

April 5-1948

Dear Cecile: Thought I had better write letters first thing this morning and not let the week get a head start on me as it did last week. The weather is so beautiful that I find it very hard to stay in the house.

Last week I started working some in the yard and each day did some weed pulling and a bit of digging. You have guessed it - I am almost past bending over and have discovered new muscles that are making me realize how lazy I have been. The back of my legs feel as if they were drawn up from the massed exercise but am not giving up to it. It is surprising how well unwanted grass and weeds grow. However the St. Augustine grass is coming to life and we expect it to make rapid progress this summer.

No doubt I have bored you with my reference to the beautiful view we have from our sunporch ~~and as you see Mrs. Schaefer's azalias are a blaze of color and we get full benefit of it. It is really pretty.~~

Yesterday was 'French' party day again - Marie Therese, Miss Broussard, Fattie, Hub, Aunt Nina, Florence were all here and we had a very pleasant afternoon. Denise had her kodak and took pictures of all of us and we had Mr. Sanford take a picture with all of us and Denise and even Pattie the dog. Surely hope they turn out well so you can get some. Denise leaves Thursday for New York and sails on the fourteenth so, no doubt, you will be seeing her soon. She promises to look all of you up as soon as she

can upon her return home. She wanted to see pictures of all of you so she would recognize you and I got out the Passport picture of you and the children and the enlarged snapshot of Hems that is so good of him. We stood the pictures up on the living room table so you see you all were here to after a fashion. I read your last letter aloud to the crowd and Marie Therese and Denise would have a French session now and then throughout the reading so she could understand what was going on. She always added descriptions to yours and it turned out to be a very interesting and delightful part of the party. I served coffee, tuna salad sandwiches, hot cheese biscuits with deviled ham filling and Angel Food cake. The angel food fascinated Denise as she had never eaten any before. She liked it very much and copied the receipt for her mother. We have felt especially near to Denise because she was a close tie for us to you in that we knew she would soon be seeing you.

We have not heard from Bob and Margaret since they went home. Margaret may have gone on up to Jackson to be with Mrs. Crofoot during Mr. Crofoot's last illness. On the other hand she had a job to see about and may have taken it and gone to work again.

Louise Wilkes came by Saturday afternoon and took Dad and I out to Cedar Grove to Johnson Florist. We bought the loveliest pink geraniums for our porch box. Also got some pink petunias for the front flower bed. When we came home from there Louise and I cut some nice camellias and took them to Maude Fridge who is in Highland Sanitarium. A week ago Maude had a bad fall. She went out her back door and in some way caught her foot in a mat at the door and fell off the porch onto the concrete four feet below. She

is bruised from head to foot on the right side and on her left hip - she pulled ligaments in her chest and right arm but no broken bones. She has suffered intensely but was better Saturday -

Cecile have your packages ever been tampered with? Tottie said Herbert had had things taken from his packages from time to time. Since you wrote about receiving a package that had been damaged in shipping and receiving a note from the customs office directing you to have contents listed inside the box I have listed things on the underside of the lid. Also write the name and address on the box itself so even if the outside paper gets torn you should receive the packages. Last week I mailed a twenty one pound box to you. Had said I would not send any more that large as they are so heavy to carry - However I had so many things here that you had mentioned needing that I simply could not make up my mind to leave any out.

Cecile I like your telling me your needs - makes buying more satisfying - The box with Mrs. Goodwin's doll in it should get there soon. I am anxious to know if it went through alright. Hope it did not get broken -

Your excursions to the woods and meadows sound so enchanting and I am sure all of you are enjoying those excursions to the fullest. I like it best when you write that you have gone with the children. It calls to mind my own childhood and similar experiences with my mother. Mamma was a true lover

of nature and when she and Papa took us to the woods to find wild flowers it was something of joy to remember always. Mama could always tell us about the rare and interesting things to be found and our excursions were educational as well as pleasant. Another thing I like to know you are with them when they go into meadow and woods as they not only enjoy your companionship but also enjoy the security and protection you lend. Little girls are precious little jewels to be guarded tenderly against all evil and harm. Cecile I know you can trust your little girls but there is always doubt about trusting other children at times.

Talked with Lirna recently. We invited them to our Open House but they did not come. Bill is not up to being in a crowd and especially among people he does not know. He still feels the effects of his break down of last summer - Lirna says he does very well as long as he does not try to over do himself - she asked about you and asked to be remembered to you.

Happened on to Roma recently and she asked if you all were up for Christmas this year - said she didn't hear from you - I told her you all were in France and she was quite surprised and intensely interested - she asked to be remembered also -

Anxiously awaiting news as to the house hunt. Surely hope Hewa finds something very desirable.

Nearly noon - takes me forever to write and then don't seem to have an interesting letter. We surely love your letters and find them most interesting -

We love all of you so very much -

Mom -