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October 26, 1944

Dearest Lee:-

The enclosed pictures give you some idea of what Pilot looks like at the present time. The pictures of your sisters are not good at all. Pilot is so wiggly that we couldn't get him alone.

I don't know how much news of the outside world you get. We are heartened this morning by news that the Japanese Fleet has been put to rout, with 26 ships sunk or damaged, and only one of our carriers sunk.

The President is scheduled to appear in Wilmington tomorrow as he passes thru on his way to speak at Ebbets Field, Philadelphia.

I talked to Julia before she left yesterday. We shall keep in touch with each other.

This is the housecleaning season and I am trying to get some done. Today the boy is descending upon our bedroom and of course daddy, like most men, hates the idea.

Tonight the boys of Lincoln cottage are having a Hallowe'en dance, inviting girls from the Kruse school as their guests. Mr. Eller, who has been cottagemaster in Washington cottage for several years, is leaving for another job this week. He has two small children and of course this isn't the best place in the world for staff members to have a family. As yet we have no replacement. In fact we need several people, watchmen, etc., but they are hard to find. Most of the men being returned by the army are being pushed into essential work if they are at all capable of doing the same.

Mr. Briggs has just finished getting out about a dozen holly trees which we got yesterday down state. I hope they survive and produce berries, for I think there isn't anything much prettier.

A letter from Shirley says she wrote you three V-mail pages the other day, so I guess you are up on all the latest news from her. Write when you can, for we are anxious to hear from you.

With all my love.

Mother