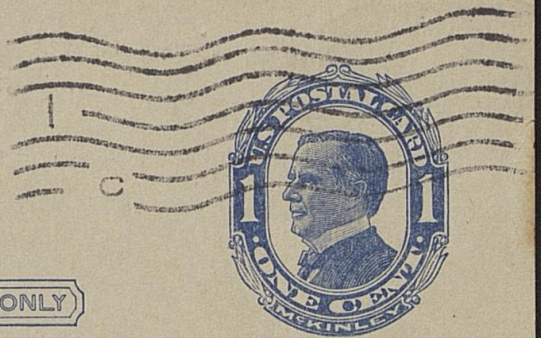
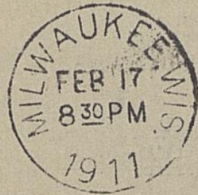


Y. M. C. A.,
2/17/11.

Dear Sister:—

Must apologize for not writing before. Exceedingly busy, am using the gym much of necessity. The secretaries' class takes some of my time, I note that Ray is teaching at Fortville. Miles I have not heard from of late. Mother has not written me this week. Got a card from Ray. The work I am in is ~~gym~~ training, but is not directly religious. Prefer A. C. work. Hope to get at it soon, can not endure false notions. The Y. M. C. A. field is broad, but not religious enough.

Yours in love,
Ralph.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wisconsin.

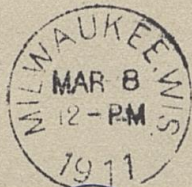
25

POSTED
R. T. B.

Mt. Y. M. C. A.

3/8/11.

Dear sister:- Rec'd your
very welcome letter. The
note, or inclosed letter (du-
plicate) may well disturb, tho'
it is not unexpected. It truly
explains itself. Sorry I can-
not write more. Have written
mother twice since I have
heard from you. Am in
the midst of a busy
"Current Expense Campaign",
for \$10,000 in 4 days. Took
in nearly \$1800 today. Write
if you do not hear after. I
do my best. - Heard that
Allany, Wis., has suffered
several thousands of dollars
loss by fire.
Your loving brother,
Ralph.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Miss Beulah Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.
25

W.M.C.A.,
3-31-1911.

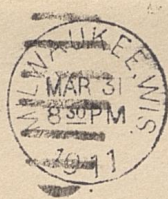
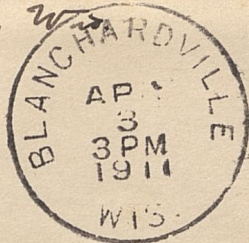
Dear sister:-

How are you?! How does school go? My work continues with some difficulties, of course. I wish I could act on Wms.' suggestion of taking up a college course next September. I especially want to get into Christian work, church work - always have wanted to. Don't know whether I shall be able to make Wm. camp or not - probably not. The work here never ceases. I miss my organ music and Bible study - have little of either. The amount of Christian activity in the W.M.C.A. is, to put it quite mildly,

infinitesimal! My influence is
considerable, but activity of the right
sort extremely limited. Am praying
for guidance. Am far (!) from
the rest of the family and hear nothing,
practically, of Adventist work.
Hope - that's all!

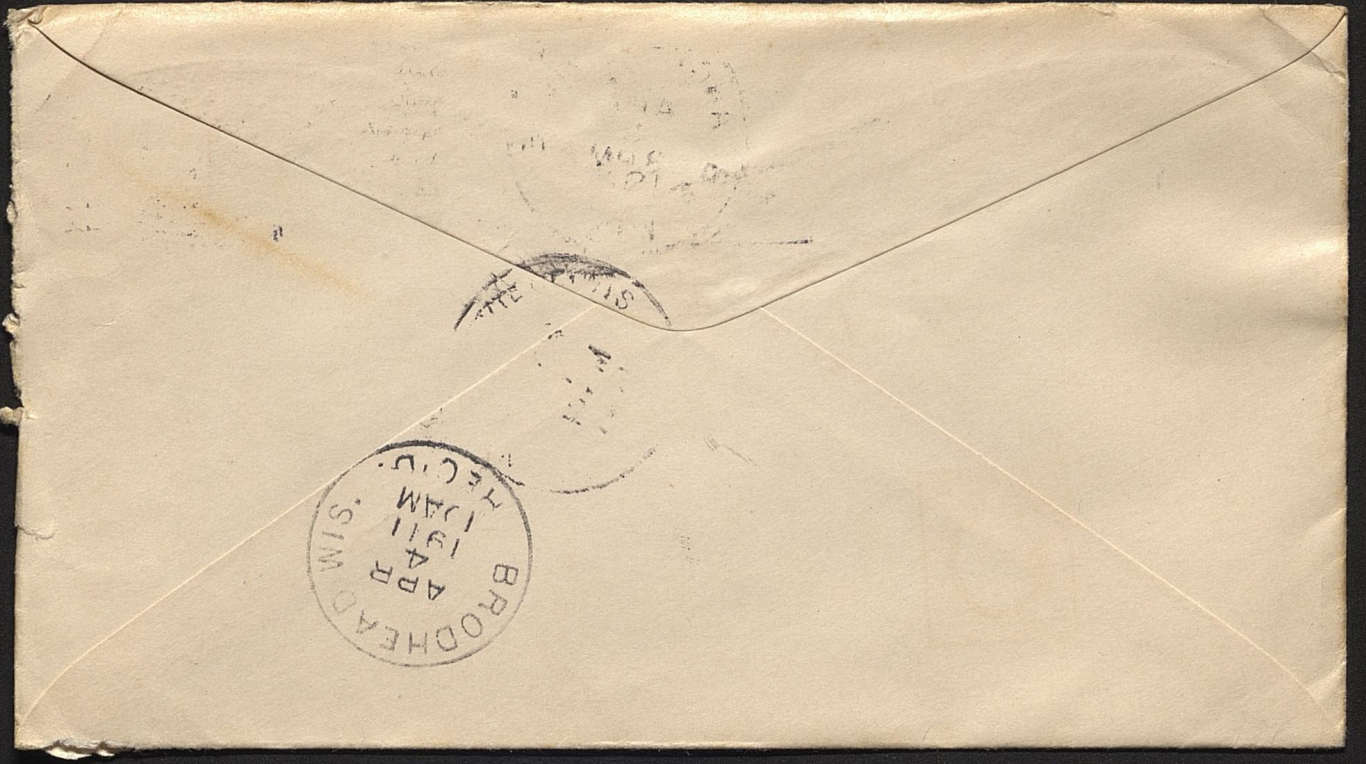
Your loving brother,
Ralph.

