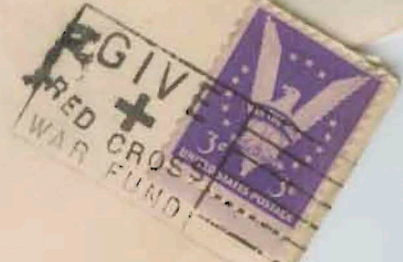


W. C. Elmore
P.O. Box 1663
Santa Fe N. Mex.



Mrs. Grace C. Elmore
Montour Falls
New York



Mrs. Grace C. Elmore
Montour Falls
N.Y.

Letters from Los Alamos: 1943-1946

In December of 1943 William C. Elmore (“Bill”) and his family (Barbara and Mary-Leigh) were asked to travel west to Los Alamos, New Mexico as part of the “war effort.” They remained in Los Alamos until June of 1946. During that 2-1/2 year period, Barbara, and sometimes Bill, wrote home to let his mother, Grace Cronk Elmore, and sister, Eleanor, know what they were doing and to sometimes ask them to send household necessities that Bill and Barbara were having trouble finding in Albuquerque or Santa Fe.

Fortunately, many, if not all of those letters, were saved. It has been a pleasure to read through them to imagine the interesting life the family was leading as Bill slaved away on the bomb project and Barbara created a new home for them. Unfortunately because of censorship, little or nothing was said about the project itself. All letters that Bill and Barbara wrote during that time were given unsealed to a censor who read them over before mailing them. The first letter that Barbara wrote after reaching Los Alamos included an affidavit from that censor that Grace had to sign stating that she would not reveal anything about the family’s whereabouts. (We see that here as she copied it in her own handwriting and sent it back to Bill and Barbara so that they would see what had been included with their letter.)

As I read through these I was struck by a number of things. The letters are frequent and lengthy. Both Barbara and Bill include many details and report being very busy. I was reminded of the weekly letters I used to get from Barbara and Bill before phone calls and email became the means of communication. The kind of written record included here is not going to be available in our generation which generally relies on emails, or worst yet, texts. Although it could, none of the richness of our lives comes through in electronic communication as it does in this correspondence.

Most of the copies are quite good, though readability is a bit limited by the quality of the paper used and Barbara’s handwriting – it brought tears to my eyes to be reading her “scrawl” once again. At some point Barbara started to type her letters and to make carbon copies of them since she was saying much of the same things to Grace and Eleanor as she was to her own family.

I hope you will enjoy reading through this treasure trove.

Janet Fox Elmore
Christmas, 2011

P.S. Remember all this is very secret - Don't tell anyone anything
except that Bill is to do some research somewhere out West. Don't
mention New Mexico + 312 NORTH PRINCETON AVENUE Don't mention how secret
it is - & don't let it SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA get into the paper, Bill says!
P.P.S. Did you see the picture of Eli on pg. 40 of the Thursday -
Nov 13 issue of the Post?

Dear Mother -

I'm so excited I can hardly think! What do
you suppose has happened? A man from Harvard
was down here today to see Bill & wants him to
come immediately to work on an extremely important piece
of research which is being done in ~~the~~ complete secrecy
out in New Mexico (I can't even tell you where)

Everyone that is working on it is in this little community
all by itself & the people can't go out or have visitors
come in. It's high up about 7000 ft & is glorious country.

I'm just thrilled to death about going - I think it's all settled
in both our minds except for the chance that they can't
find anyone to take Bill's place at the college.

This little community of about 300 families has in our
doctor, hospital, schools, stores, movie theater - + a small
2 story apartment for all the families - It'll be the
chance of a lifetime for Bill to go to work with all
the famous scientists - + boy, what fun for me! There
will be skiing, skating, riding + camping + fishing -
we can go for short trips + into the city to shop, I guess.
+ I bet right that the climate (dry + high) will
do wonders for my asthma + my fur - The apartments are
furnished, tho I imagine we'll take some of our furniture
+ store the rest - also we'll take the Bendix + all
my metal work stuff - goodness we'll be right near a
tungsten mine + I'll probably be able to get a lot of
stones for setting - maybe stay in myself.
We'll be able to drive out ^{here} to the lake + that'll be exciting
+ really - You should have seen Bill beam from ear
to ear when he came home tonight + said "How would you

like to go out west." Well, if we go, it'll probably be
maybe after Xmas - 312 NORTH PRINCETON AVENUE So I'll have to
do some building - House to be rented, furniture that he's re-
taking to be crated & sent freight - and goodness all my
canned stuff! Now listen, - if we go, it means
we can't see any of you for the duration - so could
you plan to come down for Christmas - you & Eleanor & Aunt
May? - It may be there a few years before we see you
again. Do think it over!

Bill's ~~groom~~ went into his back & his ~~whole~~ all crippled up
with ~~benzene~~ a sore neck - & cross as two sticks - Haven
he's been better the past couple of days - & today he was so excited
he almost forgot to ~~groom~~! My hay fever & asthma have
been terrible lately. It's crazy to see if a new climate
would help them or - otherwise I feel fine - If
I go to ~~shenandoah~~ I feel kind of done up - but I've been
trying to keep myself down!

I'll think hard about Xmas presents & write you again
real soon - I just had to write about this tooth, I was so
excited. I'd forgot I'd told you about the mirrors -
& I just sent to Manning an adv. I saw in the
Times for Lucette mirror, lunch & comb sets that look
lovely - so look no longer for that! She'll probably
find them for me - As for a magazine I think I've
I'd really like the Good Housekeeping last - instead of
B.H. & G. & Am. Har - Manning would send her to me.
but she won't be able to if we are in New Mexico -
I know Emily said she could get it for ^{me for} half
price - so if you do get it, get it for her - I'll
write you again about all this - By the way what do
you want - that would really be useful, something that
I can get in Philly that you can't get in Elvira - as
what about E. - I don't think I got a chance to
make anything this Xmas - well - why - Barbara

312 North Princeton Avenue
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Thursday, November 13, 1943

Dear Mother

I am so excited I can hardly think! What do you suppose had happened? A man from Harvard was down here today to see Bill and wants him to come immediately to work on an extremely important piece of war research, which is being done in complete secrecy out in New Mexico (I can't even tell you where). Everyone that is working on it is in this little community all by itself and the people can't go out or have visitors come in. It's high up about 7000 feet and in glorious country. I'm just thrilled to death about going. I think it's all settled in both our minds except for the chance that they can't find anyone to take Bill's place at the college.

This little community of about 300 families has its own doctors, hospital, schools, stores, movie theater and small 2 story apartments for all the families. It'll be the chance of a lifetime for Bill to get to know and work with all the famous scientists, and boy, what fun for me! There will be skiing, skating, riding and camping and fishing. We can go off on short trips and into the city to shop, I guess. I bet anything that the climate (dry and high) will do wonders for my asthma and hay fever. The apartments are furnished, though I imagine we'll take some of our furniture and store the rest. Also we'll take the Bendix and all my metal work stuff. Goodness we'll be right near a turquoise mine and I'll probably be able to get a lot of stones for setting, making them up myself.

We'll be able to drive out there too, and that'll be exciting in itself. You should have seen Bill beam from ear to ear when he came home tonight and said, "How would you like to go out west!!? Well, if we go, it'll probably be right after Xmas, so I'll have to do some hustling. House to be rented, furniture that we're taking to be crated and sent freight, and goodness all my canned stuff! Now, listen, If we go, it means we can't see any of you for the duration, so couldn't you plan to come down for Christmas, you and Eleanor and Aunt May? It may be three or four years before we see you again. Do think it over!

Bill's germ went into his back and he's been all crippled up with lumbago or some such, and cross as two sticks. However, we've been better the past couple of days and tonight he was so excited he almost forgot to groan! My hay fever and asthma have been terrible lately. I'm crazy to see if a new climate would help them any. Otherwise I'm feeling fine. If I get too stressed I feel kind of close up, but I've been trying to keep myself down!

I'll think hard about Xmas presents and write you again real soon. I just had to write about this tonight, I was so excited. I'd forgotten I'd told you about the mirror and I just sent to Mummy an adv. I saw in the Times for Lucite mirror, brush and

comb set that looked lovely, so look no longer for that! She'll probably find them for me. As for a magazine, I think for me I'd really like the Good Housekeeping best, instead of B H & G or Am. Home. Mummy usually sends her to me, but she won't be able to if we're out in New Mexico. I know Emily said she could get it from me for about half price, so if you do get it, get it and show her. I'll write you again about all this. By the way, what do you want, that would be really useful, small that I can get in Philly that you can't get in Elmira, and what about E. I doubt whether I get a chance to make anything this Xmas. Well, so long, Barbara

PS. Remember all this is very secret. Don't tell anyone anything except that Bill is to do war research somewhere out west. Don't mention New Mexico and don't mention how secret it is, and don't let it get into the paper Bill says.

PPS. Did you see the picture of Eli on pg. 40 of the Nov. 13 issue of the Post?

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE · PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Thursday.

Dec 15, 1943

Dear Mother:

I am sorry that you have been so laid up with the grippe, or flu, and hope that it is all over. Barbara had it last week end, but recovered after a couple of days. As a result of our all losing several days, on top of trying to get things arranged and packed for moving, we have not done very much for Christmas, and are late in sending off presents. We are sending a box probably tomorrow, which won't get to you until after Christmas, but I know you will understand. One present which it will contain was made from old cherry boards which were in the chemistry dept. lab. I planed off the acid stains, and found good wood underneath. I made five of them, four for presents, and one for us. You can try guessing what it is, before it arrives.

The ration board has allotted me 160 gals for driving out, which is 2400 miles at 15 gals per mile. I hope we will not run out of gas before we get there. The actual distance is about 21000 miles, but we may not get 15 miles per gal. with the Buick.

Some freinds gave us a small Christmas tree which was cut down in preparation for more planting. We did not plan to have one, but it has pleased Mary-Leigh so much that I guess it is a good thing.

We don't know yet when our goods will go, but expect it will be next week some time. We shall leave shortly thereafter. I have bought some film, and hope to take some pictures, although I don't know whether cameras will be allowed at the Site. It will be a shame not to get pictures, particularly of the Indian pueblos(?), etc., in New Mexico.

There are still many things to finish and to do before we leave, so I mustn't take too much time from work to write. Your letter came with the birth certificate - thanks very much for getting it. I am enclosing a check as a Christmas present. I haven't been near a store in ages.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, AUNTIE MAY AND AUNTIE TISSIE.

Love,

Bill



Sunday -

MRS. WILLIAM ELMORE - 312 NORTH PRINCETON AVE. - SWARTHMORE, PA.

Dear Mother - I'm so sorry to hear you'd had this darn flu -
 Gordon, you should have looked about having with the present
 flu. The box arrived several days ago, so is in plenty of time. I do hope
 Aunt May has escaped the germ. Mary - Seiji is all well now
 except for a cough & stuffy nose. He's certainly pretty sick for a day or 2
 nights. I'm up every 15 min. with him those 2 nights which is probably why I
 succumbed to the darn bug on Friday. I had a bad cold first & then
 temp. rose to 103° & all day Sat I had a terrific headache & ache pain in all my
 arms & back & legs. I thought I'd never live thru the day & into - However today
 I'm practically back to normal & hope I got busy on all the neglected packing
 tomorrow - We would have had the flu now as perhaps we'll stay well for
 while. Our presents may be kind of late as all this has held us up & several accidents
 in the process of being made. Well - take care of yourself - Love Barbara

Postal Card

Mrs. William Elmore, 312 North Princeton Avenue, Swarthmore, PA

Sunday (December 19, 1943)

Dear Mother. We are so sorry to hear you'd had this darn flue. Goodness, you shouldn't have bothered about hurrying with the presents for us. The box arrived several days ago, and in plenty of time. I do hope Aunty May has escaped the germ. Mary-Leigh is all well now except for a cough and stuffy nose, though she was certainly pretty sick for a day and two nights. I was up every 15 minutes with her those 2 nights, which is probably why I succumbed to the darn bug on Friday. I had a bad cold first and then my temp. rose to 103 degrees and all day Sat I had a terrific headache and the pain in my sinus and back and legs. I thought I'd never live through the day and night. However today I'm practically back to normal and hope to get busy on all the neglected packing tomorrow. We've all had the flu now and perhaps we'll stay well for a while. On presents, maybe kind of late as all this has held us up and several are still in the process of being made. Well, take care of yourself, Love Barbara.

312 NORTH PRINCETON AVENUE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Tues day.

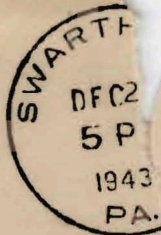
Dear Mother -

The suit came - it fits nicely & looks fine. I sent Tracey a check for it. We had the Wellers over for dinner & took them to the players club Sat night & I wore it for the first time. Thanks very much for picking it out.

Would you mind getting another copy of my birth certificate for me from Earle Vedder? We got one when I was married but I don't know what became of it. It might be a good idea to take it along with me when we go west.

We are tentatively planning to leave about Dec. 30 unless some hitch arises. Right

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.



Mrs. Grace C. Elmore

Montour Falls,

New York.

SPECIAL

DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY

now Mary-Lynn is quite sick with a cold.
Barbara got some medicine for her from
the Doctor tonight. I had the gripe a
week ago - a different bug from what
I had a month ago which was intestinal.
This time I just ached for 2 days,
ran a temp and then was o.k.
Everyone seems to have had it or is
getting it, but it seems to go in
a couple of days & not be very
serious. The radio said 200,000
people in the Phila area had it.
I suppose there won't be so many bugs
around the Site in New Mexico.

I don't know exactly what they
are working on there and won't
know until I start work. My job
will be more or less what I have
been doing at the Bartol-electrical work

312 NORTH PRINCETON AVENUE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

They got after me by virtue of the reports I had written in connection with the M.D.T. projects. I know very little about it all and won't be able to say anything, I suppose, even as to how big the place is, who of our friends, if any, are there. It may be that ^{anybody} mail will be censored, although I imagine we will be told what mustn't be mentioned. At any rate don't mention to people or let it get in the paper where I am, even mentioning out west. If you must say anything, just mention I have left Swa, ^{temporarily} for war work.

The F.B.I. are looking me up again & probably will visit M.F. for additional data. If they learned ^{from anyone except family} New Mexico was my destination it might cause trouble.

They are trying to get someone to fill in my teaching at The College. I hate to leave when there is such a teachers shortage in the Physics Dept.

Mrs. Page has been down for a few days to see B & help get things packed in boxes, especially things which will be left behind. She left this afternoon.

We have been trying to get our furniture on its way before Christmas so it will be there when we arrive but I guess it won't go until after Christmas. It is certainly complicated to get all

312 NORTH PRINCETON AVENUE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

The details cleared up. We are renting
the house to a new man in the art Dept,
^{who} replacing a man recently drafted in ^{the latter} ~~the~~
has two children, I believe, but he will
go to Wash to be a Special Officer &
use his "art" to a advantage, instead
of taking basic training.

I shall be working up until a
short while before we leave - It is
too bad ~~we~~ won't get to see you,
Auntie and E. before we leave, or for
Christmas.

Barbara's general health seems to be
better since her operation, although
her "nerv" + asthma still exist.

They are going to pay me the same amount as I get from the College + Bated & will give us 5¢ a mile + \$6 per day towards driving out. Also They pay up to 5000 lb shipping charges on household effects. I doubt that our load will amount to that. We have the room plans of our future apartment & it looks well planned with lots of closet space. They furnish wood for the fire place & a man looks after the furnace. The appt. with services such as they are will cost about \$70 per month which is better than you can do in S. W. The cost is based on one's salary & not on space occupied which is determined by the size of the family. Please don't quote anything in this letter to anyone outside the family. Love Bill

Tuesday, December 21, 1943

Dear Mother,

The suit came – it fits nicely and looks fine. I sent Tracy a check for it. We had the Wellers over for dinner and took them to the players Club Saturday night and I wore it for the first time. Thanks very much for picking it out.

