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Friday, Dec. 17, 1943

Dear Lee:-

I hope you do not think I am neglecting you, but with Christmas coming, daddy out of the office and my being away from home all day as far as getting any baking, Christmas preparations done, I have my hands full.

The mercury has been down to 9 this week, but I believe today is a little warmer. There has been no snow, but there is skating on the Brandywine, etc.

I suppose you remember Eugene Smith, the negro boy who used to work at the house. He has been home on a furlough and came over to the house to see us. He seems to be getting along O.K. and is now an Acting Sergeant [sic]. He is in the air corps and has been stationed in North Carolina, but he had orders in his pocket that his unit was being shipped to Fresno, California. Of course he was asking all about you.

Dr. Johns is still sick in bed and will be unable to preach Sunday, so yesterday I got in touch with Bishop Hughes, who is attending a meeting of Bishops this week in Princeton, N.J., and he said he would be with us this coming Sunday. That relieved daddy, for he was afraid he would be asked to preach, and I know he would try. His voice is not yet ready for preaching yet and he still coughs quite a lot. Outside of that he is alright, but he is being sensible and staying home. We shall be thinking of you on Sunday and Shirley, also. She will hate to miss The Messiah.

I talked with Mrs. Taylor about Julia's gift, and Wednesday with the help and advice of Bernice selected a lovely all wool white sweater at Mullin's. I hope this is alright with you and I feel sure she will like it. It was one of the things she had asked for.

Grandmother Minker is spending a few days with Uncle Marion in Baltimore. We expect her to be with us for Christmas, and grandmother Jones is staying at home with us this year.

How did your night flying go? I am enclosing one more clipping of Creighty. If you don't want to show it to your buddies o.k.

I have talked to daddy and we think Sunday, December 26, would be a good time to get us all at home, any time after we return from church in the morning which is usually about 12:30, which I figure out would be about 10:30 your time. If you find this will not suit you let us know what other date you will try. Of course if you call any other time but Sunday it would have to be in the evening, for daddy and I will be in the office in the daytime. The girls will probably be going out some evenings, but I cannot say which ones now. If you send me an air-mail

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letter upon receipt of this one I ought to get it by Christmas day. If the 26th isn't alright, how about Sunday, January 2, although I am not sure yet whether Shirley has to return to school on that day or not. She said she thought she would have to be back on the 3rd.

We will be using the records you gave daddy and me last year on Sunday evening in the chapel. Tuesday night Washington cottage is having a dance, and Wednesday night there will be the annual Christmas dinner with parties in each cottage following. The boys will start to go home on Friday I guess.

I'll write to you again, of course, before Christmas. Lots and lots of love, and take care of yourself. I hope this grippe epidemic which is sweeping the east does not reach you folks out there.

Mother

P.S. If you have the money to pay for the call, it is much cheaper if you simply call Wilmington 38824, not asking for any particular person. In that case you can let us know what it cost you and we will re-imburse you. If you put thru a collect call it costs the same as a person-to-person call.

By the way, a check arrived from Mrs. Dexter yesterday, made out to you, for \$10.00. Do you want me to put it in your savings account or mail it to you? Will you drop her a line, Mrs. Hope Dexter, Sherborn, Mass., thanking her for same and telling her something of your activities? I am acknowledging it today.