222- y. m. c. a.
Milwaukee, Wis.



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
~~Blanchardville,~~
Ford Brodhead
Wis.

Dr. Schorr.



BRODHEAD
WIS.
APR 1911
A.M.
U.S.

ST. LOUIS
MO.
APR 1911

ST. LOUIS
MO.
APR 1911

ST. LOUIS
MO.
APR 1911

Mil. Y. M. C. A.
April 13, 1911,

Dear Sister:-

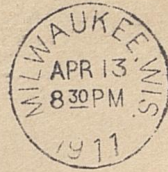
Mother writes that you have gone back to school and that your school leaves closes June 2. I wish I could visit you and see how things go, but I cannot. I miss the country with its fresh air and extended space. Of course the city, with its gymnasiums and population and business and street cars make possible greater exercise, training, and acquaintance.

Last Sunday morning I preached in the N. Mil. Presbyterian church - subject, "God".

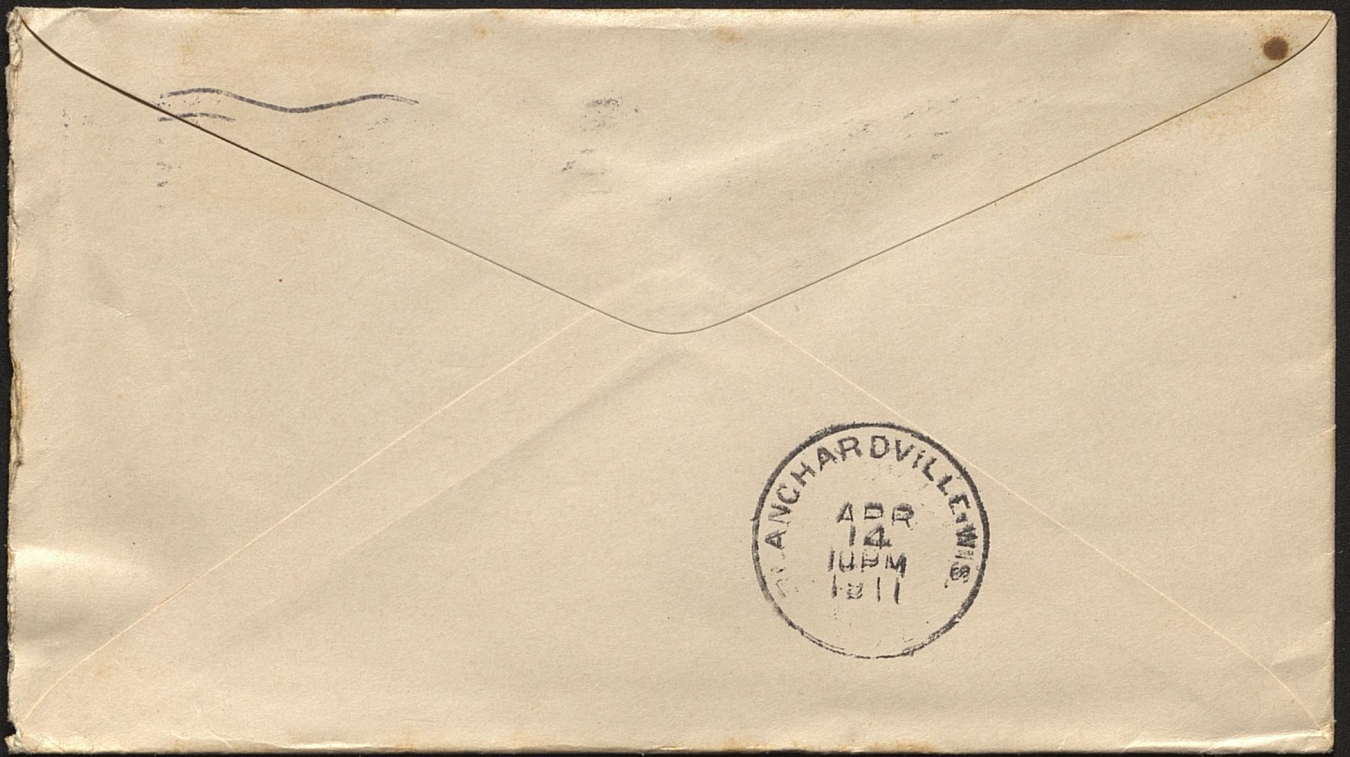
Sunday P.M. listened to a master-
ful address on "Wealth and Wirth"
by the pastor of Grand A.M.E.
Church. Sunday evening walked
out to the Third German M.E.
Church on the South side with
the Office Sec'y, and walked
back another way with the
old Membership Sec'y. Monday
morning went to work answering
letters and questions; taking in room-
ers, members, and cash; keeping
records; making change, and 1000
other things as usual.

