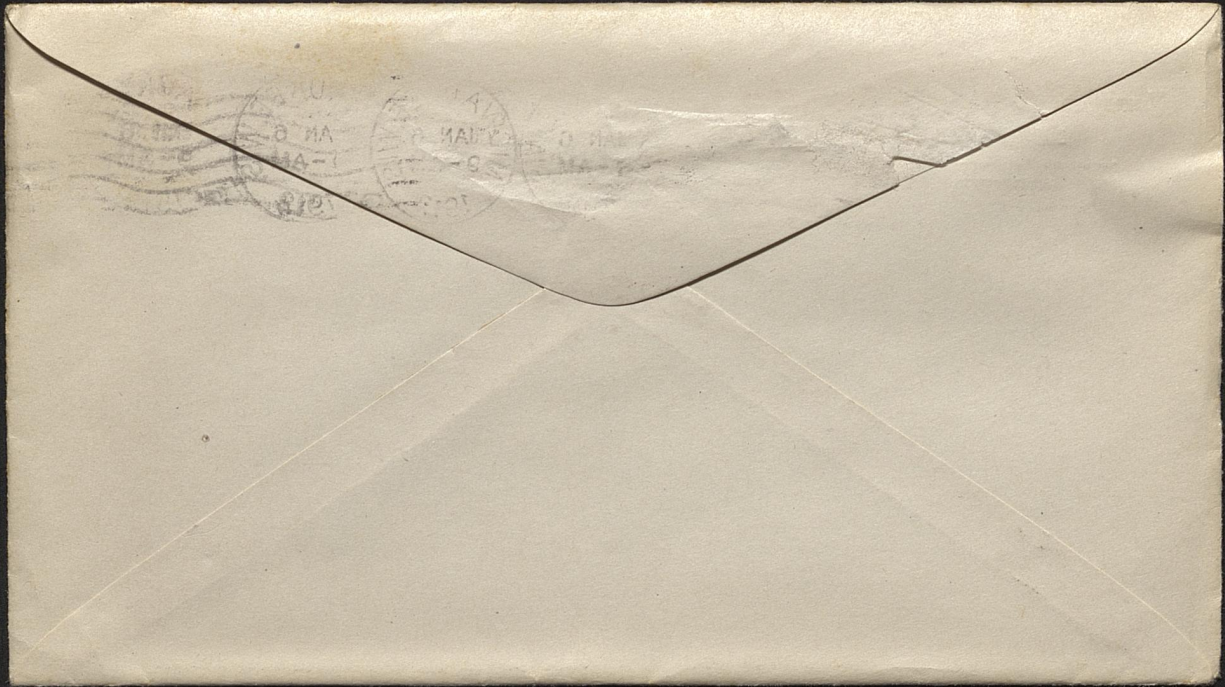
It is late. More next time.

In love, Ralph.

In 5 Days return to  
**Young Men's Christian Association**  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Borden,  
Bridghead,  
Green Co.,  
Wis.



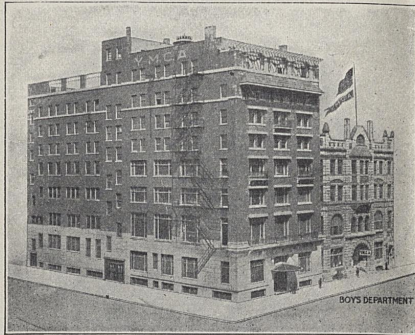
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 1-12-1912,

Dear Mother:—

I enjoy this frigid atmosphere immensely, even in lake-bounded Milwaukee. It does me great good. It rejoices me to hear that you are standing it well.

Sister arrived at Blanchardville well and rec'd a good reception.

My purpose in attending the Majestic Theatre on New Year's eve was to play at a midnight men's mass meeting held under the auspices of the local branch of the national Men and Religion Forward Movement. Tuesday noon of this week I played at the Crystal Theatre at the first of eight prayer-meetings being conducted at

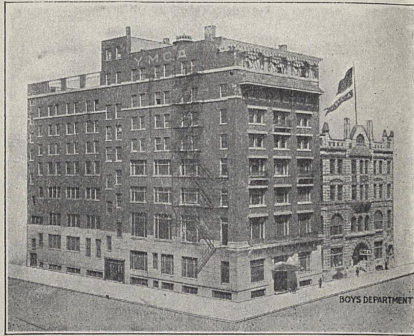
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MILWAUKEE.

that place this week and next under  
the same control. Shall probably play  
there next week Tuesday.

I am like-minded with you on  
the question of communications, for I have  
six of them due me from members of our fam-  
ily, and more from other sources.

I kept all appointments Sunday  
and this week. My Tuesday night Bible  
class had an attendance of six beside  
myself.

Yours in love,

Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

*RHB*

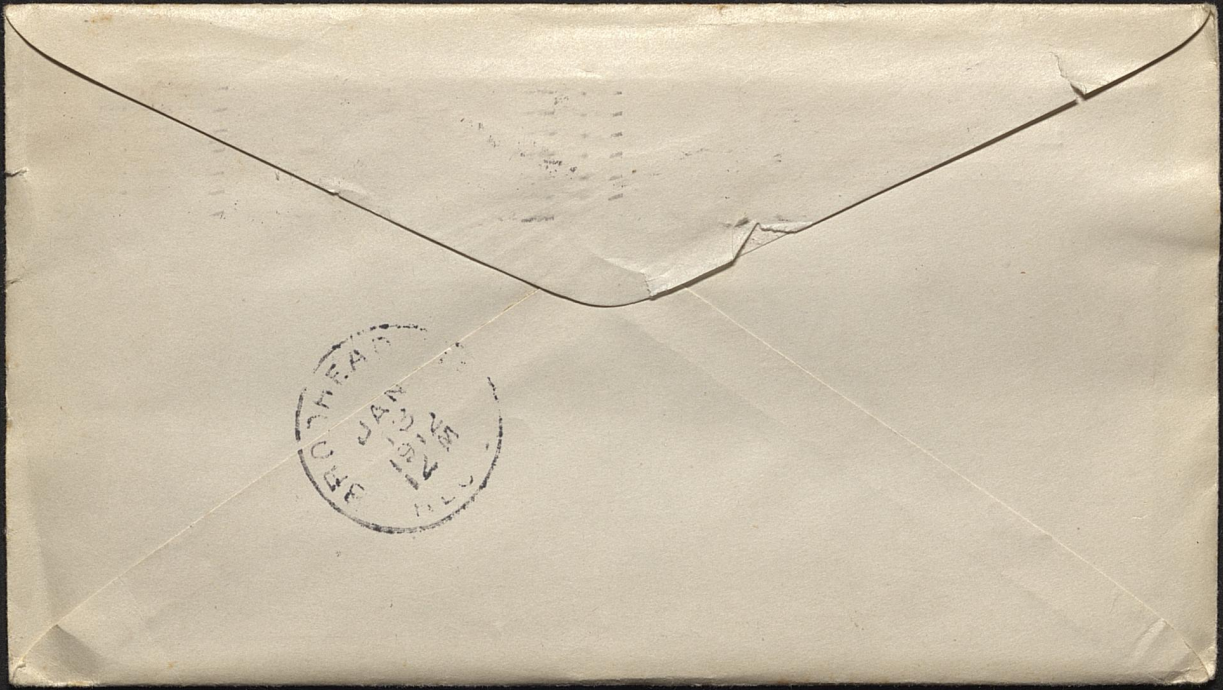
MILWAUKEE, WIS.  
JAN 12  
10-PM  
1912



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,

Wis.

mail,





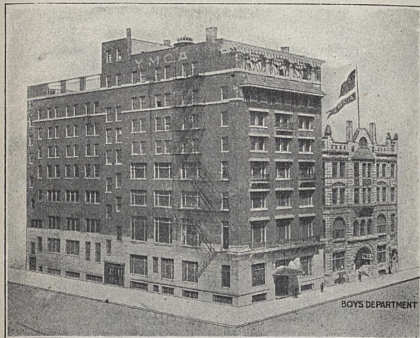
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MILWAUKEE,

1-19-12.

Dear Mother:— Shall be pleased to see the "Hope" which I have not seen since I visited August Hardtke.

Nobody would be more glad to see Ray on a visit than myself. This week the best friend I had in Milwaukee, a young man in our building, J. D. Fosta, left for a two months' vacation. There are few persons whom I really like. I have yet to find any young man of better sterling qualities than Ray possesses, despite his natural ferocity. I have often considered the remarkable possibilities of a family in which there are seven children, all mentally capable of decided good if they would fearlessly cast off the fetters of impatience and

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MILWAUKEE.

anxiety and attack the duties of life, as  
Sister and William have done. Everett  
must complete his high school course  
without fail; Miles and Loyel should  
have done so. I have always particu-  
larly counted on Ray; he was for so many  
years practically a twin to me. I assure  
you, mother, it gets very lonesome here  
in spite of my many friends and mul-  
titudinous acquaintances.

If some of Milwaukee's thermom-  
eters would burst, the city would  
become warmer. People here refuge-  
ate their faces inspecting the cold  
thermometers!  
Your son, Ralph

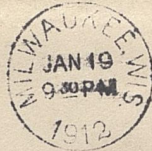
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143 FOURTH STREET

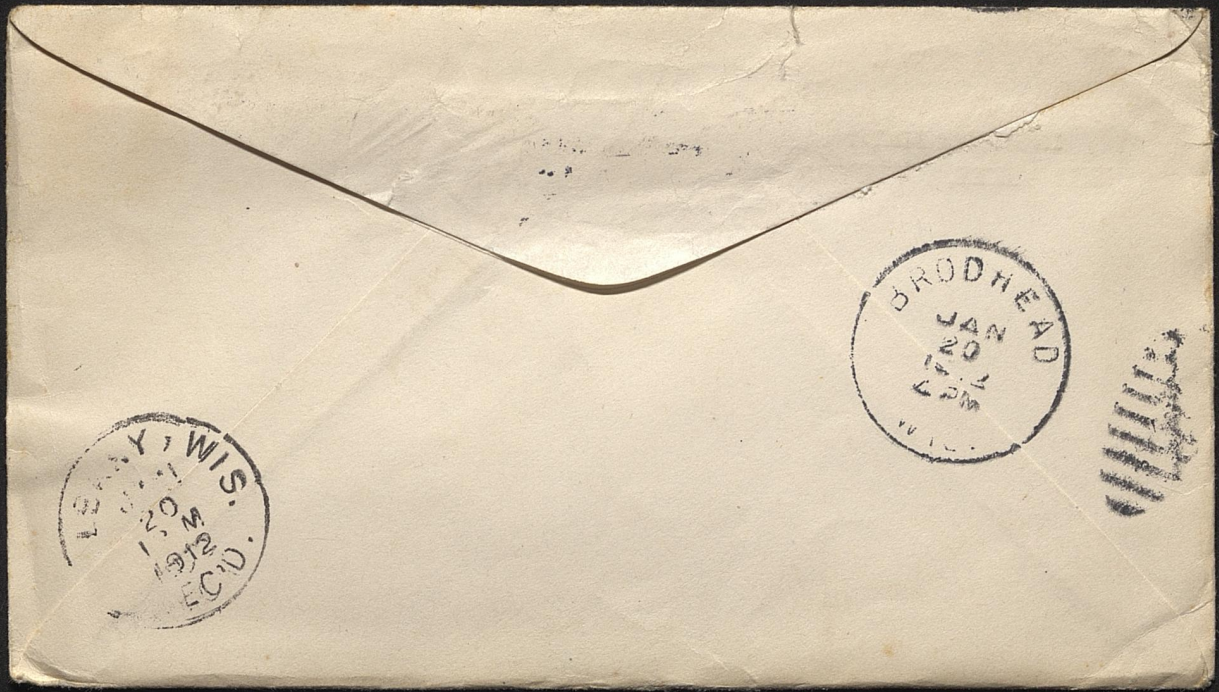
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

*RFB*



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.

missent



LEWIS, WIS.  
JAN 20  
1912

BRODHEAD  
JAN 20  
1912

Vertical postmark consisting of slanted parallel lines.

