

weaving there which I've been confusing with the Navaho weaving,- this is really Spanish not Indian. Well this shop had hundreds of blankets all different. We finally chose a grey one with black, white and red designs on it,- designs very much like ^{on}the bag we sent you (in fact that was probably Chimayo weaving). They had lovely coats and jackets made from the blankets,- however I decided that they would be too startling back in the East, except for the short jackets, so I got the piece that they make them from and am going to make one for myself. Its white with blue, red, and black on it. It'll be stunning with summer dress or evening dress. We also got several small pieces one of which I'm going to make in to a bag like the one I sent you. We also got a couple of little jugs of rose color Mexican glass to go on my window sill with ivy in. The color is just heavenly with my aqua walls and flowered curtains.

Well this letter will never get off if I don't stop now. M.L. starts in school tomorrow again after vacation, - only she has to go in the afternoon now as they have too many in the morning class and all those that are not old enough to start school next year have to go in the afternoon. It certainly won't be as convenient for me. However, I've put my name in for a part time job if I can find just what I want, and if I do that they'll take her in the morning.

I hope all of you had a nice Easter. Tell Eleanor that we appreciate her sending the sugar and that I'll write her when it comes.

Oh I didn't thank you for the materials for the dresses for M.L. They'll make cute ones. The petticiat hasn't come yet, but I'm sure it'll be swell, - you shouldn't have gone to so much trouble to bleach it!

Lots of love,

Barbara

I'm getting so's I can no real fast on the typewriter

Wednesday, April 26, 1944

Dear Mother,

The last letter from you that I can find seems to be dated Apr. 2, - I'm sure there must have been one since then, tho I may have answered it anyway. I'm getting so mixed up over my letters to you and Mummy that I've figured the best thing is to wait til I get a letter and then answer it as soon as I can, - so if you don't get a letter its because I haven't had one from you. Everything has been in a muddle this week anyway as M.L. has had the flue again, I should have kept my fingers crossed when I told you that we had been so well! She came down with it two weeks ago some Friday. Evidently the resistance to infection is much lower up here and she is taking forever to get well. After the fever had lasted a few days she started in with a cold and then the fever came back again, - one day she seems better and then shes worse. However, she's really better now so don't worry. Ofcourse Bill and I both got the cold too, but we're both over it now.

I fixed the petticoat, - I just gathered it right on to the dress (I used the embroidered piece) and let it hang down about an inch below the dress, I wore it to the dance Sat. and we had a good time as usual. Someone said I looked just 15 which would have been an insult a few years ago, - now its definately a complement.

Not much out of the ordinary has happened. We are meeting so many nice people and like some of them ever so much. We have some new people downstairs on the other side who are very nice, - we're going to take them on a trip this Sunday. A couple of weekends ago we took a bunch on a trip to Frájoles Canyon again. Perhaps you noticed in that little booklet on Bandelier that we

sent you, a picture of the Ceremonial cave very high up on the cliff with lots of ladders to get up to it. Well, when we started to climb up, we left Eli tied with a 4-strand copper wire (the only thing we could find) to a tree at the bottom, because ladders are the only things he has difficulty with. Well, we got half way up the first ladder ^{when} we found he'd broken the wire and tried to follow us, - he just couldn't ~~bare~~ to be left behind. One of the fellows with us took pity on him and insisted on carrying him all the way up the four or so long ladders. We nearly had hysterics watching him because he must have realized that the only way he could get up was to be carried, so he made himself as limp as possible and didn't wiggle at all. What was even worse we had to carry him all the way down as well, and boy, what a load! Poor Eli, he loves these trips more than he has anything ^{else} before in his life, - he sleeps all week in preparation, and on Sun. morn. he follows us around and sits, shaking, by the door until he's sure we won't go off and leave him. One of the men who was with us that weekend took some swell pictures, - if he makes ~~to~~ some extras ^{for us} we'll send them to you. We've been taking some Kodochrome and when they've been developed we'll send them on too. Fri. morn

It's pouring this morning for the first time, - usually it snows. A week or so ago we woke up one morning to find about 10 inches of snow, - by noon it was gone! leaving masses of mud in its place. We have snow flurries every other day or so but the sun comes out and it's like spring the next minute.

We got some peas and lettuce planted finally last Sun. when we were all too miserable to go anyplace. The gardens are all in one place about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away and all nicely fenced in, we have about 15 x 40 ft. I hope we have a little luck with it.

Wednesday, May 10th. 1944

Dear Mother,

I had a card all written to you a week ago after your letter came, only it never got mailed. Mary loves her overalls, they fit beautifully now, but will probably be too short in a few months, - you have no idea how she's grown; she now ~~34~~ 34 1/2" tall!

Friday

Goodness, this is terrible, I'll never get this letter written and now your letter has arrived so I'll answer that too. I got an unexpected ride to Albuquerque yesterday so I dropped everything and took advantage of it. We left at 8 A.M. and got home at 10 P.M. so it was quite a day. A. is quite large, - I felt baffled by the red lights and traffic after being so secluded for so long. I had a marvelous time seeing the shops and spending money and eating in the hotels. The University of N.M. is very impressive, - the buildings are of adobe and the campus quite large. I bought a nice parchment shade for a table lamp I'm making out of a large Mexican glass bowl, - turquoise color with a lovely swirl in the glass. I also found a little antique chair to re-finish for M.L.'s room, - it's in horrible condition but I couldn't resist it after I'd looked all over Philadelphia for one, - I'll probably never get to it anyway til I get home!

We're actually going fishing on Monday, the first day of the season, - we'll take the day off and go up to the Valle Grande at the crack of dawn and not come back til evening. We are going with the K.'s who know how to fish, - here's hoping we catch something. I guess we'll leave M.L. here as it'll probably be boring for her.

We've had some grand trips lately. Last weekend we went to

Santa Clara canyon,- it's so intirely different from the dry desert and reddish mesas that we could hardly believe it. The steep sides of the canyon are covered with ^mense pine trees and at the bottom there's a good sized brook winding around and rushing over rocks, and all around it is vividly green grass and rocks and trees. It's going to be simply marvelous to go there in the scorching hot summer,- it'll make the most perfect place to camp, too.

We're so glad that Eleanor has a job so near home, it sounds like a good one too. I loved all your subtle talk about Mike. We will have to have him over, tho Bill says he doesn't know if it's the thing to do,- he'd probably feel more awkward than happy.

M.L.'s birthday was a big success, she was up at 6:30 to start in on her presents and never sat down again til late that night. We had an impromptu party with 3 other children and ice-cream and birthday cake. I think her most successful present was a bomber (piece of cardboard with an elastic around it which is whirled around the head to make a zooming noise) Eli goes absolut^{ly} wild when she uses it which ofcourse makes her use it all the more.

I finally got some plain percale for my kitchen curtains and dyed it tea rose and then painted designs all over them with plain oil paints. It worked wonderfully,- try it some time.

Well, I'm getting destinetly bleary eyed after that trip yesterday and getting caught up today. This is kind of late for Mother's Day, but I hope you have a nice one. I'm feeling quite the mother myself as Mary made me a nice apple stuck with cloves for my linen closet (it isn't quite done yet,- the teacher told me that she kept getting tired!)

*9'd better sign off before I go to sleep -
Love
Barbie*

Tuesday May 16 1944

Dear Mother -

Barbara's letter didn't get mailed before we left for fishing on Monday - May 15 - which opens the season here.

Two other men & I left at 6 am. - The wives left at 8 am in a second car. We drove into Valle Grande & parked at Los Cochinos camp ground & started in shortly after seven am, using worms. The stream, not as big as Catherine Creek, was swollen by recent rains and quite muddy. No one caught many - I landed a $9\frac{1}{2}$ " rainbow in the first half hour, and took the rest of the day to get two

more just over the limit (7)
I threw back about eight
which were too small. Bartie
only caught one and was
rather disgusted. Other people
who went to Frigoles ^{Canyon} caught
their limit. We may go
there next Sunday -

Barbara wants to know if
you have an electric plate
(single) which you don't ~~use~~
use - or does Eleanor have it.
Seems as though I remember
one. Our two burner is enough
for us most of the time but
since it will be too hot
this summer to light the oil
burner range for company
we would like to get an
additional single hot plate

Jane

Bill

Tuesday May 16, 1944

Dear Mother,

Barbara's letter didn't get mailed before we left for fishing on Monday, May 15, which opens the season here. Two other men and I left at 6am. The wives left at 8am in a second car. We drove into Valle Grande and parked at Los Conshas camp ground and started in shortly after seven AM, using worms. The streams, not as big as Catherine's creek was swollen by recent rains and quite muddy. No one caught many; I landed a 9 ½ inch rainbow in the first half hour, and took the rest of the day to get two more just over the limit of 7 inches. I threw back about eight, which were too small. Barbie only caught one and was rather disgusted. Other people who went to Frijoles Canyon caught their limit. We may go there next Sunday.

Barbara wants to know if you have an electric plate (single) which you don't use, or does Eleanor have it. Seems as though I remember one. Our two burner is enough for us most of the time, but since it will be too hot this summer to light the oil burner range for company we would like to get an additional single hot plate.

Love Bill

Wednesday, June 7th. 1944

Dear Mother,

I was beginning to get worried it was so long since I'd heard from you. I should have thought of the garden, - it's so cold here that I can't imagine that it's spring or rather summer, where you are. We actually had a hail storm this afternoon with hail stones ~~as~~ ^{1/2} in. across! I sent ML off to school just before it started and the teacher said that she arrived with her umbrella inside out! They finally shut off the furnace last week and I've had to have a fire in the fireplace almost every day since (not that I mind) We seem to get a shower almost every afternoon but it never spoils the day even if we're off on a picnic because the air's so dry you never even feel wet.

I don't know when I wrote last but it must have been a good while ago. We've not done a lot of fishing the last few weeks. Lets see, we went with a whole bunch on a trip to a small mountain with a fire tower on it over a perfectly terrible road a couple of weeks ago, - picnic in the rain and had a marvelous time! Last week the F.'s, Bill's group leader gave a picnic for the whole group at Frejoles canyon. Willy H. who plays for all the sq. dances is in that group and he brought his accordian, so we all sang til our throats were hoarse and we even square danced in the road!

I guess by this time you've seen Mike. We enjoyed having him over to dinner, he certainly is some fellow! I've been having lots of dinner parties and enjoying it a lot. Everybody is so nice here and it's such fun to get to know a lot of them. A new couple have just arrived from Yale. I haven't met the wife yet as she just arrived by train today.

I thát of you a lot yesterday on D-day, hanging over your radio as I guess we all were. I'll certainly never forget the date,- our 8th wedding anniversary! Bill says everybody was cleaning up on his bets yesterday and making more on the ^{date of the} end of the war with Germany. All I can say is I hope we get to use our gadget!

I doubt if we'll be able to vote unless they decide to let us use a Gov. ballot, there's been some talk of it. Altho we pay New Mexico taxes we're not allowed to vote on the state ballot!

I'm going in for art in a big way,- I'm now going to a sketching group on Wednesdays (they have a model and everything) and a water color class on Tuesdays and my pottery on Thursdays. I don't know if I'll get anywhere on the first two but Bill keeps egging me on. I wish you could see the kitchen,- I've painted a lot of Peter Hunt - Penn Dutch junk all over the cupboards, it's terrific!

