

Monday afternoon

Dearest Family,

The boys have all gone to the beach so I'll try and take this opportunity to write as we are so busy all the time, seems as tho I don't get the chance. Tony has returned, as I guess we told you at the last writing, and with him a friend David, who is very sweet, good-natured, well-mannered, and of whom we are very fond. Shortly after they got here, arrived a friend of ours on furlough from Okinawa, another nice boy. Then last night a friend of Tony's who is going to help him with the tin roof, got here---so you see we are indeed a full house! It has developed that the boys cannot work too much while the art school is in session, so arrangements had to be made---so it is that they work from 6 a.m. to 10, when the school begins, and they can begin again any time after 5 in the evening. In a way it is for the best, as the days are very hot now, and working on the roof with tin would be practically impossible during the heat of the day. They enjoy working

early morning, and then they are free for the beach during the heat. So we will try to work out this arrangement, and get the work done. Tony has also been working on the heater, and while he has accomplished some, it still is not adjusted correctly for a hot shower---it is quite a hard job. They have put the remaining two glass windows in the studio and are now working on the gutters. While Fritz can help him a lot, the other boy who just came can bend and cut tin correctly, and should make things move faster. We have quit paying salaries, all we have to do is feed the gang.

Had a few very nice gatherings last week---went one day on a picnic to a lovely lake---got some gas thru the soldier friend---took plenty of weenies, and food, stayed the day, and everyone has a wonderful time. Then one evening we had the gang---about 12---up on our terrace for an outdoor fish-fry---

Had perch, muscles, and crabs---was really delicious. Then Miz had a cocktail party on our terrace, having no room where they live---she had a huge crowd.

And yesterday our neighbor, Helen, who lives in the big old house across from

us had an enormous cocktail party, for Simon Barrere, her guest, who is a piano virtuoso, and we helped her out---Fritz made all the drinks---about 50 guests, but an exceptionally nice party, and we all stayed for supper after. So you see how the summer season has swept us up. Now tonight we are having six for dinner ---since all these people who have come, bring ration books, I got a big pork roast, we will have our first garden sweet corn on the cob, baked potatoes and a pie---all on the porch---we try and keep all the dirt outside, which makes it easier. Tomorrow, we two are invited to dinner with a man from N.Y. who has an art gallery.

Have been having the most wonderful fresh vegetables from the garden.

With corn 95¢ a doz. and tomatoes 55¢ a pd., you see how much it helps!

Now to your letter: Thank you very much for the \$100 which I deposited, and for the other checks made out to Higgins, and to Dyers. I have paid Dyers, but am holding the Higgins check as you suggested, as there is no discount to be had, and there is no hurry to pay them, and thus you may as well absorb the other two first.

About the coat you sent Pauline, which I have already returned, insured, etc., ---I want to thank you for going to the bother to send it, but frankly I could not use it. Rather than let it hang around, I return it pronto. It is a very nice coat, but it in no way begins to cover the part of me which protrudes---it just hangs nicely along each side, and leaves my middle sticking straight out! I have found it is easier not to try to hide it, as everyone knows it anyway. I have loose shirts, and a couple of adjustable skirts, so that is that. When it gets cool, I have my tweed cape. So lets not worry about covering it up too much, as before we know it, it will be all over. Have made a wonderful new bathing suit, that just doesn't show a thing, somehow. Of course now I begin to get bigger, at last---we are going into the 7th month, and it begins to move a bit, so all is o.k.

Our good doctor, Heibert, has a little house he rents out, and that is where David is staying---he also has chickens out there---so when David approached him to buy a chicken, for us, he said since it was for the Bultmans

it was a present---isnt that nice, as we cannot buy them anywhere--so we
got a nice fat chicken and Fritz and I plucked the feathers out.

Yes, of course I will preserve and preserve every single thing we
grow that we don't eat. I have already put up quarts of string beans, made
pickles, and also pickled beets. I do it as they come along. Most of the
things I know how to do, otherwise I ask the natives.

I really had to laugh when you said, do some exercise---that is a good
one--I exercise from dawn to dark--on the bike, in the garden, in swimming,
over the washtub---let us go no further---if exercise makes for an easy
delivery, I shouldn't feel a thing! And do not worry about going thru all
this and lo, no baby---I have heard of such, as Paulines friend, but at this
point, we have not to worry, as I said it jumps around.

