

(4) enclosing a copy of The oracles - I hope you are not too shocked at the price (I was) - but so many tiles are broken and it truly is a rather major job - and a good company and people. I think it is worth it. I hope you do. They will get started on it next week. They seem to feel that building will open up by June. I keep thinking of "our new home". I went up this afternoon, just to rest my mind and Oh John, you never saw anything lovelier - it was a fairy land. And the dear W.B. all shining and singing - Oh - Oh - Oh - it is lovely.

Your letters are so dear - and frequent - it makes me feel near. I've tried and tried to leave not the least thing undone that you would want done - to everyone - and giving cookies too - but not so much meat as last year. However, it is not so needed - there are no points any more. God bless you darling - I still feel a little dizzy - but New Hampshire may hold the true Christmas Peace -

I pray it does. Remember the address Con To Cook, R.F.D. #1
to Mr. Chagoly
just to touch pen to paper is like contacting strength
Love -
Peace -
Keep well.
M

Saturday
Dec 15, 1945

1) Darkest.

Excuses are odious and I've never picked to have letters from someone "who is just so rushed that they simply haven't a minute". I always wish they had gone right on with their job - and almost feel breathless and hurried in even recalling about it. My letters to you must never be like this - they must be from a quiet mind and an overflowing heart. So my darling. I've had to wait a few days. I sometimes wonder whether it is because I am by nature simple, or whether Christmas has truly gone berserk. I've endeavored to simplify it all I could, yet with all it seemed to pile on me until I felt I couldn't breathe. Of course, I do foolish things

3. We have been having more than the usual cold weather problems at the W.B. The furnace needs a thorough cleaning & servicing, which is impossible. It has given us a BTD trouble. Also the chimneys and now even, the roof leaks! I finally got a very fine ^{in Norway} company to send their man out to look over the situation. He said the condition was "shocking" - showing me where the vines had grown into the drains and under the tiles, lifting them right up - how all the drains are choked and filled with ice, leaves, roots and this is what makes the leaks. He also said the only proper way to care for our chimneys is to build a false chimney around the chimney pots, which holds the slab over the opening. He showed me and it seemed so clearly needed - and so long neglected that I told him to go ahead. Sam.

2. Like trying to do your Christmas present with all the rest of it. It is a big job in itself - and so fascinating. Then Nettie's pictures were three dozen - the children each - ect. ect. And this is only Dark Room work. I don't think now that I will ever be so foolish again, but I probably will. Thank Heaven, I leave tomorrow. We have decided to drive up, as I have so many packages, cameras, ect - and trains are impossible. John & Anna will spend the night with their old friends in Boston, then come home - I will go on to Bet, & Sasha's.

If only Win's prospects of housing ect were happier, it would be happier for me too. I seem to need to have everyone else's happiness first. Little Peter now is scheduled for Dec. 26th for tonsils.

I will spend the night with Constance as Win has no room. Thomas is in the Mass. General convalescing from pneumonia.