It was awfully nice of Lulu to give me the rocker,- I certainly do remember it and I'm crazy about rocking chairs anyway. I'll write to her soon to thank her.

I've been trying to get caught up on my sewing,- I've just finished a cute mother and daughter playsuits with skirts for M.L. and me. I never seem to get to the slip covers tho. I guess I spend too much time having tea with the neighbors and stopping to talk on my way to the store.

I have little Margie age 2 for the day today while her parents (by circumstances) go to Santa Fe. God, she sure is cute - However, she certainly doesn't give me much peace -

Hope the garden's coming fine & that you are well - We're sending a present to E. & M.F. I hope she's home by then. I was afraid it would miss her - E. Love -

Love R. L.

Handwritten addendum to June 7, 1944

I have little Margie age 2 for the day today while her parents (they live downstairs) go to Sante Fe. Gosh, she sure is cute. However, she cetrtainly doesn't give me much peace.

Hope the garden's coming fine and that you are well. We're sending a present to E. [Eleanor] 2 M.F. [Montour Falls]. I hope she is home by then. I was afraid it would miss her in E. town [Elizabethtown]

Love

Barbara

June 11th. Sun. 1944

Dear Eleanor;

I feel badly that I've not even gotten a letter to you on your birthday, - it seems to be all I can do to keep our two ^{mothers} ~~families~~ fully informed of our doings. However I'm sending you something to keep you busy (you will probably curse me for it) and also a book on some of the interesting things to see in N.M., which is slightly used and only lent (for as long as you want). I'm not sure whether you will be in E town when it gets there so I'd better send it to M.F. I hope Mother has told you something of our activities so I won't have to repeat them all, - we're still having a swell old time esp. on Sundays. Today we went to the Puyé ruins and took the F.'s (just arrived from Yale) a very young couple with a baby on the way. The ruins were the most extensive we've seen yet; there were three tiers of caves in the cliff and covered about a mile of the cliff ^{along the canyon.} Several of the ^{prehistoric} ~~ancient~~ houses in front of the caves have been reconstructed so that you can see what they used to be like. Then on top ~~are~~ the ruins of the enormous community house or pueblo, - some of that has been reconstructed too. On the way back Hank F. jumped out to remove a rock in the road and evidently Eli jumped out too without our knowing it and it wasn't til about a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour later that M.L. piped up to ask where Eli was. We tore back and finally found him trotting along the road in the direction we'd gone. Poor pup, he's always so scared he's going to get left and this time we really did leave him!

We haven't had much luck with our fishing, - I love that about mother advertising the fact that we'd caught a 9 lb. fish when it was only 9 in. ! I ^{wish I'd} ~~want to~~ catch something really big. The weather

is really swell now,- clear and sunny but not at all hot except in the sun. They only shut the furnaces off a couple weeks ago and we're still using two blankets at night..we have terrific wind storms in the afternoons,- or thunder storms.

Tuesday

I seem to be past master at starting letters and then never finishing them,- there seems to be so much to do around here, and then also I'm not as fast on the typewriter as I'd like tho I refuse to give up.

Your job at Avoca sounds as it it would be a lot better than E-town, tho I'm mad that I didn't get around to find out about the teaching here,- they were planning to have a language teacher this year in the high school, tho I imagine they would like to have someone already here. It certainly would have been swell to have you and Mother here, tho it would have taken more than that to uproot Mother from M.F., I guess.

My electric oven has just arrived so now my days of laboring over a hot stove are over. I hope you won't need your electric plate that mother sent, because frankly I'm not intending to use the wood stove again if I can help it. However I'm sure I can get along with the two burner electric plate that we have because the re-aster (as fatted pit wotj a;; sprts pf pams) *This is what happens when an head gets wand gona space.* is fitted out with all sorts of pans so one can cook a whole dinner in it. Maybe I can sell it to you after we leave this place.

I can 't think of anything else important to say so I'd better get this mailed. I suppose you will be home soon,- are you doing anything special this summer?

Well happy birthday and so long

Barbie

July 5th, Wednesday 1944

(This was as far as I got last night!)

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

Boy I'm glad I can combine two letters in one now,- this letter writing business is a full time job. I spent two hours at it last night before I got to you,- at least having the letter in the typewriter is good thing as I can't use the desk til I get it finished.

Did I tell you about our camping trip when I last wrote? We went with the A's on Sat. ~~nite~~ two weeks ago and stayed out til Tues noon,- and what a swell time we had in spite of a lot of complications before we left. To begin with we planned to leave on Friday and then at the last moment ^(the A's) they couldn't get away so we changed it to Sat evening,- well at noon on Sat. M.L. started complaining of a tummy ache and sure enough at around four she lost her breakfast. The pediatrician was away for the weekend and one of the other doctors looked at her and thot that it was probably only a little upset tummy as she had no other symptoms, however, it certainly looked to me like those other strange upsets she'd had before when she couldn't hold anything down for three days, on the other hand I couldn't bear to call the whole thing off when we'd all planned so much on it. So finally after I'd changed my mind a dozen times we went,- Mary was pretty sick until we got to the camping place and then she went to sleep and the next day she felt fine tho week, I certainly was glad that I didn't stay home with her and sulk all weekend. We camped near Jamez Springs under a tremendous shear rock called Battleship rock. Two large streams meet there and Bill spent all the time we were there fishing,- he's nuts about it even when he doesn't catch anything which is most of the time Me, I have to catch a fish at least every hour

to keep my interest up. Bill fished with M.L. for a while while Harold and Mary and I climbed around the mountains and rocks. Later ~~we~~ drove over to see the Soda Dam which is a big natural dam deposited from a hot springs, and also the ruins of an old mission and Indian Pueblo. We lazed around by the camp a lot and ate ~~a~~ simply masses of food: broiled chicken and steak and potatoes baked in the ashes and apple pie in our ref~~ector~~ster. When we got back we decided that we'd go camping every other weekend (there are square dances on the Sat nites inbetween, and as I'm vice-chairman now I both want to and have to go)

Well last Sunday we took a bunch of fellows that work for and with Bill on a picnic and had a good time in spite of the thunder storm (we get one every day now). When we got back Willy H. who plays for the sq. dances played his acc~~ordian~~ on into the nite, - he reminds us of Pete Cole, - he's little and full of the dickens and the life of every party.. He left the acc~~ordian~~ here and Bill has been practicing on it every spare minute. Mummy says she is sending up Thorntons small acc~~ordian~~ for Bill to have for the duration. This weekend we're taking two car loads off on a camping trip (just from Sat. noon til Sun nite), - the new couple that just arrived from Yale and Harold and Mary A. and the S's whom we've taken on trips before, also I'm taking along Joanna J. an awfully nice 11 year old kid that reminds me of Judy Dickson, to keep M.L. company in the hoard of adults.

Thursday

Practically another week gone by and this letter not off yet! Our camping trip was a grand success. We couldn't get as far as we wanted to up into Santa Clara canyon because the road had been completely washed out in a big storm a few days before. However we found a swell place to put our tent up right beside the stream

and we all immediately put on our bathing suits and made a dam so that we had a regular swimming pool. The kids played in it all weekend and had the most wonderful time. The rest of us hiked around and cooked and played in the water too. Bill fished all day Sunday and a couple of the fellows and I climbed all the way up to the top of the side of the canyon and had some good rock climbing. We were all sorry to have to come back on Sun. night.

I spent all day Mon. pitting 25lb. of cherries and making jam and canned cherries,- what a hell of a job! Tonite the A's are coming over for a early supper and we're going to see "The Adventures of Mark Twain". We'll be out at 8:30 and then I'll go to pottery. Tomorrow we're going to Santa Fe with the A's and the F'.and on the way back we're going to eat at a woman's house, a native of these parts, who serves meals to a few people at a time. The A's have had a reservation there for months and we've all been looking forward to it.

Well I can't think of any more vital news,- we're all flourishing, M.L. is brown as a berry and so am I in spots (small and numerous ones)

We're all very excited over Eleanor's news,- is this the honest to gosh real thing, Tissy? I'm overcome,- well, congratulations anyway. I guess there's no chance of my passing judgment on him ~~myself~~ so be careful!

I've got to go put the vegetables in the pot roast, so
solong, and lots of love,

Barbie

Made a cute dress last week out of a \$1.50 remnant - all
enclose a sample

August 27th. 1944

Dear Mother;

I'm terribly sorry that it's been so long since I last wrote. Your letter came just as we left on a long weekend last week and ever since we've been back I've been trying to get a free hour to write you. We're going to stay home today, Sun., so maybe I'll get caught up on a lot of things.

We were glad to hear about Hugh's wedding. We got an announcement quite a while ago and have ordered an Indian bowl and platter from the most famous of the Indian potters, Maria of San Ildefonso. They ought to be finished by September and then I'll send them right off.

It's too bad that you've had all that hot weather, - it's evidently been pretty bad in Swarthmore and New Haven too. Needless to say the weather here has been glorious, - wish I could send you some! However the reports of your garden make us green with envy, - we have nothing now but summer squash, flabby beans, a few heads of cabbage and masses of weeds waist high. The tomato plants shrivled up and died from the hot days and cold nights, I guess.

Well, I must tell you about the marvelous trip we had last weekend. We left Friday noon with the A's (Harold and Mary) and drove to Hyde Park just beyond Santa Fe. It's a public camp grounds high up on the side of the ~~range of high mountains~~ *De Sangre de Cristo Mountains*. It was pretty miserable and rainy so we camped in a shelter at the end of the road where there's a ski tow in the winter. We had stopped on the way to Santa Fe and bought some corn so we had an elegant dinner of grilled hamburg and bacon, fried potatoes and corn with a boysenberry pudding baked in the reflector

We wished afterwards that we'd put up the tent as it rained quite hard and the roof of the shelter leaked. However we didn't notice it til we got up ^{in the morning} and M.L. slept in the car and was warm and dry. We hung around the next morning til it cleared up around noon, and then we fixed everything we needed for two ~~days~~ days in the packs and started to hike in to a good camping spot that we'd heard of, in a couple of miles ~~at~~ the foot of Lake Peak which is about 12,400ft. high. Even Mary-Leigh had her pack, - we fixed some pack straps on to the little bag that you gave her for Christmas, and she was proud ~~as~~ punch to carry her few clothes. The rest of us had about 40 lb a piece, I guess, what with the tent, sleeping bags and food and cooking pots. However, it wasn't a very steep trail and ~~in~~ about an hour we came out into the most beautiful aspen and evergreen grove and open rocky field full of every possible kind of wild flower ~~and~~ ^{with} the rocky open slope of Lake Peak to one side. And best of all a rushing mountain stream of crystal clear and icy cold water. Honestly, it was the most beautiful spot I've ever seen! We pitched our tent on the pine needles ~~under~~ under some trees and piled oodles of pine boughs ~~in~~ in it for our bed. Bill fished and we explored around the rest of that day. I guess the water was too clear for him to catch any, - the fish saw him first. The next day we started up Lake Peak thinking that we wouldn't get far with M.L. along, however she is getting to be a marvelous climber, and with ~~out~~ hardly any pushing we got her all the way to the top. I certainly was proud of my little girl going up a 12,400 foot mountain, ofcourse we were pretty far up when we started to climb but still it was a good 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour climb. It was one of the most beautiful climbs I've ever taken too, - it's all open rocky slopes with beautiful views in all directions. The mountain ~~has~~ has about three lakes around it, quite high up just below

the peak. We asked M.L. why it was called Lake Peak and she answered, "Why because when you get to the top you can peek out from behind the trees and see the lakes!" On the way down Mary A. and I lagged behind and picked over a quart of wild strawberries to have a short cake with biscuit ^{baked} in the reflector. Boy, was it good! The next day ^(Monday) we started the hike back to the car about noon and got home here that evening. It sure was one swell weekend! Next week we're going to leave M.L. here for two days and climb Truchas which is the highest of the mountains around here, - it has a small permanent glacier on it and I guess it'll take two days to climb. *(you can see all the places on that map he sent)*

Mummy sent up Thornton's small accordion for Bill to use and he's been playing it every spare minute since. Willie, the fellow who plays for the square dances was away for the dance two weeks ago and so Bill took over and played for almost all the squares with another fellow to call for him. It's been a lot of fun for him. He says to ask you if you ever come across any square dance music he'd like it.