Write when you can.
Your loving brother,
Ralph J. Bowden.

mil. y. m. e. a
P.B. - 510



Miss Beulah M. Boudin,
Blanchardville,
Wisconsin.



ANCHARDVILLE MS
APR 14
10PM 1911

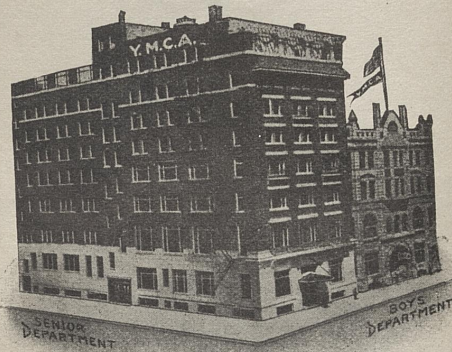
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 R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, May 25, 1911.

Dear sister:-

I sent on your enclosed letter. Hope it hits the mark. Am glad to think of meeting you at camp. We are almost strangers by this time. Ray, I think, is worrying overmuch, but Dick seems to be nihilist.

This morning I read before the secretarial class a paper on "Religious work", 18 pp. Approved. This afternoon I practiced a while on the typewriter, then spent 3+ hrs. at Juneau park, on the lake front. Good! Good out there!

Of all things, the L. W. work should be pushed, also the children's meetings. Nothing as important. Suppose you will be longing for such work, after 7 years of school-teaching! Well, we shall see.

Your loving brother,

Ralph L. Bowden

Asst. Office Sec'y.

In 5 Days return to

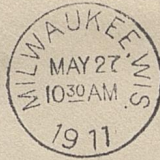
Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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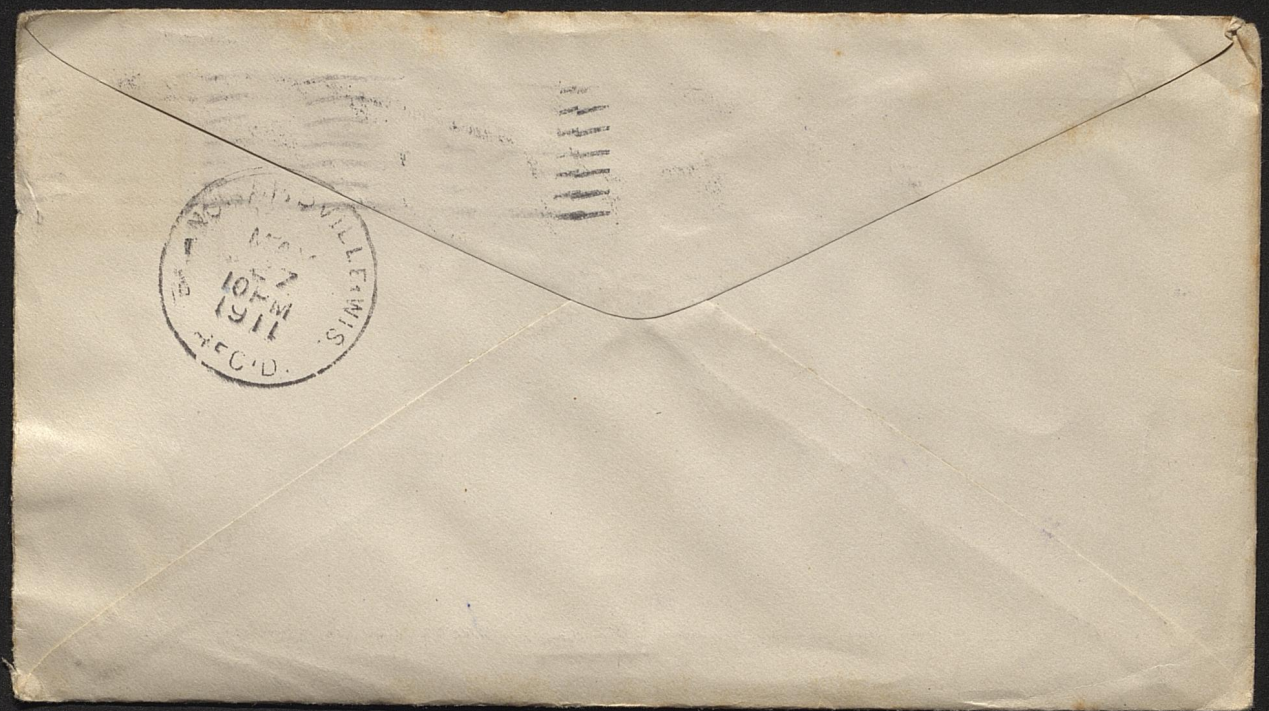
R. T. B.



Miss Beulah M. Boudin,

Blanchardville,

Wis.



REC'D.
MAY 2 10 AM 1911
MAYVILLE MISS.

Mil. Y. M. C. A.,

7-27-11

Dear Sister:-

Rejoice to hear of your pleasure in the folks and fields of Mifflin, that great and mighty city of grass and glory! I envy that Miles does not think as well as he preaches. Tell Wm. to get there! Make Paul cry once in every two twigs, anyhow! Spank Saville if he cries too often. Wish I could see Mrs. (and Mr.) Ponder and family. Beware yourself! Inform me when I go crooked, and at once! Wear your glasses advisedly. - I don't know

as much about blackjack
as I do about crackerjack!

The Gideons, the Christian
Commercial Travelers of Amer-
ica, had their convention
here July 21-23. A big noise!
But lots to it. I like them!

