

Friday, August 18, 1950
Bethesda

Dear Putty and Pop,

We will now have a moment of silence while Laurence, Leslyn, and William have their naps. Thank goodness.

We made the trip to Westfield in no time at all, practically. We were through to Newark and off the Pulaski Skyway by 12:30 or so, and not a single mistake was made along the way. Brownie, Whitey, and Laurence greatly enjoyed the whole thing, and I'm happy to say that none of them asked to go for a subway ride. Leslyn was ready and waiting in Westfield, but poor Peedee was incarcerated for the afternoon. He had gone off right after breakfast without telling Mrs. Cruikshank where she was bound, and wasn't located until one thirty in the afternoon, after lunch. She had gone to her cousin Jane Wood's, and claimed she had no idea it was so late. Mrs. Cruikshank was, naturally, very frightened. We got to the farm by four thirty in the afternoon, and there were a whole lot of fat little puppies to play with. Laurence named "his" puppy Flower, and Leslyn named "hers" Beth. We got a relatively early start next morning- 10:30, but the traffic wasn't as good as we thought it was going to be, so the trip took seven hours, with the two stop-overs for refreshments and lunch. The children were quite good, all things considered. Leslyn napped peacefully in a most uncomfortable position half on my lap and half on Daddy's, but Laurence, though he had the entire back seat to himself, was too excited to fall asleep. We found the house intact when we arrived, but no lawn was cut nor no weeds out of the bank. The two boys apparently felt they didn't need the money. Fortunately it had been very dry here, so the green things hadn't done much growing.

The house looked completely different to me, and very nice. Sad to say, however, they have begun cutting down the trees in the woods next to us, preparatory to building. I'm glad I have my venetian blinds on that side already up. They are saving all the trees they can, but it still makes us unhappy. There were a million things to be done this morning, so we both set to with a will. So much laundry you have never seen! I called the man in Rockville, and he said he would come and give Laurence an interview with Kindergarten in mind, but not till sometime after the first of September. I wish it were sooner, so we could make plans. Pray for us, my dears, because it would save such a lot of money! In any case, we will have to buy the boy a whole new winter wardrobe. Nothing remains, nothing.

Stirrings from above. They had a wonderful play time this morning, with all the children in the neighborhood back, and all up here because of there being two children to play with. Etsey and Leslyn slid naturally into an intimate relationship. Leslyn allowed as how she wanted to come and live here, at naptime, but admitted that her daddy would miss her.

Well, it was good to go away and it's good to be back- the ideal vacation. We shan't have such a good one again for a long time, I'm sure. And we owe it mostly all to you- including the fact that we came back solvent. I hope you are both having a good rest now, after devoting your entire summer to the family. We all enjoyed it, each and every one.

Love,