Would you mind getting another copy of my birth certificate for me from Earl Vedder? We got one when I was married but I don't know what became of it. I might be a good idea to take it along with me when we go west.

We are tentatively planning to leave about December 30 unless some hitch arises. Right now Mary-Leigh is quite sick with a cold. Barbara got some medicine for her from the Doctor tonight. I had the gripe a week ago – a different bug from what I had a month ago, which was intestinal. This time I just ached for 2 days ran a temp and then was o.k. Everyone seems to have had it or is getting it, but it seems to go in a couple of days and not be very serious. The radio said 200,000 people in the Phila area had it. I suppose there won't be so many bugs around the site in New Mexico.

I don't know exactly what they are working on there and won't know until I start work. My job will be more or less what I have been doing at the Bartol – electrical work. They got after me by virtue of the reports I had written in connection with the MIT projects. I know very little about it all and won't be able to say anything, I suppose, even as to how big the place is, who of our friends, if any, are there. It may be that outgoing mail will be censored although I imagine we will be told what mustn't be mentioned. At any rate don't mention to people or let it get in the paper where I am, even mentioning out west. If you must say anything, just mention I have left Swarthmore temporarily for war work.

The FBI are looking me up again and probably will visit Montour Falls for additional data. If they learned from anyone except family that New Mexico was my destination it might cause trouble.

They are trying to get someone to fill in my teaching at the college. I hate to leave when there is such a teacher shortage in the Physics Dept.

Mrs. Page has been down for a few days to see B and help get things packed in boxes, especially things which will be left behind. She left this afternoon.

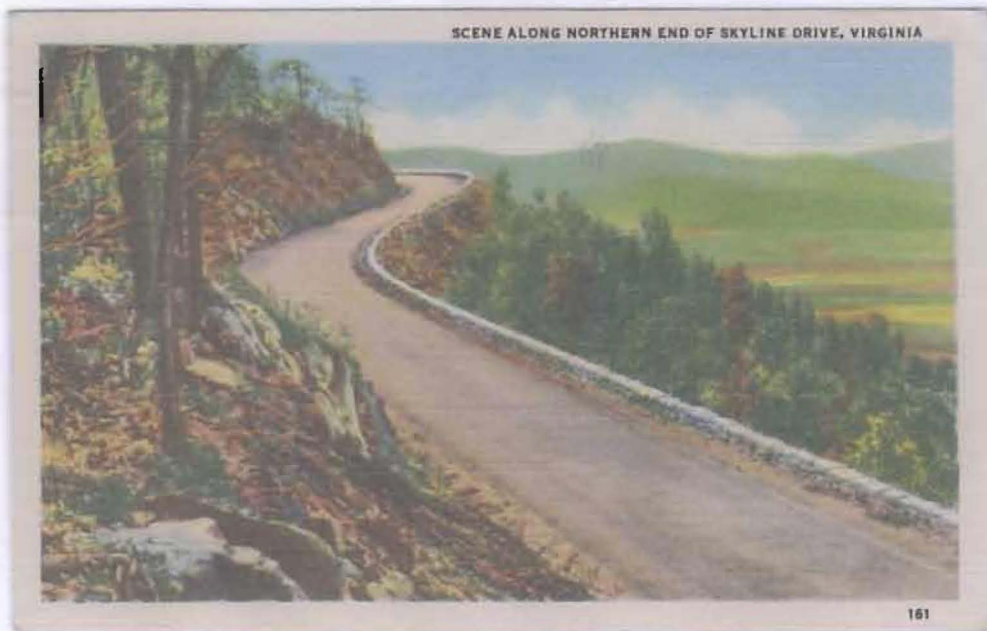
We have been trying to get our furniture on its way before Christmas so it will be there when we arrive but I guess it won't go until after Christmas. It is certainly complicated to get all the details cleared up. We are renting the house to a new man in the Art Dept, who replaces a man recently drafted. The latter has two children, I believe, but he will go to Wash to be a Special Officer and use his "art" to advantage, instead of taking basic training.

I shall be working up until a short while before we leave. It is too bad we won't get to see you, Auntie and E (Eleanor) before we leave, or for Christmas.

Barbara's general health seems to be getting since her operation, although her "nose" and asthma still exist.

They are going to pay me the same amount as I get from the college and Bartol and will give us 5 cents a mile and \$6 per day towards driving out. Also, they may up the 5,000 lb shipping charges on household effects. I doubt that our load will amount to that. We have the room plans of our future apartment and it looks well planned with lots of closet space. They furnish wood for the fireplace and a man looks after the furnace. The appt. with services such as they are will cost about \$70 per month, which is better than you, can do in Swarthmore. The cost is based on one's salary and not on space occupied which is determined by the size of the family. Please don't quote anything in this letter to anyone outside the family.

Love Bill



Dear Mother - We at last got off!
 We never put in such a POST CARD
 better two days in all my life - The girls
 had in our breakfast + we left at
 10:30 AM. + had lunch in the post office
 of Baltimore - We had been hoping
 to get to Staunton, Va. by night as there
 is a lovely place to stay there - but we
 couldn't get that far - We are now
 settled in a not very pretentious
 tourist home in ^{LURAY} ~~Staunton~~, Va. - home
 of the famous caverns - We went
 over the mountains just at sunset
 and they were lovely - with lots of snow -
 We decided that it would be foolish to
 go on the Skyline drive as the road was
 unpleasant - We got here at about 6:30 PM
 and are now ready to sleep after a day
 sleep last night - Love Babes

Mr. Grace C. Elmore
 Montom Falls
 N. Y.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 INDUSTRY AGRICULTURE
 FOR DEFENSE
 POSTAGE 8c

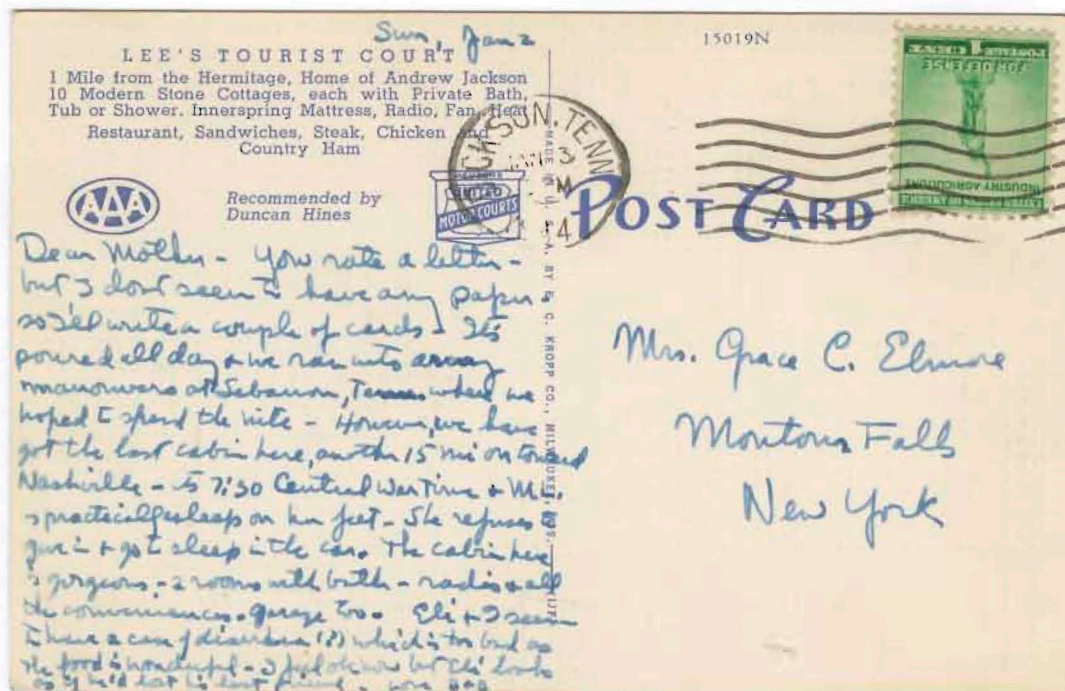
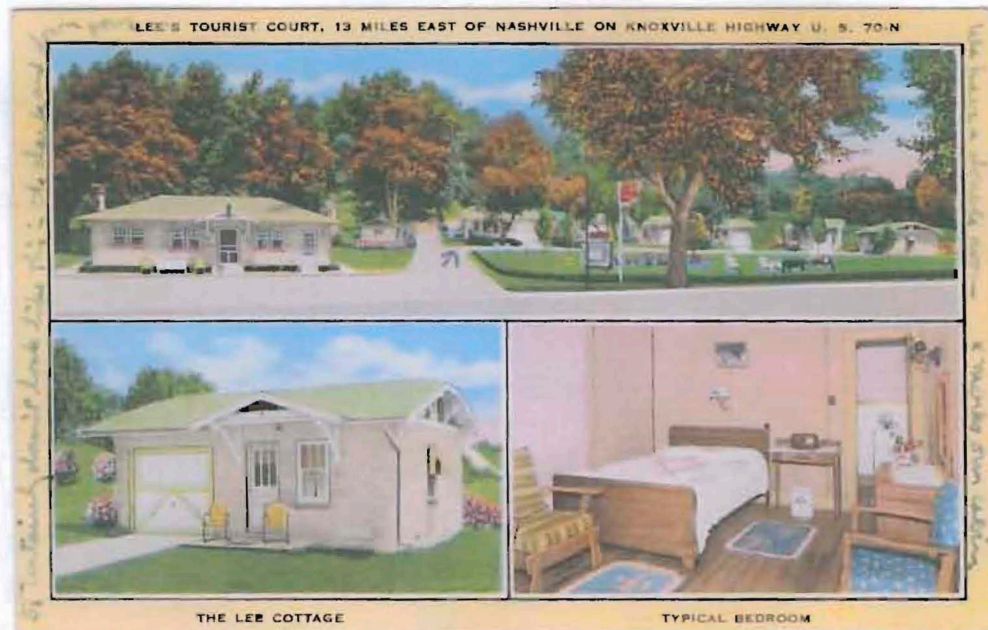
Washburn & Biehl, Inc., Frederick, Md.
 33913

January 1944

Dear Mother-

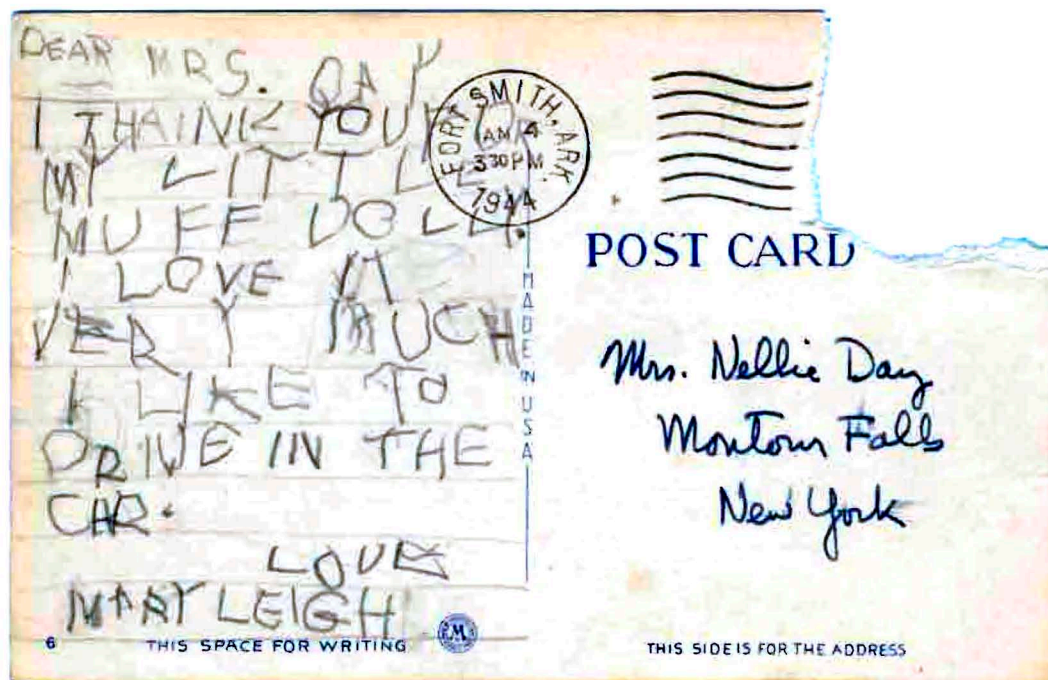
We at last got off! I've never put in such a hectic two days in all my life. The Garretts had us over to breakfast and we left Sw (Swarthmore) at 10:30 AM and had lunch in the outskirts of Baltimore. We had been hoping to get to Staunton Va. by nite as there is a lovely place to stay there – but we couldn't get that far. We are now settled in a not very pretentious tourist home in Luray, Va. – home of the famous caverns. We went over the mountain just at sunset and they were lovely – with lots of snow. We decided that it would be foolish to go on the Skyline Drive as the road was unplowed. He got here at about 6:30 and are now ready to sleep after only 4 hours sleep last nite.

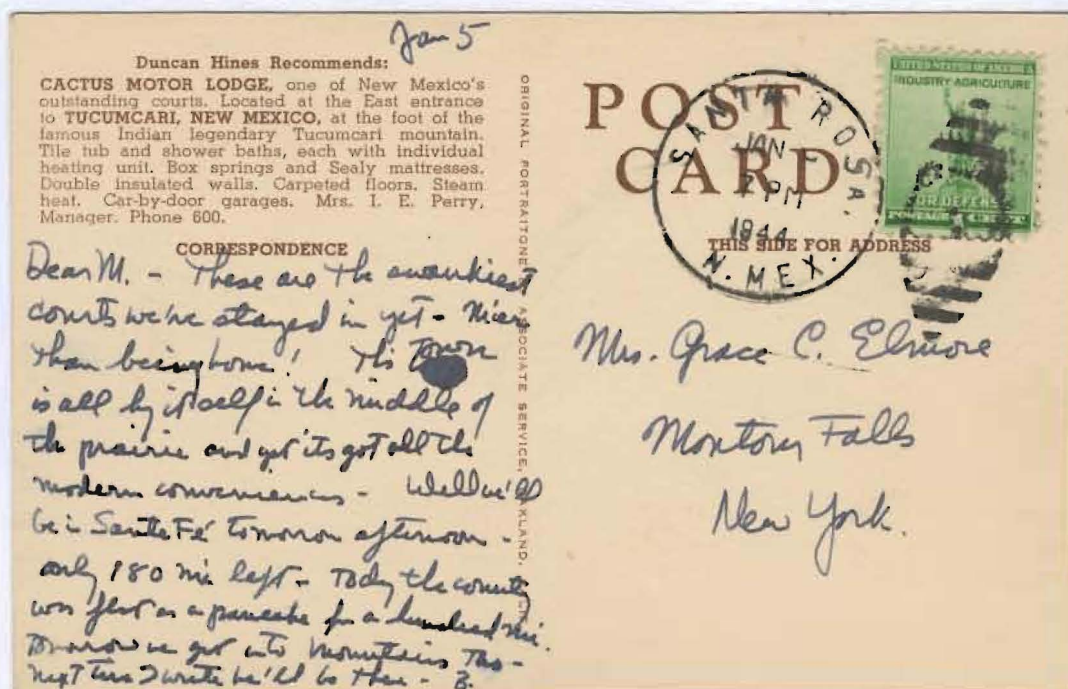
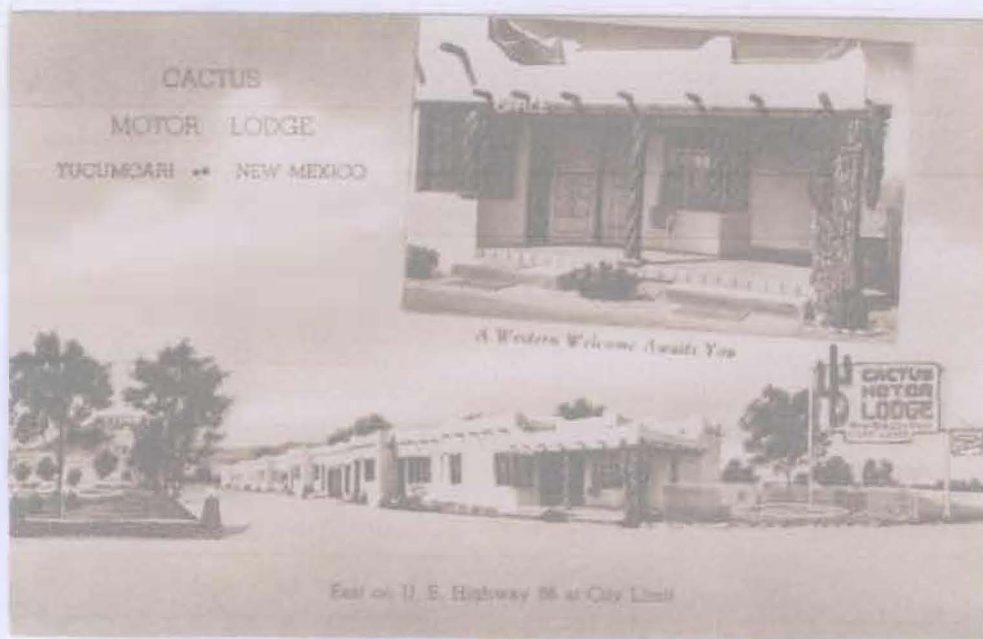
Love Barbie