Well, I've been canning a lot for the past few weeks. Apricots and 2 bushels of peaches; and a bushel of pears are waiting to get ripe. I'm not going to do a lot as we still have a lot left from last year. I seem to have masses of sewing ahead of me, - I finished Mummy's suit a while back and sent it off to her. I'm terribly anxious to start some jewelry work but Bill never gets around to fix my blow torch, - he says he will as soon as I get the slip covers made, - I've had the material for months, so I guess that will be my next project.

I sent the Kodachrome slides to Mummy and as soon as she's looked at them she'll send them to you. Will you be able to

find someone with a projector to show them to you? If not perhaps you can find one of these little viewers made especially for Kodachrome slides that magnify them,* I know that Sears has them. I don't see much chance of getting any black and whites pictures taken as there always seems to be some color film in the cameras and anyway I know I'd never get Bill to make any prints.

I've been to several good movies lately,- do go to see "Canterville Ghost" if it comes your way it's terribly funny. We've also been eating out occasionally at the PX half a block away where they have steaks that cover a whole platter, or 2 thick lamb chops, or a whole half a fried chicken for only a dollar. What with the rationing and the price of food we figure it's almost as cheap to eat there once in a while, and it sure is a change for me.

I guess that's all the interesting news, we're certainly keeping busy every second and having a grand time. Mary-Leigh starts in school in a couple of weeks. This summer has just flown, and if the ^{good} news keeps up we may be home before we know it.

It seems as if I've been at this letter for hours, so I'd better get started on something else for a change. Write again soon,

Love of love

Barbie

Mon. Sept. 25th 1944

Dear Mother,

I've dispaired of Bill's ever writing you to thank you for his birthday presents, the he says daily that he's going to; and of course spends hours pouring over the books of music and playing the pieces on the accordian! Mary-Leigh was entranced over her necklace and bracelet and wears them every day. Bill let her open his presents for him and was she ever surprised to find one for herself! I attempted a surprise party for Bill ^{on his birthday.} I had about six of our best friends come in after dinner for cake and ice-cream, - but Bill isn't as absent minded as he appears, and sensed that something was up when I didn't beg him to go out or do something on a Sat. night, - and then I'd hidden the cake but neglected to hide two boxes of strawberries that were thawing out! Oh well, we had a riotous evening playing the accordian and singing and sitting around on the floor ~~and~~ playing Pig and other similar card games and making so much noise that we practally brought the roof down.

We haven't been off on so many trips lately and have actually spent a few Sundays at home. However we're going on a real spree Thursday afternoon to Taos for their biggest festival of the year and will stay til Sun. We're taking our friends Harold and Mary A. ~~with~~ whom we do most everything. I only hope and pray that M:L. doesn't catch a cold before then as almost everyone has been having one the past few weeks. We'll be staying in the same cabins that we stayed in when we went to Taos at Easter time. When we get home I'll spend Monday getting food together and Tuesday we'll leave for a weeks vacation, just the three of

us. We're going to a place where there's very good fishing and far from any signs of people (we'll camp out, - and I hope we don't freeze) I do hope that Bill gets really rested up, - he's been working terribly hard tho he insists that he enjoys it more than anything else that he could do.

Mary is in school now and enjoying it tremendously, - she goes both morning and afternoon.) She must have been pretty excited about it the first day for she came down with another of those throwing up attacks. The doctor gave her a sedative right away and she slept all that day and night and then seemed completely over it. The pediatrician says that all the children here are over stimulated from being together so much and that he thinks that it would be a good idea if she had something to make her sleep every few months and give her nerves a rest. I certainly am glad that school has started and that the kids aren't out under our windows all day long. I try to keep M.L. in the house after school and quiet, - so perhaps things will go better now.

Did Mummy send you the kodachrome slides? We have two more rolls now so perhaps I'll send them to you first so that you can look at them all together. Then you can send the two new ones on to Mummy and the old one back to us. There's one of M.L. that is pretty good and will make a good print to give you and Mummy for Christmas.

Did I tell you about our trip up Truchas, the highest mountain around here (13,240 ft.)? We left M.L. and Elia with some friends and set out early one Sat. morning with two car loads of us. Unfortunately none of us had been up before and the mountain is covered with horse and cow paths which were pretty confusing, and also we hadn't been given anywhere near accurate

enough directions, so we ended up by going miles out of our way most of it straight up. We had all our stuff for the night on our backs and it was pretty stiff work at that altitude anyway. We finally got to the field where we were to camp at about 7pm pretty exhausted. However it was worth it, - the camping spot was right at the base of the circ of perpendicular rock beneath the summit. We had a full moon to keep us awake all night and there was frost all over everything in the morning. The next day we climbed the peak and glambored all around the knife edge and then returned home the right way. It was all loads of fun.

I have a lovely Indian platter and bowl here to send to Hugh and his wife but I find that I don't have their present address. Could you send it to me soon so that I can get them off? I think you would like this Indian pottery and I'd like to order some now for Christmas. I can't remember whether you have a

salad bowl or not. would you be interested in a small size ^{bowl} big enough for two and some little individual salad bowls or a big one for company? It's black pottery and polished so that you can use it for salad or in the oven. Or perhaps you would rather not have something practical but something with a design on it more for show? While I think of it (or did I ask you?) could you get Eleanor's measurements for a jacket when she's home sometime? I want: Bust, base of neck to end of sholder, sholder to waist, length of sleeve. I made myself a lovely chimayo jacket and I think E would like one. I made M.L. a cute dress out of the remnants of E.'s house coat that you let me have some time ago, with yellow cording on it,- it's real cute. I've also got my slip covers made.

I hope that all is well in M.F. Will E. be able to get back often? And how does she like her new school? Is Aunt May with you now? No more paper, so, solong,- *Barbara*

October 27th,

Dear Mother,

On looking through your letters there seem to be about three that I haven't answered! I wish I had a better memory. I'm glad the pictures finally got sent to you. I'll send on the others next week as we have a date to look at them with some other people ^{on Monday} who have some too. Be sure when you look at them to choose which one you would like to have printed for Christmas. I've just discovered that there is a woman up here that is a professional childrens photographer and I think I'll get her to take some portraits of M:L. I guess it would be silly to get you any pottery, but we went up to Chimayo (pronounced chim-i-yo) last Sunday and ordered some woven pieces to make those jackets I spoke of; and I think perhaps you'd like one. I couldn't get white as they seem to be short of that yarn so I had to get red, - the color of the bag I sent you. I don't know what I'll do about sleeves, - perhaps I'll try to knit some.

I just wish you could see the colors here in the autumn. The aspens are all bright yellow and are really a sight with their white trunks and the pines showing green all around them. We took our vacation at just the right time to catch the colors although it was pretty cold. We went to a heavenly place, - the Holy Ghost river in the Pecos Valley (you can probably find it on that map). It is quite a deep canyon at the foot of Lake Peak with a beautiful little stream running thru it and the hills then were covered with red and orange and yellow. During the day it was lovely and warm but the sun went behind the hills at 5:30pm and then it started to get cold, - and how! We usually got the dishes washed and the beds fixed up by 7:30 before it

got too dark and cold and then we all went to bed,- M.L. to sleep and Bill and I to read ~~detective~~ stories outloud by the light of a candle, taking turns so that our hands wouldn't freeze holding the book. We had our tent up to sleep in and had borrowed some very warm sleeping bags which, with extra blankets, kept us warm enough in spite of the freezing temp. (there was about an inch of ice in the water pail in the mornings) The place we stayed in was a regular camp site with cute little shelters and picnic tables along the stream. We certainly got plenty of sleep as ^{neither} the sun ^{nor we} ~~didn't~~ got up til 9oclock,- then in about an hour the temp. would rise from 20° to 70° or higher in the sun. We went on some lovely walks and Bill fished and Mary-Leigh and I water colored. We were gone a week and enjoyed every minute of it. On the way over we stopped at the Indian school in Santa Fe which I know you'd have been interested in. They have revived all the ancient crafts and have a lot of things to sell. We watched the jewelry makers and carpenters, and bought several Indian paintings and frames for them.

Our trip to Taos was fun tho not as interesting as I expected. It was more of a carnival than Indian festival. However it was fun to explore the curio shops and see the pueblo. M.L. went on a merry-go-round at last and we all saw a rodeo. We stayed in a cabin which was really an apartment with 2 rooms and two double beds and a single for M.L. (Harold and Mary A. were with us), a bathroom, and a corner kitchen curtained off from the main room, also a refrigerator and fireplace. We cooked a lot of our meals there as Taos was terribly crowded. We had a Mexican meal one night at one of the restaurants. None of us had tried it before and, oh boy, never again,- it practically took the lining off our mouths and stomachs, my lips burned for hours afterwards!

November 26th, 1944

Dear Mother,

Thanks for your letter and I'm so sorry that I had to trouble you about the package. I'm certainly glad that it got there o.k. and also that nothing was broken. Please don't send me a lot of your precious jams and jellies, when you have so few. Two or three would make a wonderful Christmas present. If you send them express you might put: "U.S. Engineers" before the P.O. Box number, altho it will get here o.k. with the same address as our letters.

We've had snow off and on for the past couple of weeks tho most of it melts away in the hot sun. We had a fresh batch last night so I hope we can get off to take a few pictures today (Sunday). I don't know whether I'll have the professional picture taken of M.L. or not as it was quite expensive (\$15 a sitting with 6 finished prints) and M.L. is at such a difficult age. If I can get Bill to load some black and white film in the camera I have a friend who has done a lot of photography who is going to help me get some snaps of M.L. Then I'll send them home to Mummy to have them printed and enlarged as we didn't bring any of our stuff out here. Then there are the kodachrome of which I was planning to have a few prints made, - tho they wont be ready by Christmas now. We haven't been able to get any kodachrome ^{film} here for some time so if you see any in M.F. we'd certainly appreciate having some (35mm) out door kodachrome)

I have one of the jackets made and the other two ^{started} on the way. A friend of mine is knitting all the sleeves for me out of the same yarn that the jackets are made of, - they really look lovely. Yes, the jackets are same as your purse, red with a design in

grey, white and black. I'm making a lot of jewelry in return for the sleeves.

