

about the work here. It still isn't definite though so we can't make any plans. I do hope that card I wrote didn't get your hopes up about our coming home right away, - I thought I said we might, not we would. Bill is getting some offers from other universities ~~too~~, so we will want to consider those too.

Right now I'm deep in preparations for a big party I'm giving Thursday evening for Bill and Ginny Wilson who are leaving in a few days. I have about forty people asked and I'm using the Bradner's apartment in our same building, too. Unfortunately Marge Bradner is in the hospital with a new baby, so I'm all on my own. I cooked a turkey to have cold and have made all kinds of spreads for crackers, - and then ofcourse lots of liqueur. It's the first party of that sort that I've ever given, and I hope it turns out o.k.

M.L. starts in school on the 3rd, - it makes me feel so old to have her in first grade.

Thanks so much for all those clippings, Mother & Eleanor. While saving them all for our grand children. The Santa Fe paper we sent you was a reprint as they left out the couple of middle pages.

We had dinner down at Miss Warner's (the lady who runs a kind of exclusive restaurant (she serves dinners there twice a week & is booked up 6 months in advance!) half way to Santa Fe - & she had come on the col for her garden! & the first we've had & did it ever taste good! I can't bear to think of you having all you can eat - I just crave it!

So long to me

Barbara

P.S. I can't think of any girl names if the baby turns out to be female - no sense thinking!

Addendum to letter from August 25, 1945

Thanks so much for all the clippings, Mother and Eleanor. We're saving them all for our grand children. That Santa Fe paper we sent you was a reprint as they left out the couple of middle pages.

We had dinner down at Miss Warners (the lady who runs a kind of exclusive restaurant (she serves dinners there twice a week and is booked up 6 months in advance!) half way to Santa Fe – and she had corn on the cob from her garden! It the first we've had and did it ever taste good! I can't begin to think of you having all you can eat – I just crave it!

So long for now, Barbara

PS I can't think of any girl's names if this baby turns out to be female, so start thinking!



CASA ALINDA, GALLUP, N.M.

Dear Mother & Eleanor -  
 We're off on our vacation at last -  
 with the car all over & all the  
 gas we can use & whole lot of things  
 about, - it's really swell. We're  
 in Gallup now - at this naughty  
 water court - seeing the Indian  
 festival - Monday we'll leave  
 for Mesa Verde in Colorado.  
 Bill is thinking strongly of coming  
 home next month - so we may  
 see you soon - The plane when  
 we left so Eleanor with her  
 doggie yet -

Say hello Barbie



Mr. Grace C. Elmore  
 Marton Falls.  
 New York.

August 20, 1945

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

We're off on our vacation at last with the war all over and all the gas we can use and no work to think about, it's really swell. We're in Gallup now- at this dandy motor court – seeing the Indian festival – Monday we'll leave for Mesa Verde in Colorado. Bill is thinking strongly of coming home next month – so we may see you soon. Least that was the case when we left Los Alamos, nothing was definite yet.

Lots of Love,

Barbie



Los Alamos

Sept. 22, 1945

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

There's nothing like getting presents on other peoples birthdays. Bill was certainly pleased with his tie and shirt, but Mary and I were overwhelmed with our unexpected presents. Mary-Leigh sat down and had the Slotties put together in ten minutes flat, I'm sure it would have taken me longer to figure them out. Thanks just ever so much for knitting me the baby sweater, Eleanor, - gosh, it's the first thing I have for this baby! I've got to get busy and send for what's left of Mary-Leigh's baby things, and then see if I can buy what else I need, I bought some lovely pale green baby yarn a while back with the idea that I'd struggle through a sweater or something for the baby, but I vowed I'd get these sleeves knitted for another Chimayo jacket like yours, first, so Lord knows if I'll ever get to the tiny garments. If you have any time hanging heavy on your hands and feel like playing around with the baby yarn, I could send it to you, otherwise I'll probably work on it while I'm in the hospital. I've been making more jewelry lately, so perhaps we could make a deal if you'd like any more ear rings or anything.

farewell

Did I tell you about the big party we gave for Bill and Ginny Wilson the week after we got back from Gallup? We had about 40 people crammed into this apartment, although we had the use of the apartment next door too, which no one used much. I served cold turkey and lots of sandwich spreads, and Bill made whiskey and sodas and rum and cokes. About half the people left at midnight and the rest got started playing murder and generally tearing the place up, and finally left at about 3:30 am. I've never given a party like that before and I don't

think I'm likely to again for a long time.

The following Sunday we went down to the annual fiesta in Santa Fe. It wasn't much different from a big fair except for the Indians sitting along the Plaza with stuff to sell and a big torchlight affair in the evening when they burned the effigy of old man trouble. Mary-Leigh started school the day after Labor day, and seems to be enjoying it a lot except that I can't see that she's learning much. We still have a horrible hour and a half in the morning getting her off to school on time. I find that other mothers have the same trouble so I don't feel so badly now, - I suppose she'll out grow it. I went down to Santa Fe the following Sat to shop and took M.L. with me, mostly to have her picture taken. However, as I expected, she wouldn't hold still and look natural, so they didn't come out very well. I have to buy twelve anyway so you'll receive yours one of these days (I've just sent back the proofs so it may be a week or so.)

Last weekend we went on a little camping trip all by ourselves and had a wonderful time. We fished all day Sunday (Bill's birthday) and came home dead tired with about 9 fish ranging from 6 to 9 in. Now that the rationing's off we can go as far off as we have time for. We may go explore some Cajcite mines this Sunday that are off the way to Taas.

We've had a full week this week, - we had a fellow<sup>who's leaving</sup> over to dinner on Tuesday, Wednesday we took ten people down to Miss Warners for dinner and had them here afterwards, Thursday I gave a talk on metal work for the Mesa Club, a sort of womens club up here, Friday we were asked to dinner at the Argo's (Harold and Mary) as a sort of farewell for the Skaggs (Ruth and Lester who used to live downstairs in this apartment) and the Fairbanks (the ones who came from Yale and are now going



back there). Tonight the British Mission (all the English scientists up here) are giving a big party in Fuller Lodge for, I imagine, several hundred people. So far next week seems to be calm and uncluttered, - but something will probably turn up. We plan to leave next Sat. for Colorado to visit Aunt Marie and also the Peobody's, who are old friends of Mummy's. We figured that we wouldn't get a chance to take a trip up there on our way home if we leave in February, so now would be the best time to do it.

We may not get back til next spring, as the college doesn't want us in the middle of the year as they have to get someone to replace Bill for the whole year. In spite of quite a few other offers I imagine we'll definately go back to Swarthmore. Bill had a letter from Winthrop Wright the other day saying that he and Ruth had bought a farm in New Hampshire and he planned to retire in three years, which means that Bill will probably be made head of the department then. (Naturally this is unofficial now). The only thing I dread is living in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and perhaps getting my asthma back.

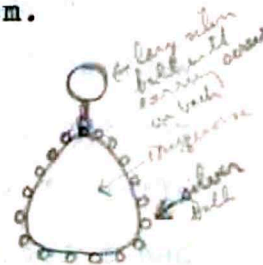
Poor old Eli got sicker and sicker, and the Vet said there was no chance of his getting completely well, so we finally decided that it would be better to have him put to sleep.

In one of Mummy's last letters she says that Thornton has received the Legion of Merit Medal, - he ought to have enough points to get out of the Navy now, but evidently he doesn't expect to get home until next spring. Mummy and Daddy have been up at Blue Gates again with the Zeleny's. I hope Mummy takes it a little easier now that the English children are gone. They are planning to take a long vacation next spring and summer which will be good for them. If it weren't for the

baby we'd get you and Eleanor to come out here and take a tour of the West with us before we come home. We might be able to do something even so, if I'm able to nurse the baby as long as I did M.L. and if something could be done about diapers.

I've been leading a lazy life with a girl to clean and iron two half days a week. It's ~~meant~~ I have had more time to sew and make jewelry and read. I just finished a maternity jumper yesterday, - I look like a mountain in it, but it's comfortable anyway. I bought two matching tourquoises in Gallup and I've made some stunning dangle earrings out of them.

My next project is really Bill's birthday present, - silver buckle and end tab for a leather belt. A friend of ours bought a beauty in Gallup and I'm going to more or less copy his.



Well, I've promised Mary-Leigh to go over to the PX to get an ice cream cone, and she's pestering me to hurry.

So long for now and be good,

Lots of love  
Barbara



October 10th., 1945

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

We got home from our trip Sunday and found your letters waiting for us,- nothing like lots of mail to make you glad to get home. We had a wonderful week in Colorado,- the day we left was snowy and cold so we missed some lovely views going over a mountain pass to Pueblo. The roads were bad and we were all pretty exhausted when we finally got to the Peobody's after dark. However, our stay there more than made up for it,- they are perfectly delightful people, with the most adorable adobe ranch house and a 2000 acres ranch. Bill seemed extremely interested in talking to Mr. Peobody about the ranch,- evidently he has a tenant farmer to run it who gets a percentage of the profits. They raise sugar beets, cantaloupe, and alfalfa and fatten sheep for the market. He himself has a small farm around his house and a hired man to help with a few sheep and chickens, a Jersey cow and a horse. Boy, was that milk ever good,- it was about as thick as the coffee cream we get here, and cream you had to serve with a spoon. We had their own lamb chops and eggs<sup>+ butter</sup>, too. Even M.L. felt completely at home and was extremely good considering her temperment. We stayed one day and two nights and left Monday morning for Grand Lake. The weather was glorious that day and we went up through Colorado Springs and Denver and over the Berthoud pass, where there were several feet of snow beside the road. Aunt Marie was still staying at her cottage at Grand Lake although it was really winter there. She has been taking care of this little 8 year old boy, Nicky, for the summer,- and as she couldn't find a good boarding school for him has been sending him to the public school in Grand Lake. I don't see how she ever manages there with no heat except the kitchen stove and only cold

running water and a outhouse. During the middle of the day it was warm enough, but at night and in the early morning it was pretty cold. We ate out evening meals out so it was a little easier for Aunt Marie. Mary had a wonderful time with Nicky, - goodness, if we ever thought M.L. ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> bad this little boy ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> ten times worse. I think M.L. was so fascinated watching him that she couldn't think of anything bad to do! We went on a few picnics and drives and just lazed around in the sun. It was fun sitting around the fire in the evening and talking with Aunt Marie, - she certainly is an amazing person, with a very alert and interesting mind.