Now about Maeve, since you want me to be honest, and there is no reason
I should be otherwise. We have thought about Maeve ever since we planned on
the trip, as she is foremost in my mind, I always think of her in any thing
that will affect her well-being. The only friends we have here who stay all
year, did offer to take her, and I would feel good about them, but now they
plan definitely to go home to Okalahoma for Xmas, and stay for a few months.
There is no one else here. Tony says no, not under any circumstances, in the
city he would not---up here that is different, and Jane said long ago, she
just couldn't. As for the Hofmanns, I wouldn't any more turn my back on
Miz with Maeve---that would be the end of Maeve---I wouldn't leave a dam thing
I valued with that Miz---I really wouldn't, as you know better than I, she
has long ago showed her true colors, and that is that! Maeve of course stays
with me constantly, hardly leaves my side, is getting to be of no trouble
whatsoever. She will have nothing at all to do with any dogs, male or female,
as she thinks she is human, not a dog---of her spade condition---they don't
like her either. She has become quiet, well-mannered, and I assure you
would give you no trouble at all. I know you don't want her. I thought of
that long long ago! I know you don't want her at all. I know she is an im-
position. I realize you have two already. But Maeve would die in a kennel,

let alone the expense. No, it all narrows down to one thing. Call me all the names you like. I cannot leave her. I can't. She is too much a part of my life. When the baby comes, I want to train her from the start---there is no reason why she can't learn to be nursemaid---she is already an excellent watch dog, so it goes together---she will prove her worth I'll show you. It will not be hard to get her there. She rides well on the train, always has, can go in the baggage car, uncrated---that part does not bother me. You know yourself, you could not get rid of your own dogs, and I know you are not as close to them as Maeve and I. I have said enough. I know you are going to raise all kinds of hell, but it really will not be as bad as you both expect it to be, and damnit she won't get in the way, bother you, or give you any trouble, I promise you. If anything should possibly happen that our friends the Colonnas should change their plans, and not go to Oklahoma, I will surely leave her with them, as they love her like I do.

So I will finish for now, and Fritz wants to write some before I mail this. With much Love to you both,
Jeanne

plan definitely to go home to Oklahoma for Xmas, and stay for a few months. There is no one else here. They say no, not under any circumstances, in the city he would not---up here, that is different, and Jane said long ago, and that couldn't. As for the Hermanns, I wouldn't any more turn my back on Maeve with Maeve---that would be the end of Maeve---I wouldn't leave a dam thing I valued with that Miz---I really wouldn't, as you know better than I, she has long ago showed her true colors, and that is that. Maeve of course stays with me constantly, hardly leaves my side, is getting to be of no trouble whatsoever. She will have nothing at all to do with any dogs, male or female, as she thinks she is human, not a dog---of her spade condition---they don't like her either. She has become quiet, well-mannered, and I assure you would give you no trouble at all. I know you don't want her. I thought of that long long ago. I know you don't want her at all. I know she is an im- position. I re like you have two already. But Maeve would die in a kennel,

5/17/45

Dearest Family —

Thurs —

Just an enclosure in Jeanne's long
newsey letter — last night we went to
an early movie 6:45 saw Conflict —
miss it if you can — a dreary depressing
piece — in the middle Jeanne said —
"Maybe I shouldn't be seeing this sort of
thing" — a heavy handed psychological
affair — when we got out a second
show begins and a line was waiting
clear down the street a block long —

Monday night we went to a party at
Sterne's — you met them a Peter Hunt's
once — he is a painter — Pauline
you had a long talk with her —

On Sunday — we had our
second cocktail party and now
we have said "how-do-you-do"
to practically everyone —

At this one we had our elder friends -
The Sternes, the Muschisons, the Riesenfeld's
or neighbor from the big house who is
so nice came bringing her guests
Simon Barrer - he is a ^{Russian} pianist who has
had a phenomenal success - a very
nice man - Hans and Miz came - as
did Joe Aker and his sister, who were
unable to come to party one. We sit
everyone on the porch - give them a
few hot d'ouces - with what you
send and what Jane sent as a thank you
box after being here - anchovies, olives, shad ect -
we have not had to buy any - and those rum,
honey and lemon drinks - gets everyone
happy - and no dirt to clean up.

We have heard indirectly that Ted van
Fossen is married -

My work is giving me great
pleasure at the moment and I can
begin to do exactly what I want

There is something about this direct contact with nature that is inspiring and there is something about grappling with nature that is invigorating - I work and swim - and then come back and work some more - it is incredible how a long bike ride and a long swim relaxes and refreshes the mind - I have accustomed my body to quite a bit of exercise and without it I am restless and uncertain.

