

1937

Helen turned 19 this year, was dating Elliot Turnbull, who lived in Mexico City with his parents. She was hoping to be able to spend her Junior year in Mexico City (she did). Smith College usually had the Spanish language year abroad in Spain but it was not a good year for that.

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Friday January 1 - What a lot has happened in the last year, so much that I wanted to happen, and so much that I didn't want to happen, but all in all a wonderful year. Felt rather blue most of today. Read some of E.B. Browning's poetry, wrote a Religion paper, played my guitar, had dinner on oranges and rye & roquefort cheese sandwiches. Read a short book tonight and went to bed at exactly 12:01. I wanted to see the day out as I had seen it in, thinking of my darling. I love him so. I wonder what the New Year will bring forth.

Saturday January 2 - Went to a Monopoly luncheon at Marj Bennet's today. She was very sweet to give it for me. It was much fun. Snowed, then sleeted. Wrote my darling tonight. Bed at a little after 12:45. Received a very sweet letter from Elliott. Gee, I was glad. Heard from Bob & Tavie too!

Sunday January 3 - Slept rather late this morning. Wrote a Spanish paper, two letters and one to Elliott. Had luncheon, or rather Sunday dinner, with Dr. Stephens. Played my guitar. I miss my darling.

Monday January 4 - Got up about 11:30. Packed up my things and got everything straightened around by 4 o'clock. It was a wonderful day. It was clear and rather warm with much very pleasant sunshine. I kinda hate to leave my little vacation "home." Was back at the house by five. Took my things upstairs. Got some darling little Mexican figures from Hertz and Curtis for Christmas. Talked to Mrs. C. and after dinner played my guitar for her for a long time. I'm the "Merry Minstrel from Mexico." I wrote my darling tonight and went to bed.

Tuesday January 5 - This morning Neola brought me up a darling letter from Elliott. I was so happy reading it. Registration today. Went to Toto's & Hertzie had lunch with me there. She had a grand time in Corry & I'm so glad. Saw Rue this afternoon when she came into Toto's at 3. She was married yesterday - she's so happy - I wish - never mind. Came home for dinner tonight. Talked to Hertzie. Then tonight I wrote Elliott a short letter & went to bed at about 12:30 or 1.

Wednesday January 6 - Feast of the Epiphany (Día de los Reyes) - Paid bills after 9 this morning. Got a darling embroidered dinner dress at Stuart's. Classes as usual, but not bad at all. Came back for luncheon. At four-thirty I went over to a tea at Franklin King, given by Miss (Betty) Ludlum. She's a dear. It was much fun. Got "C" - Had dinner. Tonight I worked on Spanish for a couple of hours, though I had a terrific headache and felt generally rotten.

Sick to my tummy & goodness knows what-all. Tucked in about 10:15 & Susy rubbed my back a while. I think I was asleep by 10:35.

Thursday January 7 - In spite of myself I got up this morning at 8. Studied from 9-10. Went to Seelye to find we have a cut in religion. It is drizzling today and the rain freezes as soon as it hits something. The trees & bushes are a lovely tracery in ice. Very slippery but quite easy on a bike. Got some airmail stationery this afternoon. Came back after going to Toto's for a while. Talked to Hertz a while and then came upstairs and got ready for dinner. After dinner she & I talked for a while. I wrote a letter to my darling tonight and washed some things. Now it is 11:10 and I'm going to bed.

Friday January 8 - Classes this morning as usual. Studied in the Libe from 4 to 7. Talked to Carp a while in Toto's before 4. Very foggy out tonight. Wrote Mother & Dad after I came back. On my way back I stopped at Wesley & talked to Hertz a while. Washed some sweaters, took a shower, washed my hair. Going to bed soon. It's 11:45.

Saturday January 9 - Very foggy early this morning. It cleared by ten & the sun came out. At 10:30 I suddenly began to feel very happy - in Toto's, for no apparent reason at all. Everything was so lovely. Talked to Mrs. C., played my guitar. At 3:30 I went for a ramble around Paradise - it was grand. I noticed many things that I'd never noticed before. Came back. After dinner went to a Spanish movie, "Nada Más Que Una Mujer." I could understand 'most all of it. Came home and wrote my darling. It was wonderfully warm all day but tonight is cold.

Sunday January 10 - Woke up this morning sick as all get out. Everyone has it today. I guess it's the "bug" - about half the house is sick. Wrote Elliott. Received a letter from him today and it was the only bright spot in the whole day. Studied Religion for tomorrow. Called up Miss Corwin & was reprieved till Tuesday.