I had had my ~~heart~~<sup>heart</sup> set on our driving over the Estes Park mountain pass, but until the day before we left it was closed because of storms. However they finally put a snow plow through and we were able to drive over it the day we left. I do so hope you will be able to drive over it too some day, - I could never describe the glorious views, you go up over 12,500 ft. almost to the tops of the mountains and ofcourse way above tree line. There was snow everywhere and the most dazzling blue sky and sunshine. Bill took lots of pictures which you will see some day. We got to Boulder in time for lunch and then spent an hour or so looking at the University of Colorado campus at Boulder. I've never seen a more beautiful campus, - However I guess the Physics Dept. isn't much, under staffed and no money for equipment. It looks pretty certain that we will come back to Swarthmore. There was a letter waiting for us when we got back, from Pres. Nason raising Bill to associate prof. and giving him a salary of \$4500 and also making it fairly certain that he will be made head of the dept. in a few years when Winthrop retires. That looks pretty good even though the new Nuclear Institute at



Chicago University is offering him \$5500. There would be no teaching there and Bill would never have much chance for advancement with so many big bugs at the top,- besides who wants to live in Chicago?

We shopped in Denver for a few hours on our way through, though I didn't have much luck. We found one pressure saucepan and almost bought it for you for Christmas. However it was one of the aluminum ones and I think the stainless steel ones are much better so we didn't get it. If I'd only known you really wanted one I'd have gotten it anyway. We got home Sunday afternoon a little tired and glad to get home again. I don't find driving as comfortable as I did on our Gallup trip,- I ache all over after many hours of sitting still.

A sweater for M.L. sounds swell,- I'll send her measurements as soon as I can tie her down to get them, she's in school right now. It seems to me that you have enough knitting underway already without starting on my green yarn,- I'll wait a while and see if I can't get to it myself.

By the way, don't get Bill any more unsanforized shirts,- the last one shrank down to my size as well as the first, and I can't use any more! We hunted all over Denver and finally found one sanforized shirt, so he ought to be able to get along for a while.

I'd better stop now and get to the commissary before it's crowded,

Love & kisses

Barbara

P.O. Box 1663  
Santa Fe N Mex  
Oct 18, 1945

Dear Mother -

A couple of us are coming East to visit M.D.T., leaving here Sunday. I ~~find I can spend two days in M.F.,~~ and hope to arrive in Ithaca on the Black Diamond from Buffalo, around 1 P.M. in the afternoon, on Tuesday, Oct. 23. I think there is a bus to Watkins Glen around supper time. Maybe E. could pick me up after school, or you have some friend who wouldn't mind driving to Ithaca for me. My reservation from Chicago to Buffalo has not come through, yet, so I'll telegraph, confirming the above, or reporting any changes.

I shall leave Friday for Swanton, go the R.R. Sat. afternoon, spend Sunday there and go to Boston Monday morning Oct 29. The other man has business in Washington, and

will probably meet me again in New Haven.

I hope this letter will reach you in time. If not the telegram will have the pertinent data.

Love,

Bill.

PO Box 1663  
Santa Fe, N Mex  
Oct 18, 1945

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Love, Bill



Los Alamos, N.M.

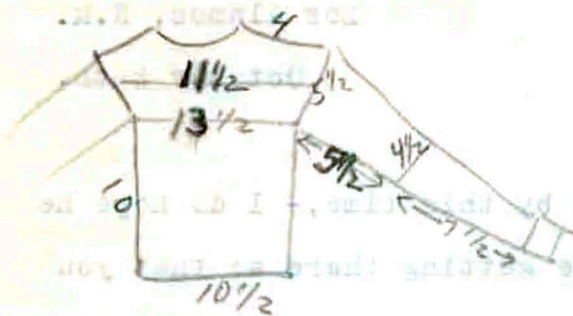
October 20th.

Dear Mother and everybody,-

Bill must have come and gone by this time,- I do hope he didn't have to spend too much time getting there so that you could have a nice visit. Gosh, I sure wish I could have taken this trip with him! I can't wait for him to get back and tell me all the news.

I'll make this a short letter as Bill has probably told you everything of interest that we've been doing,- and I certainly haven't done much since he's been gone. I will get M.L.'s measurements first thing tomorrow,- I think a pull over would be nice for a change,- can it be made with a neck that buttons at either side so that the neck doesn't look too big? As far as the green yarn which I hope Bill remembered to give you,- I don't think there's enough for more than a sweater, any style would be swell, tho if it's a pull over make it with buttons at side of neck as above. I think a 1 year size is better than too small a size. A wool plaid skirt for M.L. sounds wonderful,- I'll send the measurements for that too. How about making it a jumper instead as she always has trouble keeping her skirts tucked in. I just made her one out of an old red skirt of Margie's, so I'll send you the pattern I used for the top and then you can put a plain gathered or pleated skirt on it.

Would you send me sometime Eleanor's waist measure and length of skirt. There has been a lot of this Guadalupe(?) cloth in Santa Fe that makes lovely skirts and I thought she'd like one for X-mas.



waist 22 1/2 in (loose)  
length of shirt 14 1/2 (from top  
of collar to waist band)

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \frac{1}{2} \\ 3 \frac{1}{2} \\ \hline 17 \frac{1}{2} \\ 13 \\ \hline 30 \end{array}$$

In this pattern you can see the neck line. I haven't done much since I think a girl never would be  
you self - I can open back on first side -

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \frac{1}{2} \\ 11 \\ \hline 16 \frac{1}{2} \\ 3 \frac{1}{2} \\ \hline 20 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 6 \frac{1}{2} \\ 460 \\ \hline 520 \\ 383 \\ \hline 6123 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{array}$$





Sunday -

Dear Mother -

As you can gather, I am now en route back to Los Alamos. There are four of us in the two bed room regularly assigned to the project on the Sunday train. We get into Lamy at 2.00 PM tomorrow, just 48 hrs after leaving Boston.

I spent last Sunday with the Pages and saw Hank Forsyth & his wife Saturday evening at the Jeleny's. They happened to be visiting the Rockwells over the weekend, and were at the Jeleny's for dinner. Hank is getting along fine in his work, but is more hard of hearing. Mr. Page looked the best I've ever seen him; Mrs. Page appeared older.

I showed them some of the pictures, which they enjoyed. They will probably take a trip West next spring & we shall see them then.

This train is certainly the best I've ever seen. I am now in the observation car at the end of the train. It has easy chairs & lots of window space. At one end is a desk where I am writing. We have with us a physicist from M.I.T. who will visit Los Alamos for a couple of days. The other man is a young army doctor from the Post.

I called up Dolly & sent Emily outside in Chicago and had a short chat. Perhaps we will be driving past Camp Town next summer & can stop to say hello.

The visit at MIT proved to be very profitable, and the men there were very cooperative. I stayed in Lexington at the Kaufmanns. Sat. morning I got up early to prepare to kill one of his pigs. He has had 3 this year, and freezes part of the meat, salting and smoking the ham, bacon etc. They also make sausage! I had some of his home cured bacon & it was better than store bacon. Also had goat chops, from one of his 2 goats. They were quite good.





I enjoyed my short visit with you, and am glad that I saw Eleanor and Auntie May. Next summer I hope to take a couple of months vacation and will spend several weeks in N.F. I hope the baby won't be any more trouble than Mary-Louise was.

Boston was very hot & humid yesterday - Chicago was cold and bitter, the little me saw of it while changing trains.

My writing is not so hot, even though the train is really quite smooth. It goes along at quite a clip but jerks once in a while.

One of the other men wants to write a letter so I'll sign off.

Love Bill

Sunday [based on envelope mailing date, November 4, 1945]

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Love Bill

Los Alamos, N.Mex.

Sunday, Dec. 9th

1945

Dear Mother,

I don't know why I never seem to get any better about writing. Maybe it's because I don't have much to say except I wish this baby would hurry up and come. I was so sure it was on it's way the other day that I got into a frenzy of mending and getting things fixed up to leave, which probably made me all the more tired and even more sure that it was coming. I've been having quite violent contractions for some time now and when I'm tired they come as often as every 5 minutes. Also the baby has definitely dropped and all my veins ache from the added pressure. However, the doctor still says January, - though I don't see how I can wait that long. We're off on a hike and picnic today so perhaps that will hurry things up a little.

Eleanor's letter came today giving her ring size, so I'll be able to get my Christmas packages<sup>off</sup> to you tomorrow. Bill and I have bought each other a colored wood cut by Norma Bassett Hall for Christmas. We haven't seen any original paintings out here that we'd like to have. This technique is entirely different and perfectly lovely. It's more like that Japanese print we have than anything else, - it's a picture of a sycamore tree with gorgeous colors.

I don't think I told you about the party we went to at the San Ildefonso Indian Pueblo<sup>Ant Sit</sup>. It certainly was unique and more fun than anything I've been to in a long time. They held it in a big recreation hall with a few chunk stoves around the room and gasoline lamps hung from the ceiling. Our group put on a few exhibition square dances first and then the Indians did some



of their fanciest dances with some gorgeous costumes. After that they all got out in couples and did a kind of two step to the same chant and beat of the tom toms. I was afraid the Indians would be shy and stay in a group by them selves, but, no, they pulled us up and had us all dancing with them in no time. The Indians seem to be extremely rythmic and this dance step was easy to learn and lots of fun to do. They all entered in to some more square dancing too. They had some long tables at the end of the room just piled with all sorts of food and we had all brought down cakes to add to it. There were a couple of our people taking pictures so perhaps we'll be able to show you some some day. Bill played the accordion for our group and ofcourse I just watched most of the time, but even that was fun.