Post card from Lee's Tourist Court
Sunday January 2, 1944

Dear Mother – you rate a letter – but I don't seem to have any paper so I'll write a couple of cards – It's poured all day and we ran into army maneuvers at Lebanon, Tenn. where we hoped to spend the night – However we have got the last cabin here, another 15 mi on toward Nashville. It's 7:30 Central war time and ML is practically asleep on her feet. She refuses to give in and go to sleep in the car. The cabin here is gorgeous – 2 rooms with bath, radio and all the conveniences. Garage too. Eli and I seem to have a case of diarrhea (?) which is too bad as the food is wonderful. I feel OK now but Eli looks as if he'd lost his last friend. Love B & B





Post Card from Santa Rosa, New Mexico to Grace C. Elmore, Montour Falls, New York
January 5, 1944

Dear M. These are the swankiest courts we've stayed in yet. Nicer than being home! This town is all by itself in the middle of the prairie and yet its got all the modern conveniences. Well we'll be in Santa Fe tomorrow afternoon, only 180 miles left. Today the country was flat as a pancake from a hundred miles. Tomorrow we get into mountains. The next time I write we'll be there. B



No. 15—TUCUMCARI MOUNTAIN, N. M.

The Indian legend as told by Chief Geronimo is that: An old Apache chief named Wautonamah lived on the mountain with his beautiful daughter Kari. He chose two braves of his tribe as prospective husbands, and to follow him as chief—one Tocom, loved by the girl, the other Tonapon, whom she hated. The old chief suggested a duel with daggers for her hand. Kari overheard the plan, hid in the trees, and when Tonapon killed Tocom, rushed out, slew Tonapon and herself, falling across Tocom's body. Her father hearing the news, killed himself with her dagger crying, "Tocom-Kari".

The name is now called Tucumcari.

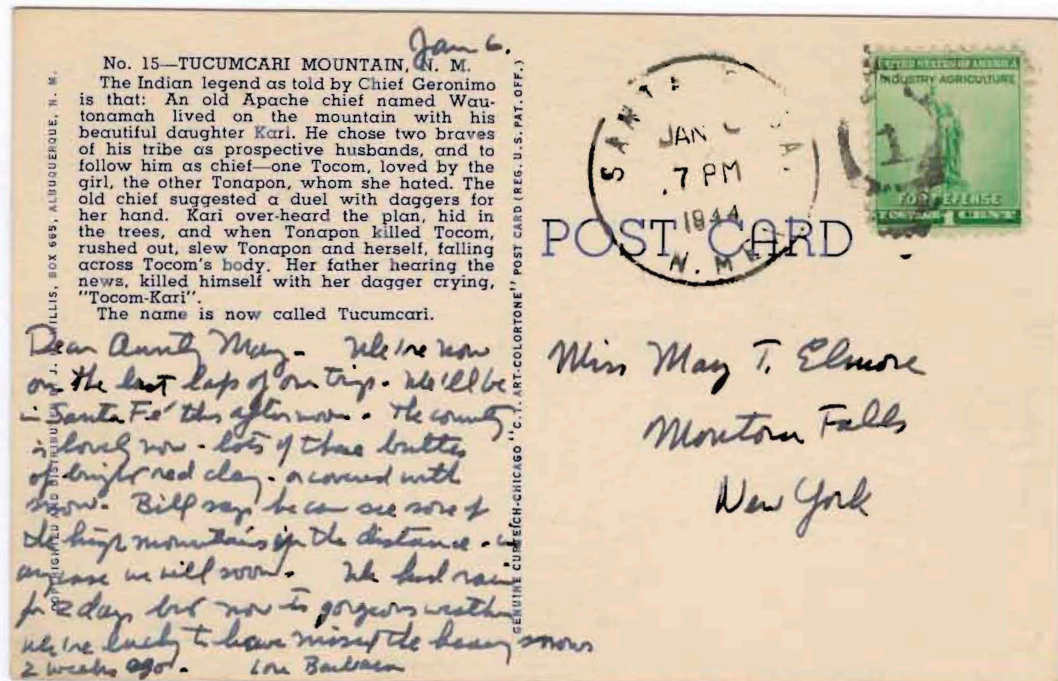
Jan 6
Dear Tossie - We are almost there now
We'll be in Santa Fe by 3 P.M. The country
is getting more interesting now - higher red
cliffs & those funny buttes sticking up
every so often. Yesterday we went for a hundred
miles over perfectly flat country - high
everywhere from 5000 to 6000 ft. and back - we have
making pretty good time. We have been
staying in very comfortable cabins - Mr. & Mrs.
Eli have been little angels - Love is.

POST CARD

Miss Eleanor Elmore
Elizabeth town
New York

Post Card from Santa Rosa, New Mexico to Eleanor Elmore, Elizabethtown, New York
January 6, 1944

Dear Tissie, we're almost there now. We'll be in Santa Fe by 3pm. The country is getting more interesting now, bright red earth and these funny buttes sticking up every so often. Yesterday we went for a hundred miles over practically flat country. Ugh! Everyone goes 50 or 60 miles/hr. out here. So we're making pretty good time. We've been staying in very swanky cabins. ML and Eli have been little angels. Love B.



Post Card from Santa Rosa, New Mexico to May T. Elmore, Montour Falls, New York
January 6, 1944

Dear Aunty May, We're now on the last lap of our trip. We'll be in Santa Fe this afternoon. The country is lovely now, lots of the buttes of bright red clay, or covered with snow. Bill says he can see some of the high mountains in the distance – in any case we will soon [be there]. We had rain for 2 days but now it's gorgeous weather. We've lucky to have missed the heavy snow 2 weeks ago. Love Barbara

By authority of Army regulations which govern the administration of This Post, Military Censorship has been inaugurated affecting all incoming and out going mail to persons residing on this Post. This advice is being tendered you with the understanding that you will not disseminate it beyond your immediate family. This step is being taken in the interests of security of military information which would be of value to our enemies. Request that this notice be signed and returned to the self-addressed, postage free envelope provided for this purpose.

By authority of army regulations which govern the administration of the Post, Military Censorship has been inaugurated affecting all incoming and outgoing mail to persons resident on this Post. This advice is being tendered you with the understanding that you will not disseminate it beyond your immediate family. This step is being taken in the interest of security of military information which would be of value to our enemies. Request that this notice be signed and returned to the self addressed postage free envelope provided for this purpose.

Saturday, Jan 8
1944

Dear Mother -

Well, we got here early Thursday - and of course everything is just thrilling. I naturally can't tell you much of anything - but I'll keep a diary or something & when we're back home again I'll make up for lost time.

We got into Santa Fe in time to eat lunch & look about a bit - It certainly is a fascinating place. I hope we get a chance to see more of it. Here we have a 2 bed room apartment

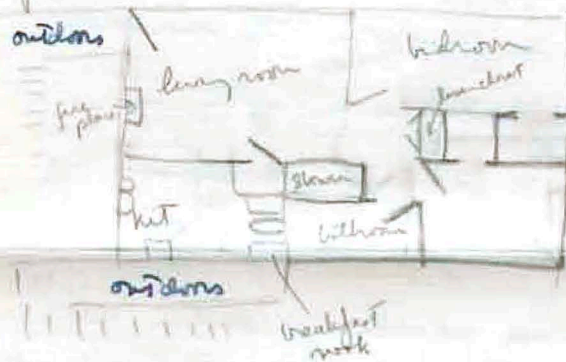
on the second floor. The houses are 2 story with 2 apartments on each floor. They are very efficiently planned. The kitchen has more cupboard space than I have at home - & a gorgeous new refrigerator. The stove burner, is an old fashioned wood stove with an oil burner in it. They've given us a double electric plate, so we'll make out fine. The living room has a fireplace & the big windows (with the most gorgeous view you can imagine). The bedrooms are smaller with 3 closets in all & a big linen closet & drawers in the hall. The bathroom has no tub - only

a shower. I suppose I'll have to get used to that. The only disappointing thing is the heat. They use soft local coal + every chimney billows out quantities of black smoke. + the hot air ventilators in every room pour out black soot all over everything. I've spent most of yesterday + today scrubbing the woodwork + curtains + floors. It's fatal to stand on the walls as where ever you step it leaves a black smudge + it would be a life job to do all of it. We all have to wash face + hands continually + hate to think of the laundry!

There's lots of snow - M.L. is heart broken that she has to sled. + evidently it's practically impossible to get one around here. There's little skating + skiing near here too. It started to snow again soon after we got here

+ we certainly were glad to have got here when we did - (oops - into). The roads up here are terrible - I only hope the van can get our furniture in. Speaking of furniture - everyone is very pessimistic about our getting it for some time. People here

have had to wait weeks + weeks for things.
We're quite comfortable. Th, with 2 beds +
2 bureaus + a borrowed chair. The
apartment looks like this - roughly.



pretty messy
drawing

Salv.

Everyone has been very nice to us here -
We find we know only a couple - but I imagine
we'll know every one soon - M.L. won't be
able to go to nursery school I guess as they are all
full up + are off taking those whose mothers work.
I imagine I'll ~~they~~ ^{part time} get a job soon or later - what
every one does. There is a big problem of getting
handicraft + other odds + ends, as Santa Fe is
about sold out. I guess I'll have to send for
some stuff from Montgomery Ward. Also I'd
liked to get some gay inexpensive Mexican
cloth to make slip covers - but they say

That Santa Fe doesn't have much - the way
of materials - or dishes either - I'd wanted
to get a breakfast set for every day use -

M.C. has found several children to play
with already. She was out in the snow all
morning & walking with me all afternoon -
It gets quite warm & the sky is so clear & the
sun is dazzling that you can hardly see.

Well I see where we always eat - the
kitchen - we have this little breakfast nook
at the end of the kitchen & it'll be nice &
convenient - At present we are using it for
everything as we have no other furniture -

Eli is all recovered - I guess he was just
apprehensive over the trip - I think the
altitude has helped my asthma (or perhaps it

was just that I slept badly on the trip
that I had more) Th this coal smoke may
aggravate it even more. It certainly
is hot as to fit in here. We have to keep the
windows open all the time to keep it cool!

all for now - love

Mrs. William Elmore

Burlie

Saturday, January 8, 1944

Dear Mother,

Well, we got here early Thursday, and of course everything is just thrilling. I naturally can't tell you much of anything, but I'll keep a diary or something and when we're back home again I'll make up for lost time. We got into Santa Fe in time to eat lunch and look about a bit. It certainly is a fascinating place. I hope we get a chance to see more of it. Here we have a 2 bedroom apartment on the second floor. The houses are 2 story with 2 apartments on each floor. They are very efficiently planned. The kitchen has more cupboard space than I have at home, and a gorgeous new refrigerator. The stove however, is an old fashioned wood stove with an oil burner in it. They've given us a double electric plate, though, so we'll make out fine. The living room has a fireplace and two big windows (with the most gorgeous view you can imagine). The bedrooms are smaller with 3 closets in all and a big linen closet and drawers in the hall. The bathroom has no tub, only a shower. I suppose I'll have to get used to that. The only disappointing thing is the heat. They use soft local coal and every chimney billows out quantities of black smoke, and the hot air ventilators in every room pour out black soot all over everything. I've spent most of yesterday and today scrubbing the woodwork and cupboards and floors. It futile to start on the walls as where ever you stop it leaves a black smudge and it would be a life job to do all of it. We all have to wash face and hands continually I hate to think of the laundry!

There's lots of snow. ML is heart broken that she has no sled, and evidently its practically impossible to get one around here. There's both skating and skiing near here too. It started to snow again soon after we got here and we certainly were glad to have got here when we did. (oops ..no ink) The roads up here are terrible. I only hope the van can get our furniture in. Speaking of furniture, everyone is very pessimistic about our getting it for some time. People here have had to wait weeks and weeks for theirs. We're quite comfortable tho, with 2 beds and 2 bureaus and borrowed china (chairs?). The apartment looks like roughly.

[Diagram of apartment]

Later

Everyone has been very nice to us here. We find we know only one couple, but I imagine we'll know everyone soon. ML won't be able to go to nursery school I guess as they are all full years and are only taking those whose mother's work. I imaging I'll jet a part time job sooner or later, about everyone does. There is a big problem of getting hardware and other odds and ends as Santa Fe is about sold out. I guess I'll have to send for some stuff from Montgomery Ward. Also I'd hoped to get some gay inexpensive Mexican cloth to make slip covers, but they say that Santa Fe doesn't have much in the way of material, or dishes either, I'd would like to get a breakfast set for everyday use.

ML has found several children to play with already. She was out in the snow all morning and walking with me all afternoon. It gets quite warm and the sky is so clear and the sun so dazzling that you can hardly see.

Well I see where we always eat in the kitchen; we have this little breakfast nook at the end of the kitchen. It'll be nice and convenient. At present we are using it for everything as we have no other furniture.

Eli is all recovered I guess he was just apprehensive on the trip. I think the altitude has helped my asthma (or perhaps it was just that I slept badly on the trip that I had more) tho this coal smoke may aggravate it even more. It certainly is hot tonight in here. We have to keep the windows open all the time to keep it cool
All for now, love Barbie

Mrs. William Elmore

P.O. Box 1663
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Fri. Jan 19
1944

Dear Mother and Aunt May, -

I don't seem to have much of anything to do
neither I've washed all the woodwork etc - So
I might as well get lots of letters written, because
when the furniture finally arrives I'll be kept
plenty busy. Bill's off to a meeting - they
have a couple a week - so I'm left alone to hold
the fort. However, I don't feel as lonesome as
I did the first few days. Everyone is very nice
tho they don't pay much attention to you at first
as you're the ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~one~~ ^{one} may be as you are - all the
time - Almost everyone is young - with children
and dogs galore. Bill's boss & his wife are very
nice with the most adorable baby ^{of 1 year} ~~you've~~ ^{you've} ever
set eyes on, also an older girl. I'll have to get
to know all the first names - as we can't mention
last ones.