Tell the postmaster at
Mifflin that the Mil. of M. L. A.
has a better date stamp and
how stamp than he has!

My pen does not work
well this P. M. Will have
to tote a bank pen up to
my room, I guess.

As always, with greetings,
your loving brother,
(Ralph).

M. Y. M. C. A.

Bonder

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
JUL 28
3:30 PM
1911



Miss Beulah M. Bonder,
(c/o W. S. Bonder),
Mifflin,

Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Sept. 7, 1911.

Dear Sister:-

Yours of last week should not have remained unanswered until now. Accept my apology.

I must frankly reciprocate your thoughts. In a large measure, as I have variously witnessed, your sisterly influence has balanced my personal life and intentions. To your deliberate example I attribute a considerable degree of practical value. Whatever clearness of a vision of Christ I may have may be ascribed to the unmeasured genuineness of mother and yourself. I am not greatly sentimental, but I strive to be gratefully sensible.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

My own responsibility increases. A year's faithful intensity has given me the name of being well in touch with the 160 men in the dormitory, whom I know well. Hence my services are in demand on all sides from all departments.

Sunday morning I shall attend my third jail service; in what capacity I know not. The place is the worsty jail. The first time I played for the Y. A. M. E. Church; the second time I spoke for the Pilgrim Long Church; this time the society is Y. A. M. E. again.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

I suppose, 'ere this, mother has conveyed to you my final decision. While I do not believe in holding aloof from any work till all seems perfect, I have concluded that another year's service here will give me needed time for experience and at the same time permit me to gain a prospective of the field. The salary question, while important, is somewhat incidental to the main issue. Bro. Kerck suggested the advisability of remaining here this year; Editor Pollard so advised me, also two brothers. Bro. Arnold and Miles consider me reprehensible for ~~my~~ recalling my resignation.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

Let me repeat that a few weeks scientific training gymnastically would make me you ten years younger and much stronger. My health is robustly splendid, despite eleven hours daily work. Evenings, after 10⁰⁰ P.M., I often spend an hour in Inman Park, on the lake front with a congenial dormitory Christian young man, whom I like to beat playing handball. Have got the larger part of our force of 13 men stirred up on handball. My muscles are like snits.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

If you dislike my recent action, let me know. Personally I think I acted wisely in staying until our people have some use for me. If I were in authority, my course, denominationally, would be different than my present way. I think God intends yet to spread the word of the living Christ.

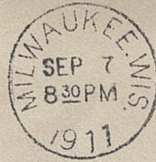
Your loving brother,
Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET *QZB*

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Miss Beulah M. Boudier,
Blanchardville,
Wisconsin.



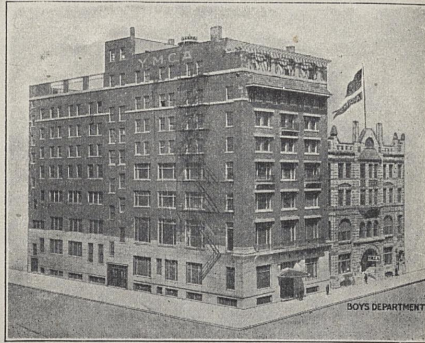
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141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 29, 1911,

Dear Sister: - How do you like our latest letter-head. I accepted 25 m. of those today.

Lo y a's address: - McKee Bldg., J. T. Colwell,
R. F. D. #2.

Moral conditions in Blanchardville most nearly tally with those in Milwaukee.

Do you mean that you have a different grade this year?

The largest C. E. society in the city has requested my services as pianist in their orchestra at Immanuel Pres. church this winter. I was there for the first time Sun. evening last. I improvise in gospel music.

Have you noted the Turkish situation. It is generally acute. Italy and Turkey are on the point of war.

Your brother,

Ralph

SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 30th.

Saturday night is an open night and one of the ONLY nights in the YEAR when you can bring your girl. (Bring her sister, too; someone will assist you home).

FIFTH FLOOR (that's all).

This WONDERFUL evening will open by a selection from the melodious FIFTH floor quartet. This quartet has successfully appeared before several crowned heads (by SPECIAL command) and is noted throughout the universe.

Mr. John Sherman Potter (Mass.'08) will deliver his famous oration, "Casey at the Bat." (Copies of this oration may be purchased afterward from the gentlemen attendants, who will pass among you, for five dollars the copy. Copies specially illustrated by our STAFF artist, in pen and ink, 5¢ extra.)

Mr. Fred Smith will put on his wonderful singing and dancing specialty "Steamboat Bill" which has made him INTERNATIONALLY famous. This is Mr. Smith's positively last appearance in this country, on ANY stage. He WILL not respond to encore as the FINANCES of the COMMITTEE are strained.

We hope to be able to present (at LARGE expense) the DIXIE STRING QUARTET, composed of some of the leading college men of this country and EUROPE. (see advertisements in daily newspapers). This feature is ALONE worth the full price of admission. (Admission FREE).

The CROWNING and STUPENDOUS event will be a RELAY race, wherein the FIFTH floor will demonstrate to the denizens of the SEVENTH floor that they possess SOME of the athletic MARVELS of the AGE. This race is being put on at the special request of the MANAGEMENT, as the LIFE of Luxury being led on the seventh floor is assisting in its rapid PHYSICAL decline and THIS degeneration should be EXPOSED to the eyes of a STARTLED and curious world. Mr. Lewis Bolduc Montford (Mich.'09), one of the greatest COACHES of his time, will handle the ATHLETES of the FIFTH floor. Mr. Oscar Charles Raley, (Park '09) will try to instill courage in the SINKING hearts of the seventh floor crowd.

