

November 11, 1943

DEC -2 Rec'd

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Dear William:

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How can we ever wait for the pictures of you and Philinda to arrive and relieve our curiosity as to the size, shape, and color of that vivid personality Philinda. The beauty and personality have already been imprinted on our minds but we naturally would like to know the form & color - but from what we saw in the snaps enclosed in the last letter we can say that the form is superlative.

Philinda's letters are

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Philinda's letters are

quite "racy", entertaining and instructive. It is a nice existence you have in Lagos but probably would be as agreeable anywhere else if you were together - and let us hope that any change of scenery in store for you will not include separation for you.

We celebrated your father's & grandfather's "lucky day" Oct 25th with a real birthday party - candles, cake, flowers with all the trimmings and some delectable pheasant as the "pièce de resistance" as it were - Grandpa indulging in nothing

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stronger than milk the rest of us did the "indulging" in that which is becoming scarcer than rattlesnakes in Ohio. The "us", of course, was Pauman's grandpa & ourselves. Really Pa looks very well though frankly one can see that he has failed this last year - one might as well face facts & the inevitable.

Four weeks ago my toe was broken - the big toe in the end joint & the nerves badly injured - one of our estimable lawyers put the front seat of a 2 door sedan back on it with too much vigor. To say it has been painful is putting it mildly - for over 2 weeks the pain was terrific - but

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then I should have kept off of it - So the only foot covering I can endure even yet is a very roomy bedroom slipper which undaunted I wear to the Inn to dinners & dances.

The other evening Count de Prorak (? spelling now it is written) lectured on Africa - past & present with emphasis on its contribution to the present French situation - His pictures were very excellent - some recent - some rather old, but interesting - I know his present wife quite well. His first wife was a product of our own fair city indirectly - Her mother being Alice Hickey of Clay Lick who married a Mr. Kenney - railroads I think - & I remember when the wedding made good

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reading some years ago. Saturday last was our dinner dance club at the Inn where your father tripped the light fantastic while I unwillingly held down the side line with my fuzzy slipper tucked away under my skirt.

Last night Mel played the last two movements of her Mozart Concerto in a recital - sort of a warming up process for her appearance with the orchestra in January. She still enjoys school & has made excellent progress.

Tomorrow the Trapp family open our Cooperative Concert Course here. Mel has known the Baron, Baroness & 7 daughters for several years. They are trained & coached by Father Wasner - & are

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known as the best & exponents of their form of the musical art in the world. Their records are used extensively in the teaching of counterpoint. They are Austrians who left Europe under pressure when their country was invaded. We are having a few people in to meet them after the concert - for a sandwich or "whatnot". I only wish my toe felt better - you have no idea how it crimps one's style - a real depressant.

We regret that the country house is closed up for it is a much larger & more agreeable place to entertain but we will manage somehow.

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I've had a very nice letter from Lillian & Aunt Vonnie. They both seem to be well & happy - the two are rather contingent upon each other. Lillian sent us 8 of the most gorgeous avocados we ever saw. They were huge & utterly delectable.

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This letter is running on & on and not telling any news either - Frankly, news - as such - is at a premium just now. Everyone is too busy to create any. You probably know that Ollie Irwin died about a week ago. He had not been in the store since last summer due to heart difficulty - not to mention age (87). He passed

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