24 REC'D

May 19, 1943

JUN 24 REC'D

Dear William:

We enjoyed your two letters of Mar. 25 & Apr. 9 which reached

us within a couple of days and we are so happy to realize just how

contented you are. The Christmas boxes certainly must have traveled

extensively for the other one was returned here the other day - You may

receive it by next Christmas – at the rate things travel there days.

And speaking of travel, it is just one of those things you don't do if you can help it. We took a jaunt to Cleveland for Grand Opera when the Met was there for its annual spring season. We had been invited last year to hear Lily Pons in "Daughter of the Regiment" but couldn't go for some reason or other so we felt we had to accept the renewed invitation this year. Saw "Il Trovatore" which is about the last opera I would

choose to see

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but we both enjoyed it immensely for it was beautifully done from every

angle. When we came to pay our bill there was none, so our trip did

little damage to our finances. I suggested it was an easy way to

entertain guests - but rather expensive it's true.

The year goes to an end scholastically. Our senior exams begin

next Wed. which relieves me of four classes, but brings in a large bunch

of papers - then to the Juniors. - We close June 4. Melody is

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Almost finished with her exams – one more in Senior German. She has been "tapped" as they say nowadays for two honorary societies – one musical & one literary for outstanding writing ability – she was feature story editor of the Denisonian – with a B+ average I guess we can be satisfied with her year. Most difficult was her social adjustment to girls & boys of her own age and the whole thing was a nervous strain. She starts her Soph. year July 1 – might as well do that as to accomplish nothing.

John and Eva Montgomery have a baby girl – not very old yet! She is with him at the camp & when the baby decided to arrive John was in Mexico with the staff accompanying Pres. Roosevelt – so Jean told me. Our village is very quiet & almost devoid of familiar faces in the younger generation. Many newcomers are here with various war industries – Aunt Vonnie's house on Hudson is renting for \$75.00 a month just as it is with no improving or repairs except a coat of paint.

We have our garden at Hanover underway -

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We ploughed up or rather had it done – the south end of the lawn & it looks terrible & cultivates worse. So we are going to put the rest in our former garden along the creek. We mow an acre of lawn even with this space out for the garden. It is very beautiful down there now & we spend all our spare time there. I can appreciate how much you & Philinda enjoy the "shack" as you call it. But then, Laurence & I are just a couple of peasants at heart I fear.

Bill Aulich was home from Panama for

a month. Bob had leave at the same time & was interested in meeting his newly arrived soon [sic] - Robert Gulieh III. Bud Francis was here. Laurence saw him but I did not, much as I would have liked to see him. Uncle Carey almost recovered completely from his illness of last winter. Was too spry, fell & cracked a couple of ribs - so now he is tame once more – a really unusual person for his years. His daughter is there with him now. "Pa" was here with Betty for several weeks looking quite like himself. He was so anxious to get back home to make his "Victory Garden" that he couldn't be persuaded

to stay longer. The weather was so unfriendly & I was so busy that we did not get to take our usual jaunt to the country to call on the remaining "Old Timers". We wish that you & Philinda were here to enjoy the spring time with us for the country is especially luxurious with foliage & our dogwood trees are in full bloom – there are about 8 in our yard scattered among the pine trees. We shall look forward to that next year – and content ourselves at present with greeting to you both Love

Sarah