Bill has had a bad cold this week, tho really we've been very lucky with so few colds and such. M.L. has been very well with only a couple of colds that only lasted 2 days each and no more upsets. We had a heavy week this week inspite of Bills cold. We had 10 for Thanks giving dinner, and I roasted a 22lb turkey in the big iron stove (the first time I've used it since I got my roaster) Bill had to make me a special pan for it and it just squeezed in by the skin of it's teeth. I also made two pumpkin and one mince pies and masses of other food. We ate at 6pm and they didn't leave til 1:30. On Friday we had a party at Harold and Marys to draw names for a Christmas party that Mary and I have planned. We're going to meet at our house on Christmas eve for a pot luck supper and then go out carolling. Each person is going to bring a present for the person whose name he drew at this last party. There will be 18 people in on it and I ought to be lots of fun. Then last night, Sat. we went to another square dance. Last Wed. I went to Santa Fe and got all the rest of my Christmas shopping done, tho I still have lots to make yet.

M.L. has been having lots of fun lately making paper ornaments for the Christmas tree, - chains and baskets and stars. We didn't bring any of our decorations, but I do wish we'd brought the lights. We plan to go out and cut down one of the long needled pines for a Christmas tree, tho where we'll put it in this tiny apartment I don't know.

We spent \$2.50 on a bath for Eli last week, as there's just no place here big enough to bathe him in ^{here}. He was cleaner than he's ever been in his life and we all hugged him and made much

of him for three days and then he went and got in to some coal ashes and now he's dirtier than ever. I guess we'll just leave him in his filth until we get back to Swarthmore and a bath tub.

We went to see "Mrs. Parkington" at the movies tonight,- it was good tho not as good as the book, however Greer Garson is wonderful anywhere.

School seems to be doing a lot for M.L. Her first report said that she never stood up for herself and was an awful cry-baby,- which she still is but not so badly. I still have a terrible time getting her off for school on time in the morning,- she just wont eat and won't hurry and never hears a thing I say. I only hope she grows out of it someday as I just don't seem to have the temperment to cope with it,- each of us makes the other worse. We all went to a pot luck supper at the school the other day which was lots of fun. They have them quite often so the

parents and teachers can get to know each other.

You asked about Thornton and Helen and Tanya, - Thornton is ^{He's still in Hospital} evidently working awfully hard and not getting much relaxation. I don't know much about what Helen is doing but Tanya has been very ill with a ruptured appendix, tho Mummy says that she is all well now. Grannie sees a lot of them both I guess.

Daddy had his tonsils out and did feel pretty rotten for quite a while, Mummy doesn't seem to be taking it easy as I hoped she would after Rosalind went back to England. With Margie in town and all her friends in the Nursing school just begging to be mothered, I suppose it's just too much to expect Mummy to go into hibernation. Well I've come to the end of my paper so I'd better sign off. You said in your letter that you haven't been feeling well, - I hope that you haven't been doing too much and getting overtired. Have you had a cold or grippe? Take care of yourself now.

SoB 11 love

Ba love

Dec 17, 1944

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

Dear Mother -

Barbara seems to do all the writing in our family - I guess I haven't written a letter in the past 9 months. With Christmas coming in a few days, I shall try my hand at it -

Last night we went to the square dance that occurs every other Saturday, and to which we usually go. This morning Barbie got up earlier than I to go skiing with some friends; later on Mary, Leigh and I will drive to the ski slope and we shall all try to find a small Christmas tree - some variety of long-leaf Western pine. Mary has made from construction paper chains and other ornaments with which to decorate it. We also have some bright metal turnings from the dump heap which look like good ornaments -

Christmas week-end, we are invited to dinner Sat. Eve, followed by a party given by one of the groups. Sunday we are going to an egg-nog party in the afternoon

Then six or eight couples are coming to our appt for a sort of pot-luck supper - we had a meeting and drew names for dollar presents, & decided what sort of dish each would bring. After the supper we shall go out & sing Christmas carols. For Christmas dinner we are going to some friends -

We haven't done very much for Christmas - Barbie has been making some silver - copper jewelry for small gifts, and some chumayo jackets which you will see. We got some Indian pottery from Marie - I am not sure where ~~they~~ ^{it} is going.

My work, which is very interesting, keeps me very busy. Usually on Sunday we get out in the fresh air for a hike or a picnic. A couple of weeks ago there was a fairly heavy snow, but it is all gone where the sun has hit it. The climate is certainly amazing, with very cold nights, but very clear days which are warm in the hot sun. The cloud effects are striking - very rarely are there "grey days"

here - The billowy - clouds are usually set in an intensely blue sky.

Our garden didn't amount to much - evidently one can't grow tomatoes at this elevation. The best crops are what the Indians used to raise - and still do, I expect - corn, beans & squash. Cool weather crops - lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower etc also do well. I don't know whether we'll try again next summer.

Recently we discovered in a store some army re-claimed, down sleeping bags, the sort they must use in Alaska or the Antarctic (?), so we bought two for camping trips next summer. Our AMC bags are not heavy enough for the cool nights, especially in spring and fall. Only one night last summer did we sleep without a blanket, although it must get to 90 or 100 during the day.

The scenery in this part of New Mexico is striking, as you no doubt can judge

from the Kodachrome slides. I have another roll nearly all exposed, but that is my last, so I am glad you found a roll in Montour Falls. We have been able to get indoor Kodachrome, but I haven't tried any. I have no equipment with me for developing black & whites, or rather for printing it. We still haven't taken any pictures other than Kodachrome of

Mary-Ligh

We have all been well, except for colds, which take longer to disappear here than in the East. Barbara's hay fever has practically gone here.

I am enclosing a check for your Christmas present - It is too bad that we are so far away. Although we are now permitted to visit relatives, it would be too much of an expense to go East for only a week or two.

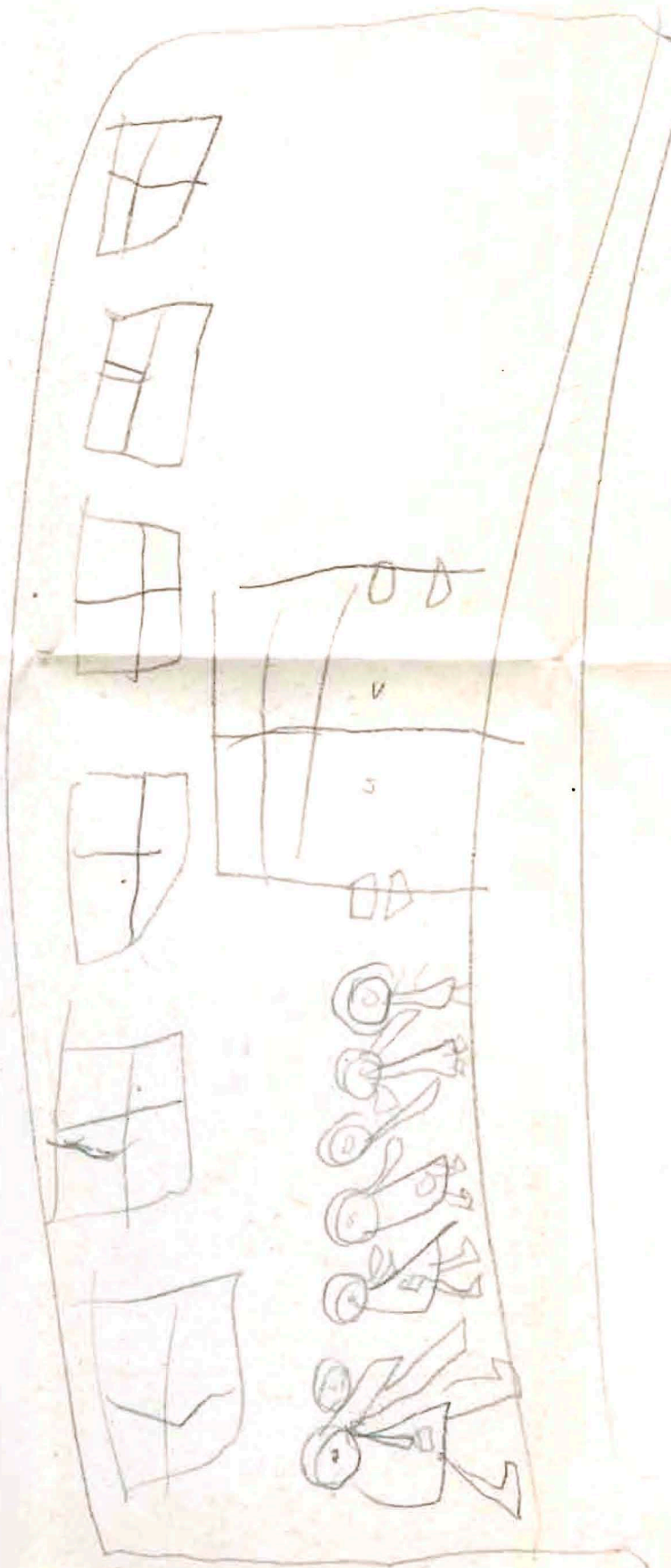
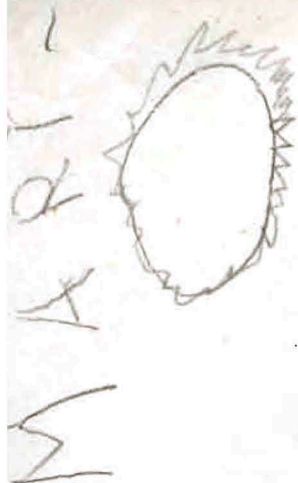
I hope you and Tis have a nice Christmas at home. It is certainly great that she is now so near to Montour Falls. Merry Christmas
Bill

Bill
for you.
parents.
picture
is such a collection
The two boxes have come

Barbara has sent off a package to you.

LEIGH -

O



Y E
S I X -
G O L D
T O -
A R - O L D
S U C T
S O O V

December 17, 1944

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I hope you and Tis have a nice Christmas at home. It is certainly great that she is now so near to Montour falls. Merry Christmas, Bill

PS. Mary-Leigh drew the enclosed picture for you. The two boxes have come, such a collection of presents! Barbara has sent off a package to you. Bill

December 27th, 1944

Dear Mother (and Eleanor and Aunt May if they're around);

It took us all Christmas morning to open that mountain of presents from Montour Falls (in fact they were about all we had, as the presents from New Haven hadn't arrived in time), - I was perfectly agast at the time you must have spent on all those things for us, Mother. Those dresses for Mary are works of art, I can hardly bare to let out a hem they're put in so perfectly. The only thing that I'm sick about is that you didn't write for her measurements before you started in on all that work, - The cotton skirt and searsucker dress can be shortened and pulled in around the waste with out any trouble, but that perfectly adorable wool jumper is too big in every direction, - I just can't bare to take out all that work, so I guess the best thing to do is to put it away for next winter. Although Mary-Leigh is awfully tall she is also awfully skinney and things have to be taken in a lot in the sholders and waist. Please don't feel badly about this as the jumper will certainly get warn some day and the other two dresses look adorable on her. She is mad about her nurses kit and the apron and cap and has played with them every minute since she opened them. I love my purse, - it looks like the kind that will last me many years. Now I will be able to go to Santa Fe looking somewhat decent. I was especially delighted with the chalk marker, - I've wanted one of those ever since I saw Home Ec. major at the Bartons (I don't remember her name) using one. I'm always wishing I had some gummed labels, too, - and I don't think I've ever used anything but old sheets for pressing cloths! I can't guarantee when Bill will get around to write a letter so I'll say that he spent all his spare

time on Christmas reading the book on color photography. He put on the flannel shirt the minute he opened it and had had it on ever since, ^(yday!) - it may end up by being mine as it just fits him now and it doesn't say it's sanforized. I've probably forgotten dozens of items, I must say I felt kind of bewildered at the masses of stuff, - oh, goodness, the jam and pickles, they were what I was especially looking forward to for Christmas, ~~only~~ I'm afraid you parted with far too many of them. The apron and tie were certainly appreciated, Aunty May, - we certainly can't have too many of either. Bill and I gave each other some wonderful Army eiderdown sleeping bags, and I knit Bill a stocking cap and mittens. Mary got in addition to all that loot from you a big bow and arrow and a set of beads to string, and lots of other junk, and the only thing she asked for repeatedly, - a bean shooter (a piece of aluminum hollow rod).

