

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Md.
Sunday, July 8, 1951

Dear Aunt Ella,

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Thank you for thinking of us and sending the nice letter. But we were very sorry to hear that you hadn't been feeling well. I do hope all this fine and fairly cool weather has helped to improve your health enough so you could enjoy its blessings! It's really been wonderful, and much better for the babies than the hot stickiness of a week ago.

We have been busy as a couple of one-armed paper-hangers ever since the babies arrived in April. Taking care of them is something more than a full time job, and in addition to that we had to prepare to go to Guatemala at the end of this month. When the practical nurse left I had them all to myself, and in a month I went down from a hundred and five to a hundred in spite of eating voraciously. Naturally I had no time whatever for the many details of moving out of the country for a period of years. So I finally had to re-hire the practical nurse in spite of all the expense, in order to get my business done. We buy as much as possible here in the United States, because most things are more expensive down there, and it is better than ordering them later on from the Sears catalogue. Fortunately we have a house waiting for us in Guatemala City, as well as a nice nursemaid all hired in advance. Wages are low down there, so we can easily afford the luxury of a nurse for the babies at twenty dollars a month!

We are renting our house from the first of August, and will probably move out on the 30th of July. Then we will pack the babies in their little traveling beds, the suitcases, the 1000 paper diapers, the enormous thermos jug full of ice and their bottles, the enamel kettle for sterilizing the formula equipment, and ourselves last of all in the poor old car and set off for Flemington, New Jersey, where my mother has a farm and where Laurence has been spending the summer. Luckily, a storage company packs and ships all the furniture, so we only have to pack our clothes and the babies' - but that is quite a job in itself! Our ship sails from New York on the third of August. It is going to be a major undertaking to get us all up there and on the ship safely. The twins are very fond of riding in the car, because they love the sensation of gentle motion - but they become most annoyed when daddy stops the car for a traffic light or a filling station! We drove them up to Flemington and back in May when Laurence went up to grandmamma's.

They are three months old now, and very happy, cheerful little cherubs. They began to smile at about six weeks, and have been smiling at us ever since - WHEN they have been fed to their own satisfaction. Otherwise they let us know in no uncertain terms that they are extremely hungry and don't intend to wait in patience. They are almost, but not quite, identical, and somehow they seem to have acquired slightly reddish hair! We think they are pretty. My mother was one of twins, and my father's mother also, so that's how it happened.

We'll try to make it to Buckeystown if at all possible!