Monday January 11 - Classes today as usual. Studied all afternoon and evening. Cut Poetry & Music.

Tuesday January 12 - Got up at about 6 this morning (?I don't remember - it's Jan 22 as I write this) and studied Religion. Had breakfast, took the written & am dubious. Wrote Elliott tonight.

Wednesday January 13 - Did little today. Studied.

Thursday January 14 - Went to Religion class and got my written back with a straight A on it. Hertzie and Louise are going to stay in the Guest Room for a couple of weeks. Sunnyside is being turned into a convalescent ward. The Infirmary is packed. Housewarming in their room.

Friday January 15 - Little happened today. Have been studying. Made a map of Mexico for my Geology paper. Started writing the paper tonight.

Saturday January 16 - Got back a Religion paper graded A-. Slept late this morning. Worked on my paper 'till about 3. Now all I must do is type it. Went to Amherst vs. Mass. State basket-ball game (good) with Frank Peltier, Louise & Johnny. Danced at Phi Gamm - had a nice time. A letter from Elliott this morning.

Sunday January 17 - Worked from 1 until 9 typing my paper. Then wrote Elliott. I was so disappointed that I didn't get my paper done sooner so I could write him a long letter.

Monday January 18 - Handed my Geology paper in today. Little goes on.

Tuesday January 19 - Little happened today. Slept in the Guest room tonight - Louise slept upstairs in my room. Went to bed at twelve and at 2:30 I last looked at the clock. I'm worried about so many things.

Wednesday January 20 - Hertz woke me at 8 - I was furious because I wanted to be wakened at 7:15. Gee I'm a pleasant sort of a creature. Chapel this morning. At 3:30 went to tea at Mrs. Conkling's. Met her daughter & her two little grandchildren - they are darling, speak only Swedish & French. Her daughter, Baroness Kreuse, is most charming. Snowed - came back at 5. Got dressed for "bad taste" party - It was most hilarious. Played bridge tournament, lost - Am worried. Talked to Mrs. C - wrote E, bed.

Thursday January 21 - Woke up at 15 to 1 - Class at 2 - then Toto's - then listened to records at Sage. I haven't heard from Elliott since last Saturday - I'm worried about that, too. Fire drill.

Friday January 22 - Got up at 10:30. Studied, wrote three letters. Haven't heard from Elliott for a week - after feeling low all week, I snapped out of it a bit today. Tried to listen to records in Sage, but gave up & wrote 3 poems in Toto's. Came back, washed my hair - Bed soon - it's 11.

Saturday January 23 - This morning at 9 Betty came in and told me that I didn't have a letter from Elliott. I didn't feel hurt or angry or disappointed - I just felt sick, and I put my face down in my pillow and couldn't help crying my eyes out. At ten o'clock I went down to Sage and listened to records 'til 12:30 and came home. Talked to Mrs. C. a while and after luncheon I walked out to the mail box feeling very dejected. There was a letter and it was from Elliott. I was so happy - Gee whiz. Played my guitar this afternoon and got dressed and at 6 Johnny came for Hertz, Louise and me. Had dinner at Phi Gamm, and then to the basket-ball game - It was with Army - a beautiful game and a fast one. I enjoyed every minute of it. One of the Amherst guards looked so much like Elliott that my heart beat triple time. Amherst won 38-33 - a peachy game. His hand was bandaged. Then went to the Sphinx

Dance in the new gym. Met "Dean" Burns. Saw Herrman - Corny knows what it's all about now. Gee I love Elliott - he's such a darling.

Sunday January 24 - Guess who I love? I love my darling Elliott. He's the dearest man on earth - I had a letter from Tavie waiting when I got up this morning. Wrote my darling before lunch and from 3 'til about 6. It was so grand writing him. I love him so. After dinner I meant to work. Instead I wrote Tavie, wrote a couple of "poems" for the front of two books of Houseman's poetry, talked to Hertz a while, and now it's a quarter of 11. I'm going to bed soon. Guess who I love? Oh, darling, when will I see you.

Monday January 25 - All afternoon Marnese Nissly and I listened to records for Music tomorrow. Had dinner at Toto's. There was a beautiful sunset this evening while I was listening to the Haydn Quartette in C major. Tonight we went back to Sage, and Betty gave us a few pointers. Listened to the orchestra rehearsing Beethoven's 4th Symphony - 2nd movement. It was fun. Both Betty & Marnese are in orchestra - quite a family. I can't wait for the next concert. It's the Cleveland Symph. Orch.

Tuesday January 26 - Studied this morning with Marnese. Took the exam this afternoon. It was alright. From 7:30 tonight until 4 the next morning. I took notes on reading period work for Spanish Thursday. I really have writer's cramp.