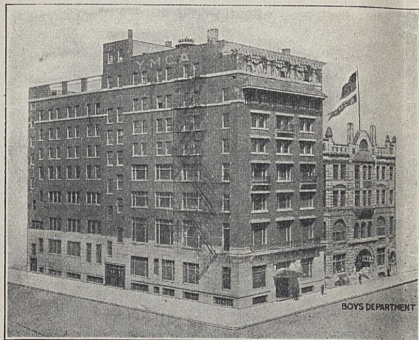
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 1 - 26 - 1912.

Dear Mother:— The weather has become terribly and distressingly warm.

I will return the paper when I get done with it. — It strikes me that if our people who are supposed to lead the work were as eager and prepared to accomplish it as they are to talk about it, great things would be done for God. We are too disgustingly selfish.

You should see the bunch of men I take to church with me Sunday mornings. There has also been great growth in my Tuesday night Bible class. I started with five and now have thirteen. If in days to come I shall get greater opportunity for preparation, I hope to do some constructive Bible study work along distinct lines.

Mrs. Armstrong, who has flats to rent on

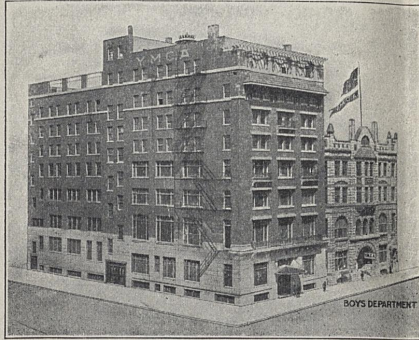
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MILWAUKEE.

Grand Avenue, was last Sunday morning partially burned out by a conflagration which completely destroyed a club house and dance hall near the place.

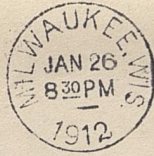
P. A. Erickson, a Pres. S.S. missionary residing in the Y.M.C.A., having arrived in Chetek, Wis., to take up the pastorate of the M.E. church there, sends me a view of the church, parsonage, and lot. I have never seen a picture which so completely pleased me and made me wish for country life. I am afraid I may revolt against this rigid urban confinement.

Your true son,

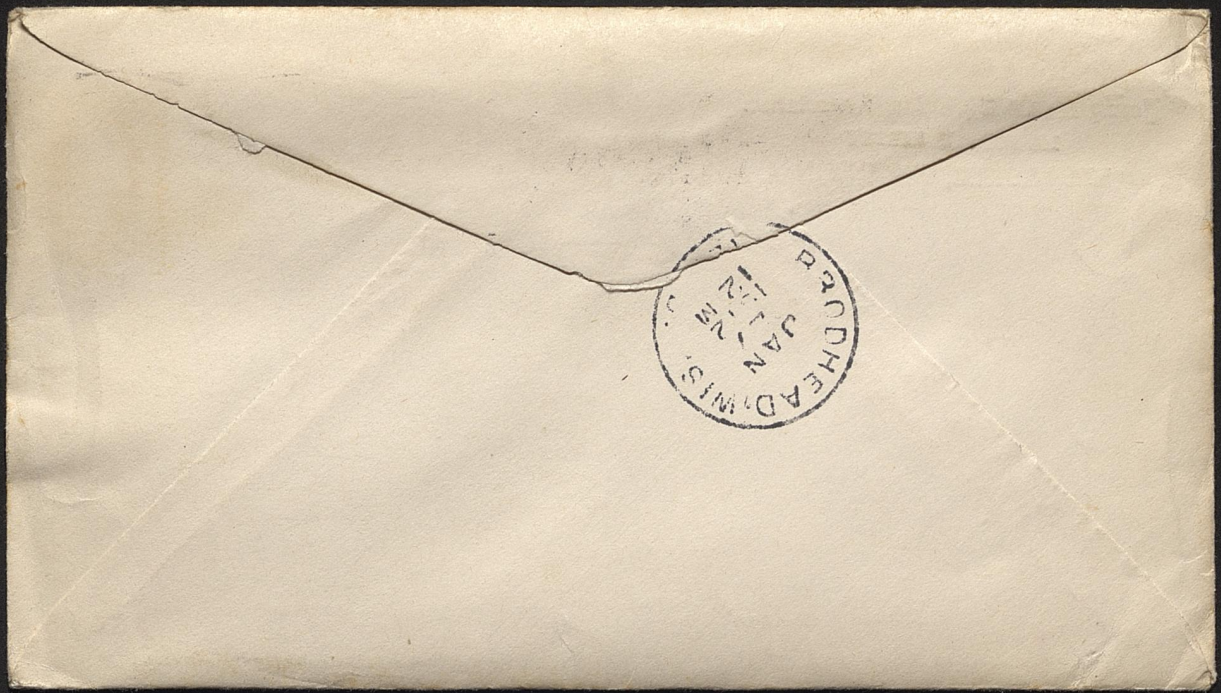
Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association  
143 FOURTH STREET *RIA*  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brodhead,  
Wis.



R. D. HEAD  
JAN 12  
MIS



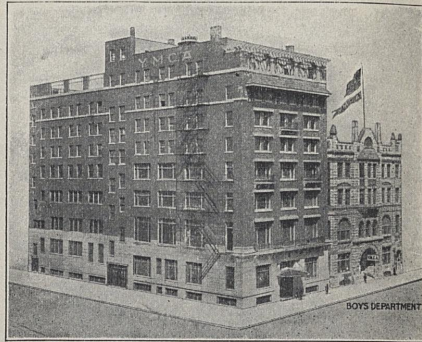
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MILWAUKEE, 2-1-12,

Dear Mother:— It is remotely possible that I may be able to make a short visit home in early March, but the brevity of my visit would only constitute a thorn in the flesh to tantalize and tease my rural inclinations. Of late I have been dreaming of heavy felt boots and snow 4 ft. deep. I hardly think it would be wise for me to suggest such a visit inasmuch as the managers have made no advances to me or any other of the single men with respect to short vacations. I do think it would be the proper thing for my physical health to possess the opportunity of much outdoor exercise such as wood-chopping, although some splendid opportunities lie in this building. Nobody would more deeply desire to see "the folks" than would I, but we cannot always steer our own way. Your idea of perfection is supremely dangerous. God will never endue any man with more grace and power till that man gets busy and really needs it. No man who seeks

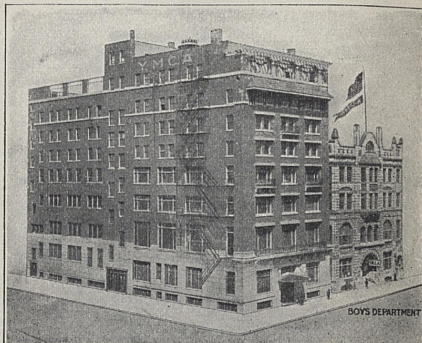
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
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MILWAUKEE,

to accomplish just the proper thing in God's way  
 will lack of strength providing he goes  
 ahead. Goodness and simplicity are as commenda-  
 ble as greatness and complexity.

My bunk varies from Sunday to Sun-  
 day. There are 23 on my list. The "funeral  
 sermon" mentioned was a good one in most  
 respects.

While the official thermometer did not  
 register below -22° to my knowledge, the  
 damp lake atmosphere made it feel much  
 colder.

Since this week enclosed some tracts  
 to be mailed by me at Milwaukee for  
 people in Blanchardville. She is in-  
 generous.

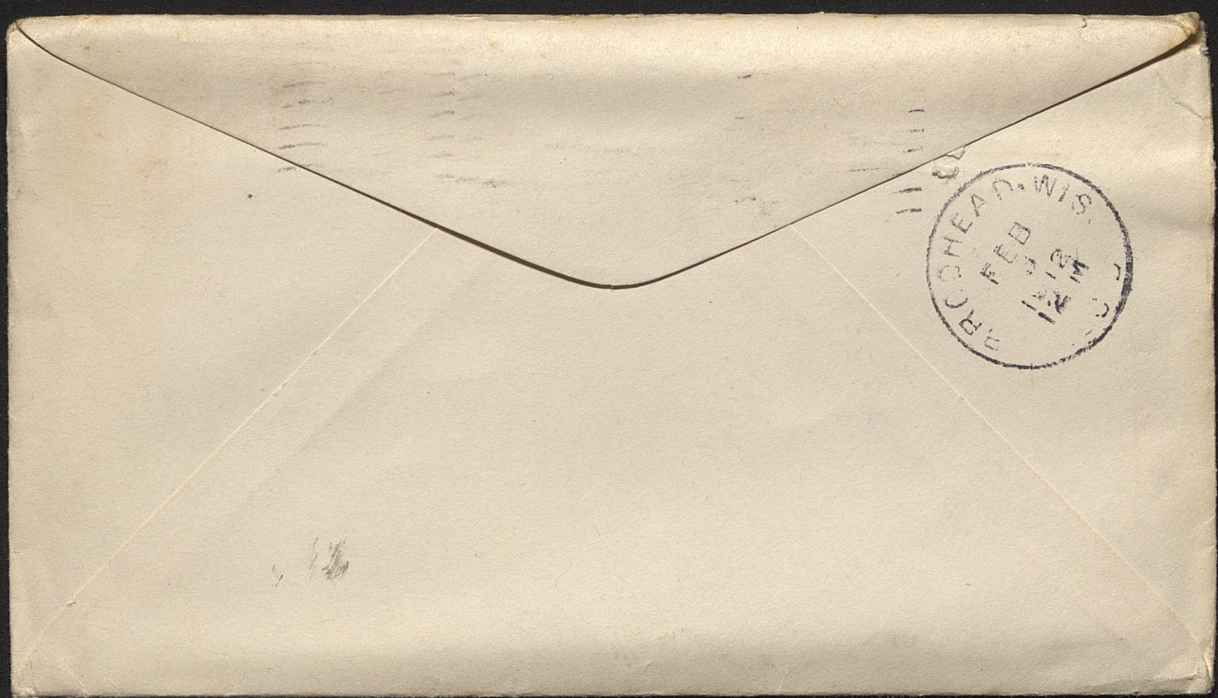
Yours in love,

R. T. Bowden

In 5 Days return to  
Young Men's Christian Association  
143 FOURTH STREET *RFR*  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookfield,  
Wis.