We certainly had a hectic Christmas weekend, - Mary A. and I had this big pot luck supper planned for 18 people at our N house on Christmas eve, then the next day we were going to have Christmas dinner at her house, and also we were both going to a big dance on Sat, night. Well, Mary left for the hospital on Friday morning, - she is a couple of months pregnant and had started to miscarry (she's o.k. now tho she's still in the hospital flat on her back, they succeeded in stopping the miscarriage). I'd been working all week til ungodly hours making jewelry for my friends around here and then I topped it off by staying up til 3:30 Friday night making a new dress to wear th this dance on Sat, night (it's a knock-out, - plaid taffita skirt with ruffle around the bottom and a waist band that goes to a V in front and back and laces up the front, and a white rayon blouse with low gathered neck and small puff sleeves). The dance was a wonder-success, - gallons af eggnog and Tom and Jerries, dancing and

and a side splitting entertainment,- so we didn't get home that night til 3 a.m. either. Sunday I had Mary's part of the pot luck supper to make as well as my own, and we were invited to a eggnog party in the afternoon, I also had to clean again inspite of ~~my~~ real house cleaning on Sat, The 18 people arrived at 7pm and we had a marvelous party,- ate and ate and went caroling and opened presents for each other and sang carols here til about two or so in the morning. Well, if I haven't exhausted you so far I'll start on Christmas day. Luckily M.L. slept late after all the excitement of the preceeding days, or maybe it wasn't lucky as it ment I was late in getting Mary's turkey into our oven. Harold A. came over and helped me wash the mountain of dishes from the night before and somehow I got the roast turkey squash, broccoli, mashed pot. salad, hot rolls, and pumpain and mince pies on the table by 4 oclock for the three of us and Harold and two fellows that Mary had asked. Well except for a visit to Mary in the hospital and a few other calls that night th t about finishes the story of the Elmore Christmas. Everything went off wonderfully and it made me just sick that Mary had to miss it all. I didn't feel the least bit tired til the next day and then I just collapsed and slept from 1 til 5 in the afternoon, and in fact every afternoon since. We're invited to two dorm parties on New Years eve, which means we'll (or atleast Bill will) come home at 3 or 4 decidedly sky high. However that's a couple of days off yet.

I hope to get up to sky on Sunday morning. They have the tow working now and I have decided ^{to} join (to the tune of \$8) and quite waiting around for a baby to get started. They have a

bus running up every Sun. morning at 9:30 so that I can get a few hours of skiing in before Bill gets up in the morning.

I forgot to say how much Eli enjoyed his presents, tho Tuffa (the A.'s little bull dog puppy) grabbed them away from him, and played with them for hours. By evening the one with the squeek was in ribbons. The bean bag is still around, tho Bill says it will probably sprout after all the wet chewing it gets! Midst everything else we bathed Eli on Sun. morning, - the contrast was so tremendous that every one has been loving him ever since. We're wondering how long it'll be before he gets into another coal bin.

We had nasty weather ~~for~~ Christmas, half hearted warm snow and fog, - most unusual up here. We're high enough so that we get lots of snow but not high enough so that it stays, - it's always melted by noon with masses of ankle deep mud in it's wake.

I've been spending a lot of my evenings at the hospital with Mary, - tonight Bill came over too and we all played bridge from 7 - 9 the visiting hours.

Well, either my brain is getting foggy or else I've run out of news. I seem to have skads of letters to write and about three weeks accumulated ironing to do, not to mention some more jewelry work that I'm itching to get at. I'm making a pewter jewelry box with a tile set in the top for Ethel F. who made me all the sleeves for the Chimayo jackets.

Thanks again for making our Christmas such a happy one. We're getting to miss our families a good bit. We've been so busy the past year that it seems like two. On the other hand I can hardly believe that we ~~were~~ left Swarthmore just a year ago this week. From the looks of things it'll be at least another before we're back.

Love and a happy new year to you all R. A.

*Invent mentioned to M.L. from the umbrella - I am hope she doesn't wreck is playing
with it - the house - it always seems to have a vital part in her
make believe games*

MRS. WILLIAM ELMORE

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7 1945

Dear Mother,

I'm afraid that it's been almost a month since I wrote last! I really love to write letters when I have time, but it seems as if I'm always hurrying to catch up. I suppose it'll be even worse now as I've had a job for the past month. When I took it I thot it would mean giving up some of my hobbies,- however, it's ended up in my giving up some of the less interesting household duties instead! I still seem to find time to sew and make jewelry and entertain. It's only a 26 hour a week job, and I work mostly in the morning when M.L. is in school and a couple of afternoons until 4 oclock. It means that Mary is alone for an hour or so at a time and she seems to thrive on it. She loves to act out stories to herself and never seems to get lonely. When I'm home all the time, I'm always trying to get her to hurry up, and we're always squabbling. Now that I'm with her only a few hours of the day we get along beautifully and I imagine I spent really more time going things with her than I used to. When she gets home from school she starts the lunch for me and I bet it won't be long before she has it all ready for us to sit down and eat! This past week she has been home with a cold,- I was afraid at first that it would mean that I would have to stay home, however she has played happily all morning and has never seemed unhappy when I've left. Bill never goes to work til 10 or so in the morning so someone is around (even tho he is asleep,- I never see him any more as he works til 1 or 2 in the morning and is only home for meals). Mary has had a wonderful time making the Valentines that you sent,- she hasn't decided which one she is going to send you yet. I've spent all my spare time this week

cleaning up after her,- when I get home at noon there's floor is littered with scraps of paper and miscellaneous bits of costumes and props for her stories. It's worth it tho if she's happy.

Nothing special of excitement has happened since Christmas. We still square dance or do something fun every Sat. night, and go picnicing after I get back from skiing on Sunday. We've been playing bridge almost once a week or more often, too, it sure is fun. We had a lot of snow and cold weather last week, tho it seems to be over now and it is balmy and warm during the day,-I ~~just can't get over this climate!~~ Bill has been especially busy this week as the head of his group is away and, as he is assistant group leader, he's had masses of extra work. I don't see how he can stand working so much of the time, except that he is crazy about the work.

Now that I'm working I have an Indian girl to help with the housework half a day a week, tho I can't say that it's very efficient help. Although Mary usually makes more work for me than she's worth, when she's in the mood she can be a wonderful help. She can tidy her things up and run the vacuum and wash the bathroom sink and wipe silver. I just wish that she got in the mood more often!

The red flannel you mentioned sounds wonderful. Mary needs skirts badly. I like her to wear something warm in the winter,- she doesn't wear overalls any more. As she's asleep now I'll measure a skirt I made her recently. The waist measures 23 in. and it's 14½ in long. The suspenders that cross over are 18 in. Please don't feel disappointed about the things you made her for Christmas, they'll all be worn out before they're through. The blouse pattern fits her perfectly.

I felt badly to hear of the trouble you had with your tooth, I do hope you are feeling normal again.

Love from Barbara



Feb 18, 1945 -

Dear Mother, -

Happy Birthday! I hadn't forgotten, but as usual I'm late. This week seems to have been unendingly hectic with one thing after another to do. We've had one invitation to dinner & three to parties and on Thursday I was in Santa Fe for the day. However, in my off moments I've been making you a silver ornament for - comb. I thought perhaps you could wear it on the side or in the hair behind. However if it just doesn't look right in your hair just give it away to someone who can wear it & I'll make you something else sometime. I have got to bluff it, as it probably won't arrive before next week. I feel dreadfully to be so late with

birthday greeting. I seem to be late with everything these days.

I am so sorry my last letters were so far apart. I had no idea it had been this long. I'm always making resolutions about writing more often -

Also hope you had a very happy birthday - and that we could have been there to help you enjoy it.

LOTS of love

Frederica.

P.S. M.L. loved his valentine but never stuck to the boy enough to finish the - or rather he got sidetracked playing horse with all the parts.

Also I don't get much time to help him.

February 18, 1945

Dear Mother,

Happy Birthday! I hadn't forgotten, but as usual I'm late. This week seems to have been unusually hectic with one thing after another to do. We've had an invitation to dinner and three parties and on Thursday I was in Santa Fe for the day. However, in my off moments I've been making you a silver ornament for a comb. I thought perhaps you could wear it on the side or in the bun behind. However, if it just doesn't look right in your hair, just give it away to someone who can wear it and I'll make you something else sometime. I have yet to buff it, so it probably won't arrive before next week. I feel dreadfully to be so late with birthday greetings. I seem to be late with everything these days.

I am so sorry my last letters were so far apart. I had no idea it had been that long. I'm always making resolutions about writing more often.

We hope you had a very happy birthday, and that we could have been there to help you enjoy it.

Lots of love,

Barbara

PS ML loved the valentines but never stuck to them long enough to finish them, or rather she got sidetracked playing house with all the parts. Also, I didn't get much time to help her.

Barbara Ehrenreich

March 18, 1945

Dear Mother

Well, I've finally decided to make carbon copies of the letters to the two mothers. Before I can turn around two or three weeks ~~have~~ go by and my conscience starts bothering me so much that I can't sleep nights. And ofcourse to make it worse, it's all because I'm having such a perfectly marvelous time! Lately we've been leading such a wild and giddy social life, that I don't have time to do the minimum of housework, even. I guess we're just going to the dogs, but if so, I love it! This particular spurt of wild living began with the arrival of Bill and Ginny W. from Chicago, - we've never found anyone that we've both had such fun with. They're more our age than the kids that we've been going around with and they have a little boy of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ that M.L. gets along with very well. Ginny is perfectly crazy and she reacts on me until I'm crazy too. We go around acting like perfect fools and love it, and our husbands look on indulgently and act kind of crazy too, especially after a cocktail or two. We've been going on picnics together, usually collecting other people at the last moment, almost every weekend. And inbetween we throw parties right and left and play bridge and square dance. Bill W. has an accordion too. This last week was a riot, tho I admit that it was the first of it's kind, and I hope the last, - I'd be a wreck if I kept up at that pace. Ginny started it off on Tuesday by coming over in the morning to use my sewing maching. When I got back from work at noon and found her there I asked them to stay for lunch, and then as she wasn't quite finished she stayed most of the afternoon. We finally ended up by going to the commissary together and before we knew it we ended up by having dinner at their house, or

playing bridge all evening, M.L. and Robin asleep in the next room. The next day Mary A. told me that she had evidently lost her baby at two months last Christmas (remember I told you she was in the hospital then) and she had that she was having it o.k. ever since. It was an awful blow to her to learn at this late date that she wasn't, esp. after buying and making a lot of baby things. So to cheer her up we played bridge all evening with them. Well, on Thursday I had an Indian girl to work for me all afternoon so I had 10 G.I.'s over to dinner. I find it's a lot easier to entertain when you're working, - people just don't expect a lot of fancy fixings.