Wednesday January 27 - Studied a bit off and on for Spanish. I'm not worried about it.

Thursday January 28 - Took the Spanish exam this morning at 10:30. It was a snap. Wasted, deliberately, the rest of the afternoon.

Friday January 29 - Slept late this morning. Did little today. Haven't heard from Elliott.

Saturday January 30 - Did little today except worry about Elliott. I wept a couple of buckets in Hertzie's room this afternoon. Tonight I went to see "After the Thin Man," William Powell & Myrna Loy -with Betty, Mary & Marian - good.

Sunday January 31 - Still no letter today. I've been sick - slept in the guest room last night with Hertz - she leaves today to go back to Sunnyside.

Monday February 1 - Waited until the noon mail - still no word. So I sent a cable - Waited all afternoon & evening for an answer but none came - I've never felt so in my life.

Tuesday February 2 - This afternoon I sent another cable, even though I have no money. I've never been so nervous - and that Geology exam tomorrow. Keeled over in Betty's room tonight - just nervous exhaustion, I guess. Party for Lib Allen - her birthday. I was

toastmistress (I took care of the toast.)

Wednesday February 3 - Beautiful day today. Up at 5 and took the exam at 8. Met Betty in Sage after the exam & we had a coke in Toto's. Then back to the house - a darling cable from Elliott - I was so happy. Wrote him this afternoon. Tonight, Hertz & I saw "Camille" - Greta Garbo & Robert Taylor - good. Back to the house in 6 minutes - made it by ten, very breathless.

Thursday February 4 - Got "C" this morning. Went to Spanish and handed in my paper at 10:30. From 11 until 9:30 I stayed in Toto's reading Frazer's Golden Bough - reading period for Religion. Stayed up 'til 1:30 tonight, finishing it.

Friday February 5 - Studied a little off and on today. Really did little.

Saturday February 6 - Elliott's Saint's Day - San Tito - Took the Religion written at 10:30 this morning. It was a good exam. This afternoon did little. Tonight I made a valentine for my darling. It's wonderful not to have any work that must be done. Marnese is leaving college until next fall because of financial conditions - I'm very sorry.

Sunday February 7 - Slept until eleven - wrote Elliott this evening. This afternoon Hertz & Louise and I went to see "Beloved Enemy" - Merle Oberon & Brian Aherne - good - also "Missing Girls" - Roger Pryor - poor. Had a little party tonight. Betty has Grant's fraternity pin.

Monday February 8 - Classes started today - well - well. Quite warm out. Got back music - a C - Wrote 5 poems in Toto's tonight.

Tuesday February 9 - Classes - tried to write poetry in Toto's tonight but nothing came. Saw Rudolph Valentino in "Monsieur Beaucaire" - the old silent movie - excellent - got in the back way with Sue Kaufman from Wallace - fun.

Wednesday February 10 - Starting Lent on 5 cigarettes a day & no Cokes. Me oh my - Have caught a cold in my back. It is most painful and bothersome.

Thursday February 11 - Bitterly cold out today. Got B on my Religion midyear and B on my Geology semester paper. Received a very sweet cable from darling this noon. I love him so - I hope he comes to Spring Dance. Had my back baked this afternoon - it's bad again now - Studied all day - House meeting tonight.

Friday February 12 - Have a cold in my back. It's not much fun. Stayed in bed all day. Wrote part of a letter to Elliott tonight. Made a Valentine for Louise to give to Johnny.

Saturday February 13 Warm spring-like day. lovely. Class this morning. Fooled around in Toto's until nearly 1 - went to Albright, waited for Hertz - then to luncheon with Dr. Stevens. Afterward went to St. John's and had our first lesson as members of the altar guild. Went downtown. Back about four. Read Life in Mexico, dressed and at 7:30 went to the concert- Cleveland Symphony Orchestra - Needless to say, it was beautiful. The encore was very modern and most amusing - to Curley's with Marian - home and bed at 12.

Sunday, February 14th, St. Valentine's Day - Up at 5 after 7 - on my way to church at 20 after - a dark very rainy morning - breakfast at church, home at 9. Wrote Elliott most of the day. Did little - tonight I washed my hair, took a shower, made my bed with 2 clean sheets, played my guitar - and am going to bed very soon - It's 20 to 11.

Monday February 15 - Very cold, windy day. Wrote some poetry (4) in the smoking room this afternoon and one on Toto's tonight. Tried out for Dance Group - 7:15-8:30 - We certainly got a work-out.