The MANAGEMENT will present a PENNANT to the FIFTH floor for winning this race.

No practice running will be allowed during the week by the seventh floor, as the running track will be WHOLLY occupied EACH evening by the fellows of the FIFTH.

Men of both floors will be run by ROOM NUMBERS, 501 and 701 starting. Every man is expected to do his duty. The floor which has the fewest men present will have to run some of their fellows twice, but the OTHER floor COACH will pick the man to run the second time.

Services will take place in the Gym. Choir will sing the prelude at 9:00 o'clock. Congregation will take their place quietly not later than 8:45.

NO SPOONING allowed, except in lobby.

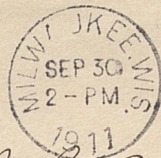
Every man on the FIFTH and SEVENTH floors must be pledged to attend. Committees will pass through the entire building at 7:45 o'clock and resolutions will be cited before the bar, if possible by methods of peace, but if NECESSARY, by FORCE of arms.

Don't forget your girl. She may FIND some ONE here she likes better than you and you will then have more time to devote to your studies in FUTURE.

BY ORDER OF COMMITTEE.

mil. ymca

(RFB)



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.

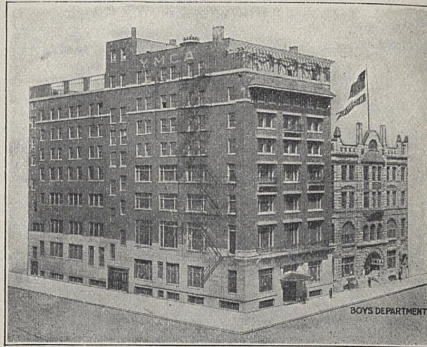
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141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 20, 1911,

Dear Sister:— Would like to see you here next month. The difficulty at times when conventions of any size meet in Milwaukee is the prohibitory rate which hotels and private resters place on rooms and beds. Only early comers can obtain anything like a satisfactory place, and that at a ruinous price. Later comers must content themselves with utterly unsatisfactory locations at equally exorbitant terms. I write these things from the standpoint of a dormitory club acquainted, second-hand, and too, first-hand, with convention conditions in Milwaukee, the convention city of America.

I suppose you know the recent history of other parts of the family. Ray seems to be exceedingly busy. I myself have but one continuous round of exacting and pressing duties. Sometimes wish earnestly that I might be able

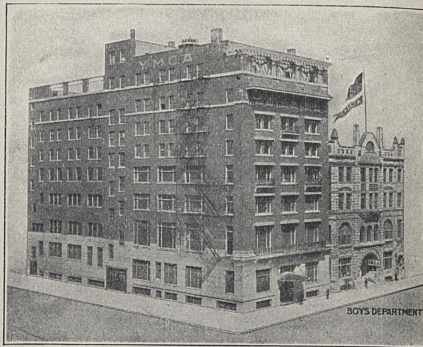
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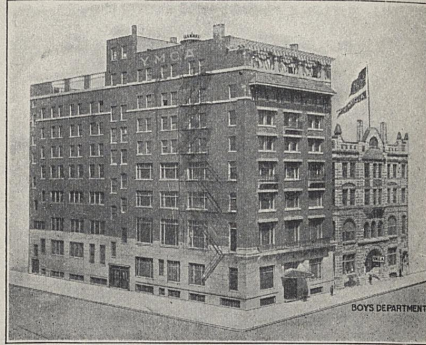
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MILWAUKEE.

to locate amidst more social conditions.
It seems strange, but there is not present
the social life which there should be.
Moreover, it is not easy to find persons
congenial to yourself, and that in spite
of the fact that I know hundreds of people
in Milwaukee.

Anna scheduled for a systematic intro-
ductory Bible class here for the next
five months, but, on account of the slow
irreligious life of Scholty city, none of the
five classes arranged of the Senior Dept.
are organized.

With love,

Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

RFB

MILWAUKEE WIS
OCT 20
8 30 PM
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Miss Beulah M. Bowden
Blanchardville,
Wis.

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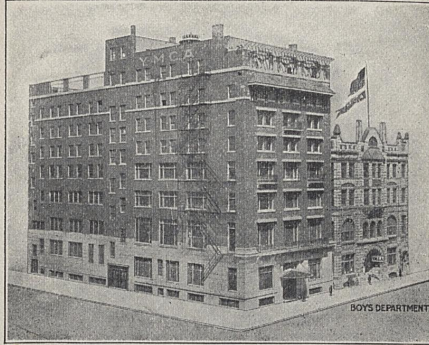
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MILWAUKEE, Oct. 27, 1911

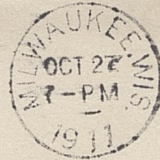
Dear Sister:- President Faft, in his "swing around the circle" visited the mil. ymca last night, the occasion being the inaugural banquet of the second president of the Boy's Republic of the Milw. Ymca. This is the first time I have seen Billy.

Have just completed a (28pp) treatise on "Baptism". I spend spare hours in writing, reading, playing, & exercising. I often wonder what will be the outcome of the A. C. work. The Ymca does not and cannot satisfy me. Nothing except religious work will. My work here is strictly clerical; the religious element is slight.

