

Bethesda, Md.
March 20, 1950

Dear Mamma,

Things are looking up in Bethesda. Laurence went back to school this morning for the first time in more than two weeks, and what's more, after a few firm words from me he went back without a murmur. Even Mr. Gloyd looked surprised. And when he returned from school he was in a manageable frame of mind- which as you know isn't always the case! To continue the subject of Laurence, he showed me the other day that he knows how to write some of the numbers, although I've never specifically taught him how to. He just felt in the mood, and did. He wrote six or seven faintly recognizable numbers on the blackboard, and explained to me that it was the serial number of the train he was riding at that particular moment.

We went out to a nice little cocktail party on Thursday, and afterwards took our host and hostess to dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant. I always enjoy Chinese food, whether or not it's authentic. Father and Laurence stayed home and seemed to enjoy themselves reading and talking, etc. Father has been with us ever since that night, because Helen went up to New York to visit friends and pass her New Jersey driving license test. They are purchasing their car in New Jersey, and it appears the regulations are very stiff. Pop still doesn't know when he might get his car, though. Betsy and Laurence are very anxious for him to get it, because he has promised to take them to the zoo. Every time Betsy comes she enquires politely but firmly whether Abuelito Campbell is really going to take her to the zoo, some day.

I had Mrs. Rowse and Laura over to dinner on Friday night- Laura is on her spring vacation now. We had a pleasant time talking, and Laura went out before she had her dessert to play bridge with some young friends. Then last night we tried to get a sitter to go out to a restaurant but there was no one available, so we had dinner here. Father's friend Bob King (with whom we once had dinner many years ago) was in Washington for yesterday and today, and father wanted to invite him and us to a fish place for dinner. I made my usual soufflé and salad when I found there was no sitter, and he came bringing Laurence a chocolate bunny. William took him to his hotel (Mr. King, I mean) on his way to the airport to meet Ambassador Donnelly, who naturally chose eleven o'clock Sunday night to arrive on.

Our social life seems to be picking up now. We are going to the Manns tomorrow night, and to the Colombian Embassy on Saturday night. I guess people are all slowly recovering from the sever-cold-or-flu epidemic. Poor Jane Melaney has a bad case right now, after resisting all this time while Betsy and Coit were down with it. Coit has suffered a relapse, but Betsy is going strong. She and L.J. are out playing now. Pop is in Camden today, taking his examination for drivers license. William is starting a series of eight Monday night lectures tonight, and won't be home.

No more twist. Love,