

Genesee January 21st 1917

Dear Tina

At last I'm am going to try and see if I can write a letter this is the first for this year 1917

it seems so hard to get me started to write. everyone is well hear of course little ails now and then. Papa is feeling a lot better then a year ago anyhow he has gained in flesh since a year ago about ten pounds . I have not weighed but I feel quite heavy some times I have been bothered with headache for a couple weeks but I'm feeling a little better today

we have been to church today it has been quite cold but we have very nice sleighing lots of snow but I just go once a week and thats on Sunday! We received your picture for wich I thank you very much it certainly is good it is standing on the Piano so I can see it all the time and I think of you oftener that I write you a letter and oftener that I get one!

Well Bertha staid in town today a bunch of young folks are going to have a home talent play and she is going to take the part in it so I'll have to make her to dresses, one is going to have to be a black street dress and the other will be a blue silk taffeta evening dress I think it will be a good play they will have it in about three weeks and Viola is going to have a blue and Martha a brown dress so I am going to be very busy sewing for a while.

Bertha and Viola are hemstitching curtains for the dining room when they get them ready then they are going to make some for in my bedroom. they will be of scrim and I expect that the girls wrote to you and told you of the nice dresser and beds Papa got for our bedroom and he fixed the bathroom and enameld it and painted the floor a light gray so everything is nice and fresh in their again and I know very sure that that the girls told you about our new Edison machin it is the \$150 and its nice mahogany just the color of the Piano and we have music when we work and eat and at all times. well Tina, Charlie (*Whalen- Mollie's husband*) had not been feeling

very good for a week or two but he is feeling a lot better again course he has been working all the time and Amalie and the children are well course the girls always wash for her. I don't think she washed alone half a dozen times since her (over please) baby's born and they never charge her anything. they always stay one of them in town on Saturday and wash and scrub and help her and then they come home on Sunday! Martha and Viola had some very hard studies they have some very strict teachers!

Well Tina, Aunt Tina seemed to be glad to receive a picture of you but you ought to see how they are working it now. Mrs. Edwin Smolt is in the store type writing and writing letters and sits in the office. Oh! My that's Mrs. Edwin Smolt—ha ha and that Aunt Tina is in the kitchen in the back of the store and roast meats and they give mashed potatoes and serve soups a regular restaurant.

Papa and I were in the store some time ago and they gave us the (bill of fare) but we just ordered coffee and sandwiches and the Smolt people have a table back in the kitchen and they eat their two meals downtown and then they go home and sleep and eat breakfast then they go down in the store again but they have two girls working for them so Aunt Tina don't have to help so much if she don't want to but she generally is down there but I have not seen her yet in 1917 she goes to early mass and I go to high mass and I don't go to town very often, if I go I go up to see Amalie and the children that's all. I'm at home all the time.

Don't tell anyone how Smolt work their business. You know Aunt Mami and Angela always tell her everything back.

well I must quit writing or else you can't have your dinner ready in time if you read this all

with love to you, excuse my poor writing, your mama write soon