Around this time I'd mentioned to Ginny that it would be fun to have a real wild party while our downstairs neighbors were away for two weeks, but as the only possible time would be that Sat. I didn't see how we would plan it so quickly. However nothing fazes Ginny, and she thought it would be fun to have a party in our house from both of us, starting at midnight after the square dance was over. We had it practically all planned when our husbands put their feet down, and said it was too much of a good thing. I'm kind of glad they did, as we were going to a pot luck supper on Friday night and I had to help with the square dance on Sat. However Ginny and I and Mary A. and the kids took a flying (and I mean flying with Ginny driving in their convertible with the top down) trip down to Espanola. on Friday afternoon to console us for not having the party. We bought some wool at the Chimayo store there and some more pieces for some jackets.

On Sunday we all went on a picnic to Puye ruins. It was almost uncomfortably hot and we got lots of sunburn while exploring the caves. The kids climbed down every ladder and into

every cave. We ended up by getting hysterical over trying to drink water out of the gallon thermos jug without any cup, - and the last couple of quarts got splashed and squirted liberally down our necks and in our faces. We got back just in time to go to a party that the group leader of Bill's group had for the whole group plus wives, husbands and sweethearts. We had it in one of the dormitories as there was quite a crowd. We had a wonderful buffet supper and sang and danced all evening.

To climax this terrific week we decided to go to Santa Fe on Monday. The W.'s had to go anyway so we went in their car with the top down again. Bill went with me for once, because he had to have some shoes. I made arrangements so that M.L. was taken care of until after supper so that we could stay down for dinner. Except for a couple of misc. items we only bought three things but they cleaned us out of about 130 dollars. To begin with we found a perfectly beautiful Navaho rug. We've been looking for ~~an~~ really good one ever since we've been here, and this is it. It's about 4' by 8' and has only the natural colors grey, white, black and tan, and a perfectly beautiful design. On top of that I happened to see a copper concho belt that topped any silver one I've ever seen. There are 8 conches something like the enclosed picture held by links. It was made quite a few years ago when there was a lot more pride in their work and is far more precious than other I've seen. Well, anyway Bill finally said it could be a belated birthday present so we bought it. The silver ones cost well over a hundred, so this wasn't too bad for \$25. Before we got all these things, I'd decided to buy a dress (the first I've bought for 5 or 6 years), and, well this really hurts me, the only thing I could find that I'd spent my money on cost \$32. All I can say is I've spent my money for the next year to come.



Well, I worked all day today to make up for yesterday, and have good resolutions about going to bed early this week. However I already have a desert bridge planned for Thursday eve. and we're invited out to dinner Fri. and we have square dance and a dorm party on Sat. and a picnic on Sun. what a life! In spite of all this I've kept up my work every morning and two afternoons a week and I still love it. It was pretty complicated the last couple of weeks because M.L. was sick one week and there was a vacation from school last week. She's fine now and back in school this week. If only she will stay well for a while now. There have been an awful lot of colds and grippe going the rounds up here among the children.

Bill is home tonight ^{without company & held his beer} for almost the first time since we came, doing as you can prob bly guess, his income tax.

Now that I've finished the carbon part of this letter, I want to thank you so much - it's a little late, for the long table with you sent for my birthday. I'll certainly use it a lot. Also M.L.'s shirt arrived - few days ago - it fits her perfectly & she's crazy about it. Thanks so much for bothering to make it. I hope you have wondered when the comb is I said I was ready. I want to make the stone as I was sitting it - so I had to wait until yesterday when I was in Santa Fe. I got another that fit. The Indian silver smith had it all set for me before I could turn around - & he kind of missed it up - however - I shall pass on it my love - hope you can use it.

Mike & his wife showed up at The Sq. dance last Sat. & seemed to have a good time.

Well - I gotta get me sleep. Love you both all well -
Sue Barbara

Hand written addendum to BPE letter from March 18, 1945

Now that I've finished the carbon part of this letter, I want to thank you so much, though a little late, for the lovely tablecloth you sent for my birthday. I'll certainly use it a lot. Also, ML's skirt arrived a few days ago. It fits her perfectly and she's crazy about it. Thanks so much for bothering to make it. I hope you haven't wondered where the comb is I said I was sending. I went and broke the stone as I was setting it, so I had to wait until yesterday when I was in Santa Fe to get another that fit. The Indian silversmith had it all set for me before I could turn around and he kind of messed it up, however I shall not fuss over it any more, hope you can use it.

Mike and his wife showed up at the Square dance last Saturday and seemed to have a good time.

Well, I got to get some sleep. Hope you're all well

Love Barbara

Mrs. William Elmore

Box 1663, Santa Fe, N.M.

April 16, 1945

Dear Folks,

I know that it's been over a month since I've written, I just can't keep track of time the days go by so fast. Mary-Leigh's birthday is almost here and I suppose you're wondering what she'd like from her grand parents. ^(pls. write to Mummy & Daddy) She certainly needs anything to make things with, how about some Lincoln logs? There is just nothing but junk around here, and I just refuse to buy a lot of paper stuff that litters up the house and has to be thrown away immediately. If either of you come across a second hand wagon or scooter or even a small size two wheel bicycle, it would be just the thing. The things they make now aren't worth buying. I haven't had much time to make her dresses either so if you see anything in a size 6 that looks as if it would stand a lot of wear and isn't too expensive, we'd both like it. Cotton material is non-existent in Santa Fe, so if you ever see anything suitable for childrens clothes or blouses for me, do get it and I will re-emburse you.

We all seem to be getting along pretty well, the M.L. has been having a lot of tummy aches lately and eating practically nothing. The pediatrician here is beginning to think it may be allergies and we're now trying atribine before meals. The last three days she's been eating quantities so perhaps it's working. When she feels well we get along wonderfully but the minute she feels badly she starts this whining and fussing over everything, which drives me crazy. She hasn't had the chicken pox yet tho I expect it any moment, almost every child up here has had it. Mary-Leigh's favorite past time is making

everything imaginable out of rags and paper and pins and paste and anything else she can find. I waded through seas of paper every day and stumble over countless little bottles of water with everything from crayons to flour mixed in ~~them~~. It's getting to be a daily battle to get her to pick up even half of her mess. I was getting perfectly frantic over the little amount of space she has to put things away in, so finally to night Bill threw together some shelves in her closet. We had a fine time arranging things, and her room looks beautiful now, - I only hope it stays that way for a while. "Snow White" came to the movies here last week, - I'd been reading the story to M.L. for a year now, almost every night, so I decided that she ought to be ready for the picture. I was only showing two nights and unfortunately we got there after it was all filled up the first night and we had been invited out to dinner the next night, so I had to get someone else to take her. Evidently she enjoyed it immensely, tho I wish I could have been with her to watch her reaction ^{to her first movie}. She's growing up so fast, I just can't bare for you not to see her. I thought I'd die this morning while she was getting dressed, - she was complaining that she had to wear suspenders to hold her pants up instead of a belt. ^{She was} Standing there with her clothes off and her fat little tummy sticking out, ^{when} she looked down and patted the place where her hips are going to be, and said, "Hm, growing aren't they?" with the most ridiculous smirk on her face!

We had the biggest snow storm of the winter on Sat. and Sun. At least 18 inches here and more up in the mountains. Bill had to work most of Sunday so I went with a bunch to ski up one of the mountains near here (practically over Bill's dead body, - he simply hates me to ski) It snowed most of the day and the woods were perfectly gorgeous. It' turned out to be quite a

work out and some of us turned back before we got to the top. I guess it's the last skiing I'll get this year,- there's hardly a trace of the snow left today and a sea of mud is here instead.

I still enjoy my work a lot. They're giving me more responsibilities now and I find it hard to work just my 26 hours a week and no more. I have a swell bunch of young people to work with,- I finally got around to have them all over to dinner last week,- 16 in all counting a few wives and us. Most of them are G.I.'s and really appreciate a real spread. I cooked two turkeys (the biggest I could get was 14 lb and I knew that would never go around) So I cooked one in my next door neighbors oven and one in mine. In addition I had fresh made rolls mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, gelatin fruit salad, + three enormous cherry pies (180 blue points and 3 lbs of sugar). We sat around afterwards and sang to the accordion and played games. Finally a bunch started to play poker and they never left til 1:30 in the morning! I was terribly touched when they came in with a big box of flowers for me,- as well as a box of candy and a pound of butter from the mess hall!

We have gone out every Sunday on a picnic, except this last one. We usually take along a big crowd, always including Bill and Ginny W., and every one contributes something to the food. We have such fun with Bill and Ginny, we usually get together two or three times a week and do something crazy, such as having lunch together over here or Ginny and I sewing together all evening while the fellows work and then sitting up til all hours talking when they get back. Mummy has just got to meet Ginny some day,- they're so exactly the same.

Well I guess this is enough for the carbon copies,- I've been typing all evening,- I'll answer your letters on the back.

We envy you your garden - we aren't going to bathe with
one this year - It just don't pay ~~to~~ up here - & this year the
water will be scarce too.

I'm glad Eleanor gets back often - what are her plans about
getting married.

I certainly never knew that your hair was short - It must
be when we saw you last was it? If so I have a terrible
memory. I'm glad you like the comb - It I turned up the
setting terribly - I haven't had a chance to do my natural
look lately - It's all I can do to keep up with the rising.

I hope you're all keeping as well as we are -

Lots of love

Barbara

Addendum to BPE letter dated April 16, 1945

We envy you your garden; we aren't going to bother with one this year. It just doesn't pay up here, and this year the water will be scarce too.

I'm glad Eleanor gets back often. What are her plans about getting married?

I certainly never knew that your hair was short. It wasn't cut when we saw you last was it? If so I have a terrible memory. I'm glad you like the comb, though I messed up the setting terribly. I haven't had a chance to do any metal work lately. It's all I can do to barely keep up with the sewing.

I hope you're all keeping as well as we are.

Lots of love, Barbara

P.O. Box 1663,
Santa Fe, New Mex.
May 21, 1945

Dear Mother,

Your long letter just arrived and I feel like a cad not even writing to you to thank you for Mary's birthday present. I think I told Eleanor about the birthday picnic that I gave the kids,- It went off beautifully. Mary-Leigh adores her rain cape, and wants to wear it all the time, rain or shine. It looks sweet on her and fits perfectly. I've been trying to get some stuff to make her one like that for a long time now without success, so I am certainly glad you sent ~~you sent~~ it. Tell Aunty May that "Walt Disneys Suprize Package" is a delightful book, I've bought Mary several others of that series,- I think they're called the Golden Books. The Golden Dictionary is one of her favorites, every word has a picture so that if she knows what letter the word starts with she can look up the spelling. My I'll sure be glad when she can read and write.

Thanks for looking for materials for me,- I guess the shortage is as bad with you as with me. I just don't feel like making clothes any more when there isn't anything nice to make them out off.

We went on our first camping trip this past weekend,- it was loads of fun but pretty cold. We camped in at the end of Santa Clara canyon along the brook. ^(about 9000 ft high probably) Two car loads of us went,- Mary A. and Ginny and her little boy and Mary-Leigh and I drove in on Sat. morning and found the camp site, and a couple of other fellows hiked over the mountains starting that morning, and the rest of the husbands and three single fellows came that afternoon in another car. On Sunday most of us climbed Tchcoma a mountain about 11000 ft, high at the end of the canyon.

