

July 13, 1949
Bethesda

Dear Janie,

Thanks for the post card- we had feared that you might change your mind or get cold feet. Today is the day, according to your card, and I hope by this time you are a hundred miles or so out of Waco.

Preparations for your arrival have begun already. I have ordered two new bags of sand, and William is going to put a patch on the canvas pool, the canvas of which comes apart faster than Uranium 238. But the best preparation of all is going on RIGHT NOW in the kitchen. The Emancipation Proclamation is all signed, fireworks are shooting off right and left, hosannahs are being sung, Te Deums are going on in cathedrals, and by George the plumber tells me it will be ready for use tomorrow. I refer to my NEW DISH*-WASHER AND DISPOSALL UNIT. So that when you come we will be able to stack the nasty things in the machine, empty the ashtrays into the Disposall, and sit down to talk right after dinner. Blessings, blessings, blessings. I have persuaded myself that we will be able to seal the house so much easier if we have a dishwasher, etc., to mention in the advertisement. I have persuaded William that it would titillate perspective buyers no end to see a house with all those gadgets already installed. In any case, I've persuaded us both that it would be simply foolish not to, etc., etc. and the upshot of it all is that by the time you arrive we will be so be-gadgeted we won't know what to do with our time. I thought it might cheer you on your way to know that when you arrive here you can make a heap of all the dirty clothes, stick them in the Launder-mat, feed the howling mob of infants, stick the dirty dishes in the dishwasher, and grind up any extra cares and worries you may have accumulated in the Disposall. Now all we need is an automatic weed-picker- oh, and of course, too we could use an automatic, absolutely free baby-sitter! However, we're doing as well as can be expected at this stage of the scientific game.

I hope it all works out all right there in Ohio, but you'll have a lot of sympathy if it doesn't. As for when to arrive here in Bethesda, why don't you try to make it on Sunday afternoon, when William will be home to help slaughter the fatted calf. But if it works out better for you to arrive on Monday, that's also fine by us. You will probably get slightly dazed by the Bethesda area, so telephone for help at the first sign of confusion. Our number is in the new directory, but it's Cliver 1838 in any case.

Well chickabiddies, it won't be long now!

Love,