Last Wk I had a pottery class thrued
the wives is starting - Its going to be fascinating -
there are only 3 or 4 of us there & we make some bowls
like the Indians do - We're going down to see
one of them make them pottery sometime - I'll

have to get some people interested in jewelry
work soon. I guess I'll find plenty to do
with out a job. I wish we could go out more
in the evening - they have square dances & regular
dances all the time - & movies every night - but
it's hard to get anyone to stay with your children
here. A lot of people depend on the other
people - the apartments to listen (and know
you can hear everything that goes on upstairs or
down) but the people downstairs have no
children - so I couldn't work it in reverse - so
I kind of hate to ask) Anyway Bill's going to
be plenty busy. They work all the time here -
even evenings. There are no special hours - just
you own conscience - & you know Bill! Well
as soon as all my stuff comes I've got plenty of
sewing to do - & I want to do a little decorating
in the apartment too. I think I'll paint some more of
those Penn. Dutch designs on the kid. cupboards -
then there'd be curtains & slipcovers etc.
I have the place at least looky a little
cleaner now - I tackled the windows the
other day. The outside were all smeared with
putty - it was the devil & all to get to the

outside. as there are no pulleys in the windows.
My pins that go thru + hold them at a couple of
different levels - + also screens to cope with.
I finally discovered that if you took off one molding
you could pull the window out - + clean it that
way.

I also cleaned out the stove.
The people before us - + perhaps even before they came
here brought here - had used coal + wood in them
+ there were ashes way down on the farther side
of the oven - I had to reach way down in + sort
of ease them out - the reach in from a 2x4 in
slot - the bottom + pull them out. I was
black with soot up to my elbows on both arms.
It's finally warm off today - tho I still black
under my finger nails - However I was worth it
The potatoes baked in 3/4 hr. taste whereas they
took 1 1/2 hrs before. The oil shorts in for
the back with a fan + is hot on the ditches.
The up trouble is it heats up the room terribly
I don't know what we'll do in the summer.

Poor Mary. Seize was sick last week. She
got another upset like the one a couple of months
ago. Couldn't hold anything down - even water

The pediatrician here is very nice & came over several times - & finally insisted that she go to the hospital ~~for~~ to get some liquid into her intravenously - She stayed 2 days & she seems ok the second day - Now she is virtually back to normal - The 5 years it took some longer of her - I wish I knew what caused it - Was that the sort of thing Bill had when he was little? He says he had seizures attacks every month - She probably got over-tired & over-excited - & perhaps ate something that didn't agree with her - I'm going to keep her in the hospital & see that it doesn't happen again -

I am definitely much better as far as the asthma & hay fever goes - I'm glad - goodness, I've slept all into several naps now - the first 2 naps & naps - Bill seems to feel fine - He was both sleeping a lot - I guess to the altitude - The sun comes & goes - is mostly used in the day time - with the most sparkling clear blue sky & you can see - The it freezes on our site - We have no problem of keeping warm - It is so hot I have windows open all day -

We're beginning to wonder how everything is at home - it seems years since we left. We're sure in for letters. We had some bad news from Southmore a few days ago - a telegram came from Ruth Wright to say that Helen Carroll's ~~old~~ baby had died - Remember she is the girl who lived diagonally across the street on the corner. ~~She~~ the baby came in Sept., a boy, & they were thrilled (they have 2 little girls) - I felt just terrible for her. I certainly wish I could have been with her to help her. I sent a telegram off quick & an air mail letter. I know no details yet as to why the baby died - He certainly was well when we left.

None of our magazines have been forwarded & we haven't finished the last installment of the Glencannon series! We'll have forgotten what it's about when we get it! - I'm reading a book on Mexico - & 2 books on pottery right now - I see where we branched out on our reading for M.L. Rose finds joy in - Grand & Florence, has quite a library of children's books (their little girl, Nancy is 6 yrs old) Florence was - kindergarten teacher

for me years & has always been deeply interested
in children's books. They have a great many
very good ones - & she says I may borrow all I
want. I really should read to M.L. more. Now
that she's past the stage of the babyish ^{studies} ~~studies~~ I'll
be more interested -

Boy, the food is going to be wonderful here -
The meat is marvelous & cheap & right (the fowl
there is still the points) I got the best marvelous
boiled lamb chops yesterday for 35¢ a lb. -
& a pot roast that melted in your mouth. Also
ice cream of 50¢ a qt. - & as much as you want.
Milk 14¢ - & Kleanex 15¢ for a big box -
all fruits are as low as the lb.

I sent a big order to Montgomery Ward yesterday
& hope I got the tips - The one thing that surprised
me is an over thermometer - I don't know who I'll
do - as I have no idea how hot the oven gets. If
you hear of anyone who has one she doesn't want to
send it to me - I remember that beauty we bought
at Cape Cod!

Well - I'd better sign off & give you eyes - rest.
See Eleanor soon ~~over~~ - & I'll write her soon.

Mrs. Wm. Ellmore

Love Barbra

PO Box 1663
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Fri. Jan 14, 1944

Dear Mother and Aunty May,

I don't seem to have much of anything to do now that I've washed all the woodwork, etc.,. So I might as well get lots of letters written, because when the furniture finally arrives I'll be kept plenty busy. Bill's off to a meeting – they have a couple a week – so I'm left alone to hold the fort. However, I don't feel as lonesome as I did the first few days. Everyone is very nice though they don't pay much attention to you at first as of course they are so many new ones coming in all the time. Almost everyone is young – with children and dogs galore. Bill's boss and his wife are very nice with the most adorable baby of 1 year you're ever set eyes on, also an older girl. I'll have to get to know all the first names ' as we can't mention last ones.

Last night I went to a pottery class that one of the wives is starting – it's going to be fascinating – there were only 3 or 4 of us there and we made some bowls like the Indians do. We're going down to see some of them make their pottery sometime. I'll have to get some people interested in Jewelry work soon. I guess I'll find plenty to do without a job. I wish we could go out more in the evening. They have square dances and regular dances all the time, and movies every night, but it's hard to get anyone to stay with your children here. A lot of people depend on the other people in the apartments to listen (and you can hear everything that goes on upstairs and down) but the people beneath us have no children, so I couldn't work out in reverse – so I kind of hate to ask). Anyway, Bill's going to be plenty busy. They work all the time here – even evenings. There are no special hours; just your own conscience and you know Bill! Well as soon as all my stuff comes I've got plenty of sewing to do and I want to do a little decorating to this apartment too. I think I'll paint some more of those Penna. Dutch designs on the kitchen cupboards, then there'll be curtains and slipcovers, etc. I have the place at least looking a little cleaner now. I tackled the windows the other day. The outsides were all smeared with putty – It was the devil and all to get to the outsides, as there are no pulleys on the windows. The pins that go through and hold them at a couple of different levels and also screens to cope with. I finally discovered that if you took off one molding you could pull the window out and clean it that way. I also cleaned out the stove. The people before us – and perhaps even before the stove was brought here, had used coal and wood in them and there were ashes way down on the farther side of the oven. I had to reach way down in and sort of ease them under – then reach in from a 2 x 4 inch slot in the bottom and pull them out. I was black soot up to my elbows on both arms. It's finally worn off today – though it's still black under my fingernails. However it was worth it. The potatoes baked in $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. tonight where as they took 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs before. The oil shoots in from the back with a fan and is hot as the dickens. The only trouble is it heats up the room terrifically. I don't know what we'll do in the summer.

Poor Mary-Leigh was sick last week. She got another upset like the one a couple of months ago. Couldn't hold anything down – even water. The pediatrician here is very nice and came over several times and finally insisted that she go to the hospital to get some liquids into her intravenously. She stayed 2 days though she seemed ok the second day. Now she is finally back to normal, though I guess it took some weight off her. I wish I knew what caused it. Was that the sort of thing Bill has when he was little? He says he had bilious attacks every month. She probably got over tired and over excited, and perhaps ate something that didn't agree with her. I'm going to keep better watch and see that it doesn't happen again.

I am definitely much better as far as the asthma and hay fevers goes. I'm do glad, goodness, I've slept all night several nights now, the first in months and months. Bill seems to feel fine, though we both feel sleepy a lot. I guess it's the altitude. The snow comes and goes, it's mostly mud in the daytime, with the most sparkling clear blue sky you've ever seen – then it freezes over at night. We have no problem of keeping warm though – it's so hot I have windows open all day.

We're beginning to wonder how everything is at home. It seems years since we left. We're anxious for letters. We had some bad news from Swarthmore a few days ago. A telegram came from Ruth Wright to say that Helen Carroll's baby had died. Remember she is the girl who lived diagonal across the street on the corner. Her baby came in September, a boy and they were thrilled. (They have 2 little girls. I felt just terrible for her. I certainly wish I could have been with her to help her. I sent a telegram off quickly and an airmail letter. I know no details yet as to why the baby died. He certainly was well when we left.

None of our magazines have been forwarded yet and I haven't finished the last installment of the Glencannon serial! We'll have forgotten what it's about when we get it. I'm reading a book on Mexico and 2 books on pottery right now. I see where we branch out on some reading for ML. These friends of ours, Grant and Florence, have quite a library of children's books and their little girl, Nancy, is 6 yrs old. Florence was a kindergarten teacher for some years and has always been deeply interested in children's books. They have a great many very good ones, and she says I may borrow all I want. I really should read to ML more. Now that she's past the stage of the babyish stories I will be more interested.

Boy the food is going to be wonderful here. The meat is marvelous and cheap as anything (Though often there is still the points). I got the most marvelous loin lamb chops yesterday for only 35 cents a lb. and a post roast that melted in your mouth. Also ice cream only 50 cents a qt. and as much as you want. Milk 14 cents and Kleenex 15 cents for a big box. All fruits etc are by the pound.

I spent a big order to Montgomery Ward yesterday and before I get the things, the thing that's impossible to get is an oven thermometer. I don't know what I'll do as I have no idea how hot the oven gets. If you hear of anyone who has one she doesn't want, do spend it to me. I remember that beauty we left at Cape Cod!

Well, I'd better sign off and give your eyes a rest. Let Eleanor know our news and I'll write her soon.

Love Barbie

Mrs. Wm. Elmore

P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe N.M.

Jan. 20, 1944.

Dear Mother -

Barbara has described our trip out. We stayed in Motor Courts, mostly, and if you pick and choose they are very good - much better than Tourist Homes, or Hotels for that matter. Our expenses ran about \$100 for the 2200 mile trip - we didn't try to skimp.

The weather in N.M. is peculiar. During the day everything in the sun melts and turns into deep mud - by 6 P.M. - Mt. War Time - it is mostly frozen again. There were a couple of days of snow when we first came - since then it has been beautifully clear. You have never seen such bright stars at night as there are here.

Last Sunday we went for a short climb, pulling Mary along on a sled for about half the way. There is lots of snow in the woods, but it was created where we walked, since some skiers had been along the road - woods - road - when the snow fell the previous week.

We have seen quite a bit of some friends we knew in New Haven. Next Sunday we are going ^{with them} to see the festivities at one of the Indian Pueblos, driving there in our car. It should be very interesting. Barbara and I have

been reading a book on N. M. and it is quite interesting to find out about the various Indians - and the big contrast between the pueblo Indians and the Navaho's & apaches, etc. The majority of the pueblo Indians are within driving distance, in these times, of Santa Fe. The Navaho's are in the north west corner of the state.

Tonglet Barbona is out making pottery with a ^{small} group. They use the same clay as do the Indians - and hope soon to have a small kiln to bake their produce. We have to get some stones, turquoise, petrified wood, etc and learn to polish it for jewelry making. Barbona probably will have a metalwork class after we get settled. We brought the tools along for jewelry making, but not for bowls etc. requiring molds.

My work is very interesting, and I am glad we came. Wish you could see this country - I don't recommend the flat part we came through - from the middle of Tenn almost to Santa Fe - ^{many} the roads disappeared both forward and backward as far as you could see - straight as a string.

Love Bill
William C. Elmore.

PO Box 1663, Santa Fe, N.M.
January 20, 1944

Dear Mother,

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Tonight Barbara is out making pottery with a small group. They use the same clay as do the Indians and hope soon to have a small kiln to bake their produce. We hope to get some stones, turquoise, petrified wood, etc and learn to polish it for jewelry making. Barbara probably will have a metal work class after we get settled. We brought her tools along for jewelry making, but not for bowls, etc. requiring molds.

My work is very interesting, and I am glad we came. Wish you could see this country – I don't recommend the flat part we came through – from the middle of Tenn. almost to Santa Fe. Many of the roads disappeared both frontwards and backwards as far as you could see, straight as a string. Love Bill

William C. Elmore

P.O. Box 1663

Santa Fe, N.M.

Sunday, Jan 23

Dear Tossie, -

I think I definitely owe you a letter - tho I hope mother has kept you informed of our arrival etc. We're both crazy about this place - and feel that we've been here for ages already. I find that I now know my way around to some extent and know a few people to a lesser extent. There are so many people coming all the time that no one pays much attention to newcomers. Again there are so many new & exciting things to see & do that I don't mind care. We found two old friends from N.H. - who you should know Kempf & as Grace & Florence. & of course there are others that we've heard of before - & a few that know Houston.

Bill's working pretty hard - he starts in around 8:30 ~ 9 AM (tho there are no set hours) and gets home at 6:30 - with of course an hour at noon time - then he usually goes back

in the evening as he can't bring his stuff
home to work on. I haven't much to do
as yet as the furniture still hasn't come -
We have a dinette table & benches that
we use every minute - & they provided
us with temporary beds & bureaus -
Someone lent us a couple of camp chairs
& a few dishes so we're really making our
fire.

Today we had the grandest time - We
took Frank & Florence & a young English couple
down to a big festival at the San Ildefonso
Indian Pueblo - not far from here. They were
all dressed in the costumes of blankets & long
hair braided & bound up - The dances
were fascinating - One group wore buffaloes
heads & horns & deer antlers with paint
all over their faces. The other group wore the
feather headdresses. The adobe houses are
very interesting - It's so surprising to see doors
& windows with glass or painted trim.

me busy - I thought at first I'd get a job
but I think I'll have more than enough
interest to keep me occupied - To
begin with I'm going to take me a lot more
time to keep home as this place is busy
with work - Shells, workbooks etc have to
be worked every few weeks - & we have this
old fashioned work store too - which is funny
to work with - The all in all the apartment
is really very efficient - & when summer comes
~~so~~ hope the dust will stop - The thing is the
dust starts then!

Mon. eve.

We're having a regular blizzard now -
in fact as a lot of the snow had melted leaving
mud that oozes up to your ankles whenever
you step in it. Whenever I hang anything out
on the line I have to be sure to get it out before
the mud throws out in the morning - & take
it in after it freezes at night - Speaking of
laundry - I can't wait till my birthday arrives

While we just been reading a book on New Mexico.
These Pueblo Indians have always lived here
since way before the Spaniards ^{came}. They are
very different from the ~~Navaho~~ Navaho
Indians - But perhaps you know all that.
The Pueblo Indians are the ones who make
all the pottery - There is a girl here who
is starting a group to do pottery work - It
was boiled down to me & her & we're going
to have a small time making pottery out of the
Indian clay that they got around here. Bill
going to try & make me a pottery wheel. He
already made a few bowls the way the Indians
^(they use no wheels) do - you turn a little round bottomed
shallow dish around & around & soil
up the sides by rolling clay out.

I'm going to get a jewelry group started
soon too. There is a turquoise mine somewhere
not too far off & we'll probably be able to
find some & polish them ourselves.

So see when I'll have plenty to keep

Everyj gets duty in three minutes. I have
to wash M.C.'s P.J.'s at every day! -
They have a central laundry with core wash
machines & mangles - I used it on Sat.
& washed 8 sheets.

We have a little radio here that
somewhere has to tell our arrivals - It's amazing
all the stations you can get, esp. in the
evening - They have a little broadcast
station here in the evening. They play
records - it certainly is nice.

I'm dying to try the movies - They show them
every night but Monday. with three changes a
week. However it's quite a problem to find
someone to stay with children at night. So we

probably won't go much. They have dances every
Sat. too - Ben dances every other week -
we plan to go this Sat.