Bill stayed behind and fished all day, - didn't catch a thing either! Only a few of the boys got to the top of the mountain as it turned out to be bitter cold up on top and none of us had dressed warmly enough. I'm sure M.L. would have made it if it had been warmer, - she's getting to be a real good climber. When we got back to our camp it was still cold and had clouded over so we decided to go home and cook our last meal over the fire place at our house. We all had a stiff cocktail and it turned out to be a wild party, although it did break up early, - we were all so tired.

Our social engagements are calming down a bit, we're both working pretty hard, and I don't seem to get even the essentials done. For a while I had a fairly good Indian girl two half day s a week, but she went off to some other work and the one I have now is awfully slow and hardly seems worth the money, I

just never get caught up with the ironing.

A letter just came from Mummy today telling us that Thornton has evidently been aboard a big ship in pretty dangerous waters for some time, Goodness, I pray that nothing happens to him.

We got a new batch of kodachrome back the other day, - I'll try to get off to you soon. I feel so badly that we never seem to get around to taking some black and whites of Mary-Leigh, - but don't give up hope.

There doesn't seem to be much other news, so good bye for now,

Lots of love,

Barbara

Mrs. William Elmore

Barbara Elmore
Box 1663,
Santa Fe, New Mex.
June 16th 1945

Dear Mother,

Well, I guess this has been about the longest time I've ever left you without a letter. I don't know why I've been so awfully busy the past two weeks, but there's been something on every evening, and evenings are the only time I get to write letters.

I have some good news for you,- after all these years I am finally going to present you with another grandchild, about the first week in December, I hope. I've been too busy and too sick to my stomach to think much about it yet. However, I ought to have time on my hands soon, as I'm quitting my job as soon as Mary-Leigh gets out of school for the summer, in a couple of weeks.

Later

Things seem to be getting more and more hectic, and this letter has been sitting here in the typewriter haunting me every time I go by, for two days now. One of the reasons I've been so busy is that I let my self in for making some sleeping bags for some people I don't even know. There was an advertisement in our bulletin from some people who wanted to exchange a double sleeping bag for some sewing services. Our friends Bill and Ginny wanted a sleeping bag very much so that they could go camping with us this summer, so I said I'd do the sewing. Well it turned out these people wanted two sleeping bags made with some down filling they had. It's turned out to be quite a job, I only wish I could have been making them for ourselves. Anyway they're all done now, so now I can start catching up

on all the things I've been neglecting. I've been trying to break in a new girl to my job, too, and as she has never held a soldering iron before it's ^{not} been too easy.

Bill has been working awfully hard lately and expects to be pretty rushed until the end of July. I can't get him to do much of anything and we haven't been on more than one camping trip this summer. He seems awfully nervous and doesn't sleep very well, however I think he'll snap out of it as soon as we can get away on a little vacation. We have a wonderful trip planned for the middle of August. Two car loads of us are going to combine on the gas and go to the Gallup festival and make a round trip of it back by way of Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon. I only hope his work will be cleared up by then so that we can go.

We've had better luck fishing this year, we've only been out ~~about three times~~ ^{about three times}, but we've caught 12 to 17 each time (between us). Last Sunday we hiked down into upper Frejoles canyon and up the stream to a beaver dam, fishing all the way, we must have hiked about ten miles in all, and it was amazing how well M.I. stood up under it all. We've had to take our Sunday trips close to home the past month or so, as we went and blew out a tire ^{driving on} ~~going in~~ an awfull road one Sunday. Our only chance is to find a third grade tire to take it's place. We're hoping to get a ride into Albuquerque next week, - if only Bill can take time off to come, so perhaps we'll be able to get a tire there.

Bill has enjoyed reading the copies of the Watkins Express that you've been sending, - thanks for bothering. The names in the Swarthmorean that comes every week are getting so strange from being away so long that it hardly seemes worthwhile taking it any longer. I can't get very enthusiastic about going back

to Swarthmore, the climate and country side are so miserable ~~there~~ compared with the West. Oh well, there doesn't seem to be much chance of our going back before the spring of 1946, anyway. I certainly want the baby to be born here, everything is so much more convenient.

I'm pretty tired this evening, so I think I'll call it a day and go to bed,- I've just finished baking a cake and making salad and icecream for a dinner party tomorrow night. I've finally found a sponge cake that works at this altitude (yours fell flat on me), it has one more egg and less water, it still doesn't come quite to the top of the pan though.

I'm sorry that I don't seem to tell you much about Mary-Leigh,- there just doesn't seem to be much to tell. Now that it's summer she plays out all the time after school. There'll be a recreation program for the children during the summer which ought to give them something to do out of doors. Around here there's nothing to do except aimless playing and fighting with all the neighbors kids. After I quit my job I'm going to try to think of things to keep her busier.

Well so long for now, from now on I ought to be able to write more often,- I hope.

Sally Love
Buckner

Sunday, July 29th.

1945

Dear Mother and Eleanor,

Thank you a lot for your nice long letters,- they came at a time when I could appreciate them most. As I think I told you Bill was gone for two weeks on project business, and after he'd been gone a week I started to have some trouble,- bleeding after four months on pregnancy, so I spent the next week in the hospital flat on my back. However don't be worried, as about half of the pregnant women up here seem to have the same trouble, tho usually around the second month. Anyway I'm fine now and everything seems to be perfectly o.k. I sure was in a dither. ~~the~~ the day all this started, tho, with Bill gone and Mary-Leigh on my hands. However, all my friends were simply wonderful. Mary finally spent the whole time with Ethel F. (the one who knit those sleeves for your Thimayo jackets). She's one of those people who takes everything easily and calmly in spite of having almost a full time job (she is the only pharmacist they have at the hospital) and two children. Ray, the 12 year old, was spending her vacation taking care of Eva, the two year old, so she did most of the looking after of M.L. It all worked out wonderfully and all my friends came to see me in my husband's absence. I'd decided not to tell Bill what had happened after I say that everything would be o.k., but unfortunately Ethel's husband felt he ought to know and wrote him merely that I was in the hospital and getting along fine, and as I had just got over an attack of grippe and a very bad cold the week before, Bill didn't know what to expect and I guess got a little worried.

Now that Bill's back his work is letting up a bit. We were able to go on a big camping trip last weekend with Harold and

Mary A. I was so afraid the doctor wouldn't let me go, but he said it would be o.k. so we left Sat. noon and stayed until Tuesday evening. We went to some simply gorgeous country north of Taos, into Hondo Canyon which leads to the base of Mt Wheeler the highest mountain around there. Unfortunately we picked the wrong time of year, - we got into a terrific thunder storm on the way up, it rained ~~in~~ torrents for hours. And then the next afternoon, after the rest of them had gone to climb the mountain we had another storm even worse than the first. However they got back before the rain started, and we all sat in the tent for hours while it poured. It was still loads of fun tho, the morning was beautiful and M.L. and I had lots of fun trying to fish in the stream and lying around in the sun. The next day on the way out we came to a place where the road had been practically washed out and we had to do some fancy manouvering to get out. After we got to Taos again we took a 100 mile loop through the Red River Valley. The A.'s had heard of a wonderful place to spend the night before getting in to the valley, called Eagle's Nest Lake, where we would stay in an inn instead of the tent. It turned out to be an artificial lake in miles of perfectly flat land broiling in the sun. However, we didn't dare to go on for fear of not finding a place to stay, so we stayed in this awful little inn with perfectly horrible beds. Even the swimming was no good as the shore line was pretty messy. The fishing might have been fun if they hadn't charged \$5 ^{to 3} hours per person to take a boat. We did have fun in the evening walking around the edge of the lake to the dam. Where ^{the lake} it starts, it makes a deep gorge in the hills before it spreads out on the plain. The next day made up for that night though, the Red river valley is simply beautiful, -

it's quite a small river flowing down through a lovely canyon. I wish we could have camped another night there. Maybe we'll be able to go back in the fall and spent a few days.

I'm so sorry I didn't answer ^{you}~~Eleanor's~~ letter sooner, ^{Eleanor} about ~~her~~ offer to come out here to help me for a few months. It was sweet of you to think of it. However, I'm afraid it would be impossible, much as I would like it, - we have only two bedrooms, and it's going to be pretty crowded even with the baby. You could ~~only~~ get a dormitory room ^{only} if you got a job and it's pretty late in the game to get a job now. I'm sure everything is going to go all right, anyway, - Mary will be in school all day next year, and I certainly don't have much to do around this small apartment. Right now I have an Indian woman two half days a week, so that almost all my ironing and heavy cleaning is done for me. We eat out at ~~this~~ very good cafeteria near here about once a week, and can more often if things get hectic. I do wish you could have come out here last year and taken a job. I know you'd love this country, - but as I said before it's too late to start anything now.

I finally got to Santa Fe last Friday for the first time in several months. I got a lovely tile tray for Henry McCorkle and Jody Dickson who got married last week. Also after about a year of looking I found some 9aaaa sport shoes, - my size is not a common one.

Mary-Leigh seems to be getting along pretty well this summer. Three times a week she has swimming lessons in the pool they made last summer. Then at the school they're having a recreation program where she does carpentry, painting, clay-modeling, and story telling. almost every morning and afternoon for a few hours. ~~ack~~ She seems to play a lot more happily with

the children around here this year. She plays house and doctor out on the porch a lot with all the props she can drag out, and all the kids she can crowd in that small place. Mary's lost both her bottom teeth now and is a commical sight. We seem to get along together better too, - tho I still can't get her to mind no matter how strict I am.

Poor Eli has been and still is very sick. I suddenly noticed a few weeks ago that he was getting terribly thin, and not eating a thing. He stayed at the vets while I was in the hospital and they discovered that he has ~~an~~ acute liver trouble probably from getting into garbage pails (people will just dump garbage in without covering the pails) and eating too much fat. He's just skin and bones now and can hardly stagger around. He's getting injections twice a week at the vets and I have to feed him all the meat I can spare points for, - he absolutely won't ~~touch~~ the dry dog food. I do hope he'll pull through.

Good bye for now and lots of love to you both,

Barbara

M.L. has just informed me that she is about to make you a picture of her teddy bear. So I'll think of something else to write til she is finished.

Bill is going from bad to worse in his working hours. He now sleeps til 9:30 or 10 and then works continually with perhaps half an hour out for meals until one or two at night. I hate it, but it doesn't seem to disagree with him so I guess it will continue.

Well, Mary's picture is done (and I didn't even see it til it was done so don't think I helped her with it!) And Bill is finally getting up, so good-bye for now.

Lots of love

Barbara

P.S. As perhaps you've heard already Bill met Mike the other day -

P. O. BOX 1663
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

August 7, 1945

Dear Mother —

You must have been excited when you heard the news yesterday, with the mention of Santa Fe. I knew the dropping of the atomic bomb was due any day and had been listening for news of it every time I got near a radio. Monday I got up late, having slept the clock around, and picked up word of it at 10:45 am. They announced ~~word of it~~ over the P.A. (public address) system when word ^{first} came over the radio, but I was not on hand to hear it. Since then everyone has been clinging to radios to hear all the blab of the radio commentators. Except for the speculations of some flighty commentators the news has been handled very well.

The test shot, which has been described in the papers, was very exciting. I was outside the shelter at 10,000 yds (6 miles) and saw the entire affair. The trip I was on, which Barbara mentioned in a letter a while back, was for this test.

