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Jan. 7 [1943]

Dear Willie:

We had a beautiful, quiet Christmas and wished very much that you might have shared it with us. My vacation did not begin until the day before Christmas which is rather overdoing the thirst for knowledge which is non-existent anyhow in the lives of our young people. The present uncertain situation has not contributed to their

desire to work – rather – they seem to feel that there are powers beyond their control which are shaping their destiny and that it will not make much difference whether they pass or fail - of course, having High School seniors largely one can understand how they arrive at their conclusion.

We had Christmas dinner with Betty and Herman. Aunt Bertha and Esther were there and we truly had a very lovely time. Our tree was very nice and Santa Claus was certainly

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very gracious to us. Among other things I drew a new fountain pen but as you can easily discern from this writing I am not using it now. I am writing this while my French XII try to write on paper what they do not know. The gloves which you gave me were very lovely and Janie certainly displayed excellent taste in her choice - needless to say they were needed as well as satisfying my aesthetic desire for fine "plumage".

Our little "Samba" [dog drawing] was also decked out in a big red ribbon to get her package from the tree - namely "dog food". Your father has accepted the cruel, disappointing fact that she is a mere "lap dog" & not designed for big game hunting and as a result he is quite lenient & tender with her - you should hear him talk baby talk to her & snuggle her up on his shoulder. It is rare - and never did I expect him to come to such depths.

Our social program was quite full though we did not go to the

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New Years Eve dance which the Will Kennedys staged in their home. It is always <u>quite</u> an affair. On New Years afternoon we did go to Louis & Martha's New Year's offering of "Holiday Cheer" and it was a lovely party. At our Christmas dinner dance the Saturday before Christmas we saw John Montgomery & his wife. She is quite nice & you would like her, I think. From all visible indications one might predict that in the not too distant future John and Eve might be

anticipating the descent of that bird – at present not overworked. All in all we hope you enjoyed the Season as much as we did.

Betty Flory Jones has given the country one more warrior – it must now be about 10 days old. George seems a trifle indifferent to his new rôle of grandfather.

Your father has been very busy – in fact, too busy for his own good & about 15 pounds have vanished somewhere. As you probably know, both

Walter are out

Virgil & Walter are out of the store. Walter is in an army camp in California & Virgil is in defense work at Owens Corning. This has left your father with everything from furnace firing to toting hundreds of pounds of paint etc. to its proper place. Thank goodness he has a man to help now – even though he is there only for a short time. It is just too much for him to do in addition to all of his usual activities. We had all the boys from the store for dinner at your house before Walter left. They had apparently a marvelous time. Ollie drank four glasses of sherry which I gave him labeled as grape juice from Coshocton Co. The result you can imagine as well as the amusement of the rest of them. Fortunately someone is living in the Coshocton Co. house. We were not there more than three times all last summer due to the tire situation so we feel relieved that it is occupied now that gasoline is at a premium. We do hope that Philinda arrives soon and safe. It was definitely a disappointment to us that she did not come to Ohio before she left but we can look forward to her coming as well as yours. All good wishes & love from us all.

Sarah

[Note added upside down at top of first page]

Have sent your glasses through the State Department once more. Third time is the charm – *!!* – Here is hoping they arrive.