PROCHEAD. WIS.  
FEB 18 1881

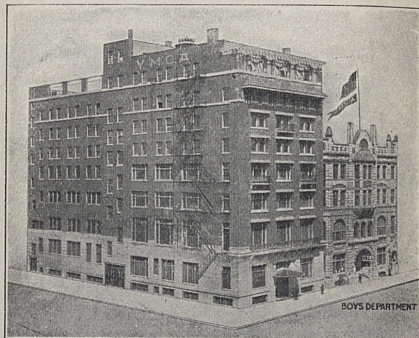
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MILWAUKEE, 2-8-12,

Dear Mother:— It seems that death is reaping a most awful harvest down near home. Only the regenerative power of Christ can remove the sting of evil.

I know of no near-perfection than that completeness of fitness which God intends for all. There is no conviction so strengthening than the assurance that one is in the disposing leadership of God.

Today I spent an afternoon with a Christian young man whom I have learned to love as a true friend. Few today seem capable of the genuine unpretentious friendship which forms the very essence of earthly Christianity. This evening I spent with another Christian young man, a member of my growing Bible class. Christian fellowship is great!

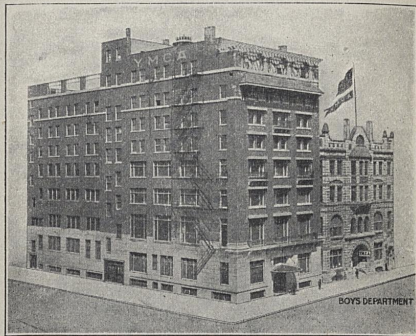
# The Young Men's Christian Association

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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
 TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 2-8-12.

I would like to see some of my own relatives and kindred. There is some remarkability in the fact that I have one sister only. One of the ymca telephone operators tells me I should have six sisters instead of one, but I am inclined to think that our family could make a strong showing of usefulness if the boys would exert themselves.

Constantly I experience a desire for the company of my twin brother. It would mean much for both of us, inasmuch as he is negative and I am positive. Nothing so helps me as the friendship of a few staunch disciples of Christ. Ray is almost Peter's duplicate.

Your true son,  
Ralph True

In 5 Days return to  
Young Men's Christian Association  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

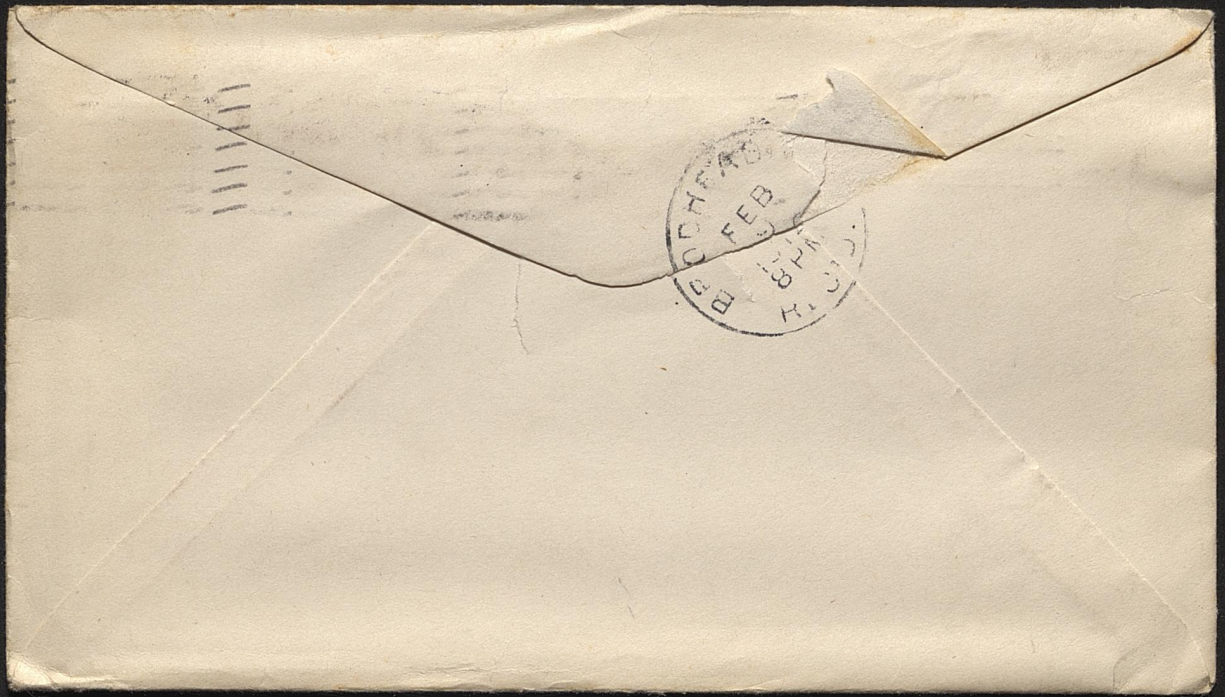
*RFB*

MILWAUKEE, WIS.  
FEB 9  
10:30 AM  
1912



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.

200





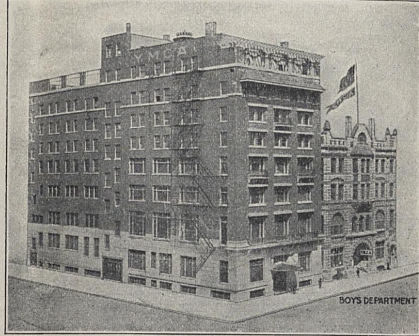
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
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MILWAUKEE, 2-26-12.

Dear Mother:— I think less of death than I do of resurrection. The prospect of eternal life is bright indeed. Believers ought to bear in mind a picture of the world to come. It is a thrilling hope. Will it be another <sup>ten</sup> years before the savior comes? If so, well. His will be done. But if not—!

Tell Everett I will not tolerate a repetition of such conduct as freezing his ear. It is too expensive.

Grandmother may be nearing the end of her course. But the 'great day' is also near.

I wish I could have a visit with some of my kin, but my work is exacting. Lately I have had the most delightful hikes and visits with personal friends. My true closest friends in Milwaukee are business enthusiasts over cheese-making, drug-selling, and electric

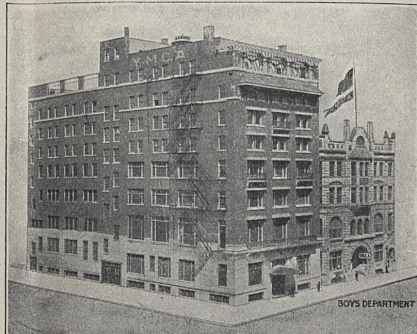
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
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MILWAUKEE.

construction. Had a letter from Ray this week. He seems quite busy.

I think you do right in telling me of the laudacious propensities of the nursery. It would entice me to meet my nephews once.

My Bible class had the record attendance for January. Therefore the other classes propose to defeat me this month. But I have nevertheless enrolled three new men since Tuesday. The opposing leaders are all experienced men.

Sunday a. m. I preach in the North Milwaukee Pres. Church; in the evening I lead the Epworth League service at Trinity M. E. Church. Have much planning to do.

Your loyal son,

Ralph True.

In 5 Days return to  
Young Men's Christian Association  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

*RFB*

MILWAUKEE WIS  
FEB 17  
3-PM  
1912



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.  
200



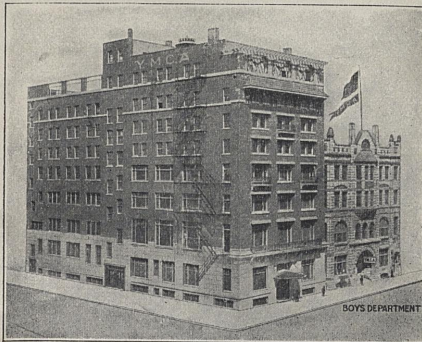
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
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MILWAUKEE, 2-23-12

Dear Mother:-

Never bother about the blizzards.  
 They are helpful.

Your sentiments concerning future photo-  
 graphic reproductions I share. I wish it  
 were possible for me to get one made here,  
 but it is too expensive as yet.

With several friends I have ransacked  
 this Schlitz city within two weeks.

Sunday a.m. I preached in No. Mt.  
 Pres. church on 'Fashion'. Sunday evening  
 I led the Epworth League at Bay View  
 in Trinity M. E. church. Next Sunday  
 evening I lead the Epworth L. E. meeting  
 at Calvary Pres. church.

I am engaged full swing in a

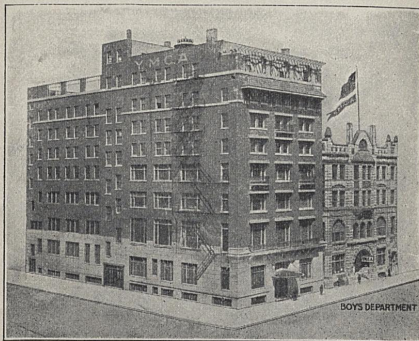
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE,

big Bible class campaign. I have enrolled my 23rd member. Only one of my members has thus far proved traitor! you shall have the report when my work is done.

yours in fervent energy,  
your true son,

Ralph

In 5 Days return to  
**Young Men's Christian Association**  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.





Ymca,

3-1-12.

Dear Mother: - Greenwood  
Sanctuary must be a  
live place these days.  
Ray will receive  
a warm welcome here.  
Am hoping I can have  
him as a visitor at  
my Bible class on that  
Tuesday night. My  
class now numbers  
27 men. The attendance  
at the last session  
was twenty men. We

defeated the opposition gloriously and have  
gladly accepted another virtual challenge.  
We have not subordinated quality to quan-  
tity, either.

I was out in the Blizzard Monday,  
and enjoyed it immensely.

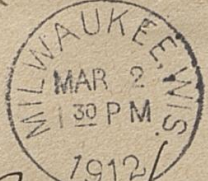
Ray ought to work where he thinks  
he can be most useful to the world in  
general.

Wish I could see Everett. It is  
now fourteen months since I have seen him.  
Wish he would write. Everett has great  
possibilities.

Your loving son,

Ralph

mt. ymca,  
3-1-12.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.

fluence of contagious  
example. When Christ  
naturally becomes a  
personal friend, person-  
al work will come  
naturally.

Give my love to  
grandma and aunt Lu.

Don't worry about  
Ernest. He ought to have  
a chance to learn  
horses and their riding  
or something similar. You  
have got to quit  
worrying. It's needless.