Mary-Leigh is learning to knit and my nerves are in frazzles trying to help her,- especially as it all has to be translated in to left handed knitting.

Nothing else of particular interest so I'll sign off and start dinner.

*Sally Lane*



Sos Alamos, N. Mex.  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Mother & Eleanor,

Goodness, it seems as if an awful lot has happened the past week; even tho' it has gone slowly. I was just about going crazy the last week before the baby arrived, - night after night I had fake labor pains - regularly every 5 min. - for 3 or 4 hours - then they'd quit. They kept up it & on all day too - just to keep me wondering. The baby was so low that I had pressure pains all down my legs too, & felt just rotten - general. In spite of all this the doctor still insisted the baby wasn't going to come till January. He was leaving on <sup>week</sup> a furlough the 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec & wanted to save the baby till he got back. However, I just got in under the deadline. I was walking back from a tea party Tues. afternoon when the water started to break. When Bill got home at 6 we went over to the hospital & after a while the pains started to come. The doctor was anxious to hurry this up as he was scheduled to leave the next day at noon - so he didn't give me much to help the pain. However, it was my luck the last couple of hours. The baby was born at 2:40 AM on Wed. He sure is a cute little boy - but I can't say he looks like anyone in particular. He has a lot more hair than Mr. L. had - and his blood tho' not white as his was. He is an awfully good baby - I've hardly heard him cry once. I have enough milk for 3 babies & he eats well (in fact as well as ~~gets~~ out as a baby when he's finished.) & sleeps all the time between feedings. There are only 4 babies here in the hospital now - & they usually leave David in with me most of the day. It seems so funny to



have a baby around again after 6 1/2 years - I'm sure I'm  
going to find him easier to take care of when I get back home  
than M.L. was  
That is, except for the current So Adams inconveniences -

I the cold snap a week ago all the water pipes up in the canyon  
where our water comes from, froze. - & since then the water has  
been shut off most of the time. - In fact they had no water  
here at the hospital during the time the baby was delivered & for  
a day afterwards. - The nurse finally gave me a bottle in some  
distilled water she had so that I could get me of the  
blood off me. - Our home is one of the highest & Bill  
says the water has been on even less often than other apartments  
as the pressure is lower. - Poor Bill has really had a rotten  
time. - The day I left for the hospital Mary-Sue was home  
with a slight cold - & the next day it turned into flu &  
her temp. kept going up. - Bill took her over to see the doctor  
but he seemed to think she'd be ok. at home. - However, by  
Friday her temp was up to 104° & they kept her here in the hospital  
& gave her penicillin. - Bill was awfully worried - & you can  
imagine how upset I was being to his best & unable to do  
anything about it. - However, the penicillin certainly acted quickly  
& Bill took her home yesterday with her temp. normal.  
I've been really more worried that Bill would get it - with none  
home to take care of him & M.L. it would have been terrible -  
However, if he was going to get it he would have by now, I should  
think. - I hate to think of poor Bill having to stay here &  
take care of M.L. these two weeks. - However, he doesn't seem to  
mind at all & probably the vacation will do him good. - His  
willingness that he's doing now can be done at home as well as

at the lab. He's perfectly furious (as everyone is) about this water shortage - & we've had trouble with the power too, the past couple of weeks - they turn it off for 1/2 hour or so almost every evening just during the dinner hour - However, I think they have their new generator in now, so perhaps that trouble is over. If there is anything for him to get this work done soon, I think he'd like to leave - However, I don't think there's much chance - We're both getting pretty fed up with this place -

### Christmas Day

I'm sitting up on the edge of my bed today - so perhaps my writing will be more legible - Bill brought in all my presents to me last night - & I couldn't wait til visiting hours today to open them - as I went & opened them all last night - Goodness, I've never seen such masses of presents! Bill came in with a newspaper full of them - just like Santa Claus! I don't know where to start, everything was so wonderful. The turkey was a work of art, Mother - it's almost too



beautiful to use - now all I need is a nice tea set to use it on!  
Those mittens are certainly a beauty, Eleanor - and I needed them badly -  
when we went for a picnic the other day I spent a long time for nothing  
I was on my hands! The foot holders are another thing I needed right off  
mine have suddenly all gone to pieces. The yellow blouse is beautiful -  
I saw one like that - Sears & almost sent for one. I've never worn  
yellow before - but I'm starting - now - I just made myself a blouse out of  
a yellow print. Now I'll get all the knit things for David - He  
sure is well stocked with sweaters - mittens - I'll have to get something  
quick now, so I can take him out riding ~~comfy~~ with - different  
sweater every day! I'm just crazy about the blue sweater - cap. They are  
by far the cutest of all of them! - Grandma & I still have mentioned the  
pearl bracelet & the book on the Rio Grande - so soon to see I got for me  
present the I deserved! I hate to think of that messy little box of stuff  
I sent to all of you! Thanks just ever so much - All the presents sure  
make a big difference - poor girl all alone - this darn hospital - The food  
& rollers & the water is still yuck. Bill & M.L. are probably still giving present under  
the tree at home - & are invited out to Xmas dinner - So long to you Barbara

Los Alamos, N. Mex.  
December 23, 1945

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

Goodness, it seems as if an awful lot has happened the past week, even though it has gone slowly. I was just about going crazy the last week before the baby arrived, night after night I had false labor pains, regularly every 5 minutes, for 3 or 4 hours and then they'd quit. They kept up off and on all day too, just to keep me wondering. The baby was so low that I had pressure pains all down my legs too, and felt just rotten in general. In spite of all this the doctor still insisted the baby wasn't going to come till January. He was leaving on a 2 week furlough the 19<sup>th</sup> of December and wanted to save the baby till he got back. However, I just got in under the deadline. I was walking back from a tea party Tuesday afternoon when the water started to break. When Bill got home at 6 we went over to the hospital and after a while the pains started to come. The doctor was anxious to hurry things up as he was scheduled to leave the next day at noon, so he didn't give me much to help the pain. However, it was very bad the last couple of hours. The baby was born at 2:40 AM on Wednesday [the 19<sup>th</sup>]. He sure is a cute little boy, but I can't say he looks like anyone in particular. He has a lot more hair than ML had, and is blond though not white as hers was. He's an awfully good baby. I've hardly heard him cry once. I have enough milk for 3 babies and he eats well (in fact so well he spits out an ounce or so when he's finished) and sleeps all the time between feedings.

There are only 4 babies here in the hospital now, and they usually leave David in with me most of the day. It seems so funny to have a baby around again after 6 ½ years. I'm sure I'm going to find him easier to take care of when I get back home than ML was. That is, except for the current Los Alamos inconveniences. In the cold snap a week ago all the water pipes up in the canyon where our water comes from froze and since then the water has been shut off most of the time. In fact they had no water here at the hospital during the time the baby was delivered and for a day afterwards. The nurse finally gave me a bath in some distilled water she had so that I could get some of the blood off me. Our house is one of the highest and Bill says the water has been on even less often than other apartments as the pressure is lower. Poor Bill has really had a rotten time. The day I left for the hospital Mary Leigh was home with a slight cold and the next day it turned into flue and her temperature kept going up. Bill took her over to see the doctor but he seemed to think she'd be ok at home. However by Friday her temperature was up to 104 degrees and they kept her here in the hospital and gave her penicillin. Bill was awfully worried and you can imagine how upset I was having to lie here and unable to do anything about it. However, the penicillin certainly acted quickly and Bill took her home yesterday with her temperature normal.

I've been really more worried that Bill would get it; with no one home to take care of him and ML it would have been terrible. However, if he was going to get it he would have by now, I should think. I hate to think of poor Bill having to stay home and take

care of ML these two weeks. However, he doesn't seem to mind at all and probably the vacation will do him good. This writing that he's doing now can be done at home as well as at the lab. He's perfectly furious (as everyone is) about this water shortage, and we've had trouble with the power, too, the past couple of months. They turn it off for ½ hour or so almost every evening just during the dinner hour. However, I think they have their new generator in now, as perhaps that trouble is over. If there is anyway for him to get this work down soon, I think he'd like to leave. However, I don't think there is much chance. We've both getting pretty fed up with this place.

### Christmas Day

I'm sitting up on the edge of my bed today, so perhaps my writing will be more legible. Bill brought in all my presents to me last night and I couldn't wait till visiting hours today to open them. So I went and opened them all last night. Goodness, I've never seen such masses of presents! Bill came in with a knapsack full of them just like Santa Claus! I don't know where to start, everything was so wonderful. The teapot cover is a work of art, Mother, it's almost too beautiful to use. Now all I need is a nice tea set to use it on! Those mitten are certainly an eyeful, Eleanor and I needed them badly. When we went off on a picnic the other day I spent an hour looking for some to wear on my hands!

The potholders are another thing I needed frightfully. Mine have suddenly all gone to pieces. The yellow blouse is beautiful. I saw some like that in Sears and almost sent for one. I've never worn a yellow print. Now I'll get to all the knit things for David. He sure is well stocked with sweaters and mittens. I'll have to get a carriage quick now, so I can take him out riding with a different sweater every day! I'm just crazy about the blue sweater and cap. They are by far the cutest of all of them! Goodness, I still haven't mentioned the pearl bracelet and the book on the Rio Grande. It seems to me I got far more presents than I deserved! I hate to think of that measly little box of stuff I sent all of you! Thanks just ever and ever so much. All the presents sure made a big difference to a poor girl all alone in this darn hospital. The food is rotten and the water is still off. Bill and ML are probably still opening presents under the tree at home, and are invited out to Xmas dinner.

So long for now, Barbara



Wednesday

26 Dec 1945

Dear Mother, (Eleanor & Auntie May) —

Things have been pretty hectic,  
but are now much better. Barbara  
seems to have given you most the  
news. I meant to get a letter  
off before Christmas, but  
wasn't able to. Mary-Elizabeth is  
OK. now — the penicillin certainly  
worked wonders.

Barbara and the baby are doing  
well, and may be home next  
Sunday.

