

Bethesda, July 7, 1950

Dear Mamma,

I must snatch a hasty moment to thank you very, very much for your kind offer of the china. I do appreciate it, very much indeed. It looks very striking as well as useful, and probably when we go I'll get that sort of thing for every day if I'm able to replace missing pieces in my old Montgomery Ward "best" set.

Oh-oh, Laurence has discovered what I'm doing! I must be quick!!

However, I know so well that you need the five dollars desperately yourself that I couldn't enjoy using it myself. Save it and get something useful for the new bedroom, my dear.

When we go I'll have to get a huge set of china for parties, enough for twelve people or so. If I am able by luck to get the same Montgomery Ward pattern as I found in 1944, I'll do that, replacing missing pieces and getting more of everything. But I probably won't be able to. In which case I'll use the Montgomery Ward set as everyday family dishes, and get a whole new set for parties. I'll still have enough of the Montgomery Ward to last for many years as "family" dishes. I won't be able to get a very good set for parties, but I hope I'll be able to do as well as I did before on the "good" big set. I like the Montgomery Ward pattern fairly well, and it wasn't at all expensive. Alas, with the towering expenses we will have when we are transferred, anything but the least expensive decent set will be out of the question. For the present, and for the uses I have to make of them, the dishes I now have are sufficient for my needs.

I'm sorry to hear about Mrs. Cruickshank's deficiencies about the meat. I agree that it's dangerous to keep meat too long, especially in summer. However, anyone John could get would have some faults. Not that she shouldn't be warned against keeping the meat too long and out of the freezing compartments. I also hope she makes a practice of trying to balance their diet. Well, they are both in Long Island now, and father reports that the lure of the bay hasn't flagged for a waking instant so far. That ought to give them a healthy appetite, and father and Helen are demons against eating between meals, so maybe they'll be hungry enough at meals to finish their vegetables, etc.

Laurence and Laura Rowse found a baby bird, took care of it for a day, and then its mother came and called it to hop out of the garage, where it had been nesting. It ate bread soaked in milk when we offered it to it. Laurence was so pleased! It was most interesting to watch the mother trying to get the dumb little creature to hop out of the garage-nest and away from the dangerous people. She was most persistent and brave, swooping down on us chirping menacingly whenever I tried to move the little bird and he peeped. The mother robin eventually persuaded the baby to do some violent hopping, and that was the last we saw of it.

I've got to stop, now. Gail left yesterday, and William's ordeal begins next week, when only four out of the eight men in his office will be there. Love,