

Sunday, July 23, 1950

Dear Mamma,

Remarkably little has been occurring on the Bethesda Front. We have had fairly little outside social life, although we went to a birthday party and an informal drinks session at Nanncy Mann's house.

We did have two visiting firemen who needed parties, though, last week. Tom Maleady, who used to be counselor of Embassy in Caracas but has spent the last two or three years in Buenos Aires, arrived on the scene Tuesday, so we had a large party mostly of men who have been in or are going to Bolivia- Tom Maleady is assigned to Bolivia next. Nancy Man came along to keep me company, as all the other guests were gentlemen. Tom Mann is away on a trip. Souffle as usual, only two of them this time, since there were eight people.

Then on Thursday our old friend Alex Savorgnan from Caracas called up. He's the one who was First Sec'y of the Italian Embassy down there, and who is married to Rosette from Wisconsin. We went to Nancy's house for drinks on Thursday (accompanied by Laurence, who had a sandwich on the lawn with Clifton Mann) along with the O'Neals and Alex Savorgnan. Then on Friday Alex and the O'Neals came to our house for supper. Nancy couldn't come, having been invited out by the Guatemalan Ambassador.

The little O'Neal boy, who was born in Caracas three years ago, had his birthday last Sunday, and Laurence went to it accompanied by us. He has a new baby sister, Melinda, who being only six weeks old was too young to join in the festivities, but all the rest was orthodox down to the pink lemonade. They have just come up from Venezuelay and acquired a fairly old house with a huge and comfortable lawn replete with climable trees and swings, etc.

We took a long look at the war situation and decided we had better get two things we had put off getting ever since we arrived in the United States: a radio-phonograph combination and a mixing machine. Although we really don't have the money to do it with now, we figured we'd better find some quick if we wanted to have the things at all. At the very least, prices will go up. So for the past week I've been using my new mixing machine for souffles, cookies, sauces, etc. Very handy. It's an Eskimo, only 16.50, with a detachable feature that makes it possible to beat sauces and mashed potatoes without taking them out of the pan. Three speeds, and much cheaper than a Mixmaster. William's radio is an armchair model, AM and FM, with phonograph equipped for all three kinds of records. It doesn't look too bad, really. He likes it. How we are going to pay for all those things AND the new venetian blinds we got I don't know. I forgot to tell you they are planning to start building houses next door to us soon, so we had to get these blinds for the bedrooms and dining room, plus a green slat blind for the porch.

Laurence is looking forward to seeing you and the puppies next Saturday night can't tell the exact hour, but late Saturday.