Your loving son,  
Ralph True.

YMCA,

3-8-12.

Dear Mother: - Having  
wickedly neglected to  
get a bank draft  
this week, I must ask  
you to wait till  
early next week as  
I want to get this  
off on time.

I am quite well  
informed on internation-  
al and national sit-  
uations as we get  
the various city dai-

his here. God surely  
will not forsake his  
word. Earth hangs  
at the brink.

I am in touch with  
Ray on the matter of  
his visit. It is a matter  
of anticipation for me.

The principal diffi-  
culty with the Bowden  
family is a tendency  
to gloom instead of  
gladness. This charac-  
teristic never appears  
without a slighting  
result. No success is  
possible without dete-

mined faithfulness to  
principle and practice.  
Everett, for very definite  
reasons, is not his  
own master yet and  
must have time and  
exercise to learn the  
pleasure of self-direc-  
tion along right lines.

Ray used to be  
periodically subject to  
spells of radical im-  
patience not unmixed,  
however, with a most  
valuable independence.  
I never see rigidity  
of personality without be-

ing glad. Ray's present inclination to unlatch his heart-strips is enabling him to overlook pretty annoyances and stand freed of trivial pettencies.

Miles was not a boy when younger, nor has he ever had his youth. You can't have consummate manhood without robust boyhood. Miles needs to get out and play in the books for the

sake of his character development. I would like to do it myself.

William, with a chance to attain unto vigorous health, would become a man without worry and capable of great things. Health is the basis of all true work.

I would not say as much to Dulak, but my sister ought to have had a livelier girlhood. She was too much in-

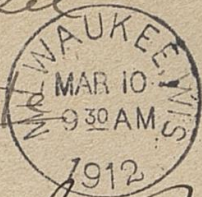
clined to solitude and  
hermitude. Persuasion  
is no good for youth.  
Development of strong  
virtues is the only  
foundation for charac-  
ter. Life must be  
kept alive. I think  
that existence without  
bisk rumps and sharp  
contests is dull indeed.  
Sister ought to learn  
to be strong physi-  
cally as well as  
otherwise. I have often  
deplored Sister's physical  
inefficiency.

I realize the restric-  
tive effect of unsociabil-  
ity, but if we can't  
wake up any other way  
let's become children  
physically for awhile,  
and become strong.  
There need be no fear  
of the future for that  
character which in this  
life has been developed  
in the pulsating life  
of the friendship of the  
personality of Christ.  
The perishing ones can  
best be reached through  
the unconscious in-

ymca  
milwaukee

POSTED

R. T. B. La



Mrs. J. S. Bowden  
Brookhead,  
Wis.



BRODHEAD, WIS.  
MAR  
11  
1912  
12 M  
TELE. D.

Ymca,

3-15-12.

Dear Mother:—

The long delayed draft is herewith enclosed.

My heart would stop beating if I could see Wm. and family!

My estimate of my brother Raip's character was sustained by several days of personal association here. In my judgment, he

is the most integral  
character I have ever  
met among the young  
men of Wisconsin. His  
change is miraculous.  
We both need training.

Wm. seems to be  
having considerable  
trouble with rooming  
quarters.

No, you better not  
waste any time in  
the worry habit!

Talked for ten min-  
utes Sunday evening  
on "Evangelism" in Talon  
Evang. Church. Must lead

the jail service of the  
Putnam Cong. Church next  
Sunday a.m.

Just returned from  
a long and variegated  
hike with a close per-  
sonal friend. It has  
become an art with  
us.

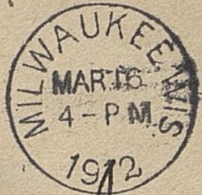
Evvett would enjoy  
the YMCA gym!

Am doing some  
special outside men-  
bership work.

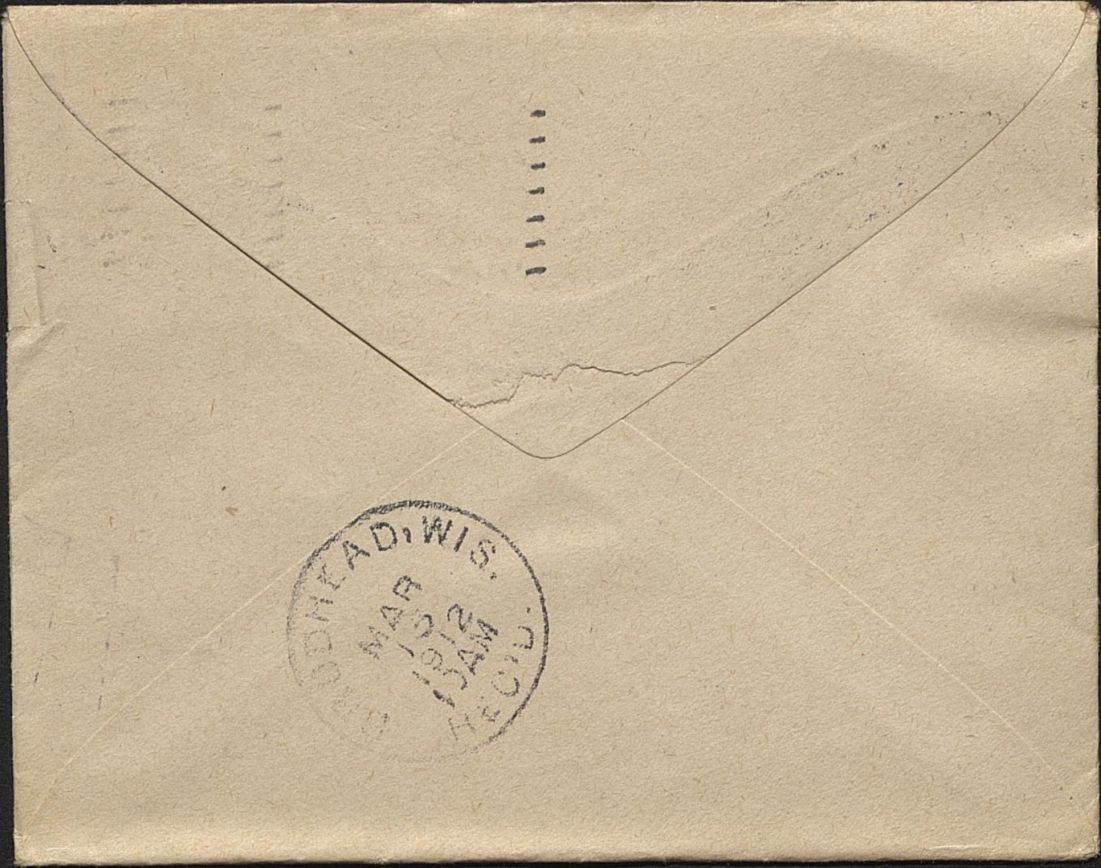
Don love,

Ralph True.

ymca  
milw.



Mrs. J. S. Gouden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.



WOODHEAD, WIS.  
MAY 1912  
7:30 AM

ymca.

3-22-12.

Dear Mother:- It is  
time I saw my own  
nephews, is it not?  
glad to hear  
that Miles is securing  
some results. May God  
use him!

Ray sent me a  
photo postcard also.

This week is current  
expense campaign week;  
therefore I have no  
time off.

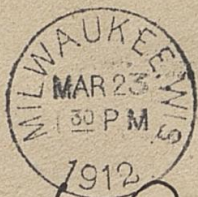
My program now  
includes morning men -

business work. This gives  
me diligent work, but  
out of doors.

Lately a question  
between myself and  
the general secretary  
resulted in its solu-  
tion to his utter hu-  
miliation, and revealed  
his callousness in some  
matters. He apologized  
to me and treated the  
office crowd with oranges.  
I am learning to do  
the will of God at  
all costs. I would  
get fired sooner than  
to violate my conscience.

The general secre-  
tary thinks I am in-  
dependent too much. I  
am independent. The rest  
of the secretaries are  
stagnant servants. Expect  
to win out here or else-  
where. Wilks tells me,  
in fact, that I have  
made a record, and  
"will not always be an  
office secretary". Wish  
I were in a position  
to use all my con-  
victions.

Your true son,  
Ralph



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.





I would be delighted to get a picture of my nephews. Were it not for a large circle of friends here, I would become lonely without my relations. I am glad Saville is showing sense. God grant the children a life of love and usefulness.

Give my love to Everett and Grandmother and Aunt Lucy. Tell them that I believe the days are near to their close. May God use us all unto the end.  
Verily your son,  
Ralph Love.

YMCA,  
4-12-12

Dear Mother:-

Have just finished a communication to William that ought to raise the dead. I have placed my plea for his health and exercise on two bases: one religious and one domestic. If he doesn't heed my warning, only the coming of Christ and the resurrection can solve the problem for him. I tell Wm. that if he will not strengthen himself he will ere long leave an orphan family. No man with any sense can

resist that appeal. Life is God-given and must be preserved. You know I am no more inclined to mince truth than is my brother Ray. I shall say some very positive things in black if necessary. Some members of our family have flagrantly violated God's laws and must be reprov'd most severely. There is no relenting with this scribe.

Sunday morning at 8:30 sharp a new man in the dormitory and myself will start a prayer group or evangelism band. We propose nothing

less than the work of making every man in the dormitory decide for or against the Son of God our Savior. If the church does not do this in the world, God's righteous judgment will fall. With, I anticipate the world's crisis to be very near. I am not dreaming. In this nation, a terrific upheaval caused through Rome, rum, vice, and greed is very nigh upon us. The gospel has been carried around the globe and the end is at hand. I do not fear the results. O come, day of redemption. Are we prepared?



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis,



ymca.  
4-26-12.

Dear mother: This letter is  
written late indeed. My  
program yesterday was very full  
indeed.

The anticipation of a near-  
ing climax of earthly events is  
no vague dream. I expect great  
events soon.

My letter to William drew  
fire and I shall promptly re-  
turn it. I am winning my  
point. Have received no photos.

We may never understand  
Loyal till the great day.  
Miles and all other preach-  
ers find out that no church  
can long endure without per-  
sonal evangelism. "Won by one"  
is the word.

Grandmother has a glorious prospect just ahead. 'Tis the near kingdom of Christ. Have you ever thought of that?

How goes the college? Surely God will hold accountable them who know but do not tell the word of redemption.

Sister is a regular scribe, truly. She is very much exercised over the condition of Blanchardville. She certainly has civic interest.

The Sunday morning prayer-group which I

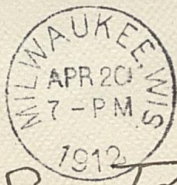
started in my room last Sunday A.M. will be continued and augmented. I believe this is God-led.

Presume you have heard of the sinking of the Titanic, the greatest steamer afloat, when it struck an iceberg in mid-ocean. It was three blocks long and one wide. There were drowned with it 1200 people, many very rich included. Only 700 were saved.

