

Tuesday - May 20 1941


Rec'd Jun 24

Dear William:

Your good letter came almost 2 weeks ago, but it has been so hard for me to write, and I still can't write with ink very well, so please excuse the pencil.

I am so disgusted with myself for making all this trouble for myself and everyone else. The way it happened was that on March 10 I had fertilized some plants and had the hose out to water them. I must have slipped off the edge of the cement runner just back of the Port cochere, anyway I went down with all my might on my right hip to the cement. When they helped me up on my good leg, I tried very carefully to put the right foot on the ground, but did not bear any weight on it, but it seemed to sort of swing so I was almost sure that hip is broken. They put me in a chair until the Dr. came. He was afraid it was broken. But they took me to a clinic for an X-ray and found it was broken. It was a clean break & it was lucky I had not put weight on it. It was broken in what they call the surgical neck just outside the socket like this. This is an awful picture¹.

¹ See enlarged diagram on the last page of this document.

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They put me in a cast the next morning and I was in it just eight weeks, which was two weeks ago today. They took an X-ray a week after they put on the cast to see if it was set right, & it was, then a day before the eight weeks were up took me again to see if the bone had knit enough. The doctors all think I have gotten along remarkably well, but it seems slow to me. I have had no real pain in my hip, and have none now which I can't understand, but they say I should not have. I got awfully tired flat on my back & the cast was so heavy and I suffered more with the heat than anything else. It was so heavily padded and came above my waist and to the end of my toes on the broken leg, and just above the knee on the other one. It took them almost 2 hours to get it off, it was so big & heavy. It certainly was a relief to get it off! I was worried that the right knee would be stiff at first, but the Dr., who was an osteopath, has been working on it, & now I can sit on the side of the bed and touch the floor with my foot, so before I will be able to bear any weight on that leg, I think the knee will be OK. I have a wheelchair, loaned to me by our church and Sunday the Dr. helped me

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into it, and I was in it almost 2 hours. Yesterday and today I have been up in a rocking chair by the bed. It is softer & more comfortable. The only thing that hurts me when sitting up is the end of my spine, and the Dr. says that is because I have been lying with so much weight on it so long. I am sitting in the chair now and it does not hurt as much as it did yesterday. I hope I have not tried you with all these details. Now dear about the expense. It is just fine of you to offer to help, and I can't tell you how I appreciate your offer. But I am going to be able to manage all right. I am so thankful I did not have to go to a hospital, on account of the expense and for many other reasons. Of course I have to dig into my principal but that is what we have been saving for all these years, the fear of sickness, so now I am going to use what I have to and not worry about it.

It is been hard on Mama, but she is game as usual. The worst thing is that she has been having trouble with her back, but I hope it will soon be better. I have a young girl who takes care of me and helps Mama some, and she goes out for her lunch & dinner as it worries Mama to cook

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for anyone as I have done all the cooking for so long. I hope to be able to get along without the girl before long, as she lives up north and wants to go home as soon as I can spare her.

I am so thankful you have been safe so far and that you are not where the bombs are falling. Wish you would tell us more about what kind of work you are doing, if you can. I had a letter from your father and one from Sarah last week, and one from Jeanette the week before. They are all well. J. will soon be thru her school, and I hope she will be able to get some work in her line. She says she wants to stay in New York. I suppose you've heard she went home for Mary Shinn's wedding on May 3. It is getting pretty warm here and I sure am glad I'm out of that awful cast! I was going to write to you soon when I fell, but could not until now. You said to put full foreign postage on the letter sent by pouch, & Sarah wrote that was 3¢ to Washington & 5¢ in Europe. Hope that is right. I had a letter from the State Dept. in Washington telling me not to seal my letters so I will not seal this. Hope it won't be too long reaching you. Thank you for your generous offer and for your very interesting letters. Loads of love from both of us.

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