Tuesday February 16 - Got a letter from my darling this morning for the first time since January 23rd. I was so happy. I love him so - Burglar alarm at 11:45 tonight - much fun. I'm terribly stiff.

Wednesday February 17 - Took the afternoon off - dressed up and Hertz and I saw "Romeo and Juliet" - Norma Shearer & Leslie Howard, which was excellent - then went to the Tavern for dinner. Had cocktails (Martini for me - Manhattan for Hertz) & had a wonderful time. It was my birthday present to her - her birthday is the 25th. Than, as all I ate was fruit salad, I had a highball as she was finishing. I felt sleepy when we got back. I wrote a letter to my darling. I can't wait to see him again.

Thursday February 18 - Little happened today. Hertz is going to Hartford tomorrow to meet Lucille Linquist.

Friday February 19 - Glorious day - very warm and sunny. Wore my blue spring suit - took Hertzie's watch this afternoon here, and tonight in Wesley - wrote my darling tonight. Today is beautiful, just as the nineteenth should be - Five months ago -

Saturday February 20 - A short letter from my darling this morning - he's so dear. Took watch this morning & afternoon. The flag on College Hall flew at half mast today - very sad - "Sis" Chapman died last night of pneumonia. She has been under the oxygen tank for about five weeks. She was in Chem 11 last year. Lovely day, but not very sunny. Wore my new yellow suit. Tonight Betty & I went to see "Charlie Chan at the Opera" & "Champagne Waltz. - Fred MacMurray & Gladys Swarthout. Neither very good, but amusing. Met Lucille in Bachmann's with Hertz & Louise & their dates.

Sunday February 21 - Up at 6:15. Cold, rainy. Wrote a bit on Elliott's letter before I left at 7. Fixed the altar. Came back to Comstock. Had breakfast and wrote Elliott a bit before luncheon. Lucille was in for luncheon. Wrote Elliott all afternoon. Received a very darling letter from him this morning about what he's saving his "centavos" for - I love him so - Oh darling (I sighed just then - I pray he'll be coming up this spring. Tonight I wrote him a bit more & did a few things - it's 11 now and I'm extremely sleepy - "and so to bed."

Monday February 22 - Rally Day. Slightly more interesting than last year- This afternoon Hope Howell and I saw "Lloyd's of London" - Tyrone Power & Madeleine Carroll - through twice. Excellent.

Tuesday February 23 - Little.

Wednesday February 24 - Little.

Thursday February 25 - Hertz's birthday. This evening Hertz, Louise, Lucille & I went to the Tavern for dinner - had fun. Louise had to leave early for a typing lesson. We put Lucille on the bus & back to the house by 10. Lucille is a nice kid.

Friday February 26 - Little happened today.

Saturday February 27 - Went to Rahars for the first time. Chuck Compton (Dartmouth) came down. A bunch of us then went to the Arena for dinner and dancing.

Sunday February 28 - Little happened. Wrote Elliott. Worked most of the day on a poster for Spring Dance. The color scheme is powder blue, maroon, and silver.

Monday March 1 - Beautiful day. Wore my yellow suit and apple green sweater. Over to Sunnyside. Hertz says she's in love with Jim - Whoa! After Geology met Curtis & Herbie, who has hopped out from South Dakota for a day or so. He hitch-hiked up to N.Y. from Washington. Had much fun. Was very glad to see Kurt. They came up with Jim Shaeffer - went over to Amherst. They left about 5:30. Tonight I wrote a short letter to Elliott.

Tuesday March 2 - Haven't heard from Elliott. Stayed in bed this evening. A fire in the smoking room last night put a ban on all smoking in the house.

Wednesday March 3 - Haven't heard from Elliott.

Thursday March 4 - Was a lovely day. Tonight rainy with tiny droplets. Wrote 3 sonnets. Jim came over to see Hertz. I feel very blue. Saw Fred Schweitzer - Amherst basket-baller

Friday March 5 - Little. Feel low.

Saturday March 6 - Decorated this morning. Snowed. This afternoon just going to Rahar's with Flower & the kids. I received a lovely corsage of red roses from Elliott. He is a darling. Came back to the house about 5 and took a bath and got dressed. Had dinner at Betty's table, with Neola & Hope, and their respective dates. The tables looked nice and the dance floor looked lovely. I had a wonderful time - it's lots of fun stag. I sho' wish that Elliott could have been there, though.