Verily,

R. L. Borden,  
your son.

*ymca  
mil.*



*Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brodhead,  
Wis.*





The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee, 4-28-12, 12.20 A.M.

Dear Mother:-

This letter is truly late. Friday night I attended a rural evangelistic service and saw one, a Bible study member of my class, as were they all, soundly converted from a life of concealed vice to the gospel of Christ. May God help him now!

Who may 'our Phelps' be?

Our sojourn here, though I believe nearly over, is truly dangerous. Behold, he cometh with clouds! Grandma is well!

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Quit your sickness! <sup>Milwaukee.</sup> It is wasting time  
to be sick. Be not ill!!

Luna sends the picture of the babies with  
a strong letter. It is great to have a pic-  
ture like that.

I am broasting Wm. through Luna this  
time. This is my third attack, and my  
ammunition is inexhaustible. He is making  
up all right. Have drawn fire from both  
himself and wife. He expects to come to Milw.  
before camp, but I tell them to take care

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

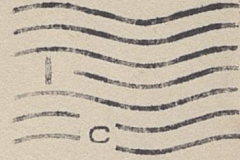
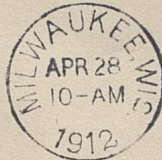
of himself before that. Am going to warn  
him up thoroughly before long. Sickness  
is death, but the gospel is life.

Unless the A.C. people maintain  
strong educational schools for their youth,  
our work is doomed. God's work must  
be supported. It is the only way. May God  
sanctify our wayward hearts.

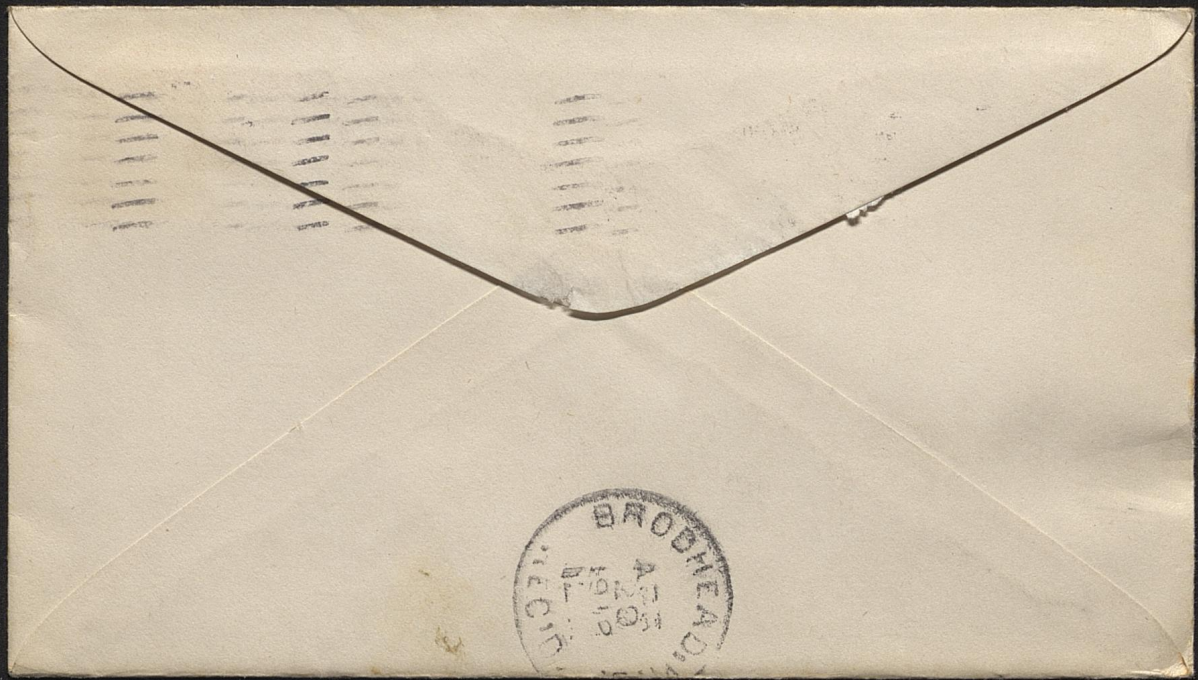
Truly in love,  
your son,  
Ralph Lee.

In 5 Days return to

**Young Men's Christian Association**  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



*Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookfield,  
Wis.*



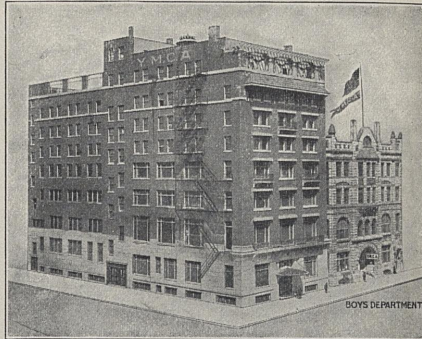
# The Young Men's Christian Association

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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
 TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 7-15-12,

Dear mother and sister:-  
 A perfect avalanche of work with splendid results among my endless circles, leagues, squads, groups, corps, bands, classes, clubs, troops, societies, and appointments has ratted me of all time; therefore this flying note. I preached one to-day. Am tempestuously busy!

Have launched tentative plans in three directions on the faithful suggestions of three personal friends of experience and ability. Will probably surprise you when I find my decision and course. Can't definitely to night. May wrap the gang here before I off-coast them. My own work is splendidly gratifying. - Excuse this hasty transcript. It is 12.05 a.m. Mon.  
 Verily,  
 Ralph.

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

*R. S. Bonden*  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

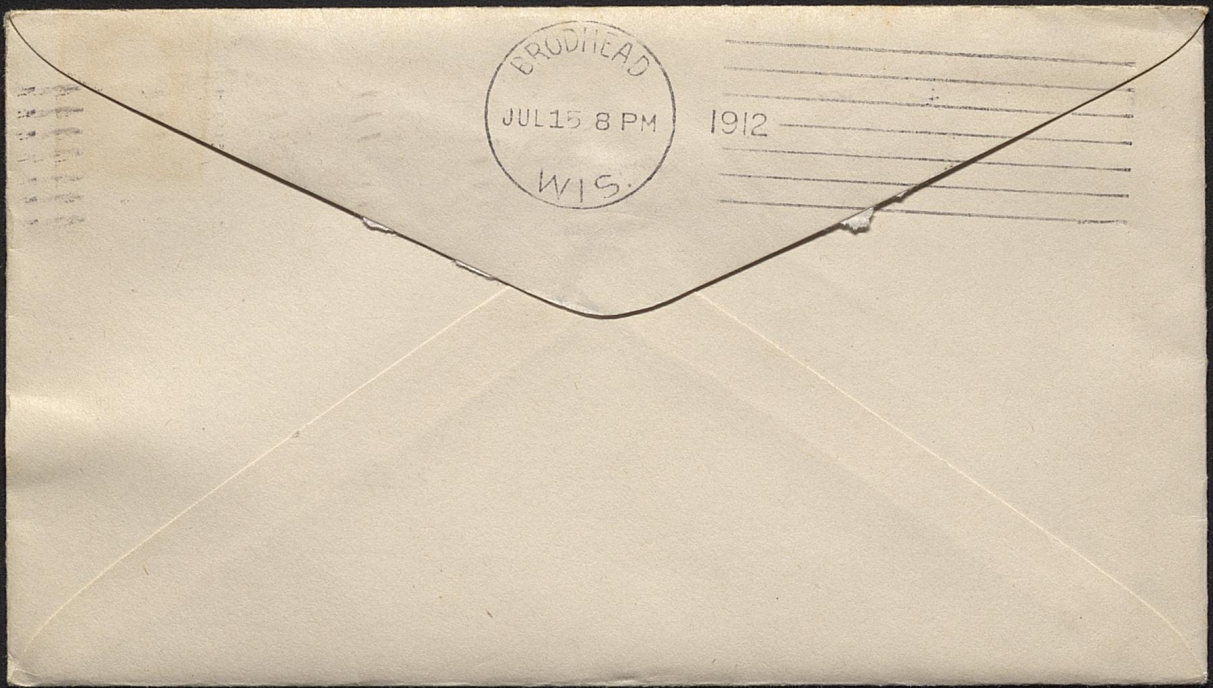


*Mrs. J. S. Bonden,*

*Brodhead,*

*Wis.*





BRODHEAD  
JUL 15 8 PM  
WIS.

1912

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

8-12-12,

Dear Mother: - Received a letter from  
Benbet to-day. My work has  
so crowded me as to leave me  
far behind in my correspondence.

Recent developments have only con-  
firmed my Madison intentions. I may  
take with me for the agricultural  
department - a little young man  
here, of whom I told you, who is 29  
years old.

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

If Wm. could get a more intense education he would make a strong preacher. Ray will also profit thus.

I can never forget Saville and his gleeful fun. My vacation was certainly a fast season of events.

I preached twice at different Presbyterian churches yesterday. Shall preach at least once, and probably twice next Sunday. Subjects yesterday: Judgment, Fashion.

The Young Men's  
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Milwaukee.

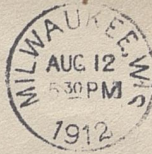
shall have many things to say  
if I see you early in September.

In love,

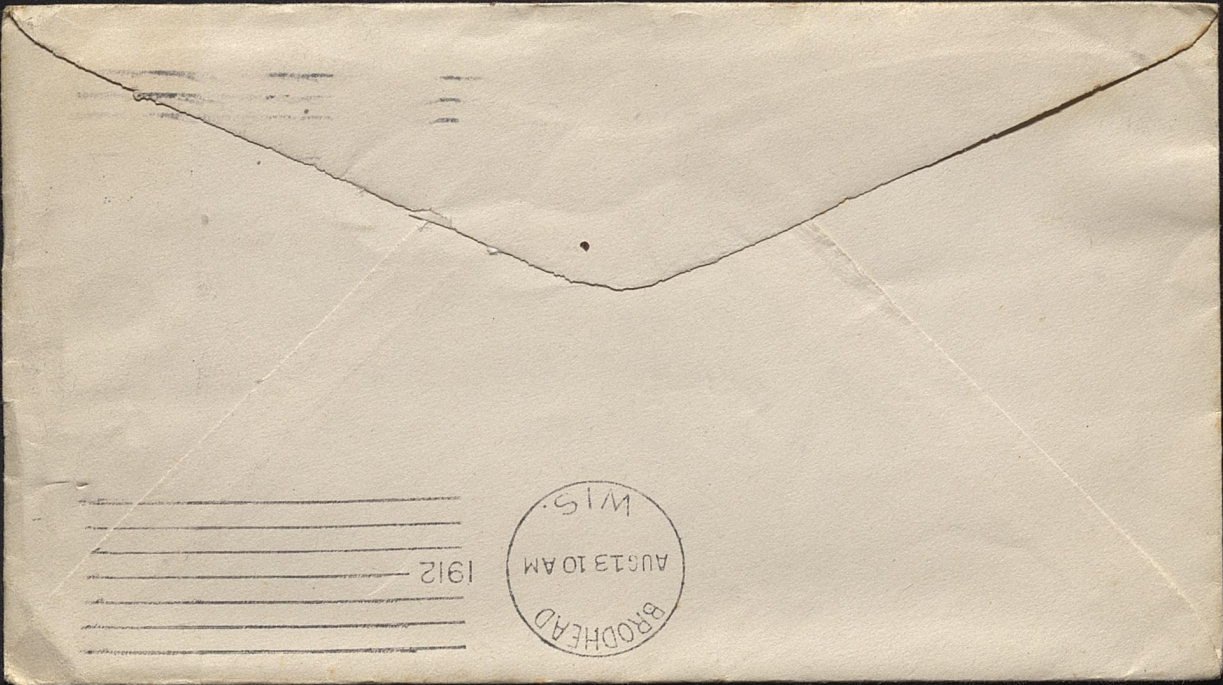
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association  
*R. J. Bonden*  
148 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bonden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.



