

Bethesda, Frid. July 20, 1951

Dear Mamma and Laurence,

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Here are some more cartoons from the Washington Post which I thought were funny. You can see how hard the little boy in "Peanuts", whose name is Charley Brown, is trying to teach the little baby named Schroeder to do grown up things, and what a difficult time Charley Brown has. In the other cartoon you can see how much too much the puppy dog loves his master- he won't even let him alone a minute, but follows him right into the movie, where really dogs aren't allowed!

We were glad we got to talk to you on the telephone the other night, and glad we straightened up the matter of the cost of shipping those pieces down here. We will be so glad to have the mirror and the pictures down in our new house in Guatemala! It is such a big house compared to the one we have in Bethesda that we will need a great many more things to fill it up. Did you know there was a patio with a round fountain in it, where there are gold fish swimming around? When our babies get big enough to crawl and walk around we shall have to keep them away from the fountain, or else put gravel in it almost up to the top of the water so there will be just enough water for the goldfish but not enough for a couple of babies to fall into. Laurence will have a room all to himself in the new house where he can go and think about things when he's in the mood, and where he can keep all his own books and toys so they won't be disturbed by anyone unless Laurence himself invites someone to come in his room. As soon as he learns to read he can go into his room and read books about trains and rockets and adventures, and then we can call Laurence's room his studio.

Our babies have just gotten their playpen, which is rectangular instead of square, so it can go through doors. It has a red pad, and when they are awake in the afternoon we are going to put them in it. Helen is in it right now, on her tummy, and she is making kicking movements with her little fat legs as if she would very much like to crawl if only she knew how to. Laura was in it for a few minutes, but she got sleepy and had to be put in her bed. They love to see each other, so I imagine they will be overjoyed when they can both get in the playpen together. They have begun to eat banana as well as egg, and they like it a great deal better. I have tried to tell them that egg is very good for them and contains a great deal of iron, but just as Schroeder didn't understand why it was bad for him to suck his thumb, the babies don't seem to understand that egg will make them grow big and strong. They make noises that sound sort of like words, and Miss Roddy and I can figure out what they mean most of the time by their tones of voice. If we don't do what they want us to they stop making word-noises, get mad and cry. You can tell they would dearly love to know how to talk in real words. They would also like to be able to crawl and go places like grown-up children do, and it makes them frustrated because they can't. They would like to be five years old!

Grandpa Krieg was here on Sunday and Monday, and he and

daddy did a great deal of talking on the porch. We told him all about you, Laurence, and how much you are interested in scientific matters, and how you know about rockets, trains, and the like. He wished you were here so he could see you and talk to you. Naturally he was glad to see how cute the babies are, but they aren't really as interesting to a grown man as you would have been. Grandpa Krieg said he thought you sounded just about like your daddy was at five years of age. He wanted to go out to Buckeystown to see old Aunt Ella, who is eighty years old or more, so we went out and took the babies to see her. Then on Monday he went back home to Newark, Ohio in a Constellation of the Trans-World Airlines. It had four motors, of course, and only took an hour and thirty five minutes to get to Columbus. Aunt Sarah met him in Columbus and they drove back to Newark, which is an hour away in a car.

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Daddy and I are very busy now getting ready to go up to Flemington on the Monday after next. Daddy goes to the office, but only to write important letters about things we will need down in Guatemala, such as food, baby supplies, and the like. Sometimes he stays home and does things like painting the window frames, getting things at the hardware store, or making up lists of things he has to do downtown.

Betsy and Coit and Tommy came over yesterday with Mrs. Meleney, and Betsy brought you a going-away present which I will bring up when we come on the 30th. It looks like a book or something to color, but of course I haven't opened it because it is addressed to you. They are going to Martha's Vineyard again, and left today. They are going to take Patches and a new kitten they have. Their car will be very crowded with all those people and animals! I wonder how the kitten and Patches get along together. Coit wished he could go on an ocean going vessel as you will, especially because he has only been on a ferry and never on a real ship.

Daddy and I are going out to dinner a great deal now, because all our friends want to invite us to their houses before we go. Miss Roddy or Laura Rouse stay with the babies to take care of them when we go out. The babies don't mind when we leave them, in fact I don't believe they even realize that we are gone. Next Friday we are going to get dressed up, I in my long evening dress and daddy in his tuxedo, and go to the home of Sr. and Senora Moscoso, who are Ecuadorans in the Ecuadoran Embassy here. Ecuador is a small republic on the west coast of South America, not very far from Venezuela. You can see where it is on a map. Sra. Moscoso is the sister of the President of Ecuador, who came here to the United States last month to visit our own President. She learned English when she was a little girl, just as you will learn Spanish in a little while, so now she can speak to people in either English or Spanish. It's very convenient.

I must stop writing this letter now and get dressed to go to John and Virginia Hoover's house. They live in the country, out in Virginia. Johnny Hoover and Jimmy Hoover go to day camp in the summer, and they collect frogs and lightening bugs.