

April 3, 1940

Dear People,

After a long, long time a letter finally found its tortuous way from you to us. We were very glad to hear from you both. So, the junior Campbells¹ plan to produce an infant! How very exciting; patience is rewarded, etc. By the time you get this I suppose the child will be well on its way, although mama didn't say when it was expected to arrive. I imagine it will be a genius, what with everything. Jamie seems to have penetrated the interior of John's soul from my descriptions of him, for a few days ago he asked me point blank if my brother didn't have a tendency to call salt sodium chloride, even at dinner parties. I had to admit that such was the horrid truth. We noticed with misgivings that John had written some fearfully scientific answer to some apparently dreadfully complicated scientific puzzle, and signed it James A. Jones, Paris, etc., then put it in *Astounding Stories*² for all to see. James said "What would my friends think!" but he's not going to sue. To return to the baby, poor papa & Mama will now be grand'père et grand'mère!³ Everyone seems to be vying with each other to have babies. My little friend Barbara Adams (now Mrs. Alfred Weltwood Jones⁴) is planning to get her B.A. and her infant in June. She can't waste time just having a baby! What an incredible girl!

We got out applications for rationing cards a week ago, but no one knows when the thing is starting. Today for the first time since December or so I saw packaged coffee in the stores. It has been sold in very small quantities clandestinely for the past month, when the storekeeper knew you. James went around to the Quai d'Orsai⁵ last night to see & hear Reynaud⁶ in English, for the Am[erican] Radio, said it was mainly 1492 1789 rah rah, but the government has been scolded for not producing enough propaganda for the U.S., so Reynaud got on the ball. The chamber⁷ is now happier.

I just found a letter to you which I had hidden away for some odd reason, and which I had thought mailed for years, well days. So sorry.

¹ **Junior Campbells:** John, Philinda's brother, older by seven years; and his wife "Doña." "John Wood Campbell, Jr. (June 8, 1910 – July 11, 1971) was an American science fiction writer and editor." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_W._Campbell, accessed 2015-09-27) Their first child was a daughter whom they named Philinda, born ?? 1941. Their second child, also a daughter, born ?? 1946, was named Leslyn, in honor of Robert Heinlein's second wife; the Heinleins were friends of the family. Little information is available about Doña; she and John were divorced in ?? 1947, and were on such terms as precluded later contact.

² "In May 1938, John Wood Campbell [Jr.] ... took over the editorship of *Astounding Stories*; Campbell would hold this post for thirty-three years—a remarkable tenure in itself—during which time he helped shape science fiction literature for many more decades to come. ... The magazine is included in the library of the International Space Station; and in 2011, it became the longest running continuously published magazine dedicated to the [science fiction] genre." (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astounding-Stories>, accessed 2015-09-27)

³ grand'père et grand'mère: French 'grandfather and grandmother'

⁴ **Barbara Adams Jones:** probably a classmate of Philinda's at Swarthmore.

⁵ **Quai d'Orsai:** home of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁶ **Paul Reynaud** (15 October 1878 – 21 September 1966) was a French politician and lawyer prominent in the interwar period, noted for his stances on economic liberalism and militant opposition to Germany. He was the penultimate Prime Minister of the Third Republic After the outbreak of war and the collapse of French resistance in 1940, Reynaud persistently refused to support an armistice with Germany and resigned. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Reynaud, accessed 2015-09-27.)

⁷ **Chamber:** "Chamber of Deputies (French: la Chambre des députés) was the name given to several parliamentary bodies in France in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries...1875–1940 during the French Third Republic, the Chamber of Deputies was the legislative assembly of the French Parliament, elected by universal suffrage." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_%28France%29, accessed 2015-09-27)

We played badminton with each other at the church last Tuesday and today (Thursday) I can just wiggle my little toe. But it was worth it, and we plan to play again tomorrow morning. I beat Jamie, but he's creeping up on me as he learns. He is getting so fat and healthy I decided he needed trimming on the edges. Not to mention me. However, I am still quite a bit thinner than last spring, for my clothes are all a trifle large on me. Glee!

Did I mention that the Covermark came, making me very happy? Well, it did, and I am. Thank you very much.

You remember our friend Steve Fulton, the one who rescued us on our wedding day?⁸ Well, he has been wanting to get married for months. At last he found a girl, and plans to get married some time. We don't know if he will or not, but he's a natural for marriage.

We need a pen that works, it would seem. I can't think of any more news.

Love,

Me

(over)



Photo 1: John Wood Campbell, Jr., in the early 1950s.

⁸ See letter F-16, 1939-11-02 for Philinda's account of the **wedding**.

PS. You poor people must have thought we were dead and buried. The letters had been stuck in a book, & the book lost! I'd forgotten about their being in the book thought they were mailed. Ah me!

Love,

LP

PPS. I'll have you know this awful instrument I'm striving to write with is a *new* pen point, bought today. You can't win. C'est la guerre⁹, I suppose.

⁹ **C'est la guerre**: French, 'It's the war'.

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found its tortuous way from you to us.
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for all the world to see. James said "What
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to me. To return to the baby, poor papa & mamma will
now be grand'père & grand'mère! And I an aunt?
Heavens! Everyone seems to be vying with
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(F-45)