BRODHEAD  
AUG 13 10 AM  
WIS.

1912

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee, 8-18-12,

Dear Mother:-

In answering Ray, I wrote as I carelessly  
thought, that Hixton was near Arena,  
instead of near Alma Centre. This did not  
occur to me till this afternoon. I  
have not been able to locate the  
concerned metropolis on any railroad  
guide, and have no state map at  
hand now. However, I shall probably  
be able to make the place by some

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

arrangement. My <sup>Milwaukee</sup> reply to Ray was detailed and mostly optimistic. The work would be helpful physically, although I am in robust health now. My year closes here Aug. 31st, and my school commences September 23rd. I must first spend a day in Madison on business, and ought to get home. Expect to freight some things I cannot carry. Please secure them for me



The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

when they there arrive.  
The Monticello reports are encoura-  
ging. They ought to be repeated every  
where. I have been doing platform  
work here much of late. Preached  
this morning, and shall again to-  
night, if the rain does not prevent.  
Thus surges the battle.

With love,  
verily,

R. W. Bowden.

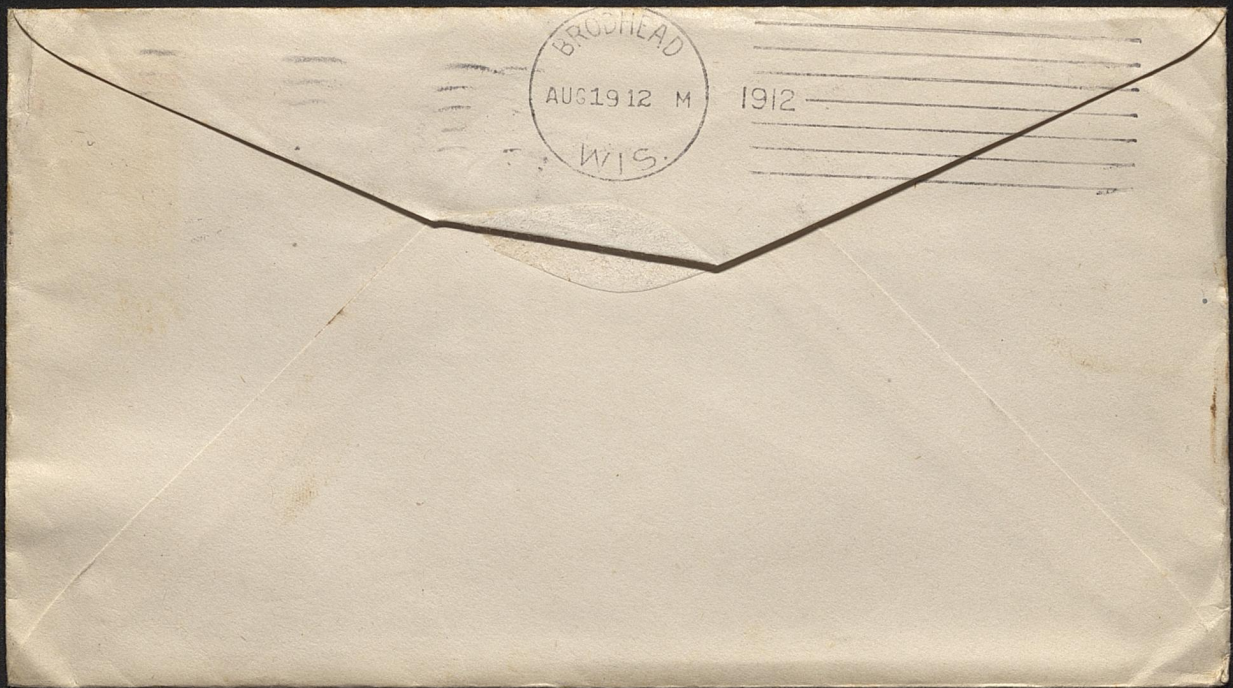
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143 FOURTH STREET  
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*Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
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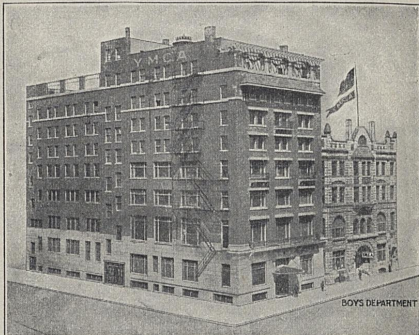
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 8-26-12,

Dear Mother:-

I must undoubtedly miss both Sister and Ray. Am awaiting final word from the latter as to Hixton. Have had several extra changes now.

It rejoices me that there are yet in Wis. some preachers of conscience and conviction. I have, since your last week's letter reached me, led two prayer-meetings and preached one sermon in church. Also spoke briefly yesterday from the gospel wagon.

Yesterday's closing sessions of several Sunday organizations nearly unnerred me - the closing of deeply personal and organic relations. Shall never forget the prayer of some of my men for my future and welfare. Truly God has led.

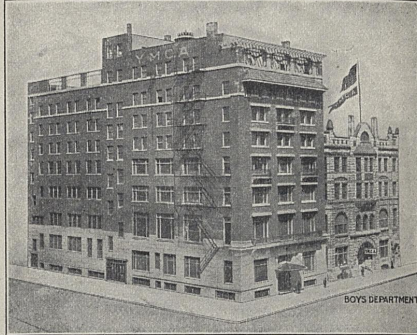
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MILWAUKEE.

When the speed and smoke of this life cease, I shall be glad. The lakes of Madison will look good to me. I realize, however, the work before me. - shall freight a box home this week. Have been also preparing for departure. The battle against civic and private evil I commenced here must be continued elsewhere, here or forbear. Wish I might see you, but cannot if I go to Hinton.

Truly,  
your son,  
Ralph  
True.

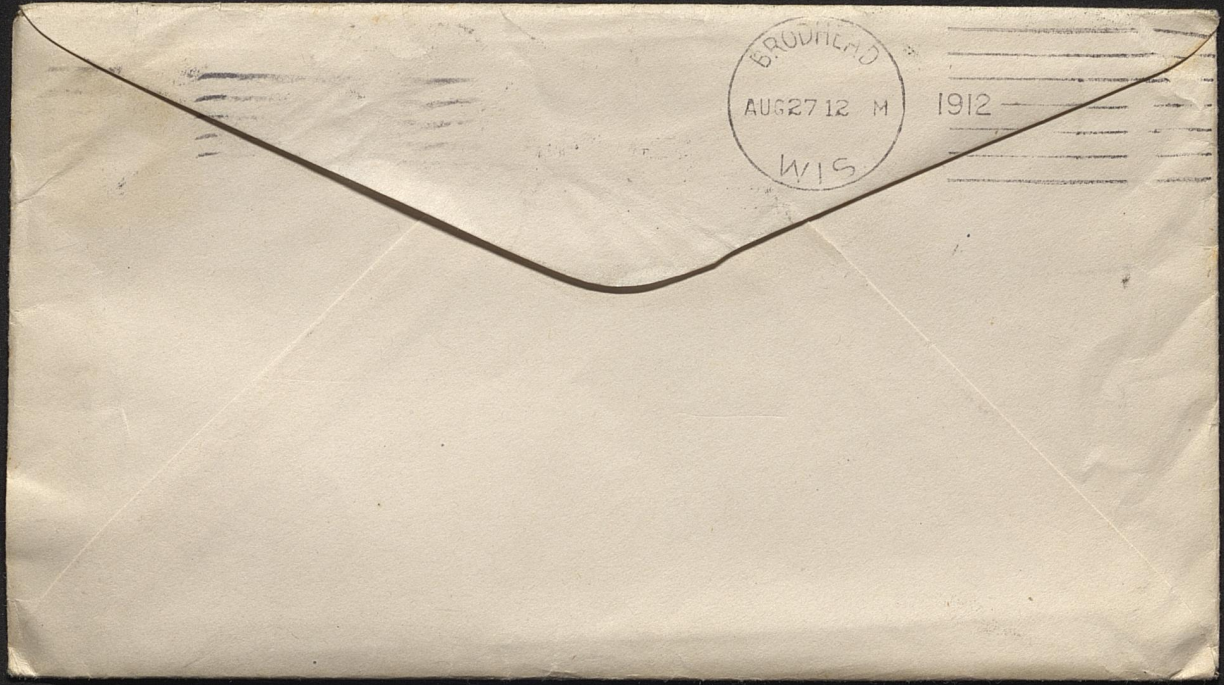
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Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET  
*J. S. Bonden*  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



*Mrs. J. S. Bonden,  
Brookhead,  
Wisc.*



The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee, 5-12-12,

Dear Mother: -

Letter delayed again by cramped  
time.

The west. state conf. of Baptist missions  
has reported some things concerning the  
Brookhead meetings. I wish the Advent  
message might be sounded out there  
and everywhere else.

glad Grandma feels some better -  
ment. But we cannot expect to retain  
her long or to lose her for long.



The Young Men's  
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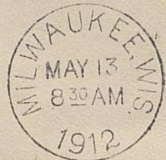
Milwaukee, 5-12-12.

The prayer group, jail services, church squad,  
dinner gang, usher board, piano service,  
Bible class, gangster's club, and church  
duties in which I am prominently interes-  
ted are very exacting. Yet, I am in  
good gym practice.