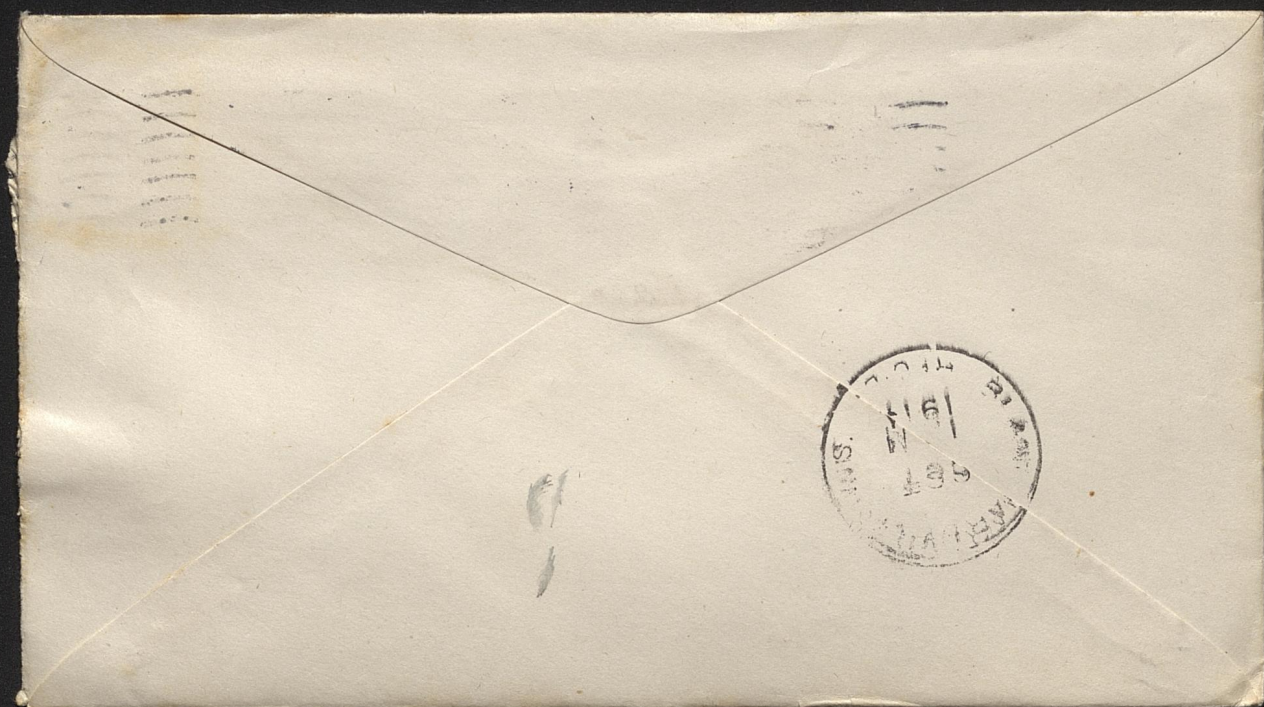
Your brother

R. T. Bowden

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



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Nov. 10, 1911.

Dear Sister: -

Between 2⁰⁰ and 7⁰⁰ P. M. today, I was constantly on my feet in company with a friend, a member of my Bible class. We covered 14 miles distance in city and country, but were not walking all that time. He took a couple Kodak snapshots of me in rural surroundings.

About five thousand teachers have been assembled in Milwaukee the past two days, and have swamped the streets, but I have seen nobody I know. Wish you could have been here. I cannot be

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Milwaukee.

Love for Thanksgiving. Forget me not.
Mother writes that Ray (21) has been home on a
vacation.

Bro. Arnold wrote me most cordially, asking
for copy: in other words, manuscript. My stiches
are loaded with fire and brimstone ready for
print.

Your loving brother,

Ralph

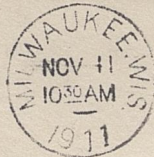
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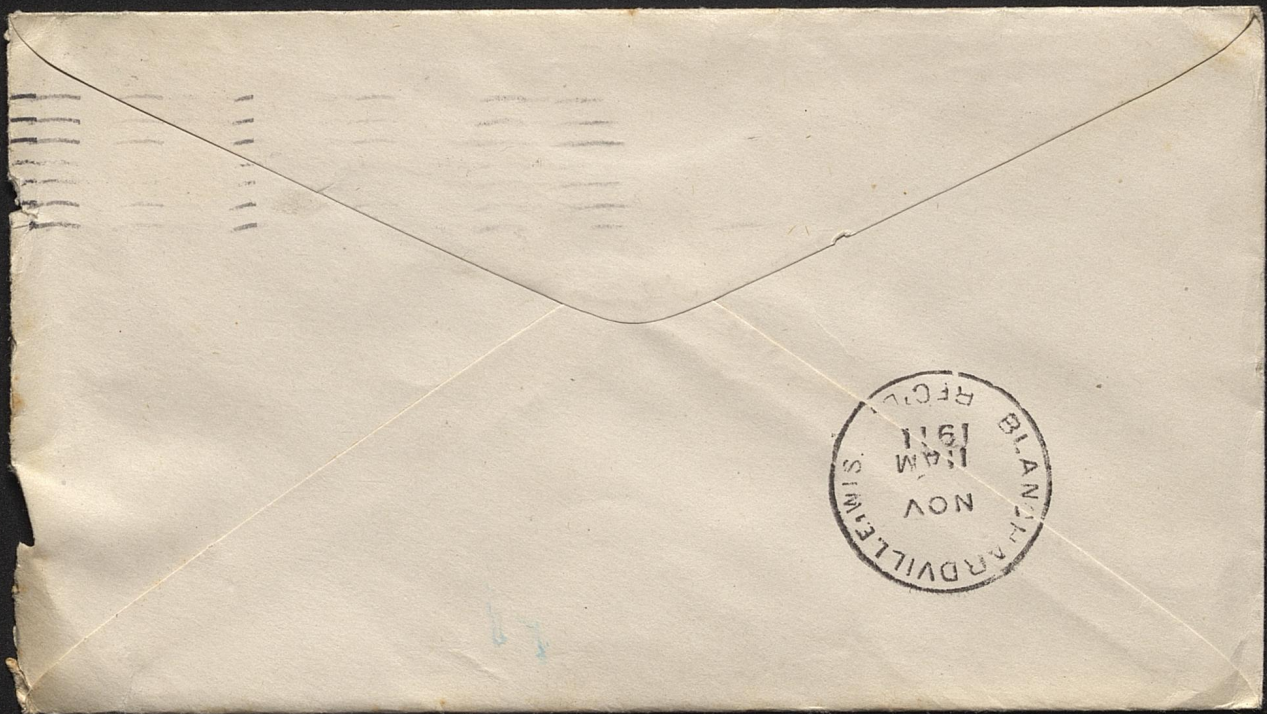
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RFB



