

Dec. 26, 1960

Dear Laura:

Christmas day was lovely here, clear and mild, though the snow seems to persist on the ground. Dick and Sallie came in Christmas Eve and we had dinner here. It had to be then because Dick works in the hospital cafeteria and they have a big holiday dinner upon occasion. Bibah and I went to Tesuque for the midnight dance. There was no mass, but the dance was given in the church. A turtle dance, I believe. It was very effective. Comfortable to watch, too, because we took your little Mexican stools to sit on, and it was warm in the church. Not being used to late hours, I felt a bit weary on Sunday. Betsy didn't feel like driving out to Tesuque so we just stayed home. There were a good many presents, several of which will remain unopened for your return. Everybody in the Ortiz family gave Betsy a present, from a dozen or so pencils to an oversize cup which holds two 8 oz. cups, daintily decorated with roses. She sent over a box of fruit, nuts, candy and cookies for the whole family.

We drove one day to the Hownells to take them a basket of cookies and meringues, and stopped on the way back at the Farrelllys for tea. Otherwise, no outings; it has been rather cold most of the time.

Georgia O'Keefe called and wanted you to go to her house (and Abiquiu, which is prettily lighted) on Christmas Eve. Bill Lippincott wanted you to do a portrait of him, but it has to be early in January so he will have to go elsewhere.

Three boxes of fine pears came. Betsy isn't inclined to eat them, at least not at present, so we may have a "distribution" problem.

We were glad to have your note saying you had finally arrived in Merida. We received it Fri. or Sat., so it takes 5 or 6 days in transit.

The enclosed slip came from the bank, indicating an error in the checks for the Thompson job. There were two, and perhaps I added them up wrong--perhaps the teller didn't add them on the machine as she should have. Anyway, full credit is now given, and you can check with the deposit slip ~~you~~^{we} sent you. A check for \$60.00 came from Shostal (see enclosed notation). When I deposit this, it will make the total deposits which I have made \$336.81. Then I will send off the letters to Santa Fe Book, Camera Shop etc. which you sent some time ago, and told me to hold until I had deposited \$300.00. Our finances here are ok, and no need to worry. Betsy gave me another for household expenses which will keep us going for some time. Tomorrow I'm going to Albuquerque for the day, so will not get to the bank until Wed.

I hope all is going well now, and that progress is being made on the job. Joe evidently is one of those people who should never venture into a foreign country!

Love, *Margie*.