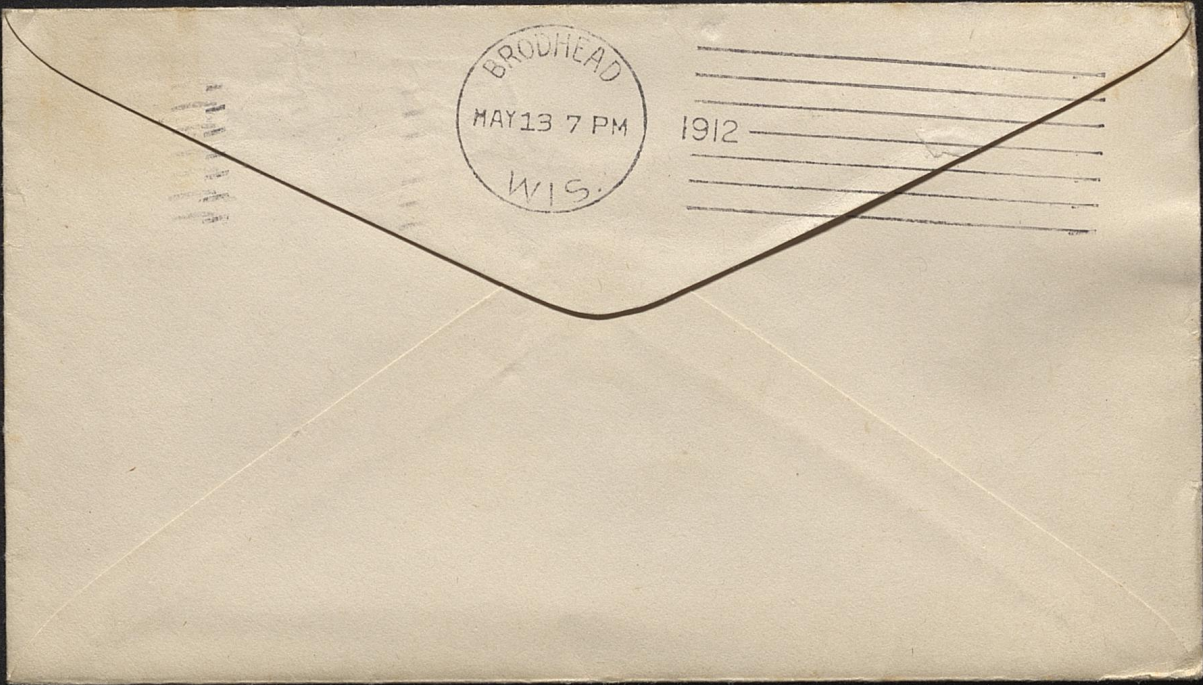
Have just finished a whirlwind  
day of work for Christ. Bless the Lord!  
Your loving son,  
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to

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143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookfield,  
Wis.



BRODHEAD  
MAY 13 7 PM  
WIS.

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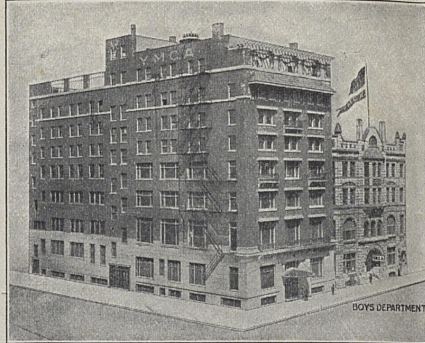
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
 TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, May 19, 1912.

Dear Mother:-

I equalize the tremendous strain of speeding events by well placed gymnastics and exercise of various kinds. Am again attaining somewhat of a hardball reputation.

If possible Everett ought to go to camp. I long to see the boy and get acquainted with him. I am handling some very queer boys here.

To take the essential gospel to all men regardless of reception is the business of the church. If a man can preach acceptably to God with or without polish, it is well. The churches contain too many unrepentant sinners, and I intend some day, God willing, to speak the truth to some churches.

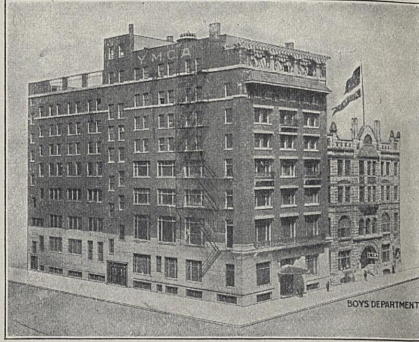
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE.

Visible results from Christian work are most sure when evangelism has had its proper practice. I would like to make a flying visit to Brodhead to survey the conditions by way of retrospect. The public schools cannot be well under Romanistic hate and permitted domination.

Tell Lura that Wm. can remedy himself by good sense, and his brother Ralph says so.

The "gangster's clan", recently depleted by removals, is an informal organization of sturdy friends each of whom has a nick-name and an office. I am "Slits", Secy - Treas. The idea, a novel one, has worked admirably and has done much good.

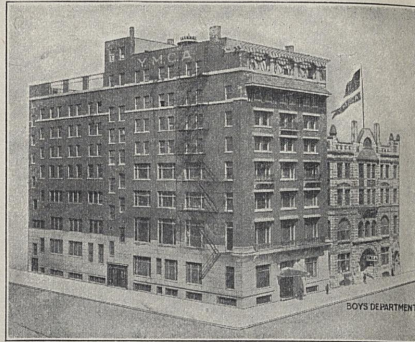
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE.

No man touched with the ardor of divine knowledge can pass month after month amidst the damnable transgressions of congested city life without experiencing a conviction that his only success must rely upon an informed passion for the power of God and the salvation of the Son of God as sharply and definitely applied to the individual heart by the burning energy of the Holy Spirit. But - to deliberately deny the manifest duty of social and various enlightenment as a necessary requisite to efficient service in the work of God is almost to throw contempt at the God whose hand beckons his people and whose voice calls his servants

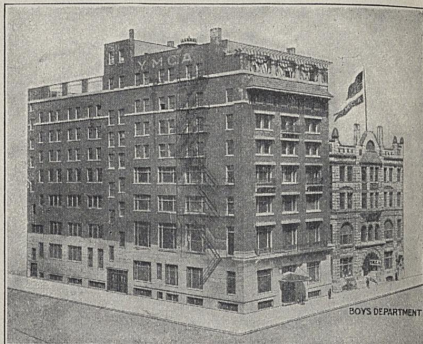
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MILWAUKEE.

into the glorious and serious work  
of winning men for eternal life.  
I assert that no young man is  
right to enter special preparation  
for the ministry of the God of heaven  
without a knowledge of truth such  
as will bind his soul to heaven  
and the three-coming Christ. No  
great skill is required to arrange  
conditions, but much is required to alter  
the terrible fact that the sacred call-  
ing of the divine ambassadorship has  
been iniquitously subjected to restricted  
extremes of refinement polite and ignorance  
impenetrable rather than the full invest-  
ment of divine gifts, spiritual and mental.  
Verily in love,  
Ralph True.

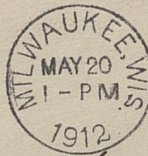
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143 FOURTH STREET

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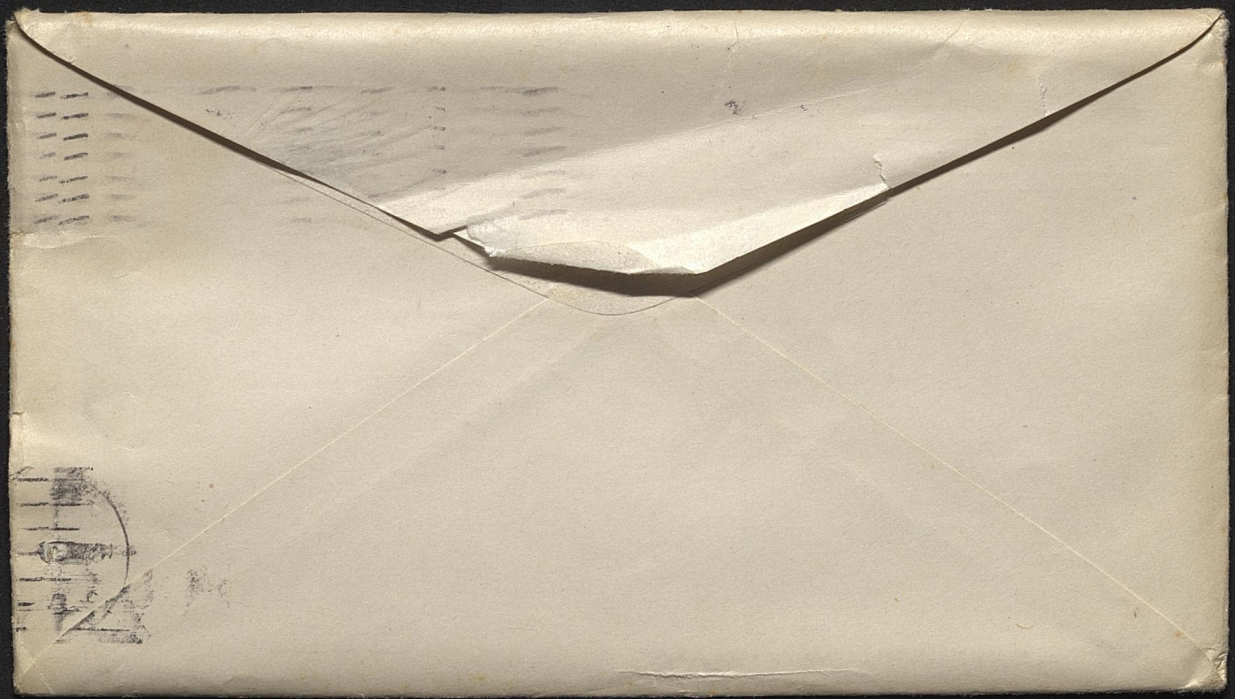
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Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.

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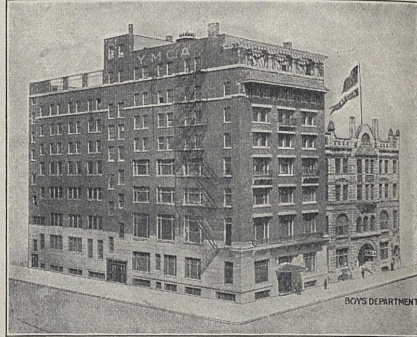
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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, May 26, 1912.

Dear Mother:-

I realize the heavy work which I am supporting, but rest assured I am keeping myself in physical condition for my work. Am in splendid health. Am specializing on hand-ball.

Ray and I might easily pass as twins. I have acquired an attachment for my Brother Ray. May God satisfy him.

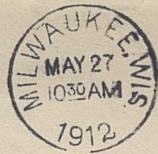
I shall send pictures soon to Wm., Mike, and to Everett. If this does not cause duplication, let me know.

No fear need be felt for that education which the Spirit of God directs and beautifies. We ought in every way to grow in the knowledge of Christ's work and mission.