We have found another place for Hans & my an old night club that was a barn with it goes 160 acres of prime land - worthless yet beautiful to own - it has certain disadvantages and certain advantages - His strange Hans has a certain psychological block against acquiring land - he wants it - yet - it is very funny - I have a feeling that they will do nothing about it. Especially now

that he knows he can rent my studio and
that it serves the purpose well enough.

Miss Hendrichs won't know about
the furniture until she goes to Worcester
in a week or two. She says it is better
to wait a little than to write and pay
more and she is right - A very nice
woman to do business with I think -

~~✱~~ Could you send my ^{Venetian} wococo sofa
to be repaired - and upholstered so that
when we get there it will be usable.
Don't have any gold put on it though.
It needs complete repair - a new back
piece has to be made - the frame is all
there - When it was sent the back was
taken off so as not to break more - it
would be nice with an extra cushion on
the seat. I enclose a photo show
which piece I mean

3/ I have never found a piece of equal
grace and beauty. It and the mirror
are the gems of my years of searching
for beautiful ^{old} pieces - If the permanent
seat would be cut down where the line
is drawn and an extra cushion put
on there it would be most comfortable.
The back piece where the X is was cut
wrong + doesn't fit so a new one is necessary.
A brace where the dotted line is would
strengthen back - As for covering - is
there any velvet to be gotten - preferably
~~Wool~~ an old blue or faded rose or
faded green - ~~some thing smokey~~ -

Unless you have started on them
why don't you leave the two rooms
on the north that I used for studios as
is and concentrate on 2 south rooms
hall and bath. ~~Wool~~ Please take all
those ceiling fixtures away

We could make a bedroom and a
nursery ^{on the south} and use the hall for
a library - the studios could stay on
the north. If you can't find any velvet
for covering in N.O. I will see what I
can find in N.Y. How much will I
need 6 yds. There is so much to do
down there I can wait to begin. What
about white asphalt tile for the floors -
Please leave the studios as there is
much refinishing and panels + portraits
etc and the floors are good enough
for that -

For the moment - all love

Fritz

5/17/45



The SHERRY-NETHERLAND
FIFTH AVENUE AT 59TH STREET
NEW YORK

Dearest Family—

The tension of war and peace
are over — we have at least technical
peace and a chance for humanity
to show its strength and self control
in forging a real peace — The last
days of this war are over. We have
much thanks to offer up — and a real
prayer for the further enlightenment
of man — On the night that peace
was declared we were having dinner
with Kurt Valentin — he has a gallery
in N.Y. he ordered some champagne and
we all toasted a new world and peace —
— It was strange to see the underlying
disbelief and skepticism — everyone there
wants peace desires it passionately

and yet the fear and memory of too recent
and continuing times frightened them - In
the minds of everyone should be peace -
it is the only way for self preservation -
The living are granted a rare privilege
privilege to see a world in its making -
to cope with new forces in every sphere
of endeavor. It is a challenge to face -

We are in the middle of getting the tin
roof on - the package with the nails arrived
I will let you know how we use
them. Tony says the roof will not
take as long as we first thought - we
are giving the back side of the tin two
coats of asphalt to keep it from
condensation corrosion -
Every day we go to the beach and swim a
half mile or more - it is wonderful
for the diaphragm -

I have not heard from Mrs. Hendricks
but will go down to see her and Peter



The SHERRY-NETHERLAND

FIFTH AVENUE AT 59TH STREET
NEW YORK

in a day or so. This as Jeanne has told you has been a most social month and we have a group of really nice neighbors who do much to entertain us.

Now that gas rationing is over what about driving up and letting us drive back with you - if we made the trip in easy stages I think Jeanne could take it very well - down the seacoast and across Florida - It would give you a chance to see the progress we have made - If you come up this time you can stay in our little house and we can stay in the studio - we'll have hot water and all the comforts

Your only worry will be the ladder which
now locks and whose treads have been
reinforced -

On the studio until now we have
spent 1100 dollars, labor and original
cost of the barns included - for the
size and excellence of construction
it is a very very small amount and I
am sure you will be pleased with
the whole effect. What ever happened
to the columns? - If you send them
I could store them in the studio over
the winter - I have discovered the
perfect spot for them and will
discuss it with you on your arrival
up here. Don't you think you
can make it up this Sept. We'll
feed you with good things from the
garden and make you snug in our
little house - Plan now - you can
keep Jeanne company until returns All love
Pats