[Transcription begins]

#10 11-26-43 The Day after Thanksgiving

Dear Douglas:

The Day before Thanksgiving we received two letters from you the latest dated on the 19th, which was quick delivery service. It will be fun sometime to look over the mail and have you recall where you were and how it was mailed, whether you were in port, which we doubt, or whether it was picked up at sea by returning ship or plane.

Jesse has been rather miserable and felt he couldn't accept our invitation to come for the holiday but urged us to come there and we had accepted. Just after our acceptance Bill appeared on the scene saying that he is to be transferred within two weeks, does not know where, but expected to be home once more before going elsewhere. That left Marilyn very undecided whether to go with us or stay home on the chance that Bill might get his last leave at that time. Dad and I were to leave for Carver at four o'clock on Wednesday and Marilyn about three o'clock had made up her mind that she would stay at home, when the bell rang and there was Bill! He had to be back at his base the next day by noon so it worked out perfectly. Dad and I left at four o'clock as planned, accompanied by Chip. Marilyn and Daryl went to the Schmids for the night, left about 9:30 in Bill's new car for Carver, arriving there in plenty of time for dinner although poor Bill had to leave immediately for Sandwich and out on patrol with no turkey dinner. When we arrived at Jesse's Norman was there cutting up a deer which he had just brought out of the Maine woods, but we didn't have any of that meat for he was storing it, but for supper we had a delicious chicken pie with biscuit crust, creamed carrots and peas, and Dutch Apple cake with genuine whipped cream. Breakfast brought forth the famous quahaug flap-jacks, baked beans, bacon and coffee with gobs of you know what. Much to Jesse's delight he was able to get a turkey so that we had the traditional dinner. The day was perfect, about 55 outside, the flooded bogs were as blue as any hue you have seen in your travels, and against the russet of the unflooded portions and the green pines, it was a picture. There were no other guests as the children were entertaining their in-laws. Connie came down for breakfast with the three children and Norman. Jay is the image of Curtis at that age, and of course is much older in appearance. Connie told me that Jack Tobin went to Sicily in an Invasion Barge, his skipper was sea-sick all the way across, giving Jack the command of the ship, in Sicily he

was washed out and Jack given official command of the boat. She had just about finished telling us about him when his mother had a telegram from him saying that he is in California and awaiting orders before coming home for a furlough!

Daryl took her nap in the old trundle bed which both you and Marilyn have slept in. She had a great time, seeing cows and chickens for the first time, Laura's white cat Tristam, old fifteen year old Buffie and Nan the red setter. Sally wheeled her up and down the walk in her baby carriage. Norman has a brand new Oldsmobile, says he was able to get it without any difficulty, his factory war work is such. He spends a lot of time in the Maine and Vermont woods getting lumber.

We fed Daryl her seven o'clock bottle, dressed her in her nightclothes, and set out for Providence and was able to put her right in her crib without her waking up. She has a new upper tooth.

I was interested in your mentioning in your letter eating half of a crab at one time, and then another time, a whole one. Are they huge? We think nothing of eating two or three of our species so wish you would tell me about them.

Raoul Hubby just put his head in the doorway to ask about you and to send his regards, he is certainly "Mr. Five by Five" in person.

This letter is rather rambly but I am being constantly interrupted by customers, as I am alone at the shop and as I think of things I just stick them in. Jesse showed us some new pictures in color that he had taken of the grand children and then ran off some old ones, including you at the clambake.

We took down their Christmas presents so to avoid mailing them--a book of records for Jesse and a centre-piece [sic] of California Artificial flowers for Blanche.

We missed you so much but hope you had your fill not only of turkey an fixins but also of pleasant memories of past years and anticipation of many more to come.

Our love to you always

Mother [Transcription ends]