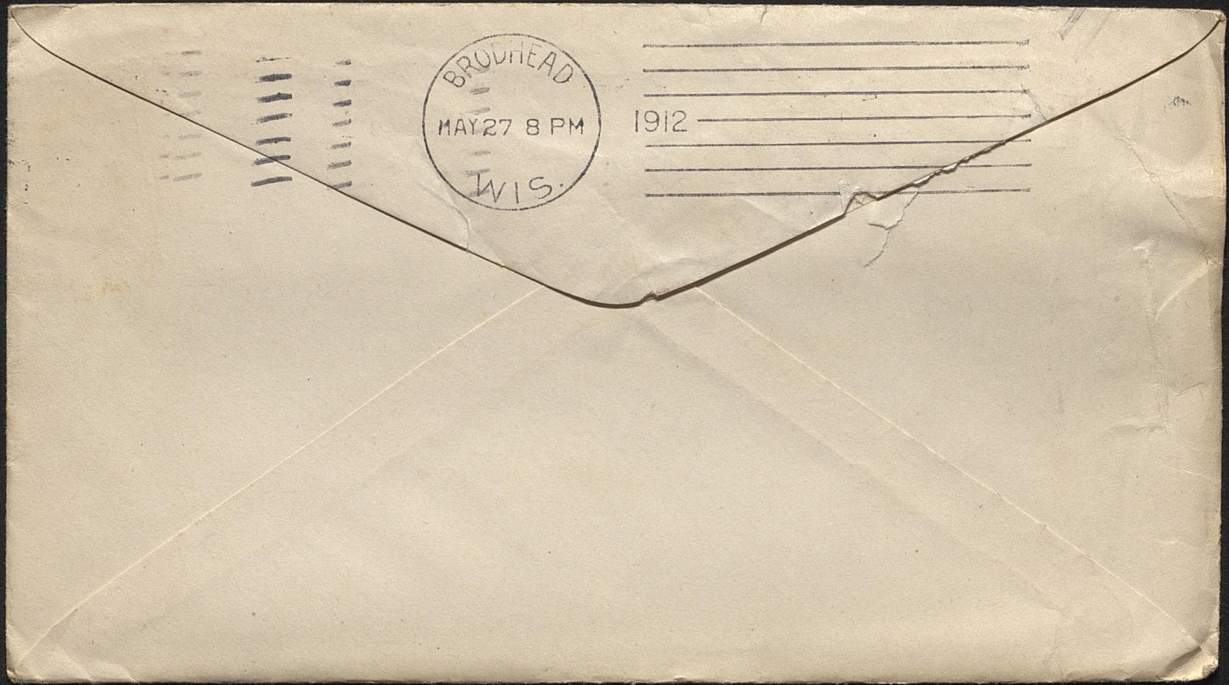
In love,

Ralph.

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143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookhead,  
Wis.



BROOKHEAD  
MAY 27 8 PM  
WIS.

1912

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141-149 FOURTH STREET  
 TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE,

Dear Mother:- I only wish that all my fellow graduates knew the gladness and sobriety of the life of Christ. The church sorely needs true soldiers.

On passes issued me by a friend who is the official inspector of the Mil. Ele. Railway and Light Co. I made a visit to Watatoum Friday, and in five hours visited everybody there to my own great delight, but found Ray had been there earlier in the week.

What is Ray's attraction at Footville? Must investigate!

Eventh, I think, will come out well. Patience and perseverance and prayer are essential. We are too tactless, usually. I would like to have him under my care for awhile. We must lead him, not drive him. God lives.

# The Young Men's Christian Association

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I. G. MAXWELL, ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

141-149 FOURTH STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 6-2-12,

You cannot understand how much  
those fresh emblems of God's outdoors  
mean to one so restricted in many  
ways. They stand for the fragrance  
and reality of heaven-directed life and  
faith universal.

My vacation continues two weeks  
from June 20<sup>th</sup> on. I will be able,  
by special arrangement to be at  
camp on the first Sunday also. This  
is almost the certain case. Shall  
ful like a cyclone this summer.

Truly with love,

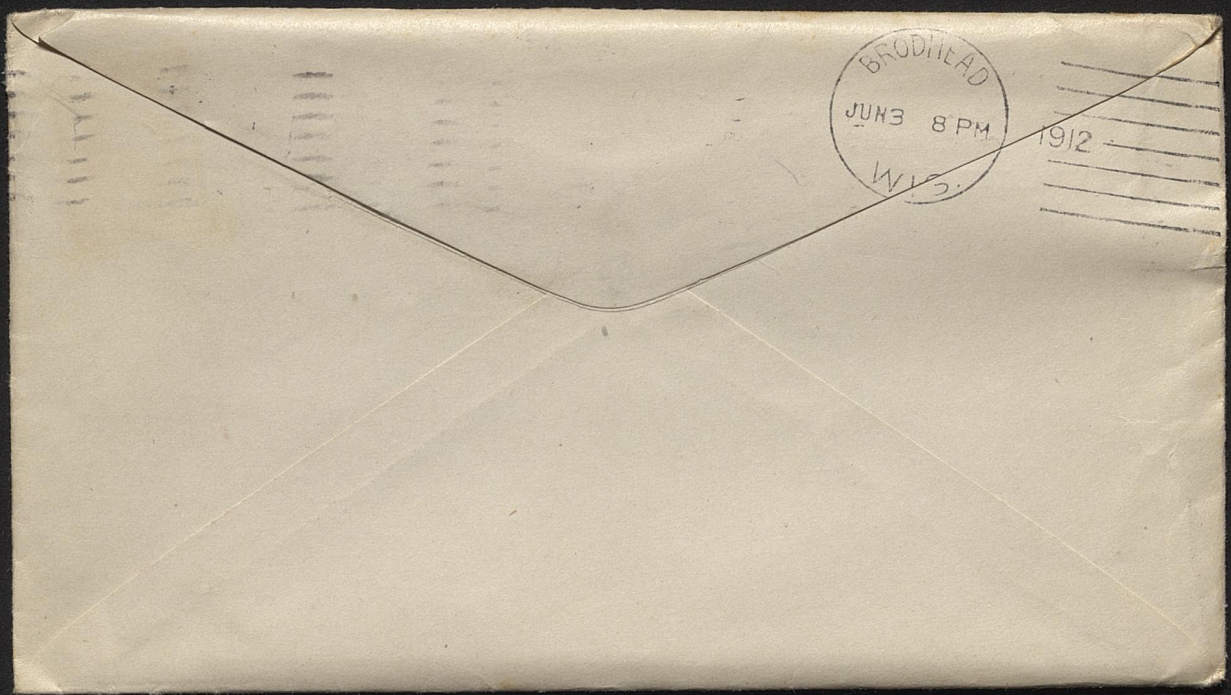
Ralph

In 5 Days return to  
**Young Men's Christian Association**  
144 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE WIS  
JUN 3  
1-PM '12



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Bro d head,  
Wis,





The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee, 6-12-12.

Dear Mother:- I am convinced that with practice, more or less, you will at last find yourself able to operate a typewriter.

Nothing would benefit Brethren churches more than a revival of the prayer spirit. The choirs up there have been singing hymns when they should have been chanting songs.

It now appears that I will be able to attend only the Sunday

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

sessions of the camp. My vacation will begin, probably, with the last Sunday. Hope to go home, and visit a friend in Madison either going or coming. Have invitations to Hustisford, Wis; Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, and Minneapolis, also, but cannot see them.

The twin picture was a great disappointment to me, as far as

The Young Men's  
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Milwaukee.

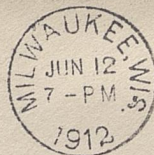
myself is concerned. Will show you  
and give you at camp a post-  
card picture of myself, by far the  
best I ever had taken.

I want to see Everett at  
Watertown.

Until we meet,  
Truly with love,

Ralph.

In 5 Days return to  
**Young Men's Christian Association**  
143 FOURTH STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowen,  
Brookfield,  
Wis.

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

Milwaukee, b- 17-12.

Dear Mother:-

Saturday I arrived in Watertown at 7.45, and was hustled immediately to the platform where I delivered an address on the 'American crisis'. While in Watertown I held extended conferences with Wm. Ray and Beulah, as well as others. Quam- al evangelism is the topic of the day. The reason our churches are dy-

The Young Men's  
Christian Association

ing is because <sup>Milwaukee.</sup> the people are content  
with singing songs and soothing them-  
selves. I am determined to insist that  
our churches either advance or dig  
their graves, as, indeed, they are now  
doing.

Paul Dwight is the fairest young-  
ster on earth to date.

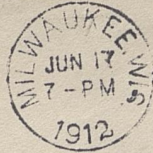
Verily,  
Your true son,  
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to

**Young Men's Christian Association**

143 FOURTH STREET

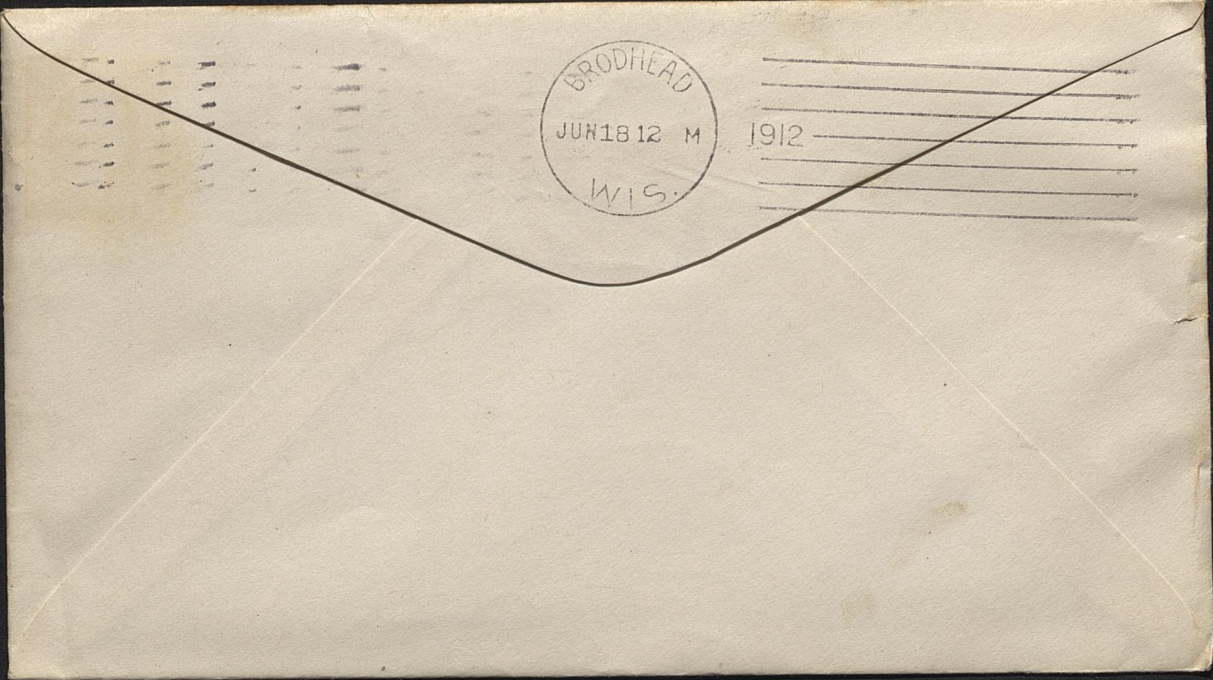
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,  
Brookfield,

Wis.

Green Co.



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