

Bethesda, May 3, 1949

Dear Mamma,

Laurence John has been missing you, and as soon as you disappeared into the station he announced "I'm sowwy my grandmamma has to go back to take care of her chickens." Little Betsey has also asked about where you were, and why you had to go back home. We told her you had gone to the farm, and that maybe Laurence John would go and see you there this summer, and she immediately added "I'll go wiv you, Lauwence John! We'll both go to your grandmamma's farm together." L.J. seemed to think that was a fine idea and wanted to know if he could go right after his nap.

After all that worry it turned out that Jane Dawson was able to make all her own dinner on Saturday night and I had plenty of time. It was a nice party, and we had roast lamb, vegetables, and ice cream with strawberry sauce. Both Charley Knox and Allan are going into the hospital this month- Allan for a hernia opertation and Charley to have a general check-up as well as attention to his lungs. I didn't mean this month, I meant this week. Little Billy wandered in, thoroughly the nine-year-old birthday boy, complete with cowboy hat, sparkling new six-shooter in brand-new holster, and shiny chaps. He remarked, in a polite but man to man fashion, "Howdy, stranger, howdy, Mrs. Krieg!" I wonder if L.J. will have an opportunity to go through that stage? If we're abroad, I guess we can order one of those suits for him, because from the-look of the boys that age-around the neighborhood, you can't be a boy in the U.S. without going through the stage and I shouldn't like L.J. to miss it.

It was such a nice day on Sunday (and is again today) that we wished we were going somewhere. Perhaps we can plan ahead some weekend and come up to visit you on Saturday, returning on Sunday. As it is the weather is so perfect (yesterday was awful and rainy, though warm) that I have been contemplating getting one of those garden collapsible pools for L.J. to paddle about in and sail boats on warm summer days. How he and Betsey would love that!

Those darned dandelions! We worked all day on Sunday picking them and the other weeds out, and yesterday I found eight more- less than twelve hours later! So I picked them out yesterday afternoon, and this morning when I went out there were three more up and in flower as if I had never even started to pick dandelions out of the ground!

I haven't forgotten about signing that paper before a notary, but yesterday was so rainy that we couldn't even go down in a bus. Now today (Tuesday) I was planning to take the paper and go downtown with it, but now I can't find it. When William gets back from lunch he's going to call me and I'll ask him where he put it. It's a gorgeous day for a walk, and if he has it with him I'll have to paint the porch floor instead, so I hope he left it home somewhere!

Love to you and Jimmy,