I hope you all had a fine  
Christmas. I am enclosing a  
Christmas check which should  
have been mailed the day  
B. went to the hospital —

The sweater is fine - I like this type which buttons up the front. I still have the blue pull over which E. knit years ago. It comes in fine for hikes, etc, but always messes my hair & is not good to wear every day.

The slide box came just in time, for in another month or so I would have bought one - Mrs. Page sent me an outfit to mount the slides in glass. I now have so many that they need organizing - Thanks very much, Tim!

And, Auntie May, thanks very much for the elegant neck-tie. Most of mine are wool; and I have needed a real dressy one.

I put Mary into the dress, and it fits very well. She wore it to Christmas dinner at the Fromans. She will probably write a letter when she has settled down from playing with all her new toys. She is now making out lists of things to buy at the commissary, and is pestering me as to the spelling of tomatoes, celery, onions, nuts, artichokes, etc.

This is not much of a letter, I am afraid, but will have to do for now —

Love Bill.



Wednesday  
[December 26, 1945]

Dear Mother, (Eleanor and Auntie May)

Things have been pretty hectic, but are now much better. Barbara seems to have given you most of the news. I meant to get a letter off before Christmas, but wasn't able to. Mary-Leigh is OK now, the penicillin certainly worked wonders.

Barbara and the baby are doing well, and may be home next Sunday. I hope you all had a fine Christmas. I am enclosing a Christmas check which should have been mailed the day B. went to the hospital.

The sweater is fine. I like the type which buttons up the front. I still have the blue pull over which E knit years ago. It comes in fine for hikes, etc. but always messes my hair and so is not good to wear every day.

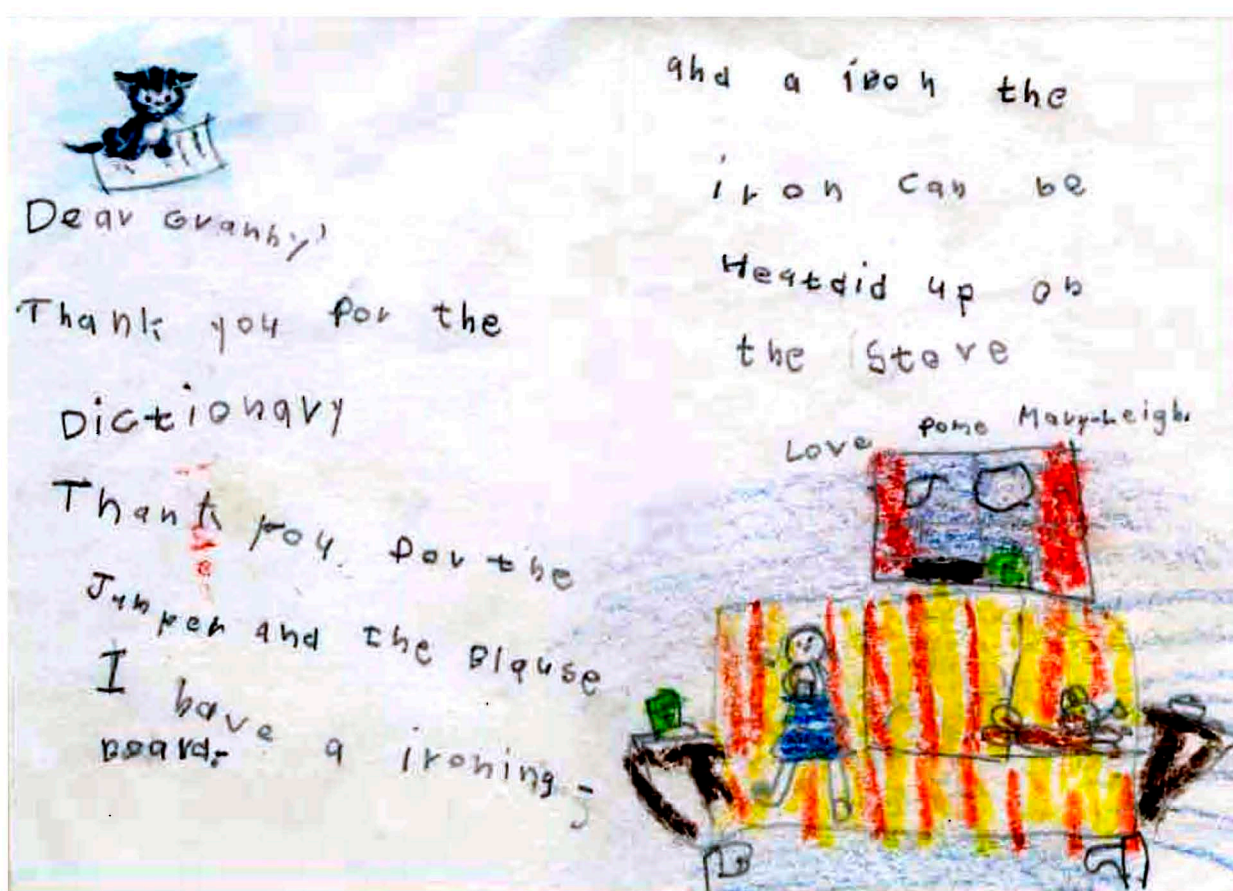
The slide box came just in time, for in another month or so I would have bought one. Mrs. Page sent me an outfit to mount the slides in glass. I now have so many that they need organizing. Thanks very much Tis!

And, Auntie May, thanks very much for the elegant necktie. Most of mine are wool, and I have needed a real dressy one.

I put Mary into the dress, and it fits very well. She wore it to Christmas dinner at the Froman's [Darol]. She will probably write a letter when she has settled down from playing with all her new toys. She is now making out lists of things to buy at the commissary, and is pestering me as to the spelling of tomatoes, celery, onions, nuts artichokes, etc.

This is not much of a letter, I am afraid, but will have to do for now.

Love Bill



*Save + return*

MRS. WILLIAM ELMORE

P. O. BOX 1663, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

January 11, 1946

Dear Families,-

Well, I'm having a fine time being a mother,- except for being sleepy all the time. I never had this 3 a.m. feeding with Mary-Leigh, it's a test of indurance to get myself awake and then keep myself awake for an hour at that ungodly hour. And no going back to sleep after the 7 a.m. feeding either, this time I have M.L. to get ready and send off to school. And ofcourse the times I figure I can snatch a few winks during the day, are the times David picks for his yelling(you know for exercise) times. However, the one thing I've learned the past 6 years is to go to sleep at a moments notice at any time,- so I fool the little squirt occasionally.

Speaking of squirts, I'm gradually learning about little boys. The times that I emerge drenched after changing his diapers are becoming fewer. But he really shot the works the other night at three a.m. I had just removed the dirty diaper when he got me square in the eye, and ofcourse in my semi-conscious state it took me a second or two to react and slap a diaper down on top of him,- but too late, by that time with a terrific grunt he had started on number two. I gave a lightening leap to one side and it shot out at least three feet across the living room rug! I felt like one of these rats they keep frustrating in physiological tests,- I don't think I would have been surprised if he'd ended up by spitting at me.

Bill has promised to load some black and white film and take some pictures this Sunday. I hope I can get one of David smiling. After he eats he gets perfectly limp and his face all red and



bloated, and then he starts to smile. I know it's completely unconscious, but it makes him look so perfectly adorable and just exactly like Bill,- or as Mary Argo says, like Bill when he's had a couple of drinks.

I haven't done anything very exciting since I've been home., except go to the commissary three times a week in the morning while Bill's still asleep, and exchange news with all my friends. Bill has to go and play for the square dance on Sat. and I think ~~I'll go too and dance a few squares,- that is if I can go some-~~ thing about David. The Argo's have come over a couple of times to play bridge, but except for that Bill's worked every night. He's trying to get a lot done on this book before the fellow who's helping him with it leaves next week. Today was Mary Argo's birthday so I had them over for lunch and baked a sponge cake. I gave her that book you sent, Mummy, "Look Who's a Mother". She is at last expecting a baby in July,- she lost one last Christmas you remember.

#### Sunday

Well, believe it or not, we actually took some pictures this afternoon. David absolutely refused to open his eyes in the glare of the photo floods, but he still looked cute. We got some of Mary in pig tails and with her hair loose. I only hope some of them come out decently.

We've finally made up our minds to move to a larger apartment. It's been a lot more complicated than I thought to have the baby's stuff all over the house. The Fermi's have just left and we were able to get their apartment which has the pipes all installed for the Bendix. It'll mean that we won't have the breakfast nook where I did all my metal work and sewing, but in-

stead we have a dining alcove off the living room. I hope we have better luck with the heating than we've had here. The other night I awoke at 4 in the morning to find the apartment so full of coal gas and smoke that I couldn't see my hand in front of my face. David was in the living room with all the hot air vents open to keep it warm enough. I don't know if this coal gas is powerful enough to asphyxiate him but it sure made us mad. It was a bitter cold night and we had to open everything up for an hour to get the smoke out. Bill was so furious that he went and called the fire dept. We've had it happen lots of times before but never with the baby here and not usually at night. The water situation is still bad too. I told you how the water was off the whole time I was in the hospital, except for a few hours a day,- well, the pipes all froze again the other day and it's been as bad as before. Everyone is perfectly furious but there is nothing to do about it except grin and bear it,- it's this darn inefficient army for you. At present they're bringing up water from the filthy Rio Grande in tank cars previously used for gasoline and then dousing it with chlorine so that you can hardly drink it. I certainly wish that Bill were finished with his work and we could leave.

Mary-Leigh spends all her time lately writing books,- I'm enclosing one for you. They are completely her own composition and spelling, tho they reflect the sort of books they are reading in school.

*I don't know if I told you that we can have visitors up here now (abs all censorship is off) So if you could give us Hugh's address - we could invite them up for a look see*



tho not for the night as we have 2 rooms. Perhaps it would be easier or rather quicker if you dropped him a note to that effect. They'd have to let us know a day in advance so that they can be cleared by the F.B.I.

