

Sunday, July 23, 1950

Dear Pop,

This has been combination Visiting Fireman and New Gadget Week in Bethesda. We have had Tom Maleady and Alex Savorgana in the space of a week, resulting in two separate and grandiose (for us) parties. Tuesday was Bolivia Night, for Tom Maleady (who was Counselor of Embassy in Caracas) is now being transferred from Buenos Aires to La Paz. We had a man from La Paz, one from Peru, one who had been in La Paz, Tom, and Nancy Mann- the last named just to keep me company, since the men were all unequipped with wives temporarily. Tom Mann is on a trip through Texas with Eddie Miller. The usual souffle, only luckily two of them, since they both disappeared rapidly.

On Thursday we got a call from Alex Savorgnan, who was Rosette's husband and in the Italian Embassy in Caracas. He is being transferred to New York, as Deputy Consul General there. Rosette is in Wisconsin with her family and little Roddy, until Alex finds an apartment in New York. A very nice job for such a young man, second man in the second largest Italian city in the world- as people so often call New York, ignoring Milan completely. It was good to see Alex again, more like himself than ever. Nancy had him, the O'Neals, and us over on Thursday night for drinks, and then we had him and the O'Neals to supper on Friday night. Nancy couldn't come, as she had been invited by the Guatemalan Ambassador. Pleasant evening of reminiscences. Have to look that word up in the dictionary some time.

It was also gadget week, as I said. We decided that if we were ever going to get a mixing machine and a radio-phonograph we had better do it now. Either there will be none to buy later on or the prices will have risen beyond our reach. So we purchased an Eskimo mixing machine with three speeds and detachable feature for \$16.50, plus a radio-phonograph, armchair model, AM and F.M, Farnsworth, all three types of records playable on the phonograph. William loves the radio, I love the mixer. Former is good for William's relaxation, latter good for my souffles. I can beat mashed potatoes in the pan directly, also sauces, etc. My egg whites for souffles are done in two minutes with no effort. Mixmasters have more speeds, but are twice as expensive. This thing doesn't squeeze oranges, but we used frozen anyway, and in the field presumably will have manpower to do so. Laurence is able to play the records you gave him on Easter, is very pleased with the radio-phonograph, not so much with the mixer, except when it is mixing cookies. I hate to spend all that money at once, and can only hope events and price rises will justify our expenditures. Delivery men nearly fell over when I told them I had no radio at all, frowned when I replied to his queries that I didn't intend to get television ever, as far as I know. One man opined we were last people in Washington without radio, I replied to his horror we had gotten on beautifully for seven married years without one. Left them aghast. Radio isn't too ugly, I can stand it in the living room. Makes William happy.

Plans still going. We'd like to know about August 3- whether it's too early for you or not. Can switch to Aug. 4. Leaving for Flemington next Saturday, July 29. Love,