You'd love it here - I wish your mother
could come - If we found a job for you - would
you consider it? They have a nice school

+ I think they are always looking for teachers.
The weather is too divine for words - if
it weren't for the snow I'd want to live here
forever.

Everyone has babies here - it's ideal - no
doctor or hospital bills - all here to bring
up & get on started! The majority of the
people are young & there are loads of children
& babies & dogs all over. I haven't been
back riding yet - the hope I can soon.
We plan to go off every Sunday on some kind
of trip. There are endless places to go to see
the sights & places to hike to. People always
combine up on trips in the car to save gas. We
can't afford to run gas for the trip out.

How's everything - Elizabeth's town? What are
you doing for letters.

lots of love

Bambi

P.S. I hope you can decipher the scribble



PO Box 1663
Santa Fe, N.M.
Sunday, January 23, 1944

Dear Tissie,

I think I definitely owe you a letter, though I hope mother has kept you informed of our arrival etc. We're both crazy about this place and feel that we've been here for ages already. I find that I now know my way around to some extent and know a few people to a lesser extent. There are so many people coming all the time that no one pays much attention to new comers. However, there are so many new and exciting things to see and do that I don't much care. We found two old friends from N.H., whom you shall know henceforth as Grant and Florence, and of course there are others that we've heard of before, one or two that knew Thornton.

Bill's working pretty hard. He starts around 8:30 or 9 am (though there are so Sat hours) and gets home at 6:30, with of course an hour at noontime. Then he usually goes back in the evening, as he can't bring his stuff home to work on. I haven't much to do as yet as our furniture still hasn't come. We have a dinette table and benches that we use every minute, and they provided us with temporary beds and bureaus. Someone lent us a couple of camp chairs and a few dishes so we're really making out fine.

Today we had the grandest time. We took Grant and Florence and a young English couple down to a big festival at the San Ildefonso Indian Pueblo not far from here. They were all dressed in their costumes of blankets and long hair braided or bound up. The dresses were fascinating. One group wore buffalo hides and horns and deer antlers with paint all over their faces and chests. The other group wore the feather headdresses. The adobe houses are very interesting though I was surprised to see doors and windows with glass or painted trim.

We've just been reading a book on New Mexico. These Pueblo Indians have always lived here since way before the Spaniards came. They are very different from the nomadic Navaho Indians. But perhaps you know all this. The Pueblo Indians are the ones who make all the pottery. There is a girl here who is starting a group to do pottery work. It's mostly boiled down to me and her and we're going to have a swell time making pottery out of the Indian clay that they get around here. Bill's going to try and make me a potter's wheel. I've already made a few bowls the way the Indians do (they use no wheels). You twirl a little round bottomed shallow dish around and around and coil up the sides by rolling clay out.

I'm going to get a jewelry group started sometime. There's a turquoise mine somewhere not too far off and we'll probably be able to find some and polish them ourselves.

I see where I'll have plenty to keep me busy. I thought at first I'd get a job but I think I'll have more than enough interesting things to keep me occupied. To begin with its going to take me a lot more time to keep house as this place is lousy with soot – Shelves, woodwork, etc, have to be washed every few weeks, and we have this old fashioned wood stove too, which is fussy to work with. Though all in all the apartment is really very efficient and when summer comes I hope the dirt will stop. Though they say the dust starts then!

Monday evening

We're having a regular blizzard tonight. I'm glad, as a lot of the snow had melted leaving mud that oozes up to your ankles whenever you step on it. Whenever I having anything out of the line I have to be sure to get it out before the mud thaws out in the morning, and take it in after it freezes at night. Speaking of laundry I can't wait until my Bendix arrives. Everything gets dirty in three minutes. I have to wash ML's PJ's out every day! They have a central laundry with some washing machines and mangles. I used it on Saturday and washed 8 sheets.

We have a little radio here that someone lent us till ours arrives. It's amazing all the stations you can get, especially in the evening. They have a little broadcasting station here in the evening. They play records; it certainly is nice.

I'm dying to try the movies. They show them every night but Monday, with three changes a week. However it's quite a problem to find someone to stay with children at night. So we probably won't go much. They have dances every Sat. too. Barn dances every other week. We plan to go this Sat.

You'd love it here. I wish you and Mother could come. If we found a job for you, would you consider it? They have a nice school and I think they are always looking for teachers. The weather is too divine for words. If it weren't for this soot I'd want to live her forever.

Everyone has babies here. It's ideal, no doctors or hospital bills. I'll have to hurry up and get one started! The majority of the people are young and there are scads of children and babies and dogs all over. I haven't been house back riding yet, though hope I can soon. We plan to go off every Sunday on some kind of trip. There are endless places to go to see the sights and places to hike to. People always combine up on trips in the car to save gas. We came out ahead on our gas for the trip out.

How's everything in Elizabethtown? Write some time. We long for letter.

Lots of love, Barbie

Ps. I hope you can decipher this scribble.

P.O. Box 1663

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jan 28th 1944

Dear Mother,

Both your letters and one from Eleanor arrived practically at once. and I certainly was glad to get them. I've felt kind of at loose ends in spite of all the friends we've made - because of the damn bare house with no sewing to do or not even clothes to wash for the mother - we bought a little outfit in the car.

I'm sorry the address got left out. I guess I thought Bill had given it to you in that last letter he wrote before he left.

There seems to be more things to do now than we are getting to know more people - who've been invited out a bit. So next I went into Santa Fe with the K's (Grace & Florence). I couldn't find any of the things I wanted - but I did have a fine time looking in all the Indian & Mexican shops. One place you can actually watch the Indians at work making the jewelry. In one place I bought a lovely Indian corn necklace of the most beautiful red & coppery color. I see where I'm going to have fun around Christmas!

Last Sunday we took the K's and another young English couple down to the San Ildefonso Indian Pueblo to see their biggest festival of the year. The low adobe houses are fascinating - all built around a courtyard where the dances were given. The drummers come out first - then the dancers. The Pueblo had two distinct parts - the old part & the new - one side gave the annual dances they all wore the heads & horns of buffalo & mountain sheep - painted on the faces & torsos - after the dance they retire to the Kiva (ceremonial

chamber) + rest - then come out + do it all over again. While one side of the pueblo was resting the other side gave to dance. They wore the gorgeous colored costumes + blankets - with great feathered head-dresses. It certainly was a sight. There were hundreds of spectators - + many Indians for other pueblos. The mud was ankle deep, but the dancers ignored it. Most of the domestic help here came from this pueblo and one other - for 2 weeks before this festival they have all been baking for their hosts. evidently they have to feed all the Indians that come from other pueblos - so people here have kind of sort of help. There are also several famous potters at this pueblo + we hope to go down sometime + watch them. I joined a group here that are interested in pottery. we're having a grand time.

I've seen a good bit of Ethel F. Bill's bones wife - there are with the adorable year old baby, Eva, (that I told you about) She lives quite close. + I borrow every thing under the sun from her. She is having a tea tomorrow - + had one last Sat. too. Everyone I've met is so nice. Sunday we're invited to dinner at the J's - They are Chinese food fanatics - + boy, can they cook it! There are quite a bunch of them that get together + each brings one Chinese dish of food when they all stuff themselves + bursting!

Tomorrow night we have actually found someone to stay with M.L. + we're going to the square dance that they have every other week. There is also a girl Scout dance the same night - + a darn good movie - but I guess we can't do everything! I haven't been to the movies yet. Bill goes back to a meeting + to work almost every night. When I have my pottery + Thurs. eve. and there's always the job of finding someone to stay with M.L.

Well - I guess I'd better go thru your + Eleanor's letters + answer + answer questions - I just wrote E. a couple of days ago - so perhaps you'll send this to her too.

To begin with don't bother to send the Sat. Eve. Post - I'll write Wuthrop to make a bundle of all the accumulated magazines + send them to us - I'm sure our subscription started ok. - It is just the time it takes to have the address changed - I think ^{has it changed} ~~it's~~ ^{soon} because Bill hadn't let us that we got here. In any case there are several people we know here who take it - I know them well enough not to ask to borrow it.

We laughed hard on the pop concentration camp - How could that have ever started? Esp. as Bill isn't in uniform now! What you put in the paper sounds fine.

The altitude does not make Mel sleep now - if anything she sleeps less - don't know! She's had a little cold the past few days but doesn't feel badly - She's been awfully irritable lately - I think it's because we're so disorganized with no furniture or toys or anything familiar. Don't you think she's rather young for a voyage? I haven't seen Florence since you left her care - I'd like to know what she thinks - Maybe it would be just the thing.

You speak of my stove + working - I did clean the stove with my hands. Bill told me of the sort of thing you had to do it with - but there is no mud thing here - However, it's done now + I don't intend to use wood or coal - it again so no more will accumulate - The oil is nice + clean. The stove really works fine - if only I knew how hot the oven is!

It has a central laundry ^{unit} with 4 machines + iron + wringer. I heard an once + washed 7 sheets etc - They're just ordinary washers + wringers with electric wringers - I sure do miss my laundry! The dirt

comes out pretty quickly - the tops certainly do get dirty fast - you should see the sheets that have been at the ends of a few days! - And M.L.'s underwear after 1/2 hrs. wear!

I think Bill is enjoying his work here tremendously - I just wish I could tell you how exactly it all is - ^{he works} he ^{works} pretty long hours - a lot evenings - but it's worth it - in the summer we'll take more time off - see this - By the way we'll probably do something every Sunday but not much on week days.

As I told you before, the food is grand compared to what we've been getting at home - Especially the meat - The vegetables are 25-35 - a plenty of bird's eye ones - string beans of 19¢ a box! The eggs are the only disappointing thing - very dull & old to the fashion & pretty expensive too - The milk seems good tho tho they say it's not too safe - Both M.L. & I have had typhoid shots - Paul's a rising - The 3 of us want to wear him down soon - We always going to take tetanus shots (not the same as the one you take after an injury) All the food is very cheap - because it's gov. stuff I guess - Plenty of ice cream & such.

We have plenty of gas left over - & as we don't use ^{the car} much here at all (luckily we were given a house that close to everything) we'll have plenty to use on trips next summer. ~~There~~ There are no garages - The cars just sit out exposed to the weather. M.L. has not made many friends yet as she hasn't been out much. I think I'll get her in nursery school as soon as they have room for her as soon as we are all settled down to routine life.

My money just comes back from Montgomery Ward - they don't seem to have anything left - The stuff comes from Denver - I still have no shower curtain - If the last one I ordered doesn't come I'll have

to give up & get Murray to send me - I'm getting very lousy stomach - & I have to stop the whole bill from after each one - However, the problem is solved with M.L. - she just fits in the laundry tub & it's even better than at home - I don't have to hand over!

We will probably have no garden because of the water problem. Every day is dreadfully dry - the summer & there's not enough water to sprinkle & garden with. However people who were here last summer say they were able to get tomatoes to can - & peaches. I imagine the soil is pretty much clay too. The trees are beautiful here - tall pines with 8 or 9 in. needles in clumps - I don't know what kind they are - I saw down as the pine trees - with edible nuts - we tasted one - they're wonderful.

Well - I'm getting kind of bleary eyed - so will retire - Bill
is working late - I write letters practically every night - I've written
hundreds! Probably when the furniture arrives ~~you~~ you'll get only
short notes!

Well - away - I write lots & love getting letters!
Also pray for a furniture & care!

Basilie

P.S. All I can think of is how much you'd love this place - & all
the sunny country. You couldn't you share the house & care as
have to ~~live~~ ^{live} with us? Perhaps we could find a job for Eleanor, & you
could tell her. You'd be sure about it, wouldn't you?

3

Mrs. W. C. Elmore

PO Box 1663
Santa Fe, New Mexico
January 28, 1944

Dear Mother,

Both your letters and one from Eleanor arrived practically at once, and I certainly was glad to get them. I've felt kind of at loose ends in spite of all the friends we've made, because of this darn bare house with no sewing to do or not even clothes to wash for that matter; we brought so little with us in the car. I'm sorry the addresses got left out. I guess I thought Bill had given it to you in that last letter he wrote before we left.

There seem to be more things to do now that we are getting to know more people. We've been invited out a bit. Last week I went into Santa Fe with the K's (Grant and Florence). I couldn't find any of the things I wanted, but I did have a fine time looking in all the Indian and Mexican shops. One place you can actually watch the Indians at work making the jewelry. In one place I bought a lovely Indiana corn necklace of the most beautiful and coppery color. I see where I'm going to have fun around Christmas!

Last Sunday we took the K's and another young English couple down to the San Ildefonso Indian Pueblo to see their biggest festival of the year. The low adobe houses are fascinating, all built around a courtyard where they dances were given. The drummers come out first, then the dancers. This Pueblo had two distinct parts, the old part and the new. One side gave the animal dances. They all wore the heads and horns of buffalo and mountain sheep, painted their faces and torsos, after the dance they retire to the Kiva (ceremonial chamber and rest, then come out and do it all over again. While one side of the pueblo was resting the other side gave its dance. They wore the gorgeous colored costumes and blankets, with great feathered headdresses. It certainly was a sight. There were hundreds of spectators and many Indians from other Pueblos. The mud was ankle deep, but the dancers ignored it. Most of the domestic help here comes from this pueblo and one other, for 2 weeks before this festival they were all busy baking for their feasts, evidently they have to feed all the Indians that come from other pueblos, so people here were kind of short of help. There are also several famous potters at this pueblo and we hope to go down sometime and watch them. I joined a group here that are interested in pottery. We're having a good time.

I've seen a good bit of Ethel F., (Bill's bosses wife, the one with the adorable year old baby, Eva, that I told you about). She lives quite close and I borrow everything under the sun from her. She is having a tea tomorrow and had one last Saturday too. Everyone I've met is so nice. Sunday we're invited to dinner at the J's. They are Chinese food fanatics, and boy can they cook it! There are quite a bunch of them that get together and each brings one Chinese dish of food then they all stuff themselves to bursting!

Tomorrow night we have actually found someone to stay with ML and are going to the square dance that they have every other week. There is also a Girl Scout dance the same night, and a darn good movie, but I guess we can't do everything! I haven't been to the movies yet. Bill goes back to a meeting or to work almost every night. Then I have my pottery on Thursday evenings, and there's always the job of finding someone to stay with ML.

Well, I guess I'd better go through your and Eleanor's letters and comment and answer questions. I just wrote E a couple of days ago, so perhaps you'll send this on to her too.

To begin with, don't bother to send the Saturday Evening Posts. I've written to Winthrop to make a bundle of all the accumulating magazines and send them out to us. I'm sure our subscription started ok. It's just the time it takes to have the addresses changed. I didn't have it changed sooner because Bill wouldn't let me till we got here. In any case, there are several people we know here who take it. I know them well enough now to ask to borrow it.

We laughed hard over the Jap concentration camp. How could that have even started? Especially as Bill isn't in uniform even! What you put in the paper sounds fine.

The altitude does not make ML sleep more, if anything she sleeps less drat her! She's had a little cold the past few days but doesn't feel badly. She's been awfully irritable lately. I think its because we're so disorganized with no furniture or toys or anything familiar. Don't you think she's rather young for a magazine? I haven't seen Florence since your letter came. I'll ask her what she likes. Maybe it would be just the think.

You speak of my stove and washing. I did clean the stove with my hands. Bill told me of the sort of thing you had to do it with, but there is no such thing here. However, it's done now and I don't intend to use wood or coal in it again so no more will accumulate. The oil is nice and clean. The stove really works fine. If only I knew how hot the over is!

They have a central laundry here with 4 machines and iron and mangle. I went over once and washed 7 sheets etc. They're just ordering washers though with electric wingers. I sure do miss my Bendix! The dirt comes out pretty quickly, though things certainly do get dirty fast. You should see the sheets that have been on the beds for a few days! And ML underwear after ½ hour wear!

I think Bill is enjoying his work here tremendously. I just wish I could tell you how exciting it all is. He and everyone else works pretty long hours and most evenings, but it is worth it. In the summer we'll take more time off and see things. Right now we'll probably do something every Sunday but not much on weekdays.

