

Tuesday

Dear Family,

Two letters from you yesterday---morning and afternoon, including

Paulines, which was a pleasure as always--so rare a pleasure. She is

truly wonderful, especially the sense of humor. We shall look forward

to the coming food box. Before I forget---you asked me to note time

on the last one---you sent it July 11th, Wed.---it arrived

the following wed., July 18th---exactly one week shopping time---some

sort of a record I'd say for these war times. Well, it was a wonderful

box, we are truly the envy of all our friends---to receive such goodies

all of which are impossible to buy---all the preserves, the candy, corn

beef---unheard of in grocery stores in these parts---likewise the potatoes--

they are new, delicious, whereas there has been a local shortage, so none

here at all---they tell me it will soon be over tho'. Eggs we have

not been able to get anywhere, so will be glad to receive them, as we

really need them with the meat shortage. However we can't complain

I do get a nice piece of meat once a week, that generally lasts three

days---now that we are but two of us.

The weather has been wonderful here---the swimming never better,

and we have a good arrangement with Hans as he drives to the beach almost

daily and like us, prefers to stay only a short time, then back to work.

We find it too long a bike trip for me, tho Fritz does take it alone

sometimes---I only bike to town and back and that's enuf for me.

Our garden we are finding far more profitable than we ever expect-

ed it to be, and when people say why don't you raise flowers, we just

laugh, as the fresh garden vegetables are a hell of a lot more practical-

and so so good---just wonderful---wish we could send you the fresh

stringless beans, little peas, carrots, radishes, beets, salad greens,

kale, and all the fresh herbs---we eat from it twice a day---it is

amazing how much we get from little seeds, and a little effort.

Yes, we too were pleased to get \$200 for the studio for so short a season---it is so much easier than renting cabins for instance, as we give them no plumbing, no cooking, no electricity, no furniture, no upkeep--in other words, only the building, for this rent, it is good. And if Hans had not rented it, we could have easily rented it to others, there are always people waiting. So we think now, perhaps we will rent it every year---it is something tangible to depend upon---always the taxes will be paid, and part of the upkeep---I think it is a good idea. Altho' the studio was built especially for Fritz work, we think now, we could rent always in July and August--he could at that time paint outdoors, landscape--he likes to anyway. We will fix up the chicken house late August as planned, with the help of the Rose brothers, then with that originally planned as a tool shed, now we double its use, Fritz could use it at that time to store his easels, and many other painting essentials also, paint outdoors, and we'd be \$200 ahead each year---in this way quickly pay off the cost of building the studio. What do you think of this???

Fritz was glad to have Willard's advice on what to charge for the Pons job. We had thought approximately \$1000 for the job, and his figuring \$900 a month, about does it. However all this will actually depend on the amount of work to be done---this can only be judged after Fritz sees the apt., talks to Lily there and <sup>SEE</sup> ~~then~~ exactly what she wants of course Muriel will be a big help there also, and I know Fritz will take her advice at that time, when the time comes. But of all this he no doubt will write you in more detail. He is working very hard now on his own painting, and yesterday Hans has told me that it is progressing well, Hans thinks it is exceptionally good---hard work does it of course---in art or any other field I always say. The town is full of people many friends, many invitations, much going on all the time. So we found we too must re-pay our friends. So Sunday

we had a cocktail party, outdoors on the porch---18 or 19 people--we had made up all the drinks and things beforehand so simply served them easily and without any fuss---also clean, as outdoors is the way to do it. Elmo came and his mother, and four guests of his, the Hunts, all our nice neighbors, and their guests, Hofmanns, and others. It was very nice, and easily done too. Next Sunday we must do it again, for the older people in town that we owe, Murchisons, Reisenfelds, etc.---then we will be all thru with that, thank goodness--but it really is not hard to do---Fritz is a grand host---southern hospitality, also he mixes a good drink, only one kind, everyone seems to like it. And we two are strictly non-drinkers now, except Fritz' beer.

Had a nice evening last Friday--were invited to Reisenfelds for cocktails, then took ourselves to dinner at the Flagship---the first time of the season---had a real nice little evening, just us two, which is unusual, and most enjoyable.

Hello - Leanne has told almost every thing - I just saw Dr. Hiebert and he commented on her exceptional good health and easy pregnancy - I asked if she should be riding a bike and he answered "just so she doesn't try to ride to Boston" - Yesterday on receipt of your 2nd letter I rode down to Miss Hendricks about the set - she had been to Worcester but the woman who has it was away - so she said we would have to wait a bit. But I told her you wanted

it -

Have had a telegram from Harpers  
Bazaar they are sending up a photographer  
to photograph his school - so Tony may get  
some free publicity for the building

I will write Murel about the job <sup>for</sup> her -  
There are some other things to tell her -

Seamus has told you about all the  
doings - we seem constantly on the go.