I don't think I ever told you that M.C.'s mouth fits her beautifully. It's really a work of art with all the cable stitches. The dictionary is a great success too - you'd be amazed at how fast she's learning to read & spell. She can take any of her books & read them quite well ~~with~~ out of her mouth for words occasionally. Oh yes - & her zipper is absolutely perfect - I've already washed it once - She's crazy about the blonde making dressing room!

Well - David is sleeping - as is little J + J - cut up - looks of love to all

Barbara



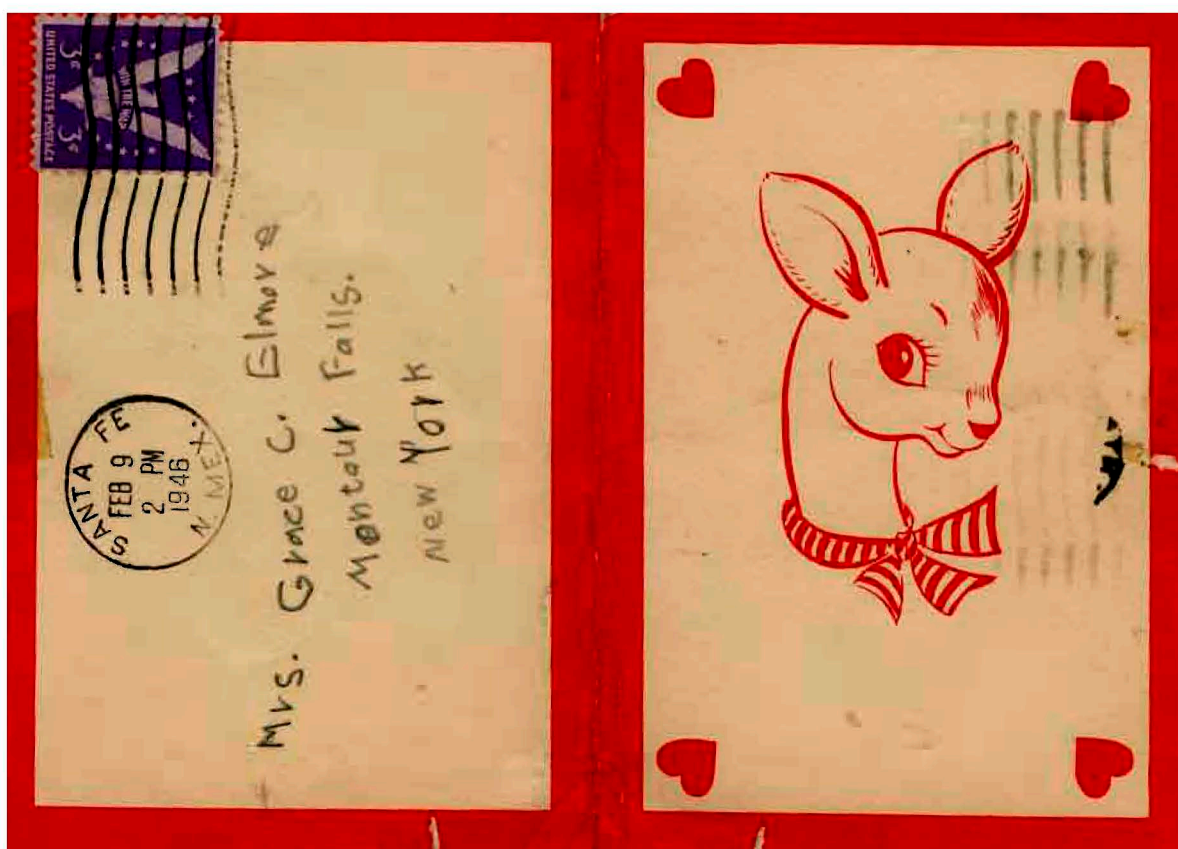
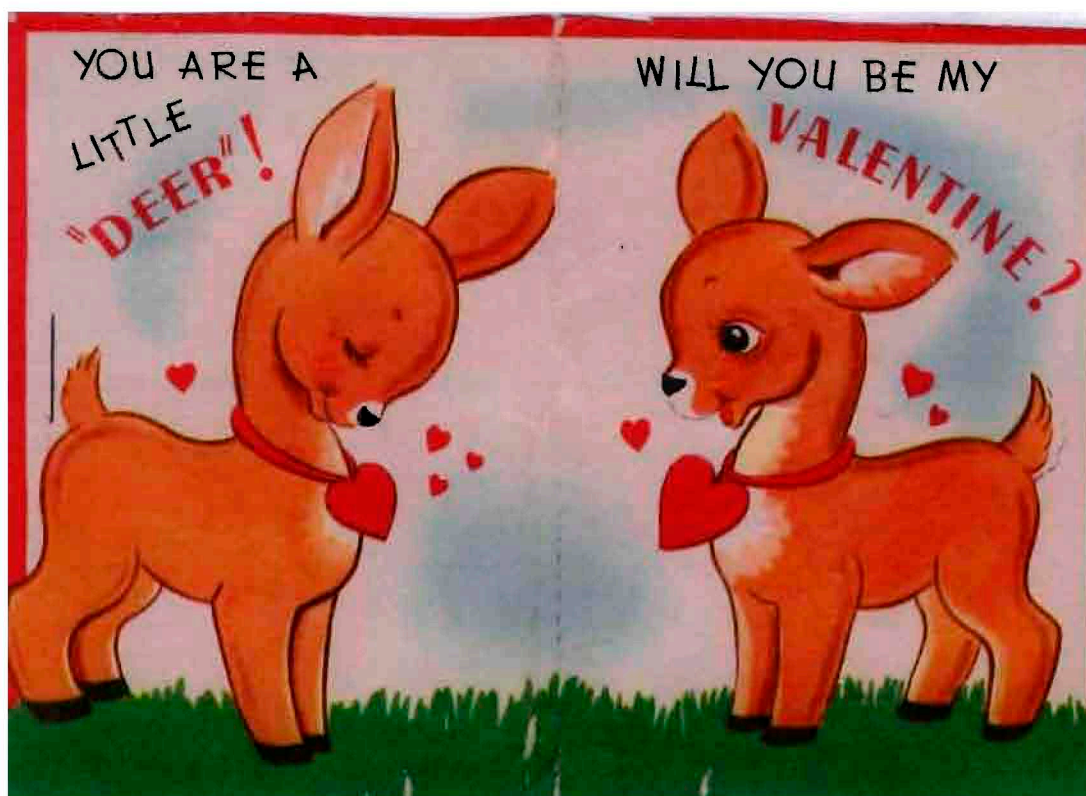
Addendum to Letter from Barbara Page Elmore  
January 11, 1946

I don't know if I told you that we can have visitors up here now (also all censorship is off). So if you could give us Hugh [Cronk]'s address we could invite them up for a look see though not for the night as we have no room. Perhaps it would be easier or rather quicker if you dropped him a note to that effect. They'd have to let us know a day in advance so that they can be cleared by the FBI.

I don't think I even told you that ML's sweater fits her beautifully. It's really a work of art with all that cable stitch. The dictionary is a great success too. You'd be amazed at how fast she's learning to read and spell. She can take any of her books and read them quite well only having to ask for words occasionally. Oh yes, and her jumper is adorable, fits perfectly. I've already washed it once. She's crazy about the blouse made of dressy rayon!

Well, David is sleeping so I'd better go and get a catnap. Loads of love to all,

Barbara



P.S. - I just remembered that this was to be a happy birthday letter. / When  
happy return, Mother - a present will come - the letter as usual!  
Los Alamos, N.M.

Feb. 11, 1946

Dear Mother, etc.

*most of the time - as in the letter*  
I figure it must be three weeks since I wrote last, but honestly I haven't had many minutes to spare. Two kids can certainly keep one on the hop, especially as David spends a good portion of his time crying. I guess it's a touch of colic, which I'm sure would clear up if I could just get his feeding regulated. I'm still trying desperately to keep on nursing him. If I get the least bit energetic tho, the milk disappears and then he cries even more. However, things ~~are~~ <sup>have</sup> calmed down a lot the past few days and I'm beginning to feel like my old self again. In spite of colic David is a fat little pig. He'll keep on eating indefinitely if you don't stop him, and he's as round and fat as a little butter ball. He's completely outgrown the bassinet so we got a second hand crib for him. He smiles a lot now, and is just too cute for words. Bill is nuts about him and holds and plays with him a lot more than he did with M.L. at that age.

Mary-Leigh had a cold all last week and is still coughing a lot tho she's back in school again. Bill caught it too, but David and I seem to be immune. Mary was very pleased with the valentines, - esp. David's. I'm enclosing one she cooked up for you last night.

*M.L. couldn't find the valentine - as in the letter*  
Bill is in a frenzy of work, - he won't take time out for anything. He says he's going to be working right up to the end of June on this book. At least he works home in the evenings, - probably because we are farther from the Tech Area now, - and you know how he hates to exert himself. I think I'll be kind of



glad when we're on our way home from this place.

We're very well settled in our new apartment now,- I'm certainly glad we moved, it's in a wonderful location with a gorgeous view, and the extra room makes a big difference. I'm not fussing with anything in the way of decoration that takes time as we'll only be here four more months. We have some very nice neighbors next to us with two little girls,- the oldest a little younger than Mary.

~~Bill plays regularly for the Square Dance every two weeks,~~  
now that Willie has left. I've ~~been~~<sup>gone</sup> the last two times and it sure is fun to be able to ~~be~~<sup>dance</sup> again. I get quite a work out trying to keep up with all the extra males. We took the children on a little drive Sunday. David reacted the same way as Mary did at that age and dropped off to sleep the minute the car started. It was kind of nice to get out again. I've been rather cooped up here in the house as we haven't yet located a baby carriage. We hope to go to Santa Fe Sat. and shop for one, tho I'd have much rather bought a second hand one up here.

<sup>29 wrist + 36 hand - wow!</sup>  
I still weigh 130 lb. and can't fit into anything. I finally got a jumper made last night,- that is almost made if I can find an hour tonite to put the finishing touches on it. For a while David had the habit of screaming all evening long,- which seemed like the last word after a long day. I have a feeling that it was the cow's milk that caused it, I'm glad that I don't have to give him much of that any more.

