

5208 Glewood Road
Bethesda, Md.
June 14, 1951

Dear Gail,

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P/11

Such luxuries as letter writing are once more vouchsafed me. I gave up, and re-hired the efficient M^{rs} Roddy with the proceeds of a bond I bought while I was working in N^{igeria}. It was to have bought me a fur jacket after all these years, but I shall simply have to let my pride keep me warm, because I was going not too slowly crazy trying to take care of the house and the twins and find time to make a few preparations also. I found it was completely impossible. Just trying to care for the twins exhausted me completely, and there was absolutely no time left over for anything else. What was more, there was no one with whom to leave the babies while I did the many necessary chores such as shopping, dentisting, getting shots, and just plain sitting down and thinking about how to manage the trip. Miss Roddy was the practical nurse we had after I came home from the hospital, so although she is expensive, I feel completely comfortable when I leave my little darlings in her hands. Now, although I still have to keep the fantastically early and late hours forced upon me by the girls, at least I have help with the work, can occasionally get a nap, and can finally get down to business in the matter of the transfer.

Laurence was delighted with the check you so cleverly sent for him- the only hitch was that he wanted to keep it! Being so proud of having a real check of his own, he saw no reason for giving it away to a man at a bank in exchange for a plain old dollar bill. So he kept it for quite some time stuck in his plastic bank (which he opens every so often in the traditional fashion of misers through the ages, in order to look over his hoard) until the day came when he decided he wanted an "expensive" gadget at the five and ten. Reluctantly, he let the man have his lovely check and took a pretty new dollar instead. We took the opportunity to explain to him about checks, but although he was convinced, he didn't think much of the idea.

Thank goodness we have a house all ready for us in Guatemala, and I'm trying to line up a nursemaid by remote control, so I'll be able to start training her right off. I'm sure once we are all settled and safely be-nursemaided we will love the new post a whole lot and have time to get our breath again. And count our blessings! We are going by ship (I with mixed feelings, but hoping for the best) so we will be able to carry the entire safari with us and not have to decide what things absolutely must be dispensed with for a couple of months.

I expect you won't be coming back here before we leave, unfortunately, but perhaps Jim will. I hope he comes to see us, chaos and all. I want him to be able to tell you positively that our girls really do have slightly reddish hair. In any case, he'll have to assure me they really do, or my heart would break in twain. A farewell "thank you" from both of us to you, Gail, for being so wonderful and kind. God bless you all.