

Feb. 27-1948

Dear Cecile: As you can see by the dates on the children's letters, I have been three days trying to get this in the mail.

We have been having regular summer weather with morning temperatures in the sixties and afternoons in the high seventies. Things are beginning to show green and at last, after the retarding of severe cold, the Camellias are coming in bloom - I covered ours and they did not suffer the damages that some did over town - you know there is a difference of opinion about covering camellias. I have an idea about making covers that can be easily removed and made of glass screening that I believe will be just the right thing. I wanted to fix it this year but could not get the wood I needed. Hope to get it made before another winter -

Cecile I do wish you would be honest with Dad and I about your French sojourn - I am going to be frank with you this morning and plan to write Hens also - First let me ask you this - Are you satisfied about the school and is Hens really accomplishing his purpose? I was under the impression that a degree

was the valuable thing to gain as well as to get all knowledge possible - I have had the feeling all along that things were too uncertain in the method of grading etc and that Hews could go indefinitely without getting a degree. In the schools of America there is no doubt about ones standing and surely the outstanding schools of the world are in America. Another thing if Hews want modern architectural training I see no point in staying in a school that does not teach it. I see no point in Hews turning in modern designs when the school does not recognize them. Another thing I do not see is your living where everyone has to struggle so for an existence. Another thing is the political situation - you know about the Czechoslovakian situation no doubt. The Communists have complete control there and Americans within the boundaries are stranded. This morning's paper says that France is due to be the next country to fall in Communist hands. It seems to me you and Hews should be making arrangements to get home before anything happens. The trouble is the Communists are in and have control before any one has sufficient warning - Being caught in a situation of that kind would place you where none of us could help you for the Communists are strictly against Americans. If Hews schooling was proving indispensable I might see reason for your staying in spite of all odds but I surely am not convinced that he is gaining the benefits he would like us to think he is -

Love Mather