This letter doesn't seem to get very interesting so I'd better quit and do something else. I'll try and get the letters off a little more promptly in the future. That last sojourn in the hospital was kind of a set back and I'm just beginning to get caught up.

*Love - Barbara*

Mary Leigh



writing - a

1. Sally went to School ☒ yes - no
2. Jane said "Go home now Sally." ☒ yes - no
3. Sally did not go home. ☒ yes - ☐ no
4. Spot did not go home. ☒ yes - ☐ no



Los Alamos, New Mexico

Feb. 20, 1946

Dear Eleanor,

It seems to me that it's about time that I write a letter just to you, though it'll probably mean that Mother won't get one for another week. It's no cinch having two kids yapping around all the time. It keeps me pretty busy except for the evenings, and I don't seem to have enough evenings to take care of all the letter writing, sewing, metal work, social activities, and sleep. David's getting a little more regular now, and doesn't cry quite so much, tho it seems to me that he's awake an awful lot. He keeps us in gales of laughter with all his facial expressions, especially when he's full of dinner. Bill seems to get a big kick out of holding him and playing with him, and making faces at him to get him to laugh.

I wonder if I forgot to thank you for the little cap and mittens that you sent just before he was born. I'm afraid that with all the confusion of Christmas and being in the hospital and all, that I forgot a lot of things. He's wearing them all the time now, though the band under his chin doesn't meet by at least an inch, he's so darn fat. However I've crocheted an extra strip on the end so it works o.k.

We went to Santa Fe last Saturday with both Mary and David along, - it was kind of hectic, but very exciting for me as we bought me a swanky new coat. It's natural color suede leather, - full length and fitted with a full skirt and wide sholders. It cost \$125 and is just too gorgeous for words. My green mittens that you knit for me look so swell with it that I wondered if you had any more of the green yarn and could knit me some kind of tie-under-the-chin-cap sometime. I found a leather store in Santa Fe that said that they'd have some leather to match sometime so that I could make a little cap to match the coat. for swankier occasions.

We had just returned from Santa Fe at about 5pm and Mary-Leigh had opened all the packages all over the floor and I was trying to cope with



David and dinner and the general mess all at once, when who should walk in but Uncle Louis McKeehan (Captain in the Navy) who was up here for a few days on business. I hardly recognised him until he spoke, his hair is almost white but I'd never forget his falsetto voice. Bill was awfully glad to see him and immediately asked him to stay to dinner. It sure was hectic feeding David practically on one arm while I got dinner with the other. Evidently the big shots here weren't entertaining him much so I had just about decided that I should give a dinner party on Monday when the Koontz's crashed through and had us all over to dinner at Fuller Lodge that night, so I was spared. Somehow I don't seem quite up to dinner parties yet.

I have a swanky new baby carriage coming. The Argo's got it for me in Albuquerque,- it comes apart so that it can be used for the baby to sleep in in the car. Baby carriages cost a small fortune these days, I tried for weeks to get a second hand one up here but no luck, this one set us back 30 bucks. However Bill says that we spent so little on David so far (\$22 for hospital and delivery) that we might as well have these other luxuries.

All our friends are leaving,- the Argo's leave next week and I'm going to miss them a lot. However millions more are coming. They are putting up a lot more temporary houses and then a whole lot of permanent ones are going to be built.

*Barbara*

Barbara wants me to finish this letter so it can get mailed. She has gone to seek the baby carriage at the express office, so I am waiting for the Indian maid, and staying with David.

Has B. told you that the Pages may visit us out here in May? Then they will go to England to visit at the Henn house. They want us to go to Randolph. We think we will first visit in MF for a couple of weeks or so, then drive to the mts. Do you think you and mother and Auntie May, if she is around, would like to go to R. for a while? Of course there may be some hitch in the Page's plans, so they won't go to England. Personally I think it is too soon after the war to go abroad.

A letter from you, and from mother came today.

*Bill*

Los Alamos, N.M.

March 10, 1946

Dear Mother,

I'm afraid it's been an age since I wrote last. The time just whizzes by these days. I've been waiting to write in hopes that Bill would do something about those pictures - Bill's the worst putter off of anyone I know. Maybe you can do something with him. If he can just get the film developed I can pay someone here to make prints - or send it to L. Munnery & let him have them made. I can battle with Bill for something just as long & then I get sick & tired of the whole business & give up.

We went off on a picnic yesterday & took a few



more pictures - It's hard to get any good ones of David because  
the sun & photo floods make his shut his eyes - Admiring  
he smiles all the time. He's a perfect little lamb  
nowadays - runs & talks & laughs & plays all the time  
he is awake. I can't bear for you not to see him.

The package now came from Sears - I've been expecting  
it any day which is one of the reasons I haven't written.  
I've always wanted to color pictures - It'll be fun to try when  
Bill goes back to painting again.

I'm glad you liked the slippers - They are made of <sup>leather</sup> ~~leather~~  
skin. I'm hoping to get some to match my coat & make a little  
cap to go with it. Did Eleanor tell you about my sewing  
new coat? all of tan suede leather? It's really gorgeous.

Tuesday

I'm glad I didn't send this off yesterday as the package came  
from Sears. I'm dying to try the paints. What I'd like is a  
nice big picture of David and M.L. - they both have such  
big eyes that they'd be perfect to work on. I think  
David's hair may be red.

I'm feeling swell these days & getting lots done. I've had  
to make practically complete wardrobe, as none of my old clothes  
fit me yet. David is no bother at all & M.L. is a ~~good~~ <sup>adorable</sup>  
playing out almost all the time. The time will come when - all  
to soon - when I'll have to keep David out of mischief 24 hours  
a day! I take him with me to the store & visit almost every



day - in his new carriage - it's a very small one -  
comes apart so that he can sleep - it is the car.

It'll be a God send the summer while he's  
traveling around. It's fairly light weight  
so that I don't have much trouble pulling  
it up & down the stairs once a time a day.

Bill is still writing at this book all day every  
day - & for into the night - He works til 2 or 3 a.m.  
& then sleeps almost all morning. It's - hell

of a life! It'll be good when it all is over  
in a way here. However, I should feel lucky  
that he isn't going away for three months for the  
Navy test. That would be awful.

I must go this is the mail box -

Sincerely love

Barbara

P.S. Next time I'll type - This is terrible!

Los Alamos, N. M.  
March 10, 1946

Dear Mother,

I'm afraid it's been an age since I wrote last. The time just whizzes by these days. I'm been waiting to write in hopes that Bill would do something about the pictures. Bill's the worst putter off of anyone I know. Maybe you can do something with him. If he can just get the film developed I can pay someone here to make prints, or send it to Mummy and let her have them made. I can battle with Bill over something just so long and then I get sick and tired of the whole business and give up.

We went off on a picnic yesterday and took a few more pictures. It's hard to get any good ones of David because the sun or photo floods make him shut his eyes, ordinarily he smiles all the time. He's a perfect little lamb now a day. Never cries, and talks and laughs and plays all the time he is awake. I can't bear for you not to see him.

The package never came from Sears. I've been expecting it any day, which is one of the reasons I haven't written. I've always wanted to color pictures. It'll be fun to try when Bill gets back to printing again.

I'm glad you liked the slippers. They are made of llama skin. I'm hoping to get some to match my coat and make a little cap to go with it. Did Eleanor tell you about my swanky new coat? All of tan suede leather? It's really gorgeous.

Tuesday

I'm glad I didn't send this off yesterday as the package came from Sears. I'm dying to try the paints. What I'd like is a nice big picture of David and ML. They both have such high color that they'd be perfect to work on. I think David's hair may be red.

I'm feeling swell these days and getting lots done. I've had to make practically a complete wardrobe, as none of my old clothes fit me yet. David is no bother at all, and ML is in school or playing out almost all the time. The time will come though, all too soon, when I'll have to keep David out of mischief 24 hours a day! I take him with me to the store and visiting almost every day in his new carriage. It's a very swell one, comes apart so that he can sleep in it in the car. It'll be a Godsend this summer while we're traveling around. It's fairly lightweight too so that I don't have much trouble pulling it up and down the stairs once or twice a day.

Bill is still writing at this book all day, every day, and far into the night. He works till 2 or 3 am, and then sleeps almost all morning. It's a hell of a life! I'll be glad when it's all over and we're on our way home. However, I should feel lucky that he isn't going away for three months for the Navy Test. That would be awful.

I must get this in the mail now.

Loads of love, Barbara

P.S. Next time I'll type, this is terrible!



Lo Alamos

April 1, 1946

Dear Mother, -

I haven't much time to write, but I'm afraid  
to leave it as I don't see any more time in the  
near future. David is good as gold & still no  
trouble at all, but now he's seen to keep myself  
busy. I've had to make masses of clothes as I  
still can't fit into my old clothes. Mary-Seige  
was sick for a couple of weeks, too. She had a  
low fever (normal in morning and up to 101° in afternoon)  
for over a week with absolutely no other symptoms.  
I was pretty worried about aluminum fever or something  
like that. However, the doctor finally put her in  
the hospital & made every test he could think  
of and discovered nothing except a slight congestion  
in her chest for X-rays. so he pronounced her  
sick with bronchial pneumonia. I'm certain  
now heard of that with no cough or anything.  
Anyway, they gave her penicillin & kept her for several

days in the hospital - She seems to be fine now &  
is back in school, though I'm trying to keep her  
quiet a good part of the day & am feeding her lots.  
I wish she'd put some flesh on her bones.

We're hoping that Thornton may be able to visit  
us on his way east ~~any~~ day now. His last letter  
said he was on his way to San Francisco for Pearl Harbor -  
So his mother the postmaster at Fleet Post office in  
hopes that we can get a letter from Thornton before he leaves  
San Francisco.