As I think I told you before, the food is grand compared to what we've been getting at home. Especially the meat. The vegetables are so so and plenty of birds eye ones, string beans of 19 cents a box! The eggs are the only disappointing thing, very doubtful as to freshness and pretty expensive too. The milk seems good though they say it's not too safe. Both ML and I have had typhoid shots. Bill's a sissy, though I expect to wear him down soon. We also are going to take tetanus shots (not the same as the ones you take after injury). All the food is very cheap, because it's government stuff I guess. Plenty of ice cream and such.

We have plenty of gas left over and as we don't use the car much here at all (luckily we were put in a house that's close to everything) we'll have plenty to use on trips next summer. There are no garages; the cars just sit out expensed to the weather. ML has not made many friends yet as she hasn't been out much. I think I'll put her in nursery school as soon as they have room for her and as soon as we are all settled down to routine life.

My money just came back from Montgomery Ward. They don't seem to have anything left. The stuff comes from Denver. I still have no shower curtain. If the last one I ordered doesn't come I'll have to give up and get Mummy to send me one. I'm getting so I loathe showers and I have to mop the whole bathroom after each one. However, the problem is solved with ML...she just fits in the laundry tub and its ever better than at home as I don't have to lean over!

We will probably have no garden because of the water problem. Everything is dreadfully dry in the summer and there's not enough water to sprinkle a garden with. However people who were here last summer say they are able to get tomatoes to can and peaches. I imagine the soil is pretty much clay too. The trees are beautiful here, tall pines with 8 or 9 inch needles in clumps. I don't know what kind they are. Lower down on are the Pinon Pines with edible nuts. We tasted some, they're wonderful.

Well, I'm getting kind of bleary eyed, so will retire. Bill is working tonight. I write letters practically every night. I've written hundreds! Probably when the furniture arrives you'll get only short notes!

Well, so long, and write lots, I love getting letters! Also pray for our furniture to come. Barbie

PS All I can think of is how much you'd love this place and all the surrounding country. Gosh couldn't you close the house and come out here to live with us? Or perhaps we could find a job for Eleanor and you could both come. You'd be nuts about it, both of you!

Mrs. W. C. Elmore

PO Box 1663

Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Feb. 6 1944

Dear Mother -

Today we drove to Bandelier National Monument with Grant + Florence and took a picnic. We cleaned snow off the picnic table and fire place and fried ham burgers and onions. It was quite warm in the sun. After eating we went with some other visitors and a guide to see the Indian ruins which are described briefly in the enclosed pamphlet. The Tzongva Ruin on the cover was photographed from up on the cliff where there are caves - last occupied, I believe, about 1600. They have one cliff house built the way they were then - blocks of stone built up in the adobe style with ladders & entrances in the roofs. The caves seem to form a back room in this structure. The upper part of the caves are black from the smoke of fires. Many liked enjoying climbing in the caves, some of them being joined together with small openings. We picked up pottery fragments which the guide

identified as 1500². The central hole in the Tiguani Ruin is the remains of a Kiva or ceremonial chamber. It was ^{originally} covered over with big logs, smaller rafters brush adobe and earth, with a central hole with a ladder for entrance. The present Indian pueblos have essentially the

same sort of Kiva except it is built mostly above ground. On the drive in we passed miles and miles of reddish cliffs which form the walls of the canyons opening towards the Rio Grande. Many of them appear to have cliff caves at the top of the talus. We hope to explore them some time. The cliff dwellings all seem to be on the north wall of the canyons and get the warm winter sun.

There is trout fishing in this part of New Mexico and I am anxious to try my luck. Evidently it is almost impossible to buy fishing rods since the war - at least in Santa Fe. I am

Wondering whether you can find one
in Montrose Falls or Watkins - or get one
second hand - maybe Mr. Walton
could suggest a likely source. What
I need is a fly rod - and reel - I
guess one can get line and hooks
here. I don't think it would be worth
spending too much money on it - I
don't know what is reasonable - rods
used to come - so I am told - from
\$4 to perhaps \$30 or more. If I could
get a complete outfit for \$15 to \$20
it would be worth while. Ask Mr.
Walton's advice - don't go to too much
trouble, however. ^{If you can find two all the better B.}

Oh, I meant to tell you about Eli -
We went along with us while looking
at Indian ruins & when we went up
a ladder into a particularly large
cave fixed up for exhibit, Eli took
a man and climbed right up the ladder
about 8 rungs long. At the top his
hind feet slipped off the rungs and
he hung there with his front feet
over the top rung - I lifted him in

and he lay down exhausted and took
a snooze on the floor of the cave. We
wondered how he would get down
but he solved that by running down
the cliff which had perhaps a 75°
slope —

Every Sunday we plan to take a
trip somewhere — and take a lunch if
the weather is good — It certainly gets
warm during the day time ~~but~~ cools
off rapidly as soon as the sun sets.
There is snow in shady areas which
makes hiking impossible for a time

Our furniture is due to show up
Thursday or Friday — we hope. We
have practically have been camping
so far.

I hope you and Auntie May are well
and that you have enough coal
to keep warm! We are plenty warm
enough here. We are all well ~~now~~ —
in fact I haven't had a sign of
a cold since early in Dec. 4
Love Bill.

William C. Elmore. P.S. Our Sat. Posts are coming ^{now}.

PO Box 1663
Santa Fe, N. Mex
Feb. 6 1944

Dear Mother

Today we drove to Bandelier National Monument with Grant and Florence and took a picnic. We cleared snow off the picnic table and fireplace and fried hamburgers and onion. It was quite warm in the sun. After eating we went with some other visitors and a guide to see the Indian ruins, which are described briefly in the enclosed pamphlet. The Tynonyi Ruin on the cover was photographed from up on the cliff where there are caves, last occupied, I believe, about 1600. They have a cliff house built the way they were then, blocks of stone built up in the adobe style with ladders and entrances in the roofs. The caves seem to form a back room in this structure. The upper part of the caves are black from the smoke of fires. Mary-Leigh enjoyed climbing in the caves, some of them being joined together with small openings. We picked up pottery fragments, which the guide identified as 1500. The central hole in the Tynonyi Ruin is the remains of a Kiva or ceremonial chamber. It was originally covered over with big logs, smaller rafters brush adobe and earth, with a central hole with a ladder for entrance. The present Indian pueblos have essentially the same sort of Kiva except it is built mostly above ground. On the drive in we passed miles and miles of reddish cliffs, which form the walls of the canyon opening towards the Rio Grande. Many of them appear to have caves at the top of the ???. We hope to explore them some time. The cliff dwellings all seem to be on the north wall of the canyons and get the warm winter sun.

There is trout fishing in this part of New Mexico and I am anxious to try my luck. Evidently it is almost impossible to buy fishing rods since the war, at least in Santa Fe. I am wondering whether you can find one in Montour falls or Watkins, or get one second hand. Maybe Mr. Walton could suggest a likely source. What I need is a fly rod, and reel and I guess one can get line and hooks here. I don't think it would be worth spending too much money on it. I don't know what is reasonable, rods used to come, so I am told, from \$4 to perhaps \$30 or more. If I could get a complete outfit for \$15 to \$20 it would be worthwhile. Ask Mr. Walton's advice; don't go to too much trouble, however. If you can find two, all the better.

Oh, I meant to tell you about Eli. He went along with us while looking at Indian ruins and when we went up a ladder into a particularly large cave fixed up for exhibit, Eli took a run and climbed right up the ladder about 8 runs long. At the top his hind feet slipped off the rungs and he hung there with his front feet over the top rung. I lifted him up and he lay down exhausted and took a snooze on the floor of the cave. We wondered how he would get down, but he solved that by running down the cliff, which had perhaps a 75-degree slope.

Every Sunday we plan to take a trip somewhere and take a lunch if the weather is good. It certainly gets warm during the daytime but cools off rapidly as soon as the sun sets. There is snow in shady areas, which makes hiking impossible for a time.

Our furniture is due to show up Thursday or Friday, we hope. We have practically have been camping so far.

I hope you and Auntie May are well and that you have enough coal to keep warm! We are plenty warm enough here. We are all well now; in fact I haven't had a sing of a cold since early in Dec.

Love Bill

PS our Sat. Posts are coming now.

William C. Elmore

Monday, Feb. 14th
1944

Dear Mother,

Many happy returns! I've been hoping that our furniture would get here soon enough so that I could combine a trip to Santa Fe to get household items and also a present for you. There are so many things typical of the country that I know you'd like - So if you'll forgive me for not getting it to you on time, I'll surely get something in the mail by the end of the week. We're just disgusted with our furniture - They promised it for the 10th or 11th - and still no sign of it - I'm crazy to paint the walls over yet I don't dare to before I see the furniture & curtains etc in the room so that I can be sure of the color I want. And there will be so much sewing of curtains & slip covers. I just hate to be wasteful this.

We had another grand hike on Sunday. We took a young couple who have no car. He works in Bill's group. We drove along the road to Bandelier where we were lost Sunday & stopped at one of the many cliffs along the road where we could see many holes & caves in the cliffs - Sure camp. They were Indian ruins & most fascinating to explore. I don't think these had ever been excavated which makes it all the more interesting. Some of them were 6-10 ft into the cliff & higher than our heads. The rounded ~~top~~ ceiling all blackened from the smoke of fires many hundreds of years ago. Some of the ceilings were rectangular in shape - & all of them had little inner holes, say, a foot square ~~which~~ which we could not make

out what they were used for. There were hundreds of caves - some in an upper layer making second stories - above them the cliff went almost straight up about 100 ft. Matt & I scaled it somehow & got to the top. Sounded fine except that the rock is not too good for rock climbing it is so soft & crumbly. When we got to the top we found the cliff only about 20 ft across the top - with a rather more gradual descent on the other side. Well, we got down again tho it was harder than going up - All by ourselves we came today! M.L. & Eli are crazy about rock climbing. M.L. scrambles - to every cave & on the roughest ground with the greatest of joy. She explains & lags back when we're hiking across the flat ground but can rush around among the cliffs & boulders for hours without a sign of getting tired. I just run in ragged! Eli's about as crazy when I started climbing the steep part of the cliff - He'd take a running start & get up about 10 or 12 ft - then fall back. He could get up about any place we could - & if he couldn't, someone would hold him & help him up. We hunted everywhere for signs of pottery & arrowheads. We found some a little further along where we stopped & ate our picnic - Little broken pieces of pottery - some of which were fitted together - & all with elaborate designs & crude glazes. All - all it was a wonderful thing. We all had a marvelous time. It was a cooler day than last week. But when the sun was out we were almost too hot. We were out in the open for 6 hrs. & I got quite a sunburn. We were all pleasantly exhausted when we got back. It certainly is good for all of us to get these weekly outings

I finally got to a movie last week. The Bill does one. It
was screaming funny - Rosalind Russell in - got 3 cars near
the title. The movie is of 15¢ - YB I had to spend 50¢ on
a girl to stay with M.L. - I think I may try taking M.L. with
me next time I go - + see if she'll sit still & be quiet. The
first show is at 6:30 + is out at 8:30 and she never goes to sleep
until before that anyway.

I had to a new comers team Fri. It was very nice the 3 car
research very narrow. Today I had to see the obstetrician because
he has all kinds of tricks to try on me I see if I can get started with
another baby.

We went to another barn dance Sat. night. They are loads of
fun. We were home utterly exhausted.

Did I tell you that M.L. can start Kindergarten in March?
She can even stay to lunch if I want her to - it might be a good
thing for her appetite. I think if it all works out well I may get
a part-time job after all - after I get all the painting & sewing done.

How's everything going with you? You seem so very funny - +
normal living so peculiar. I feel as if we'd been here for
ages & ages. Oh yes. I found out from Florence about the
children's magazines - She says the little girl gets "blue wisdom".
So it's probably the best. I think M.L. would like it - if you
really want to give it to her. She has been pretty depressed the
past few weeks - Very contrary + weeping + gets in my nerves
to exaggeration - I'll be so thankful when all these things are over

& everything seems more normal to her. Also I told the kindergarten
will be good for her. There is no place to play around here with
all the mud. Besides I think routine is good for M.L. - she's
so excitable & nervous.

Well - I'm getting sleepy - still the effects of all the
exercising yesterday. So good bye for now. & Happy birthday -
eat two pieces of cake for me! -

lots of love
Barbara

Mrs. W.C. Elmore

Monday, February 14, 1944

Dear Mother,

Many happy returns! I've been hoping that our furniture would get here soon enough so that I could combine our trip to Santa Fe to get household items and also a present for you. There are so many things typical of this country that I know you'd like. So if you'll forgive me for not getting it to you on time, I'll surely get something in the mail by the end of the week. We're just disgusted with our furniture; they promised it for the 10th or 11th, and still no sign of it. I'm crazy to paint the walls over yet I don't dare to before I see the furniture and curtains etc, in the rooms that I can be sure of the color I want. And there will be so much sewing of curtains and slipcovers. I just hate to be wasting time.

We had another grand hike on Sunday. We took a young couple who have no car. He works in Bill's group. We drove along the road to Bandelier where we were last Sunday and stopped at one of the many cliffs along the road where we could see many holes and caves in the cliffs. Sure enough they were Indian ruins and most fascinating to explore. I don't think those had even been excavated which makes it all the more interesting. Some of them were 6-10 feet into the cliff and higher than our heads. The rounded ceiling all blackened from the smoke of fires many hundreds of years ago. Some of the ceilings were rectangular in shape, and all of them had little inner holes, say a foot square; we couldn't make out what they were used for. There were hundreds of caves, some in upper layer making second stories. Above them the cliff went almost straight up almost 100 feet. Matt [Matt Sands] and I scaled it somehow and got to the top. Loads of fun except that the rock is not too good for rock climbing; it is so soft and crumbly. When we got to the top we found the cliff out about 20 feet across the top. With another more gradual descent on the other side. Well, we got down again though it was harder than going up. All my muscles are lame today! ML and Eli are crazy about rock climbing. ML scrambles in to every cave and over the roughest ground with the greatest of joy. She complains and lags back when we're hiking across the flat ground but can rush around among the cliffs and boulders for hours without a sign of getting tired. In fact runs us ragged! Eli about went crazy when I started climbing the steep part of the cliff. He'd take a runny start and get up about 10 or 12 feet, then fall back. He could get up about any place we could and if he couldn't drove us wild until we helped him up. We hunted everywhere for signs of pottery or arrowheads. We found some a little further along when we stopped and ate our picnic. Little broken pieces of pottery, some of which even fitted together, and all with elaborate designs and crude glazes. All in all it was a wonderful trip. We all had a marvelous time. It was a cooler day than last week, but when the sun was out we were almost too hot. We were out in the open for 6 hours and I got definite sunburn. We were all pleasantly exhausted when we got back. It certainly is good for all of us to get these weekend outings.

I finally got to a movie last week. Though Bill didn't come. It was screamingly funny. Rosalind Russell in gosh I can't remember the title. The movies are only 15

cents, though I had to spend 50 cents for a girl to stay with ML. I think I may try taking ML with e next time I go and see if she'll sit still and be quiet. The first show is at 6:30 and is out at 8:30, and she never goes to sleep much before that anyway.

I went to a newcomer's tea on Friday. It was very nice though I can't remember many names. Today I went to see the obstetrician here and he has all kinds of tricks to try on me to see if I can't get started with another baby.

We went to another barn dance Saturday night. They are loads of fun. We come home utterly exhausted.

Did I tell you that ML can start kindergarten in March? She can even stay to lunch if I want her to. It might be a good thing for her appetite. I think if it all works out well, I may get a part time job after all, after I get all this painting and sewing done.

