

Bethesda, June 13, 1949

Dear Janie,

This will surprise you! Here I am shooting a letter back practically before yours arrived at Glenwood Road. We were delighted to know that you are still feeling brave enough to come east this summer as Norman had hoped you would. We are going to be free as a breeze all during August, my only plans for the summer being a thought about a couple of weeks in July up at Flegington with grandmother. L.J.'s favorite playmates are leaving for a vacation at the seashore that month, and I'd hate to contemplate the state we'd be in if L.J. were here all by himself all that month with no one of his favorite playmates on hand. But they will be here in August, and so will we, with bells on.

As far as facilities go, we are lush with them. Anticipating and hoping for a visit from you all we bought L.J. one of those Army surplus bunk bed arrangements. It turned out to be pretty rickety, so I don't know whether we could put the one on top of the other as one is supposed to, but we could put them side by side and let the chips fall where they may. Laurie could sleep in with Laurence John, then. As for Robbie, we kept L.J.'s old bed (minus all the screens, practically, but still usable for short periods) with the idea that you might be coming. Robbie and you two could sleep in the guest room. We have a porch chaise longue with a Simmons mattress which could be Barbara's bed. If the usual Washington weather turns up in August, she might enjoy sleeping out on the porch. If by some mad chance it turns out to be too cold (!) we could move it in to the dining room. As you see, we have been thinking about your coming for some time, and have it all worked out scientifically.

I think the children would find lots to do in the daytime, because we have the play area more or less all fixed up now. All we lack is a couple of swings. We have a sandbox, a slide, and one of those sandbox-size canvas pools which they use more as a source of water for mud-making than as a pool. But they all seem to like it just as much as if they used it for the normal purpose. The area is enclosed by a wooden fence, in case Robbie has a tendency to wander off. L.J. is always outdoors playing these days, and perhaps after a little initial shyness yours would enjoy investigating the place too.

But what with all this planning for the children, we mustn't forget that we ourselves would be pleased as punch to see you and have a good visit. I only wish Grandpa Krieg could and would come at the same time (By George we'd find a place for him to sleep if he did!) We hoped he would come a little while ago on his way back from Florida to see Aunt Minnie and Vonie, but he went down and came back to Newark in the course of three days and never came near Washington. I certainly hope he'll up and do it some day, though. Oh dear, I hear the boy calling, and it really is time for him to be let out after his "nap". Anyway, we will be hoping to hear more from you about the trip when you make up your mind exactly how you want to work it out. We are, as I said, free white and hoping to see you absolutely anytime you can come.

Much love from us both,