We're having a terrific wind storm today - The  
mountains are completely hidden with the dust. &  
everywhere the house is covered with sand & grit. I've  
managed to get to see "Spellbound" tonight - I  
hope it's good. I've been to several movies lately -  
"Saratoga Trunk" is especially good - & "The Spiral  
Staircase" - see if you get a chance. While  
I think if it did you get to read "Rio Grande" before  
you read it to us - It is excellent - If you haven't  
read it we could read it back sometime. Right  
now I'm reading a <sup>new</sup> book on Geology which I'm sure

the baby - sort of like those people who learn  
Spanish while waiting in Doctor's office.

We've been off to picnics almost every Sunday.  
The weather has been glorious - just like summer.  
David is getting quite a tan. He gets a new ball  
almost every day out in the back yard.

I still worry a little I got those pictures developed  
so don't give up hope.

Love & love

Barbara



Los Alamos  
April 1, 1946

Dear Mother,

I haven't much time to write, but I'm afraid to leave it, as I don't see any more time in the near future. David is good as gold and still no trouble at all, but some how I seem to keep awfully busy. I've had to make masses of clothes, as I still can't fit into my old clothes. Mary-Leigh was sick for a couple of weeks, too. She had a low fever (normal in the morning and up to 101 degree in the afternoon) for over a week with absolutely no other symptoms. I was pretty worried about rheumatic fever or something like that. However, the doctor finally put her in the hospital and made every test he could think of and discovered nothing except a slight congestion in her chest from X-rays, so he pronounced her sick with bronchial pneumonia. I'm certainly never heard of that with no cough or anything! Anyway they gave her penicillin and kept her for several days in the hospital. She seems to be fine now and is back in school. Although I'm trying to keep her quiet a good part of the day and am feeding her lots. I wish she'd put on some flesh on the bones.

We're in having a terrific windstorm today. The mountains are completely hidden with the dust, and everything in the house is coated with sand and grit. I've prevailed on Bill to go to see "Spellbound" tonight; I hope it's good. I've gone to several movies lately, "Saratoga Trunk" is especially good and "The Spiral Staircase"; see them if you get a chance. While I think of it did you get to read "Rio Grande" before you sent it to us? It is excellent. If you haven't read it we could send it back sometime. Right now I'm reading a textbook on Geology while I nurse the baby. Sort of like these people who learn Spanish while waiting in Doctor's offices.

We've been off on picnics almost every Sunday. The weather has been glorious just like summer. David is getting quite a tan. He gets a sunbath almost every day out in the back porch.

I'm still working on Bill to get those pictures developed so don't give up hope.

Loads of love

Barbara

April 16th. 1946

Dear Mother;

I was glad to get your letter,- I was getting a little worried it was such a long time since I'd heard. All that house<sup>clean</sup>keeping sounds like more trouble than it's worth,- and the tapping of the maple trees! Goodness what a job! I wish I could send you a pound of butter for Easter, we have all ~~we~~ we can eat of the stuff. In fact we are eating altogether ~~too much~~ too much expensive food, we'll have to cut down when we return to Swarthmore and a smaller salary.

I hope Earl Vedder writes us a couple of days before he plans to be in Santa Fe, as it takes them that long to have a visitor cleared by the F.B.I. If he does we'll certainly invite him up.

I hadn't realized that I never described David to you. He's probably very much like any other baby except that he is good and big. He's strong too,- almost sits up by himself, and plays with one of these crib toys that hang across his crib and carriage all the time. His hair is in a crew cut about an inch long at the longest part, and is as fine as the finest silk. It is quite light in color and looks as if it might even be red. The rest of him is nice and fat and brown from being out in the sun every day. He sleeps all the time on his back and screams bloody murder if turned over. As a consequence his head is all flat and bald in the back. He started getting pabulum a week or so ago and is still protesting violently. He's crazy about Mary-Leigh. He follows her around with his eyes ( I have to hold my hand over his eyes when he eats to keep him at it) and laughs whenever she's around. She gets up early in the morning and plays with him until I wake up and feed him at 7am. He's still as good as gold and never cries any more.

Your package came today and Mary was so excited that I let her open the note paper,- and then I was sort of excited too so I opened David's ~~box~~ box. The green sweater is too lovely for words. Please thank Eleanor and

Aunty May ever so much for me. It really is a work of art and by far the nicest sweater he has.. When I go to Santa Fe next I am going to see if I can get some more of that yarn and make him some pants to go with it. Could you find out what size needles they used on the sweater?

We'll wait til Easter to open the rest of our presents,- you were dear to send them. It always seems such a surprise to get presents for Easter.

We have a present for you which we thought up last night, and which I do hope you'll think about seriously before you say no. We want you to take the train or plane out here towards the middle of June and stay here with us for a few weeks and then drive back east with us via Colorado and the Yellowstone. I know it sounds as if it would be kind of strenuous but there is a through train ( one car of the "Chief") that goes straight from New York to Lamy ( only a few miles from Santa Fe) and only takes two nights and you wouldn't even have to change once. It's an extra fare train which means it is air conditioned and luxurious so you're sure to be comfortable. When you get here you can have David's room with one of our good beds and we'll put David in with Mary, or you can sleep on Mary's bed and she can sleep on her cot in David's room. In any case it will be simple and not crowded at all. On the Trip home we can put David's carriage on the floor of the car and fix the seat up for either Mary to play on when you're in front or for you or me to sleep on when we want. It would be such fun to show you this place and something of the west on the way home, Lord knows if we'll ever get the chance again. Can't Eleanor and Aunty May take care of things at home for those four weeks and give you this little vacation? Do consider it, now,- it will give you such a good chance to visit with Mary-Leigh and David especially, and you know we'd just love to have you.

Mary seems to be all better now tho she seems to be awfully nervous. There is to be a child psychologist here next week and I have made an appointment for her to see him.

Got 2 go now -

Love Barbara

Mummy + Daddy are still planning to come out in May - We haven't heard from Thomas as yet - I guess he missed



Los Alamos, New Mex.

May 20, 1946

Dear Mother,

I've finally recuperated to some extent after having 8 people (incl David) to feed and bed for 8 days. Mummy and Daddy arrived Friday the 10th. and Thornton the ~~following Monday~~ <sup>Saturday</sup>. It certainly was a gay reunion. I was so excited that I was going around in circles,- I still don't know how I managed it all with as little confusion as there was. We went on several picnics and showed them all the sights, introduced them to all our friends who are still here and had a big party down at Miss Warner's Tea Room. Thornton had to leave Tuesday evening as he hadn't been able to get the time off to drive east with the parents. However he will be able to visit with them in New Haven after he is discharged and before Mummy and Daddy leave for England around the end of June. Thornton is planning to be up in Randolph while we are there in August so we'll get to see him then. He hasn't made up his mind yet what he is going to do after he gets out of the Navy. Mummy and Daddy seemed just the same tho a bit older. Mummy worked every minute she was here at everything that looked as if it needed fixing, and Daddy told stories to Mary-Leigh just like the ones he used to tell me when I was little. They thought that they just might be able to stop and see you on their way back, so if they do they will give you a blow by blow account of the visit. David reacted fairly well considering all the spoiling he got,- at any rate he made a big hit. He weighs 15 lb. now and is unusually long,- 27 in. He can practically sit up and will probably be standing when we get back home.

To get back to the last time I wrote you,- All those Easter presents that I hadn't written to thank you for are still bothering my conscience. Bill and I were very pleased with our necktie and scarf resp., and Mary Leigh gobbled up her chocolate egg as quickly as possible. It was the only real Easter egg that she got as, as usual, there were none to be had up here. Mary's birthday was a big success,- we took another little boy her age on



a picnic with us instead of having a party. The little salt and pepper shakers had a big hit with Mary Leigh, - though I certainly would never have thought so. She has to have them by her side at every meal. And of course she was crazy about the purse with all it's contents. She'll write you a letter one of these days. She read your letter all the way through and only had to be told a couple of the words.

I am so glad that you are going to consider coming out here. However, I don't want to pester you about it, as you alone know if you are physically up to it. It's bound to be a little confusing with so many people in this little apartment, but you can always retire to your own room when things get too hectic and we can just forget you're here. No hurry anyway about making up your mind.

I was really excited about the Atomic Bonnet, as a Time Magazine correspondent called me from Albuquerque and wanted to know all the details as it was going to be printed in the next issue of Time. I was on tender hooks all week waiting for our copy to arrive and then it wasn't in it!

However it was reprinted in several other newspapers. One said, "Mrs. Elmore says she will wear the hat even though people might say she's 'blowing her top'. Of course the hat really was only put together with pins and I never had any intention of wearing it, - but it was kind of fun anyway.

Well it's only about five weeks now until we'll be on our way home, - I guess I won't have much time for writing with all the things I have planned to do before then. - *as expected no more long letters*

*Love*

*Burlina*

June 9, 1946

Dear Mother,

As far as we're concerned, we're awfully disappointed that you have decided not to come. However, I have been worrying about how you would have made out. I guess it will be nerve wracking at the least coping with the kids and trying to find accommodations. Please don't give up hope about seeing the west, - we hope that Bill will be doing consulting work for the project for some time and perhaps we'll spend the summer out here occasionally to pick up some extra money. and have ourselves a nice vacation.

How do you like this picture of David? The Youngs, our next door neighbors, took it one day when I was out and gave us 5 copies for our wedding anniversary. Except for his eyes rolling up it's real cute. His hair is growing but still stands straight up. The other day he said, "Da-da" for the first time. It doesn't seem possible that he's almost 6 months old already.

Unless we can't get any tires we will leave here on Monday the first of July. We had a blow out the other day and last night one of the other tires was flat. Bill has written to all the mail order houses ordering tires so at least two ought to come through. If not we'll have to ask Daddy to send us a couple to get us home. Our trip home ought to take about 12 to 14 days, - we're planning to go up through Colorado to the Tetons and the Yellowstone and then east as fast as we can get there. I'm kind of getting cold feet about taking David on such a long trip, - I'm still nursing him so that should help, but if it gets too complicated we'll head for home and drive til we get there.