How's everything going with you? You seem so very far away, and normal living so peculiar. I feel as if we'd been here for ages and ages. Oh yes, I found out from Florence about the children magazines. She says her little girl gets "Value Wisdom" So it's probably the best. I think ML would like it, if you really want to give it to her. She has been pretty difficult the past few weeks, very contrary and weeping and gets on my nerves to exasperation. I'll be so thankful when all our things are here and everything seem more normal to her. Also, I think the kindergarten will be good for her. There is no place to play around here with all the mud, besides I think routine is good for ML, she's so excitable and nervous.

Well, I'm getting sleepy, still the effects of all that exercise yesterday. So good-bye for now and Happy Birthday, eat two pieces of cake for me!

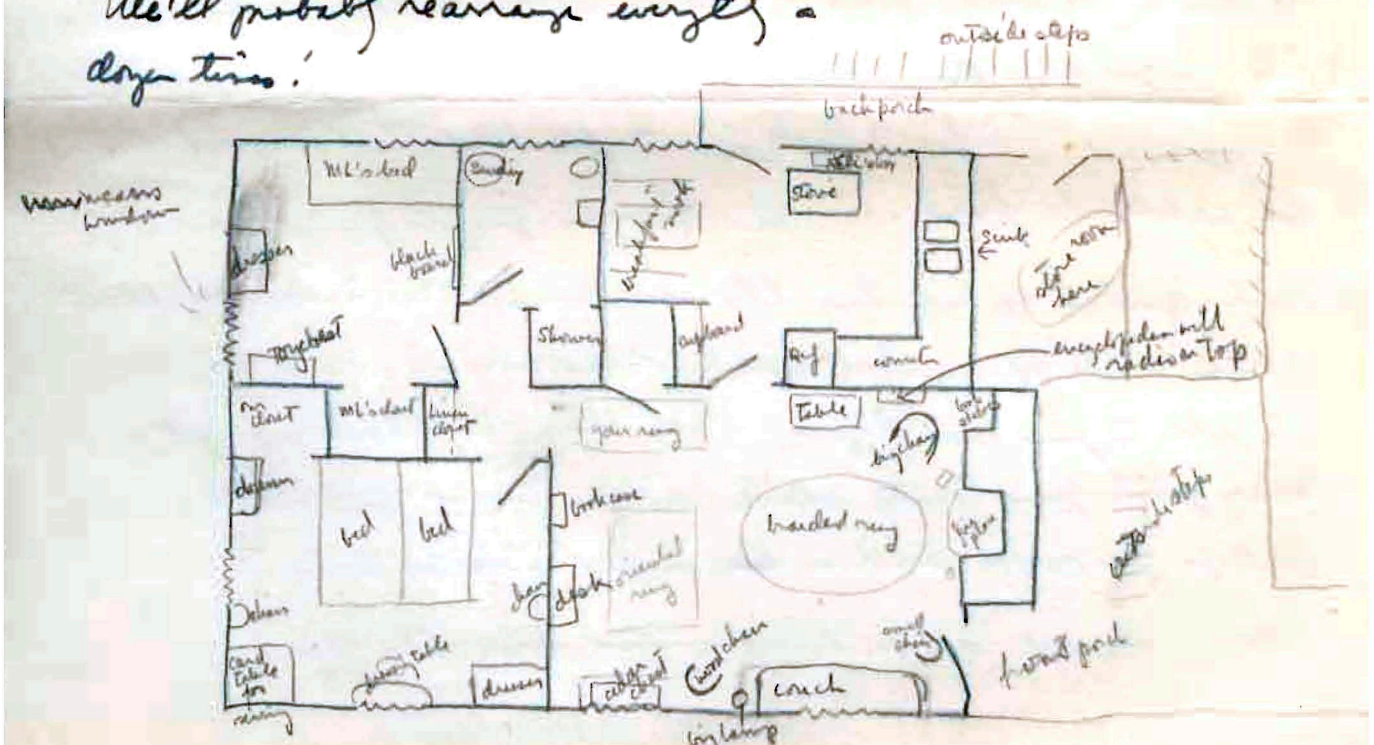
Lots of love,
Barbie

Mrs. W. C. Elmore

Wed. Feb. 23

Dear Mother -

I am overwhelmed with two letters in two days! There's nothing I like better than getting mail. Well, our furniture finally got here. ^{last Sat.} You've no idea how wonderful it is to have all our things in place after two months of absolutely nothing but two beds & a dresser! The living room looks swell now. We've been having a lot of a time getting our big beds etc into the bedroom. Yes, we did bring M.L.'s furniture - and it came thru very well - of a few scratches. The bad thing is that ~~they~~ two things were left out probably left at the Chicago warehouse where all our stuff was stored mostly of ~~over~~ a full load of here - One nice slip picture and two cartons containing a lot of endive roots, parsnips & onions & Betty's tripod and my bread box - & probably some other things we can remember. We've written & I hope they can find them for us. We worked all day Sunday unpacking the 30 odd boxes & cartons of endless tools & other junk. This is the way we've fixed everything. We'll probably rearrange everything a dozen times!



The bedroom is only 10 x 13 ft + the living room is 13 x 17. I find that my living room curtains from here fit ok. if I let down the hem - As there are only 2 windows here I'm going to sew two together + use 4 curtains at each window. Then I can draw them closed at night. Bill's going to take the day off tomorrow + he's going to Santa Fe to ship + see the sights. I guess it'll be mostly shopping as I have a list a mile long. I'm going to get paint + paint the walls + woodwork quick. Then I'll get drapery + make some curtains + ship covers + wax the floor.

A gageon Taylor on thermometer came from Manning today. I'll have to try baking + butchering cake toasters. I baked gageon cake a couple of days ago with the thermometer + it was higher than it ever has before - + baked in 20 min. - I guess the atmospheric pressure has something to do with it. I can't wait to try your sponge cake - it'll probably go all over the place. I do wish I had a pressure cooker too. One really needs one up here. The boiling point of water is so much lower that it takes forever to get things cooked. If I see a nice aluminum one I may get it. Before I left Sw. I found out that my old cracked one couldn't be fixed. Also they are going to fix some ground for victory gardens up here this summer. There is usually plenty of rain in the spring but none in late summer - so we ought to be able to grow some things. We have no catalogue yet + if we are going to grow tomato plants we ought to get them started soon. Perhaps you could send us a few Jubilee seeds to start with. We want all our tomatoes this year.

later

I baked a walnut butter cake - it came out pretty well - but cooked for too fast - Bill says it's because the top of the oven reflects the heat down on the cake & browns the top too fast - You see ^{most of} the heat comes from the top instead of the bottom.

Let me 3d better answer some of your questions - Some friends lent us a small radio until ours arrived with the furniture - I don't know what we'd have done without it - There are no good newspapers - only a couple of sheets of Denver Post - & an Albuquerque paper - If I think I get the Sunday ^{N.Y.} Times sent to us - There are a lot of good stations that come in very well - esp. at night - The one I like best gets all the programs 2 hrs. early. I haven't got used to it yet - so miss them all.

The mud is getting better as it's drying off. The few snow flurries we have disappear immediately - I suppose we'll wish we had the mud back later when it gets so dry you see mirages - The mud is worse where the ground has been filled - They are putting some gravel around so that they can help - The roads are now oiled tho I hear they weren't last year - There are no side walks.

I laughed & laughed over your description of Eleanor at the house. I'm afraid that would be M.C.'s reaction - or worse - she'd want to know "why" about everything she saw!


I'm getting good eggs now - Some one has been going to a nearby village & getting really fresh ones & then delivering them to us - I get one dozen a week of these & fill in with the store ones for cooking - The milk seems ok. to me - Tho some people gripe about it a lot - but then, some people gripe about everything! Of course it isn't as

rich as what we had at home.

The weather has been more & more marvelous - in the afternoon it is clear & windless, it's just like summer. In any case the cold isn't as cold here - because it's so dry & gross.

Dress Materials are very hard to get here. Santa Fe seems to have practically nothing - If you happen to see any cute cotton prints or plain & summer work dresses for M.C. & me do get some for us - I wanted to make a ^{long} cotton square-dance dress - ~~long~~ ^{one material!} ~~rayed off~~ - & asked

Mummy to look around ^{one material!} I hope she finds something. as he goes every other week. & it's so much nicer to dance in a long dress. Another thing I'm going to look for in Santa Fe tomorrow is pink or peach or apricot checked cotton for kit. curtains. I have my heart set on just that & nothing else as I want to tie paint the backs of the cupboards white with orange pink checks, & flowers on the outside ^{the cupboards} like those pleasant designs with the tulips & checks too.

 The kitchen would be cute? I decided it would be too much trouble to paint the ^{whole} kitchen as there are so many cupboards. It's a pale apple green now. I think M.C. is now to paint the woodwork & halfway up the walls a blue gray semi gloss - the rest of it & the ceiling a soft white hem-tone - then I can wash in ~~fine~~ endless fingerprints off the enamel - You can get the mudguts off the flat paint.

Several people around here have had ~~blankets~~ ^{blankets} made for them - they're beautiful - about \$25 I think - I think I will get one sometime - Would you like one for next Xmas? or is it so early you wouldn't use it?

We can't take any pictures at the site except in our houses - Bill has taken a lot on our Sunday trips - & we can take pictures of M.L. inside - If he ever gets to do any printing we can send you some. I think I'll have a professional picture taken of M.L. in Santa Fe sometime - We have one good one of her.

You certainly have gone to a lot of trouble about fishing tackle - We'll see what there is to be had in Santa Fe - It seems dreadful to have it sent all the way from the East again - Perhaps I could write my Aunt Marie in Colorado Springs & have her look. There is fishing all year around here - & Bill is still to start.

We haven't decided when we'll go this Sunday - It's such fun to pack up a lunch & pick up a couple of people & go off to some place & climb & walk & picnic & explore - There are endless places to go within radius of 10 mi - & even more within our boundaries (We're allowed to go - for an Albuquerque - the South & Texas - the north).

Well - I'd better stop & get a good night's rest - We'll want to be off as early as possible in the morning. M.L. will stay with some friends (Hose of the Chinese food) - It will be a real birthday spree.

So long for now -

Love Barbie

Mrs. W.C. Elmore

P.S. We were in Santa Fe today - & spent gobs of money! One of the things I couldn't get was the material for my kitchen curtains - I was wondering if Auntie May is still in N.Y. if perhaps she could get me some.

especially as I know exactly what I want. I want either cotton
or seersucker, ^{light weight} white & peach check - preferably large checks (or small checks would be ok.)
and pink could substitute the peach. I don't want red as it doesn't
go with this pale apple green in the woodwork. But any of these
peach, apricot, rose, pink, salmon colors would be fine. There
might even be something in Manhattan fall. I need $7\frac{1}{2}$ yd of 36 in
more if its narrower. .

A long time ago Eleanor spoke of your lovely beaded bracelet
so we looked at a lot of them today - However they were
so much like this that I could make - & so expensive for
something that you probably wouldn't wear much, that we decided
to get something typical of the Indian work is something more practical.
I'm ready, it's off tomorrow - & Happy birthday a bit late.

As for my birthday I had a small treat in Santa Fe.
& when we got back we had a steak on the fire in the
fireplace & had ice cream with maple syrup sauce & the
cake I made last night. Some friends turned up & ate the
latter with us - Tomorrow I start on the paint.

What fun!

Love B.

DEAR AUNTIE TISSIE
I WISH YOU WERE
HERE. I AM GOING TO
KINDERGARTEN NOW
I HAVE A CAT
COSTUME THAT I
LIKE TO WEAR.
ON SUNDAYS WE
B-O CLIMBING
IN THE INDIAN
CAVES
LOVE FROM
MART

Wednesday February 23, 1944

Dear Mother,

I am over whelmed with the two letters in two days! There's nothing I like better than getting mail. Well, our furniture finally got here last Saturday. You've no idea how wonderful it is to have all our things in place after two months of absolutely nothing but two beds and a dresser! The living room looks swell now, though we've been having a bit of a time getting our big beds etc into the bedroom. Yes, we did bring ML's furniture and it came through very well, only a few scratches. The bad thing is that two things were left out, probably left at the Chicago warehouse where all our stuff was stored waiting for a full load out here. Our nice ship picture and two cartons containing a lot of endive roods, parsnips and onions and Bill's tripod and my bead box, and probably some other things we can't remember. We've written and I hope they can find them for us. We worked all day Sunday unpacking the 30 odd boxes and cartons of endless tools and other junk. This is the way we've fixed everything. We'll probably rearrange everything a dozen times!

Diagram of apartment with furniture

The bedroom is only 10 x 13 feet and the living room is 13 x 17. I find that my living room curtains from home fit ok if I let down the hems. As there are only 2 windows here I'm going to sew two together and use 4 curtains at each window. Then I can draw them closed at night. Bill's going to take the day off tomorrow and we're going to Santa Fe to shop and see the sights. I guess it'll be mostly shopping as I have a list a mile long. I'm going to get paint and paint the walls and woodwork quick. Then I'll get busy and make more curtains and slipcovers and wax the floor.

A gorgeous Taylor oven thermometer came from Mummy today. I'll have to try baking a birthday cake tonite. I baked Gertrud's cake a couple of days ago with no thermometer and it was lighter than it's ever been before, and baked 20 minutes. I guess the atmospheric pressure has something to do with it. I can't wait to try your sponge cake. I'll probably go allover the pan. I do wish I had a pressure cooker too. One really needs one up here. The boiling point of water is so much lower that it takes forever to get things cooked. If I see a nice aluminum one I may get it. Before I left Swarthmore I found out that my old cracked one couldn't be fixed. Also they are going to fix some ground for victory gardens up here this summer. There is usually plenty of rain in the spring but none in late summer, so we ought to be able to grow some things. We have no catalogue yet and if we are going to grow tomato plants we ought to get them started soon. Perhaps you could send us a few Jubilee seeds to start now. We want all our tomatoes that kind this year.

Later

I baked a walnut butter cake; it came out pretty well, but cooked far too fast. Bill says it's because the top of the oven reflects the heat down on the cake and browns the top too fast. You see most of the heat comes from the top instead of the bottom.

Lets see, I'd better answer some of your questions. Some friends lent us a small radio until our arrived with the furniture. I don't know what we'd have done without it. There are no good newspapers, only a couple of sheets of Denver Post, and an Albuquerque paper. I'm thinking of getting the Sunday NY Times sent to us. There are a lot of good stations that come in very well, especially at night, though it's queer getting all the programs 2 hours early. I haven't got used to it yet, so miss them all.

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tone. Then I can wash her endless fingerprints off the enamel. You can't get the smudges off the flat paint.

Several people around here have had Navaho blankets made for them. They're beautiful, around \$25 I think. I think we'll get one sometime. Would you like one for next Xmas? Or is it something you wouldn't use?

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We haven't decided where we'll go this Sunday. It's such fun to pack up a lunch and pick up a couple of people and go off any old place and climb and walk and picnic and explore. There are endless places to go within radius of 10 miles and even more within our boundaries. (We're allowed to go as far as Albuquerque in the south and Taos in the North.)

Well, I'd better stop and get a good night's rest. We'll want to be off as early as possible in the morning. ML will stay with some friends (those of the Chinese food). It will be a real birthday spree.

So long for now

Love Barbie

Mrs. W. C. Elmore

P.S. We were in Santa Fe today and spent gobs of money! One of the things I couldn't get was the material for my kitchen curtains. I was wondering if Aunty May is still in NY if perhaps she could get me some especially as I know exactly what I want. I want either cotton or seersucker lightweight white and peach check, preferably large checks (one inch) and pink could substitute the peach, small check would be ok. I don't want red as it doesn't go with this pale apple green in the woodwork, but any of the peach, apricot, rose, pink, salmon colors would be fine. There might even be something in Montour Falls. I need 7 ½ yards of 36 inch material, more if it's narrower.

A long time ago Eleanor spoke of your liking her Indian bracelet, so we looked at a lot of them today. However they were so much like the things that I could make and so expensive for something that you probably wouldn't use much, that we decided

to get something typical of the Indian work and something more practical. I'm sending it off tomorrow, so Happy Birthday a bit late.

