

Bethesda, May 23, (tuesday), 1950

Dear Mamma,

I've just returned from a luncheon at Jane Dawson's in honor of Francesca Mills and Virginia Woodward- who is going to Stockholm at the end of June. Jane Dawson has a nice new big rented house with a large porch and garden on Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenue right near the big Alban Towers Apartments where she stayed when she first came back from Chile- we past them on the Friendship Heights street car when we went down town.

Thank Jimmy very much for sending the letter on about the dishwasher- it came the very next morning! And now the man has come to fix the dishwasher, so it is running beautifully and he claims there will be no charge at all. He put in a new timer, he said. In any case it is just fine now, although we had been running it pretty well all along, actually, but we had to do some things ourselves, which was a slight nuisance. I'm glad to get it in perfect running order again. You never can tell when we might have to pack up and leave. Speaking of which, we have been pleased lately to learn that those new houses which are being built in the woods are selling for around 20,000 dollars although they are slightly smaller than ours- only slightly, however, and with the same number of rooms, etc. Still, it's good news for us. And two houses in our group are for sale now also- one for 19, 500 and the other for 20, 500- if they get it. That is especially good news, because they don't have the laundromat, dishwasher, disposal, and terrace that we have! All in all I have been considerably encouraged lately about the selling of this house, when the time comes, I'm sure that the prices around here simply can't go down on account of the new National Health Center which is going to be completed in 1952 and will employ about four thousand people just around the corner from us. Of course we have to deduct about a thousand dollars from whatever price we get for the agents fee, but even so we won't be losing too much, because if we had rented we would have paid more than that out in rent.

Laurence has proved to be a philandering type already! You know how he has promised to marry Betsey all along- well, yesterday a little girl from his school came to play with him, and after about half an hour he announced that he was going to marry her! "But I thought you were all set to marry Betsey!" I exclaimed in horror when he announced his new engagement. "Well, I was- but Eileen has more jewelry than Betsey does!" I am now thinking of teaching him that song about the Butcher Boy in Jersey City, that goes "Her gold will melt, her beauty will fade, etc." Such crass materialism!

John wrote me that he would be able to come down the weekend of the 21st of June to fetch Leslyn from here, and we have agreed to pick her up at your house on Sunday the 18th of June- I hope he has told you about it. I rather gather, though I don't actually know, that he would like you to try to keep Peedee on the weekend of the 20th and 21st, so she won't feel left out of everything. In case he hasn't said anything about it, you might ask him. Sorry she feels so strongly about Leslyn, but I suppose it's fairly usual, though horrid to witness. Remember I told you that Betsey said she simply couldn't stand Coit? What a bad situation, though!

Love,