

Chet Parsons to Adrian A. Parsons

September 26, 1918

American Red Cross



Sept 26 – 18

Dear Dad ÷

Rec'd today your letter of Aug. 19 was most tickled to death as I had not heard from the Old Boy for over three weeks. We have moved again since I last wrote and have just got settled down to business. The distance this trip was 45 mi and it rained all the while you can imagine what a fine time we had.

We got a rush order for a field are putting in all the day time & part of the dark. Our Outfit has made a very good showing it is considered the best rig of its kind over here. None of our work yet has failed to be excepted and this is more than the rest can say.

You buying the machine in my estimation was a very very [sic] good idea it will do you & Mama both a world of good and you must put in the time running it now as the roods will be getting bad later on. I also suggest you spend the winter in the south. You have said nothing lately of those Bonds of mine and I suppose you have never rec'd them but it seems to me you should have as I finished paying on them July 30th. The first time I have a chance will send \$100 to you as I do not like to carry very much. We have no YMCA and there are none very close and it is seldom I even get away. I thought at Kelly Field Texas there were a lot of planes but have changed my mind as the supply here is something fierce.

Through the silent tongues Dad I knew what Edith named the boy before I got your letter. It came to me before I even knew for sure they had one. I bet they are tickled some and Emily I suppose is wild. As to your weight, I read an article some days ago and the author said a man should be no heavier at 70 than at 20 if he wishes to live a long life.

My good health is still A No1

So Long

Chester A.

[envelope:] Mr A A Parsons/Plainfield/Indiana/USA

[stamped:] Passed by CASE CENSOR/2

[postmark:] [unreadable]

Historical Notes:

Chester "Chet" Adrian Parsons (1887 – 1977) served during WWI in the American Expeditionary Force in France from April 1918 – April 1919. He exchanged letters with his father, Adrian A Parsons (1846 – 1929), a disabled Civil War veteran. These letters provide insight into life on the front.

"the machine" refers to Adrian's new automobile.

"Bonds" refers to Liberty War Bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury to finance the war effort. Chet apparently purchased bonds issued April 1918, the third issuance.

"Kelly Field Texas" refers to the aviation airfield called Kelley Airfield built at the Sam Houston Fort in November 1916. Chet was stationed there in 1917 for training.

"Edith" is Chet's sister Edith (Parsons) White (1880 – 1971) who lived with her family in rural Vermillion County, IN. She gave birth to a son on August 6, 1918 after a difficult pregnancy and named him Chester Franklin.

"Emily" is Emily Phyllis (White) Wallace (1908 – 1967), Edith's oldest daughter.