One thing I keep forgetting to ask you, - would you please make some appointments with the dentist. We haven't seen one for almost three years. Bill and I will probably need atleast two apiece and I'd like to have Mary-Leigh's <sup>Teeth</sup> cleaned too. If you make them for the last week in July



we'll surely be there. We're having our subscription to "Time" sent to you for the summer, so don't be surprised when it starts coming after the first of July.

The accident here with the radio active material was a dreadful thing. Everyone was awfully upset about it. Louis Slotin, who was doing the experiment got something like 70,000 times the daily dose of radiation. In the beginning they had hopes for him but he was really badly burned, - he died about 10 days after the accident. The other fellow who was about twice as far away seems to be o.k. now tho they are keeping a pretty close <sup>check on him. *Especially to his starting feeling now.*</sup> We knew both of them quite well. All the others are all right.

We went on a real binge on the night of our tenth wedding anniversary. The other three couples in this apartment, with whom we get along wonderfully, went with us to a night club in Santa Fe. We had a good dinner and got good and drunk and had a marvelous time, - getting home at 4am. ~~I'm still sleepy tho, - David woke up at 6:30 as usual that morning and as Bill had to play for the square dance that night, I had a couple in to dinner and square danced all evening with only those few hours of sleep and a nap behind me. Bill had it even worse as he got up at 8am and went fishing all day and then played the accordion all evening. We stayed home today and rested up. I guess we won't get off on any more Sunday trips before we leave. I dread the thought of packing up.~~

*I'm sure I had a lot of other things to tell you - but I can't think of them now - I'd better get this off quick so you can see David's picture.*

*Sam*  
*Barlow*

P.O. Box 1663  
Santa Fe, N. Mex.  
June 20 1946

Dear Mother;

I have nearly finished all the things I set out to do, and next week will be able to spend some time getting things ready to leave. I suddenly realized that my tires were N.G., especially after having a blow-out going 50 mi/hr! Mr. Page has come to the rescue, sending the best one of his tires he had recapped, and having Thornton send one of his two spares. I ordered, I think, 10 from various mail order houses, and so far haven't got 8 of them! I may get 2 from Sears, since the order has been in for two weeks, and no word yet. We shall keep our eyes peeled for new tires on the way home, and not be satisfied until we have four new ones. I shall express the recaps to M.F. <sup>if I get new ones on the way.</sup> Also, we are allowed to express up to 500 lbs in goods, and so will send some things the baby will need.



The Pages are sailing today on the Queen Mary.  
And Thornton soon flies to BIKINI for the bomb  
test. He will be "a dvisor" to a couple of Admirals.  
On the plane will also be General Stillwell and  
another General. Also K. T. Compton and a chemist.  
Thornton certainly gets into the thick of things

Since we won't be able to drive too fast  
I have no idea what the exact date will  
be for arriving in M.F. However, post cards  
will let you know. Probably July 14 to 16,  
or sooner if things are too complicated with the  
baby. We are taking camping things in case we  
can't find accommodation. Barbara and I are  
very used to confusion and noise caused by  
David + M-L. I imagine that it is best you  
decided not to drive back with us, after  
Barbara wrote suggesting it, we suddenly  
realized what a hectic life we lead.

It will be good to get back East again,  
but I imagine we shall miss the climate  
and scenery of New Mexico. See you within the  
month.

Love  
Bill



P.O. Box 1663  
Santa Fe, N. Mex  
June 20, 1946

Dear Mother:

I have nearly finished all the things I set out to do, and next week will be able to spend sometime getting things ready to leave. I suddenly realized that my tires were N.G. especially after having a blow out going 50 miles/hour! Mr. Page has come to the rescue, sending the best one of his tires he had recapped, and having Thornton send one of his two spares. I ordered, I think, 10 from various mail order houses, and so far haven't got 8 of them! I may get 2 from Sears, since the order has been in for two weeks, and no word yet. We shall keep our eyes peeled for new tires on the way home, and not be satisfied until we have four new ones. I shall express the recaps to Montour Falls if I get new ones on the way. Also, we are allowed to express up to 500 pounds in goods, and so will send some things the baby will need.

The Pages are sailing today on the Queen Mary. And Thornton soon flies to Bikini for the bomb test. He will be "advisor" to a couple of Admirals. On the plane will also be General Stillwell and another General. Also, K.T. Compton and a chemist. Thornton certainly gets into the thick of things.

Since we won't be able to drive too fast I have no idea what the exact date will be for arriving in M.F. [Montour Falls, NY]. However, post cards will let you know. Probably July 14 to 16, or sooner if things are too complicated with the baby. We are taking camping things in case we can't find accommodations. Barbara and I are very used to confusion and noise caused by David and M-L. I imagine that it is best you decided not to drive back with us. After Barbara wrote suggesting it, we suddenly realized what a hectic life we lead.

It will be good to get back East again, but I imagine we shall miss the climate and scenery of New Mexico. See you within the month.

Love Bill

419—Grand Lake and Mt. Craig (Baldy)



Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

108254-N

P.S. Many thanks for tie, shirt

& R. Jan. Bill.

Grand Lake is the Western entrance to the Rocky Mountain National Park. The lake itself is charmingly situated lying in beautifully timbered country surrounded by high mountains. The view across the lake with Mt. Craig (or Baldy) at its head is one of the most remarkable to be found. The Lake is a mile and a half long and a mile wide and is fed by the North and East Inlets.

Dear Mother - Aunt Marie has a cottage on a high rock - This picture must have been taken at the lake shore near the base of her rock. We have been here for several days & will leave tomorrow. The weather is cool, except in the sun one needs warm clothing. If it doesn't snow tonight, we shall drive through the park, then to Denver to shop on Saturday Jan. Bill



POST CARD

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



Early July 1946 [based on information in message]

Dear Mother,

Aunt Marie has a cottage on a high peak. This picture must have been taken at the lake shore near the base of her rock. We have been here for several days and will leave tomorrow. The weather is cool; except in the sun one needs warm clothing. If it doesn't snow tonight, we shall drive through the park, then to Denver to shop on Saturday.

Love,

Bill



Dear Mother, - Here we are at the  
Teton already - I've been trying to write  
you ever since we  
left So. Adams - but every minute seems

THREE TETON PEAKS, JENNY LAKE

Photo by Crandall - Grand Teton National Park

to be taken up. We're having a wonderful  
trip. David & M.C. are as good as can  
be expected. We're finally getting rested  
up after that last strenuous week before  
we left. The park is crowded - we couldn't  
find a place to camp last night & had to go to each  
camp ground 10 mi further on. We'll go on to  
the Yellowstone tomorrow. David is looking forward  
4th of July week to go thru those parks. See you  
soon. Love B. L.

Expected the 15th date or the 16th



Mr. Grace C. Elmore  
Montana Falls  
New York



July 6, 1946

Post Card to Mrs. Grace C. Elmore  
Montour Falls  
New York

Dear Mother, Here we are at the Tetons already. I've been trying to write you ever since we left Los Alamos, but every minute seems to be taken up. We are having a wonderful trip. David and ML are as good as can be expected. We're finally getting rested up after that last strenuous week before we left. This park is crowded – we couldn't find a place to camp last night and had to go to another camp ground 10 minutes further on. We'll go on to the Yellowstone tomorrow. I wish we hadn't picked 4<sup>th</sup> of July week to go through these parks! See you soon, Love Barbie

Expect us the 15<sup>th</sup> late or the 16th

on route to my room  
Monday July 7

Dear Mother -

I should have written this long ago to tell you to be sure to save the express receipts after you have paid for the stuff we sent E.M.F. Then when we get there we'll send them back I do almost & they'll pay us. Sort of a round a horse way to do it but that is the way they do things.

We left the Yellowstone this morning & we could have spent weeks there. It's really an enormous place & it would take almost a week just to see everything. Then its marvelous fishing - Bill was just itching to get at it. However, everyone in the campground where we were, had caught more than they could eat - so we were given plenty for 3 meals. Many saw about 5 bears & a deer & a moose - all in places where you could find them.

Then

July 11. I'll better just stick to the conventional right thing. It seems as if Jim feeding David or trying to break him up all the time - and then when we stop at night Jim always being working

the kids in the deepers -

So far all is going according to ~~the~~ schedule  
tho we may have to waste a few hours waiting  
getting a new fuel pump.

about Rapid City

Car all fixed & we're off again - We never  
seem to get off as early as we expect. David  
is getting a little fussy in the car all day. He  
sleeps fine at night. We may need an extra  
day to get home if we can't make better time than  
we have the past few days.

Well - I'm really going to put this now.

See you soon -

Bear

P.S. For Peter's sake don't put Eleanor out of her  
room. Don't there an extra bed in Aunt Mary's room?  
David can sleep anywhere.

Unpack the express things. (There should be 7 pieces)  
when they come & you'll find some salad oil etc.



On route, Monday July 8, 1946

Dear Mother –

I should have written this long ago to tell you to be sure to save the express receipts after you have paid for the stuff we sent to M.F. Then when we get there we'll send them back to Los Alamos and they'll pay us. Sort of a round-about way to do it but that is the way they do things.

We left the Yellowstone this morning. We could have spent weeks there. It is really an enormous place and it would take almost a week just to see everything. Then it's marvelous fishing - Bill was just itching to get at it. However, everyone in the campground where we were, had enough, more than they could eat, so we were given plenty for 3 meals. Mary saw about 5 bears and a deer and a moose. All so tame that you could touch them.

I think I'd better just stick to the essentials and get this off. It seems as if I'm feeding David or trying to hush him up all the time, and then when we stop at night I'm always busy washing the kids or the diapers.

So far all is going according to schedule though we may have to waste a few hours today getting a new fuel pump.

Wed, Rapid City

Car all fixed and we're off again. We never seem to get off as early as we expect. David is getting a little fussy in the car all day, although he sleeps fine at night. We may need an extra day to get home if we can't make better time than we have the past few days.

Well, I'm really going to post this now.

See you soon,  
Barbie

PS. For Pete's sake don't put Eleanor out of her room. Isn't there an extra bed in Aunty May's room? David can sleep anywhere.

Unpack the express things (There should be 7 pieces) when they come and you'll find some salad oil, etc.