

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Milan, Italy  
December 8, 1940

Dear Folks:

Although it still seems as if Christmas were a long time away, I realize that this will probably not reach you until long after the event, which I hope will be happy. I haven't made any special plans for celebrating Christmas this year, but one of the fellows at the office has asked me to have dinner with him and his family. He has two little children, and I think Christmas is always more fun where there are children.

Your nice letter got here in just exactly one month, which is considered pretty good time for these days. I was most interested to hear that Ferris Owen was getting married - makes me feel as if I ought to be a grandfather. I certainly hope he will get along well. What is he going to do? You asked whether I had someone to live with me. I have a maid, who does the cooking and all the work around the house. Servants are very cheap here, her month salary beings \$10.00. Of course, she also gets room and board. This makes it much nicer, as it is very difficult to eat well in restaurants because of the numerous restrictions on food. For instance, meat can only be served on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and the rest of the time they have to fall back on chicken, rabbit, tongue, liver, and various things which are not considered meat. I might add a word about the rabbit. I really should have said "hare", for these are large, tame hares which are raised especially for eating, on farms. Several years ago, the Italian government began to encourage the raising of hares with the idea in mind of preparing against the day when the supply of meat would be very limited, and their foresight has proved to be well justified. As far as I am concerned, on Monday, the maid buys enough meat for one meal a day for four days. Fridays I usually do without meat, and I don't suppose it does me any harm. Left to myself, I would eat too much meat and not enough other things.

Don't worry about sending me anything for Christmas. Nothing can be sent here at present, with any degree of assurance that it will arrive. Checks aren't much use, since they can't be cashed here. So you just save up what you were going to send, and when I come home, I will come down and call on you. I do hope you will both be well during the winter and throughout the coming year. Write to me when you have time, and I will do the same.

With love and kisses,

*William*



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*What is he going to do?*

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