As for my own birthday, I had a swell time in Santa Fe, and when we got back we broiled a steak on the fire in the fireplace and had ice cream with some maple sugar sauce and the cake I made last night. Some friends turned up and ate the latter with us. Tomorrow I start on the paint. What fun!

Love B

P.O. Box 1663 Santa Fe NM

Feb. 27, 1944

Dear Mother -

Your three letters in succession reached here almost in the same mail - I hope it hasn't been too much trouble trying to find some fishing tackle - and now you have found an extra outfit. Barbara would like some too, so if you can get the pole, and E. the reel, we would appreciate having them. I am enclosing a check for \$125.00, most of it as a birthday present, after paying for the tackle.

Our apartment is quite nice now, but Barbara is going to start kern-toring it tomorrow, to try out some ideas for further application in Swarthmore someday. Last Thursday we went on an all day shopping tour in Santa Fe and got some things - but I guess B. has written you about it.

Today was lousy - the first poor Sunday we have had. We put up hooks etc in the kitchen for pots + pans + whatnot - also for cups - the built in shelves.

We took Mary to the movie tonight & it didn't work out too well - over her head & pretty tedious. She got pretty restless.

I have work to do, so all for now. Will write Go Barton (Jr. I assume) when reel arrives. Love
Thanks very much for all the trouble!
Bill

PO Box 1663 Santa Fe, NM
February 27, 1944

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Our apartment is quite nice now, but Barbara is going to start Kem-toning it tomorrow, to try out some ideas for further application in Swarthmore some day. Last Thursday we went out on an all day shopping tour in Santa Fe and got some things, but I guess B. has written you about it.

Today was hazy, the first poor Sunday we have had. We put up hooks etc, in the kitchen for pots and pans and whatnot, also for cups in the built in shelves.

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Friday March 10
1944

Dear Mother -

I guess there's been another long gap since my last letter - but as you have probably guessed, I've been painting & sewing curtains etc - madly - I started last Monday with the painting & had it all finished (except the bathroom) by Wed. I had a terrific time mixing the colors I wanted - I've discovered that a pinch of blue will color a gallon of paint - while you have to put in a whole teacup of green! M's room is white keentone on upper half of walls & ceiling - & a bluish gray - or rather grayish blue on woodwork & half way up walls - ending in a scallop. It got a little too blue - about on the purplish side - but looks better now the curtains are up - the curtains are natural color with the red check for valances & red check for closet curtains & bedspread - I thought I might put some large crossitch on the white with the red I pulled out of the red check for fringe -

I had even more of a frantic time mixing the keentone & oil paint for the living room & hall - I had bought a gallon of blue & quart of green in the keentone - I should have reversed the quantities as that much green didn't even affect the blue - We suddenly got the bright idea of using poster paints to color it with - used a whole jar of green & 1/2 a one of yellow - & it still was too blue! However it went on beautifully with the roller - & I quite like it now - It's really a turquoise color. Well, when

I started mixing the oil paint for the woodwork you can be sure I was careful of that blue! ~~I didn't~~ In fact I didn't put in any blue - only green + black - + the paint got bluer + bluer - It's still completely in the dark as to why - Perhaps lamp black has a bluish tone - Anyway I kept putting in more + more green to get it the same color as the walls - now it's now a lot darker and bluer - but now that's all done I rather like the contrast - + the flowered curtains help - They are heavy - big wood rings on wood poles - + look well. The back of the bookcase I painted a pale pinky tan color - With my picture plates + the long blue + green plate Ann's May gave us against it - + lots of philodendron.

It all looks very restful + home like, I think - I'll have to get busy on the steps cover next. Did I tell you that I got all these woven materials for a place in El Paso Texas - they're dreadfully cheap - If you ever need any material like this send for samples.

We haven't heard from the Moving Co. about the last picture + boxes - I'll have to write again + make even bigger fuss.

Fie has been cooking more - + learning to get along fine with the stove - We have all the dangers fixed o.k. - but even so there is more heat from the top of the oven than from the sides + bottom - but it works fine if a cookie sheet is put on the rack above the cake to keep the

but reflections for brownie it's too fast. Cakes got much lighter than at home - but dry out quicker afterwards -
Damn, my bread box would be the one particular thing that was lost! + Bill would've had to bring my cake box - it is so big!

2. bring the F's + K's over to dinner next week -
+ tomorrow night before the Sq. dance we're having Willie H who works with Bill + who plays for the dance a li "stomach steiner" to dinner - He is very like Pete Cole keeps us in stitches -

He has been pouring over the new Sears, + Montgomery Ward Catalogues + sent off big orders to it. The materials are very discouraging - I guess I'll have to give up + get red check for the kitchen - I love red but it doesn't see to go so well with the awful apple green woodwork + white walls that we have in the kitchen - Maybe it'll look better than I think - It certainly is for fixing everything up. I think I should have been an interior decorator.

We haven't done much of anything the past two Sundays. The weather's been glorious spring weather all week - both Sundays were cold + overcast - I had planned to go skiing both times with all my new equipment - no luck - I am getting fatalistic that I'll never get to use them this year. I hope we can get to do something this Sunday.

M.L. started in Kindergarten last Monday. It was all fine except that she got her first cold + faked - + has been home ever since! 'Doesn't anything!' Her chief

announced these days - wearing a cat costume that
Mumsey gave her last time she was in Sw. M.L. has it on
for hours every day - & calls her self Sukiie after the
black cat down stairs. The altitude has no effect on M.L.,
you can't keep her down for one split second.

Bill's getting back to his old bad habits - won't half
the night & sleeping til 9 or later in the morning - He is over
working every night - til 12 at least - I never get to see him
except at meals & on Sunday - I go to sleep before he comes in
& half to leave the go earlier in the morning because of
M.L. & school. I hate it! But as I suppose you know -
no one can change Bill! I did get him to go see

"Madam Curie" last week - it was very well done - It's
a bit dramatic for a standard Physics class (I should
know!) Green Gases & White Pigeon are both grand.
You should see it.

I've seen to talk of anything else exactly - & I get kind
of bleary eyed - Oh, thanks a lot for the seeds - I'm
going to plant them - now I get 2 seconds.

Bye for now

Barbie

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I had even more of a frantic time mixing the Kem-tone and oil paint for the living room and hall. I had brought a gallon of blue and quart of green in the Kem-tone. I should have reversed the quantities, as that much green didn't even affect the blue. We suddenly got the bright idea of using poster paints to color it with, used a whole jar of green and $\frac{1}{2}$ of one of yellow and it still was too blue! However it went on beautifully with the roller and I quite like it now. It's really a turquoise color. Well, when I started mixing the oil paint for the woodwork you can be sure I was careful of that blue! In fact I didn't put in any blue, only green and black and the paint got bluer and bluer. I'm still completely in the dark as to why, perhaps lamp black has a bluish tone, anyway I kept putting in more and more green to get it the same color as the walls, so it's now a lot darker and bluer, but now that its all done I rather like the contrast, and the flowered curtains help. They are hung on big wood rings on wood poles and look swell. The back of the bookcase I painted a pale pinky tan color. With my pewter plates and the lovely blue and green plate Aunty May gave us against it. And lots of philodendron. It all looks very restful and house like, I think. I'll have to get busy on the slipcovers next. Did I tell you that I got all these woven materials from a place in Itasca Texas. They're dreadfully cheap. If you ever need any material like that send for samples.

We haven't heard from the moving company about the lost picture and boxes. I'll have to write again and make even a bigger fuss.

I've been cooking more and learning to get along fine with the stove. We have all the dampers fixed ok, but even so there's more heat from the top of the over than from the sides or bottom, but it works fine if a cookie sheet is put on the rack above the cake to keep the hot reflections from browning it too fast. Cakes get much lighter than at home, but dry out quicker afterwards. Darn, my breadbox would be the one important thing that was lost! And Bill wouldn't let me bring my cake box, it is so big!

I'm having the F's and K's over to dinner next week, and tomorrow night before the square dance we're having Willie H who works with Bill and who plays for the dance on his "stomach Steinway" to dinner. He's very like Pete Cole keeps us in stitches.

I've been pouring over the new Sears, and Montgomery Ward Catalogues and sent off big orders tonight. The materials are very discouraging. I guess I'll have to give up and get red check for the kitchen. I love red but it doesn't seem to go so well with the awful apple green woodwork and white walls that we have in the kitchen. Maybe it'll look better than I think. It certainly is fun fixing everything up. I think I should have been an interior decorator.

We haven't done much of anything the past two Sundays, though we've had glorious spring weather all week. Both Sundays were cold and overcast. I had planned to go skiing both times with all my new equipment, no luck. I am getting fatalistic that I'll never get to use them this year. I hope we can get to do something this Sunday.

ML started in Kindergarten last Monday. It was all fine except that she got her first cold on Wednesday and has been home ever since! Darn it anyway! Her chief amusement these days is wearing a cat costume that Mummy gave her last time she was in Swarthmore. ML has it on for hours every day and calls herself Sukie after the black cat down stairs. The attitude has no effect on ML. You can't keep her down for one split second.

Bill's getting back to his old bad habits, working half the night and sleeping till 9 or later in the morning. He's over working every night, till 12 at least. I never get to see him except at meals and on Sunday. I go to sleep before he comes in and have to be on the go earlier in the morning because of ML and school. I hate it! But as I suppose you know, no one can change Bill! I did get him to go see "Madam Curie" last week. It was very well done, though a bit dramatic for a staid physicist's wife (I should know!) Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon are both grand. You should see it.

I can't seem to think of anything else exciting, and I'm getting kind of bleary eyed. Oh, thanks a lot for the seeds. I'm going to plant them as soon as I get 2 seconds.

Bye for now

Barbie

Sat. Mar. 25

Dear Mother;

I never seem to get caught up with myself,- there's ~~so~~ much to do I ~~never~~ ~~just~~ run from one thing to another. I have to completely clean the house and mop the kitchen floor 2 or 3 times a week as everything gets so dirty. These soft wood floors just soak up the wax, I waxed today for the second time in a month. However I'm having lots of fun fixing everthing up, and it does look so pretty with my painted walls and curtians up. Yes that is a closet of the living room, and boy are all the closets full !

You've certianly been swell to go to all that trouble about the fishing stuff, and please don't do any more, we'll get along fine now. Hilda's pole came and it's a beauty. Thank her a lot for letting me have it. We'll think up something for a reel. I'm glad you liked the Indian bag and I hope you really use it a lot. Look ~~one~~ the other side of the map and you'll see the names of all these Indian ruins and pueblos we've been to see. We've explored what I guess was Tsankawa ruins a couple of weekends ago and many others along the road to Bandelier.

I drove to Santa Fe last week with the ~~W's~~ K's and found some material for a square dance dress. I got it made the last couple of evenings and it turned out very nicely,- very wide eyelet embroidery around the neck and pulled up with a narrow ribbon, full sleeves with more e.e. at cuff, sort of dirndle style with full skirt. It's getting it's debut tonite at the dance.

We have some new neighbors in the apartment on the same floor as us. They seem very nice so far,- they have a little

baby about five months old, named Deborah. The apartment down stairs is due to be occupied soon too.

I had the K's and another couple over to dinner last week and I have 3 couples invited for this Wednesday.

I finally got the tomatoes planted today, - kind of late but better than never I guess. They say we can start planting lettuce any time now tho I hate to waste Sundays on it. It's going to be interesting to see how ^{the garden} it comes out.

Well the Bendix is atlast installed and I put through about 5 loads in one day and got caught up on all the mountains of washing. It's wonderful the way things dry here, - you can take things in in about one hour. I've had an Indian woman in to iron a couple of times, they wear their colored blankets and there hair bound up in a ribbon.

The doctor here is trying everything to get me started on another baby. I'm making a basal temperature chart and he's giving me some shots and a lot of thyroid which I think I have too much of already, - so I hope I get somewhere in a couple of months.

Later Mon

We had the grandest trip yesterday, - we took along ~~4/8~~ an awfully nice young couple, Wayne and Mary Ellen B. They are from Ithica, he's been teaching at Cornell. Well, we went climbing and exploring along the Otowi ruins, and, oh, what a glorious day! It was warm and sunny with a perfectly clear blue sky. We had a swell picnic and came home with quite a sunburn. M.L. is getting to be a fine little climber.

Do you still have any of those long old fashioned petticoats - the attic? I think my 22. dance dress would look better with a full petticoat, but it's not essential. Please don't bother yourself about materials for me - I've given up the idea of patch clothes - I'll wait till I hear whether you did find any - then I'll get the first stuff I can locate - yours

So long to you - Barbie

much trouble for me

Addendum BPE Letter March 25, 1944

Do you still have any of those long old fashioned petticoats in the attic? I think my square dance dress would look better with a full petticoat, but it's not essential. Please don't bother yourself about materials for me. I've given up the idea of peach checks. I'll wait till I hear whether you did find anything, then I'll get the first stuff I can locate. You've gone to so much trouble for me. So long for now, Barbie

Friday, April 7th 1944

Dear Mother;

I feel very conscience stricken over all the trouble you've gone to about rods, reels, material, petticoats, etc. etc. and I guess I haven't been very good about acknowledging them. I'm especially horrified to think we never told you that the first rod and reel arrived. Didn't Bill mention them in his letter? I thot that was the reason he wrote it! Yes, all your letters have arrived o.k., I probably forgot about your mentioning "Mme Curie" or perhaps our letters crossed somewhere. Your Easter package arrived several days ago, and as usual we were completely taken by surprise, - I never expect presents for Easter. We couldn't wait til Easter so opened them at once. Bill's tie is a beauty, and the hankies and stockings are ofcourse just what I need, - I've never tried net stockings before, they look very nice. I/need Mary opened her package tonite and was in seventh heaven over the soap ducks. I let her open them now because we're going to Taos tomorrow afternoon and will stay in a cabin or hotel for the nite and site-see on Sunday. The K.'s are going with us, - we're taking steaks to broil over a fire on the way home. I think it'll be fun! We'll hide some eggs for the kids (they have a little girl of 6) wherever we are for the nite.

Not much has happened this week, - I've been recuperating from all those dinner parties I gave last week. We did have the grandest time last Sunday, - we had six adults and three children in the car and we went to the most extensive ruins we've seen so far. There was a path worn in to the rock a foot or more by those prehistoric Indians. Then on top of the mesa were the ruins of a pueblo and lower down on the cliff were some of the

most marvelous caves with several rooms inside and pictures ^{carved} all over the walls. There was odds of pottery fragments all over the ground, - Mary would get so excited and pick up the pieces as fast as she could, then they would all drop and she'd start all over again! It snowed for a while just when we started to eat, but stopped soon and got hot again.

I'm sorry I've given you the idea that M.L. hasn't been well, - I think we've all been exceptionally well since we've been here. The couple of colds she's had have only lasted a few days. I think the climate and work are agreeing with Bill very well. I'm so glad we can get off for a hike every Sunday. Its good for us to get the exercise.

Sunday

We've just come back from ~~our~~ trip to Taos, - we had such fun in spite of very poor weather. We didn't get off til after five ^{on Sat.} but got there before dark and found some swell cabins with stoves and everything, - they even had horses which we rode in the morning (or at least I did). We hid Easter eggs for the kids and had breakfast in the cabins. It was pretty overcast this morning so we didn't do much except visit the few curio shops that were open and the ^{Indian} pueblo. I don't think the country is as lovely as around here tho there are lots of high mountians all around Taos. We started back a round one thinking we'd broil our steaks on the way home. However, it started to rain soon and by the time we got up here it was snowing, so we finally are our picnic here and broiled our steaks over a fire in the fire place. We did stop on the way home at a Mexican shop ^{in Espanola} where we spent about forty dollars on Chimayo blankets. The villiage of Chimayo is on that map I sent, - not far from Espanola. It was originally an Indian viilage but was Hispanized long ago. They do all this beautiful