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.

Public Schools



NOV 18 1911
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SIMPSONVILLE, VA

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Nov. 17, 1911.

Dear Sister:— I mailed a letter to you Saturday A. M. Perhaps you got it after you wrote me.

Saw Misses Halfhead and Lathrop from Brodhead Sat. P. M. on their way to the train. The tempest which scattered and destroyed 8 sq. miles of agricultural area between Brodhead and Milton with lessened force struck our vicinity bringing with it a season of pitchy blackness in the middle of the afternoon. Day and night with its close pass

The Young Men's
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Milwaukee.

near their respective localities.

I heard Hill's in one of his wonderful lectures at Emmanuel Pres. Church Sunday night. Several thousand attended; despite the icy wind which pierced and penetrated the entire city; the church was packed.

Our building is this year a factory of social and religious occasions.

In love,

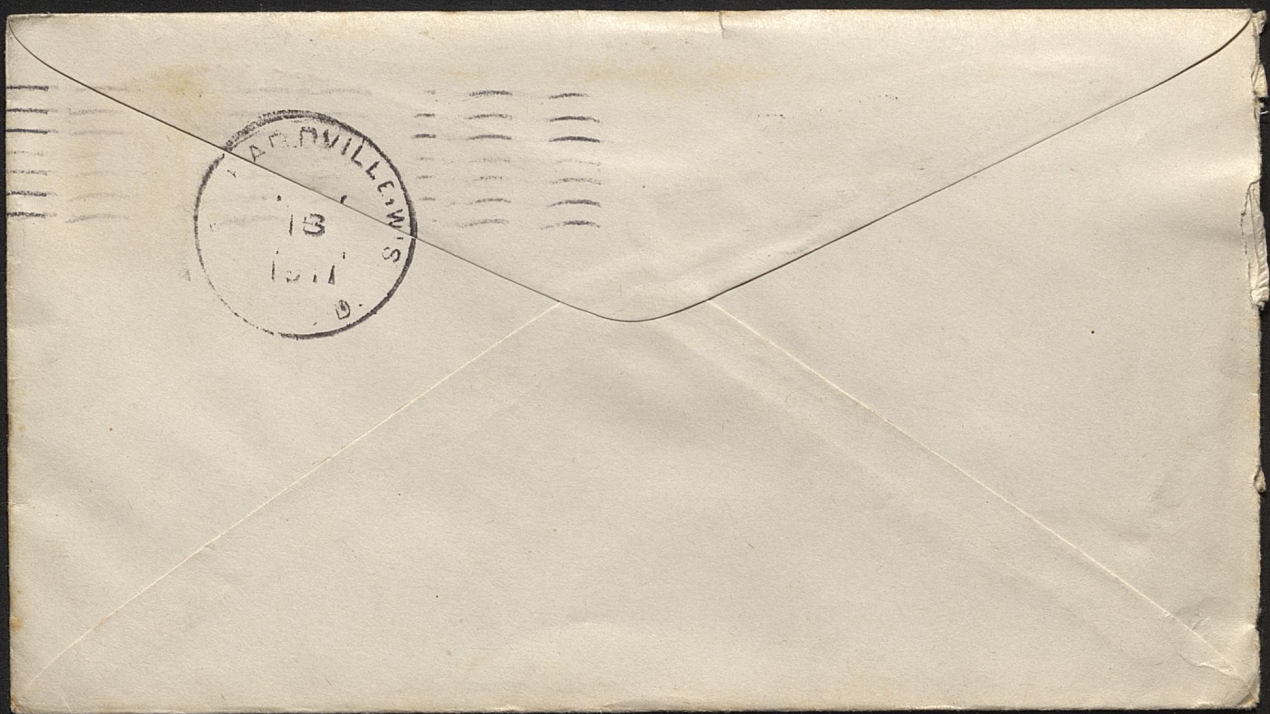
Ralph.

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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
NOV 17
6-PM
1911



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Nov. 24, 1911.

Dear Sister:-

I wish I could be with you at Thanksgiving, but it will be impossible. Sometimes, in spite of the acquaintance which I have with hundreds of boys around here, also ministers, et cetera, I become lonesome for private life with private friends, private working, etc. But my days are strenuous now. Often my desire to enter church work nearly sidetracks me but I know not yet what is best. I hope our people will keep busy.

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Milwaukee.

This morning I visited on business 21 business concerns of large magnitude. I enjoy things when they move rapidly.

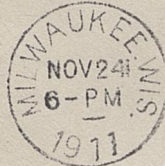
I wish you could hear the preaching I get every Sunday A.M. By far, it is Mil.'s best. I have heard but one preacher with more of a helpful message: O. R. Jerks, I. K. A. C. people don't fully appreciate him. There is no better or equal in this city.