Sunday March 7 - Got up about 11:30. Beautiful day. Ozzie arrived about 2:30 or so. He's looking very well. We talked for a while and then went down to the Tavern. Came back for dinner with Betty & Grant & Mary & Sloanie. After dinner we played ghost, bridge and my guitar, & finally Betty, Grant, Neola, Oliver, Ozzie and I went down to Rahar's, where we had fun. Back shortly before 10. We had fun & I think Ozzie did, too. Wrote Elliott.

Monday March 8 - Little going on. I feel very low mentally. Haven't heard from Elliott. Music quiz tomorrow. Rained all afternoon.

Tuesday March 9 - The music quiz was alright. After a certain point one begins to get discouraged. I haven't heard yet. Boston Symphony Concert tonight. I enjoyed it. Am very tired.

Wednesday March 10 - Sent Jerry a birthday telegram today. Well -

Thursday March 11 - Little going on. It does become a bit difficult after nearly 3 weeks. Received a telegram from Elliott - I was very happy to get it - he is in Tampico now - Oh, I love him so.

Friday March 12 - Just another day. Received a box from Mrs. Estabrook. Had a party tonight - everything from caviar & anchovies on -

Saturday March 13 - Little - Beautiful day.

Sunday March 14 - Little goes on. Wrote Elliott today.

Monday March 15 - Just along.

Tuesday March 16 - Little.

Wednesday March 17 - George came to see Hertz tonight. We had the Senior Banquet tonight. I sat at Marian Weidman's & Hope Howell's table. Wrote Elliott.

Thursday March 18 - Beautiful day this morning. Came back at 3 - and here was a picture of my darling - oh Elliott - it is so dear, so like you. Zipped downtown & bought a frame for it. Drove for about an hour with George tonight. Poor fellow - Hertz has turned him down.

Friday March 19 - Well, another birthday - I'm 19 - Woke up & said good morning to Elliott('s picture) - I had a letter from him - a darling one. Toto's girls gave me a little Easter rooster, yellow with a blue tail. Classes - I thought that was mighty sweet of them. Back to the house at 3 & there was a telegram from him - the darling. Also one from New York which said "Happy Birthday - Lemarquis" - ??? Wrote my darling - Betty and the rest of the "5 Vestal Virgins" gave me a peachy birthday party - we ate, "bull sessioned," played bridge & bed at 2:30 for me.

Saturday March 20 - Went to see "Maid of Salem" - Claudette Colbert & Fred McMurray - good. Poured all the way home. Lib Allen & I were completely soaked.

Sunday March 21 - A very dear picture greeted me this morning - But little else happened today - 1st day of spring - beautiful but a bit windy.

Monday March 22 - A darling letter from a darling - Tonight I was amazed by a "long distance" from New York! It was Dad - I certainly was glad to hear him - I'll go down either tomorrow or Wednesday.

Tuesday March 23 - Fooled around today after getting up at 5:45, calling Dad at 7:45 & finding I should come tomorrow instead.

Wednesday March 24 - Took the 3:10 to New York. Dad has a mustache! It is becoming, though. We had dinner at the hotel, with red Sparkling Burgundy. Then went to see "The Show Is On" - Beatrice Lee & Bert Lahr - funny in spots & sweet in a few. It's peachy seeing Dad. Wrote Elliott - Bed 2:00

Thursday March 25 - Up at 6:30. Breakfast with Dad - then I shopped. Met him for luncheon. Kurt came over this afternoon - we were having cocktails in Tony Sang room when this note was handed me by a bell-boy. Dinner with Dad about 8; then went to Radio City- Music Hall. Saw "Seventh Heaven" - Simone Simon & James Stuart. Bed 1:30.

Friday March 26 - Got up at 6:30. Breakfast with Dad at 7:45. Shopped - a very windy day. Dad put me on the 12:05 for Hamp. I felt so blue - I never hated so much to leave him before. We'd had a peach of a time. Arrived in Hamp at 4:30 or so. Went up to Comstock. Packed, came down to Bedford Lodge and unpacked by 7:30. I was terribly tired. Took a bath and was in bed and asleep by 9.

Saturday March 27 - Crept out & found a letter from Elliott at 9:30. Gee, it was nice. This

afternoon and evening I started printing the book of poems that I'm going to give him for his birthday. Bed about 2:30. Made a couple of Easter baskets for Agnes (the maid) and her little boy, 3 years old Monday.

Sunday March 28 - Easter - Up at 9:30. Went to Church. Had luncheon at Father Akondon's (??spelling??) home. Dyed Easter eggs with the kids. Came back about 4. Went to see "Love is News" - Loretta Young, Tyrone Power. Good - Very funny. Lovely day, but cold.

Monday March 29 - Shopped a bit today. Rewrote the book of poems. Little happened. Lovely day.