

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 1



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Lagos, Nigeria; January 14, 1943

Dear Folks:

Well, I hope by the time this reaches you that you will already have had a cable saying that Philinda is ~~on the way~~ and that we have been married. She left the U.S. shortly before Christmas, and I have not been able to find out yet when she will be due here or what ship she is coming on, although I have a good idea about the latter. In any case, I have applied for a marriage license. For a regular license you have to apply and wait for three weeks. If you want to be married immediately, you have to apply for a special license, and that costs \$21. That is probably what I will have to do in the end, as I expect Philinda to be here before the three weeks are up on January 31st. However, you never can tell.

I went out to a local goldsmith's last Saturday and bought a blank wedding ring. We will use that for the ceremony, and have one made to fit afterwards. I hope that we will be able to be married the day after she arrives. She will stay at Mr. Shantz's house until after the wedding, and Mr. Shantz will also give an informal reception after the ceremony. Unless Mr. Lynch, the new consul, arrives before she does, which seems very unlikely, we will not be able to have a honeymoon, at least, not until he has arrived. Being the only Vice Consul here, it is impossible for me to get away; we will probably go out to the beach and stay over Saturday night; that will be the extent of it. However, Philinda will have been traveling for a long time by the time she gets here, and I imagine she will want to stop and rest for a while before undertaking the two-day trip up to Jos. That will also give us time to make reservations, etc., which would be impossible if we tried to leave right after the wedding.

Tonight I am going to see the Colonial Chaplain about the ceremony. As he is, of course, an Anglican, I do not know whether he will want to marry us in view of the fact that Philinda has been divorced. I seriously considered not saying anything about it, but I was afraid that would affect the legality of the wedding if I made a false declaration on the application for a license. Besides that, I would not want the Padre to do anything, even unknowingly, against his conscience, so we will see. If he doesn't come through, I will find out if Dr. Adair, the Baptist missionary, is qualified to perform marriages.

Daddy will be glad to know that I have been writing to Philinda's father and have had several nice letters from him. I remember Dad was a little hurt at not having heard from Norman before the wedding. Mr. Campbell seems to be a grand person, both from his letters and from what Philinda has told me of him. He seems to

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be a keen student of human nature and has analysed his daughter with more objectivity than usual on the part of fond parents. Mrs. Campbell also advised me to see that Philinda wrote regularly, as she is the apple of her father's eye, and he gets very worried when he doesn't hear from her, which is frequently. I believe I mentioned before that he is some kind of an executive with the A.T. & T. I am looking forward a great deal to meeting him when I return to the States.

Since my last letter, I have received one from her telling about her trip to Washington to be interviewed for a job here. Perry Jester and his wife had her for dinner the night before, and they had a fine time talking over living conditions in Lagos. Philinda said Mrs. Jester gave her some very good hints about what to bring along. The next day she went to see Mr. Erhardt, the chief of personnel, who has a rather fearsome reputation among officers of the Foreign Service. She appears to have sized him up properly, however, because before she had finished, he was completely on our side, and not only gave her the job but also gave his blessing to our wedding. That is very important, because the wife figures very importantly in a man's career in the Foreign Service. So, from that angle at least, we are getting off to a good start.

Friday, January 15, 1943

I went over to see Padre Wright, the chaplain, yesterday after writing the above, and he tells me that, since the Church of England does not recognize divorce, it will be impossible for us to be married in the Colonial Chapel. That is too bad, as it is by all odds the most attractive place in town. I have also been informed (but will check again) that marriages cannot be held in private homes, so that cuts out Mr. Shantz's kind offer of his house. However, I dare say the success of the marriage will not depend on the locale where it takes place, and we will do the best we can under the circumstances.

I have a lousy cold right now, only the second since my arrival here. I feel absolutely terrible, and I am certainly glad that Philinda didn't arrive today or yesterday. I think that by tomorrow I will begin to improve - at least if my colds here follow the usual pattern. I have been remarkably free from colds here; my case of flu or whatever it was I had in October was not accompanied by a cold. I suppose that is partly due to the even temperature and the fact that I take quinine regularly; I seem to recall that we used to take quinine for colds. But it didn't help this time. Everybody in the office either has or has had one. They are probably due to the Harmattan: the cold wind full of sand particles which comes down from the Sahara at this time of year. It should finish in about a week or so, judging by last year's experience. Then it will be good and hot until the end of April.

Mac is now at Accra, and John Burleson, our American clerk, resigned and went home right after Christmas, so I am more than busy. Please excuse me for not having written more frequently and at greater length, but it has tied me down writing to Philinda every week. I still am waiting to learn Janie's address; I got a post card from her written in September yesterday. Much love to all,

William