The tremendous effort which has gone into the entire development has at last paid off - it really was the biggest scientific gamble in the history of the world, as President Truman has said. No one really knew until after the test just how successful the bomb ~~would~~ turned out to be. After the test, and all the shouting was over, we went back to camp and passed bottles around - before breakfast! Then we headed back to Los Alamos - over "city of 6000" - according to newspaper accounts. I was up 43 hours with no sleep!

You might save clippings from news papers and send us - especially the N. Y. Times. We managed to get one copy of the Santa Fe paper and its front page is choice. You see we must be the 3rd largest city in N. Mex. or maybe larger, yet people in S. F. could not even recognize our existence except in "Whispers." We lived in a "vacuum" according to the newspaper account. They called the bomb the "Los Alamos Bomb".

Next week we are going on a vacation trip which I believe Barbara has

described. With us, ~~is~~ going the Fermis.
Mr. Fermi the radio described as "one of the
world's most distinguished physicists", which
is probably true. We shall see the Gallup
Indian Festival, then camp at Mesa Verde
and at Chaco Canyon. The trip will
take a week - about 800 miles. We are
pooling B-rations for the trip. We are
now allowed 15 coupons for a 3 month
period, besides our A coupons.

I don't know when we shall get back
East but it may not be until next
summer. Barbara would like to stay
until after her baby is born in December.
~~It would~~ be nice to be able to take a
trip through the west on the way home,
provided enough gas is available by next
spring. Then we would have the rest of
the summer for a good vacation with
you and with the Pages'.

I enjoy seeing the Watkins paper
and reading about local affairs. I
still seem to know lots of the people
mentioned. Hugh is certainly seeing the world!

We have all been well, especially
Mary-Teigh - She is as brown as a nut from
wearing play-suits in the hot New Mexico
sun. In September she will start in first
grade. I hope she learns to read in short
order, for that will keep her occupied.
She is extremely active, and needs to
keep her mind actively occupied or else
she gets into mischief. She has a
personality somewhat like Margie Page's, but
Barbara thinks she is much smarter.

I hope you are all well, and the
garden is doing O.K.

Much love

Bill.

August 7, 1945

Dear Mother,

You must have been excited when you heard the news yesterday, with the mention of Santa Fe. I knew the dropping of the atomic bomb was due any day and had been listening for news of it every time I got near a radio. Monday I got up late, having slept the clock around, and picked up word of it at 10 AM. They announced it over the P.A. (public address) system when word first came over the radio, but I was not on hand to hear it. Since then everyone has been clinging to radios to hear all the blah of the radio commentators. The news had been handled very well.

The test shot, which has been described in the papers, was very exciting. I was outside the shelter at 10,000 yards (6 miles) and saw the entire affair. The trip I was on, which Barbara mentioned in a letter a while back, was for this test.

The tremendous effort which has gone into the entire development has at last paid off. It really was the biggest scientific gamble in the history of the world, as President Truman has said. No one really knew until after the test just how successful the bomb would turn out to be. After the test, and all the shouting was over, we went back to camp and passed bottles around before breakfast! Then we headed back to Los Alamos, our "city of 6,000" according to newspaper accounts. I was up 43 hours with no sleep!

You might save clippings from newspapers and send up, especially the NY Times. We managed to get one copy of the Santa Fe paper and its front page is choice. You see we must be the 3rd largest city in N. Mex. Or maybe larger, yet people in S. F. could not even recognize our existence except in "whispers". We lived in a "vacuum" according to the newspapers account. They called the bomb the "Los Alamos Bomb".

Next week we are going on a vacation trip, which I believe Barbara has described. With us, are going the Fermi's. Mr. Fermi the radio described as "one of the world's most distinguished physicists" which is probably true. We shall see the Gallup Indian Festival, then camp at Mesa Verde and at Chaco Canyon. The trip will take a week, about 800 miles. We are pooling our B-rations for the trip. We are now allowed 15 coupons for a 3 month period, besides our A coupons.

I don't know when we shall get back East, but it may not be until next summer. Barbara would like to stay until after her baby is born in December. It would be nice to be able to take a trip through the west on the way home, provided enough gas is available by next spring. Then we would have the rest of the summer for a good vacation with you and with the Page's.

I enjoy seeing the Watkins paper and reading about local affairs. I still seem to know lots of the people mentioned. Hugh is certainly seeing the world!

GRACE C. ELMORE
MONTAUR FALLS
NEW YORK

Wednesday, Aug 8.

Dear Bill,

As you can imagine we were all excited to hear and read about the atomic bomb, (Auntie May is here for a few days and we are all going to Compton Friday) and we all hung over the radio, and discussed what we read in yesterday's Times. It gave me a queer feeling to read a description of the Bomb in the paper, after wondering about it for nearly 2 years.

We are tremendously interested and read every thing we can get

hold of. I am reading yesterday's
Times for I thought you might
be interested to see how they
handled the big news. We are
wondering if you were present
when the list was made in
Southern N. M. I hope so. The
whole thing scares me to death.
If there is any thing you can
tell me. do write. People keep
asking me questions, and I only
know what I read in the papers.

I hope Barbara is feeling
all right again. I shall
write as soon as we get back
from Camp town early next

GRACE C. ELMORE
MONTAUR FALLS
NEW YORK

week.

We have been painting the kitchen and painting and it looks wonderful. It has been a long hard job, but today sees the end of the painting.

The garden is fine, but late. We are eating broccole, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets and onions and soon in eating. We haven't had one word on the broccole, due to being rationed.

I wish we had more need. for I have jobs to do.

Love mother

Grace C. Elmore
Montour Falls
New York

Wednesday, August 8, 1945

Dear Bill,

As you can imagine we were all excited to hear and read about the atomic bomb, (Auntie May is here for a few days and we are all going to Camptown Friday), and we all hung over the radio, and discussed what we read in yesterday Times. It gave me a queer feeling to read a description of the Post in the paper after wondering about it for nearly 2 years.

We are tremendously interested and read every thing we can get hold of. I am sending yesterday's Times for I thought you might be interested to see how they handled the big news. We are wondering if you were present when the test was made in Southern N.M. I hope no. The whole thing scares me to death. If there is any thing you can tell me, do write. People keep asking me questions, and I only know what I read in the papers.

I hope Barbara is feeling all right again. I shall write as soon as we get back from Camptown early next week.

I have been painting the kitchen and pantry and it looks wonderful. It has been a long hard job, but today is the end of the painting.

The garden is fine, but late. We are eating broccoli, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets and onions and corn is earing. We haven't had one worm on the broccoli, due to using rotenone.

I won't write more now, for I have jobs to do.

Love Mother

STAY GALETTE

Elmore Viewed Test of Bomb

Montour Falls — William Cronk Elmore, son of Mrs. Grace Elmore of Montour Falls, worked for two years on "the secret of Los



Alamos" the atomic bomb, the deadliest weapon in history. Dr. Elmore said: "The test shot was tremendously exciting. I was outside the shelter at a distance of six miles and saw the affair. The huge effort which had been put into the entire development has paid off." Dr. Elmore graduated at Lehigh University, did research work at Yale and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was loaned by Swarthmore College to the government to work on this project.

Los Alamos

August 25, 1945

Dear Families,

The last couple of weeks have been so exciting that I don't know whether I'm coming or going. Everyone up here just went wild when the news came that one of our atomic bombs had been dropped, - and then with the end of the war coming so quickly it seemed as if we couldn't get any more excited, but we did. The excitement was at it's height when we left on our trip. I had a wild time getting ready as there were no maids on the hill for several days, but we all finally got off early Friday morning and headed for Gallup. We were kind of worried about the gas situation as of course we had the coupons all saved up, and when gas rationing was suddenly lifted we were afraid stations would be all out of gas. However we had no trouble there and we got into Gallup in time for dinner that night. We had reservations at the swankiest motor court in Gallup, tho we did have some trouble getting food in restaurants. The Indian ceremonial was interesting, tho nothing I'd ever want to see again particularly. We visited all the trading posts and the big exhibition hall, - I expected to see Indians selling stuff on their own, but almost everything ^{for sale} was in the stores, and not very cheap at that. The rest of our party bought rugs, but we didn't see any we liked better than the one we bought in Santa Fe a few months ago. I bought a leather purse and a few minor things and that's all. We all went to the rodeo the first afternoon and the rest of them went to the Indian dances in the evening while I stayed with M.L. I think Mary was pretty good considering the heat and crowds and waiting so much for meals. I bought her a nickel's worth of Mexican jumping beans the first

day and they kept her fascinated the whole time we were there. We left Monday morning for Mesa Verde. It was a long hot trip across the desert, but it was well worth it when we got there. That is one place you must go to some day. The road winds for 20 miles from the highway up on to the mesa where the park headquarters are. The cliff dwellings are very different from those around here,- the canyons are full of huge over hanging ledges, and under each one is a whole village of stone houses. We went on several of the guided tours and then took one 6 mile hike by ourselves. The head of the park service, a Mr. Nussbaum attached himself to us, probably because we had such a celebrity as Fermi with us, and took us on all kinds of extra trips and sat for hours telling us anecdotes and stories. We stayed for one extra day we were having so much fun (three days in all),- We camped out all the time in one of the nicest public camp grounds I've seen yet. They also had cute little house keeping cabins, and a main lodge where we ate one meal. Mr. Nussbaum has a lovely house on the very edge of the cliff, and he had us over several times for drinks. Before we left he got us all excited about going up farther North to the high mountains (the La Platte and the Needle Mountains) and even telephoned to the head of a big gold mine in Silverton, a friend of his, to get us permission to go up into the mine. Those next two days were the most thrilling of the whole trip,- we drove through the most spectacular country full of great high jagged peaks from 12 to 14 thousand feet high, most of them are colored bright red from the iron ore and also partially covered with snow. From Ourey we went over this million dollar highway that goes up over 11,000 ft. through a pass to Silverton. Driving toward this mine we were going to visit, we were kind of agast to see the cable car with the ore buckets (which looked radicle

ously small) going from the main buildings of the mine across a deep gorge and almost out of sight up to the top of one of these jagged peaks. Mr. Chase the head of the mine was expecting us and after we had signed releases, escorted us in the buckets up to the mine. That was certainly the most exciting trip I've ever made, - it took twenty minutes to make the trip, and we got the most breathtaking views imaginable. Hundred foot pines looked like little shrubs the were so far below. Bill absolutely refused to take M.L., tho it was obviously no more dangerous for a child than for an adult, - two or three people could sit comfortably in each bucket. However, after I reached the mine Mr. Chase said that there had been a telephone call from the base that Bill and M.L. were coming up after all. It was good he did, - I would have felt terribly if he'd missed it, as we went all through the mine and saw all the crushers and machine shops and offices that are in the mine itself, and then we had dinner in the miners dinning room which is also in the mine. It was getting kind of late when we got back down and we had no place picked to camp that night, so Mr. Chase called the head of the power company and got us permission to camp at their private lake. It was dark when we finally got there so they even gave us a cabin to sleep in. It was a lovely lake, and Bill and Enrico got up early and went fishing, - didn't catch anything though. We drove home the next day across the desert and over our back mountains. The last bit was hot and dusty and we were glad to get back.

We thought that when we got back that everything would be settled about the fate of the project, - however it wasn't, and now it looks as if we will be staying til the new year anyway as Bill has to help write some of the twenty volumes or so