Your loving brother,
Ralph.

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RFB 143 FOURTH STREET
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Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.

100



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Dec. 1, 1911.

Dear Sister:— Your characterization of the methods and manner of your evangelist impressed me favorably. I have always thought that the gospel addressed its appeal to three faculties, knowing, feeling, willing. Is that good psychology?

I heard from Wm the results of his Nebraska trip this week. Presumably you did too.

If the church of Christ would attack the saloon unitedly, blind pigs would disappear. Political parties and civic reforms cannot abolish the liquor traffic. I think that any option on the drink question is settling with the devil over the question

The Young Men's
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Milwaukee.

of destroying the lives and characters of men and women made in the image of God.

Thanksgiving here was a big day. About 225 men attended dinner served in this building to young men away from home. This was followed in the evening by an entertainment, the program being furnished by the Carroll college quartet.

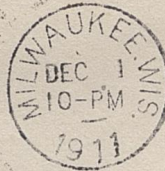
Your affectionate brother,

Ralph.

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Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.



BLANCHARDVILLE, IN.
DEC 12 1911

CHICAGO, ILL.
DEC 2 6-30 AM 1911

T
16

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Dear Sister:— ^{Milwaukee,} Dec. 7, 1911.
It must be fun to miss
trains!

It seems that the Bondin family has
got the moving fever. Loyel has changed
address, Ray is on the move to Arua etc., you
have been to Budhead, Wm. has been to Ne-
braska, and Miss to Minneapolis and Monticello.
Next! Certainly the railroad trust gets
no loss in that.

What you narrate concerning the revival
meetings interests me. It is a pity that the

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Milwaukee.

Children are given free rein until their teens,
and then rescued from the Kingdom of Satan
only by heroic service. I would stand
an educated Christian of childhood training
against a tragic convert any time. I believe
in compassion, but instruction from earliest
hours is best. I hope to interest myself in
work with boys in the next few years.

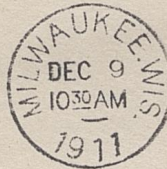
Your brother in love,

Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

Q113 143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
Blanchardville,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Dec. 15, 1911,

Dear Sister:— Mother writes the conference was
The case is good as far as it goes, but I
fear that God is going to hold responsible
those who have had it within their power to
spread the gospel news of a coming Christ,
and have not.

There has always been something of
simplicity about your Christian faith that
has ever been to me a permanent evidence
of the love of Christ. To me the perfect

The Young Men's
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Milwaukee.

Christian life is a union of faith and life.
Such is the model: Jesus.

This is my program weekly, and especially
the coming week:—

Sun. A.M.—	G. A. M. E. squad of men attendants.
" P.M.—	Piano, Ymca or Calv. Pres. church
" "	attend S. Strangers' Bible Class
" "	" Fellowship Lunch
" "	Piano, Immanuel Pres. church
Tues. Eve.—	Bible Class, & beside myself (teacher).
Thurs. Noon—	Organ, Mt. Calvary meeting
Fri. P.M.—	Off duty, various things, private etc.

The Young Men's
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Milwaukee.

I'm busy constantly with writing, exercis-
ing, talking, playing, or working.

Your brother in love,

Ralph

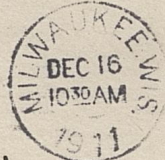
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Miss Beulah M. Bowden,

Blanchardville,

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BLANCKENHAGEN
10 PM
1911
SIMPLIFIED

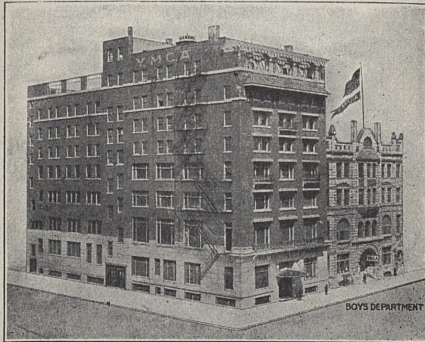
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I. G. MAXWELL, ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, 12-22-1911.

Dear Sister:—

Today I have only $19\frac{1}{3}$ yrs to my credit (?).

Presume you will get 'home' as soon as does this letter. I cannot get home, for reasons communicated to mother. Wish I might see the whole tribe, but duty is duty. Only the eternal home shall know no cruel separations.

We are going to have a Christmas breakfast and program for the dormitory men. Our tree is decorated both giddily and gaudily.

Your reference to your classes strikes me well. There is no work so great as that of teaching Jesus Christ to the youth of today.

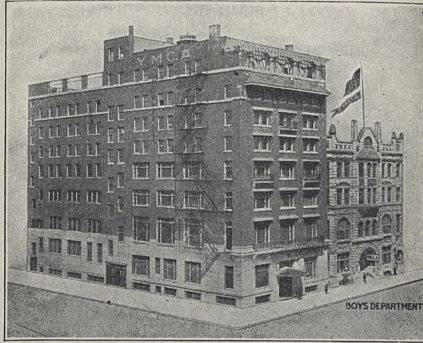
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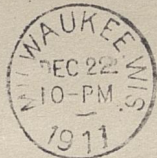
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MILWAUKEE, 12-22-1911,

*Wish that our state church work
might be organized. If the young people
could be rightly trained, much would
be accomplished in the near future.
Christ did not commission us to Christian-
ize, but to evangelize.
Affectionately,
(2702)*

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET *2713*
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Miss Beulah M. Bowden,
~~Blanchardville,~~
Bro d herd,
Wis.