I am working fantastically well -

Next year I want to get an early start  
on my work and continue through -  
for a good long period - I find that

the combination of outdoor, garden  
work, some building, living in general  
out of doors gives me much more  
vitality with my work - I have greater  
freedom and control.

I forwarded Tony your note about  
the nails - and told him to contact  
you directly - if not he will procure

What he needs for the job in New Jersey.  
We had a letter from him last week +  
I wrote him today - we expect him back  
soon -

When we finish the studio and the  
Roses get our little chicken house  
fixed for a storehouse garden + tool house  
we will be a long way toward a  
really comfortable home here - with  
the produce from the garden and the  
small income from renting - the place  
will at least carry itself.

All love for now

Fritz

Will just add a note and get it in the box for the 4 o'clock pick-up. I went down and paid Mr. Days the check you sent and he seemed terribly appreciative to get it so quick---he is a very nice man--the discount will go towards our credit as you wanted. He is so nice he has offered to come up personally to look at the water heater---did I write you that the Roses got it all installed but were not able to adjust it properly as it is something new to them. Mr. Days said likewise it is new to him too, but he will give it a try. If anyone in town can do it, he can. It seems it is such a good water heater no one has installed one like it here, and thus it is complicated. Well, I hope he can, as we still look forward to a hot bath. However we are sure Tony can do it, as he knows a lot about heaters, if Mr. Days can't.

Please do not think that the effort expended by you in packing and sending the food boxes, goes un-appreciated, or doesn't make sense, because it does---and how---I can't begin to tell you the difference in our grocery bills---the pleasure we get not only from receiving the box but also in relishing the good contents therein---because most everything you send is unobtainable here, in small town---of course we could get along without---why not---but its certainly a treat to have, instead. Also the magazines---we are so low on reading material we have taken to playing double solitaire.

Don't worry about the reservations---whatever you can get will be all right with us. I am almost convinced now we have figured wrong anyway as to the arrival of the baby, as by now I should be almost 6 months along, but can still appear on the beach, swim, bike, wash, etc. etc,--of course I am a big girl which makes it less noticeable, but even then!

Pauline, the satin you sent is very very nice---I think I shall make a coat out of it, lined with a bright color, as I need that most, for cool evenings, fall, etc. Thanks very very much. We do not believe you could possibly be in the same class with the old ladies you talk of

and we don't believe it. I shall love to have the baby dresses you will make. My mother has been getting a few things together, and knitting bootees, caps, throws, or something. Then my sister is sending all diapers, little shirts, and whatever else babies wear, as I have no idea, and she has all these things left over, and apparently expects to have no more children, so she will send the necessities. The bassinet we can get after we get to N.O. and any other things that may come up then. At least we will have enough to start out on. I probably know less than you about what babies need, as none of our friends here have any, so we get no advice---only the doctors---which is just as well I think. Fritz is very happy and tells everyone about it--he is already the proud papa in advance. We must think of a nice name if it is a girl, as we have not decided on one yet.

That is all for now, much love to you both,

Jeanne

July 1945

Wednesday

Darlings:

Theses are mad, mad days. I don't even get time to write you any more. I don't know what happens to the time but I always seem to be in a rush. I did get over to Old Paris and like the three pieces in the following order - 1 the mirror which is a real beauty and very reasonable 2 the swan day bed which is exceptionally graceful and well made even if not a period piece and 3 the prée dieu. If I could only have one I would take the mirror for the house ~~though~~ I personally love the bed. Now what shall I do about them or will you write the man?

Last night I finally got to see "Harvey" which is the most delightful and in many ways moving play I have seen in years - haven't enjoyed anything so much in months. Went with Martial and afterwards for a drink and sandwich at Moq Rouge.

Poor dear Molly - I hope she hangs on a while yet & many of the setters live until they are 17 and 18 years old.

Dennis Morgan was in just a little while ago - Wilder handles his concerts and personal appearances and he is our main support in trying to sell Mona to Warner Brothers as he wants her to do a picture with him. Mona is in Washington today for a concert tonight or rather and appearance with the Symphony and Morgan is flying down tonight and will see her. He has to get back tomorrow as she leaves for ~~Thursday~~ California on Thursday. I'll certainly miss her.

I will be interested to hear all about your trip around the Patate with Mac Tier. Do write me all the reactions you get.

By the way did the cakes and candy ever arrive from Altman and Kuhn - you have never mentioned it and it was sent about the 10th of June.

No more today dear. Tomorrow is the 4th but I will work some at home at least in the morning then have to meet Eddie Dowling the producer whom



