

IN REPLY REFER TO

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AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Dear Folks:

Sarah's letter of July 29th has arrived since the last writing, and I was glad to hear that the garden is coming out well. It should after all the work you have put into it, but nature is sometimes very unrewarding even to the most deserving. Our Victory garden here consists of some lettuce and radishes planted in a little box out back and tended principally by the Consulate's gardener. The radishes turned out very well, but grew up faster than we could eat them.. The last products have been large and a bit pithy.

Philinda and I enjoyed Melody's letter very much, but we were very sorry to hear of her father's death. Since I hardly remember even seeing him, the loss does not seem so personal to me, but I do remember what a vital person he was. Please give Melody our very deepest sympathy.

Yesterday was Philinda's birthday, and we had a party for her in the evening. I had bought her a pen and pencil set from the Army PX - a Waterman's 100 year pen with pencil for \$7.50, which is certainly very reasonable. I wanted it to be a surprise, although she had expressed an intention of buying it, but one of our Army friends spilled the beans, so I gave it to her some time before the actual birthday. I never seem to have any luck surprising people.

The party was very pleasant. We had the Rasmussen/s, a Swedish couple of whom we have become very fond. We go to their house quite frequently, and Philinda plays badminton. I cheer from the side lines, not having yet been induced to abandon my determination to avoid sports. I may break down sometime, though I doubt it. Also present was "Mr." Wilson, a retired general who is here with what was formerly a hush-hush outfit. He has spent a good deal of time in India, and his resemblance to C. Aubrey Smith is so striking that there is some question as to who is copying who. In any case, the General is a fine, kindly old gentleman, completely unaffected, but with strong and determined ideas. Bill Bruns came and brought an attractive girl who has spent most of her life in Trinidad, and there was also Gene Howard, a friend of our who is very nice and pleasant on a party. He seems rather like an overgrown "Joe College" part of the time, but we always enjoy his company.

After an early dinner, we went to a benefit movie which was given under the auspices ~~the~~ of the Acting Governor and

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Mrs. Grantham. We arrived late as usual, and I was embarrassed to discover that our seats were in the row immediately in front of the Governor and party, so that we had to walk right in front of him when we got in. I made every effort to try to get there on time. I invited the guests for 7:15 instead of the usual 7:30 and tried to push things along as best I could, but somehow it seems very difficult to operate "according to plan" in West Africa. Things have a way of being late, and I must admit that I am not the best person to cope with it, being chronically late even when left to my own devices.

After the movie we had a short time at the Ikoyi Club before the dance was over. On Thursday nights the dance ends at midnight, and it must have been 11:15 by the time we got there. Thursday night is always nice at the club, because there are not so many people there and it is not so crowded. Saturday night is always a bit hectic. If they could only get some new records for the phonograph, wouldn't play same so loudly, and keep the dogs out it would be greatly improved. The crowding is accentuated these days because it is a bit too chilly to sit outside. In a few months it will be hot again, and outside watching the moon and the stars will be the ideal place to be.

I was most happy to see in a letter from Ninnie which arrived today that Kate Montgomery had been married. I seem to recall having met Dan Jenkins at one time, but have no impressions of him at all. He will have to be pretty good to deserve Kate, as she is terribly nice, and will be even nicer when she gets over being so shy. I hope you will call Merrill and/or Jean and give them my heartiest congratulations for the groom and best wishes for happiness to the bride, to be conveyed to the newly-weds, who I suppose are still in the South Carolina bush.

The office has recently received a car from the State Department, thus being one of the few offices in the world which has an official car. It is a brown, or dust-colored, Chevrolet sedan, utility model, with the consular coat of arms on the door. This should enable me to save a little money on gas, since I ordinarily have to use my car all the time for official business, the costs of which I carry myself.

I am enclosing a copy of one of Philinda's letters describing a party we went to last week, which far surpasses anything I can write. These various affairs always seem so much of a sameness to me that I can rarely think of any comment to make on them. I am sending a copy of this to Ninnie and Aunt Vnie, and I would be glad if you would pass this along to Janie when you are through, but not until after you have sent me an already-tied black bow tie to wear with a tuxedo. I now only have a maroon one, and it is beginning to look seedy. Also, the address is, A.P.O. 606-A, care Postmaster, Miami. Ninnie's letter, which came by A.P.O. was mailed in Miami August 22 and arrived today.

Much love from both of us to all of you.