

[Transcription begins]

#59 October 16,1944 Monday night

Dear Douglas - Daryl & I finished picking all the green tomatoes tonight & now they are on the stove being made into a relish for baked beans. Now that the weather is getting colder Daryl wears a bright red pointed woolen hood with a tassel on top and her face is so round that she looks like a little brownie.

Friday night the Millards called for a short time. Larry is back at camp down South. Mr. Millard is selling real estate--he has hundreds of customers but only a few houses.

Saturday morning at eight o'clock Dad & I left in Hard's machine to spend the week-end at the Lotts' at Setauket, Long Island, about sixty-five miles from New York. We drove as far as Bridgeport, had dinner, put the car in a garage & took the ferry across Long Island Sound. The ferry was much smaller than our river boats & the combination of high wind sweeping down the length of the Sound instead of across it, tide & direction we were heading made for a rough trip. Several were quite seasick including Mrs. Hard. Dad said if the "Admiral" had only been sea-sick he (Dad) never would have lacked for a topic for conversation! The sail took two hours and the Lotts met us at Port Jefferson, just five miles from their home which is a lovely white house set in the woods, as are all the neighboring houses. Evonne has grown into a stunning girl but very tall and young George is a very fine young boy, long trousered & nice mannered. Dr. Lott is as quiet, pleasant and persistent as ever & looks a little older & Mrs. Lott seems unchanged except for graying hair. We had a very pleasant time. They are only about one half mile from as fine a beach as Narragansett but that was as badly hit with this year's hurricane as Conimicut was in 1938 & it was quite a sight to see the freakish positions the beach cottages & cabanas had assumed.

The water in the bay was white with white caps & we dreaded the thought of Mrs. Hard making the trip again but the Ferry Captain assured us that this time tide, wind & direction were in our favor & so it proved, we left at three Sunday afternoon & had a lovely sail across. But it brought to our mind how much you must have endured before you found your sea legs!

Our newspapers are just giving us the news that Tokio [sic] is broadcasting "instantaneous sinking of three battle ships, ten aircraft carriers" etc. etc. ad infinitum. We know there is a battle & each one of us is anxiously awaiting the real news. Perhaps it is just as well that I have only vague ideas of where you are and what you are doing!

Lotts had a chameleon which they have had since March. It was very interesting, runs in and about the houseplants on the window ledges & never runs away.

They also have a dog which looks much like Chip but much larger--named "Promise" because the children promised all kinds of things if they could only have it. Dr. Lott has cut a panel in the outside back door, put in on leather hinges & the dog goes in & out as he wants to.

Dad decided to get you a new identification bracelet for you but I am keeping the old one for you as a souvenir.

Dick Whipple has just broken his arm again--poor boy he is so interested at Georgetown & looks to start back again as soon as he has it set again properly. He did it by slipping in the bath tub.

Tommie Buffum went to a Baptist church in Miami & ran across Charles Boutillier ushering there! Leland is taking exams now in various hospitals in the vicinity of Boston to find which will be the one where he interns--if--the Navy doesn't take him.

Marilyn and Jean are out collecting for the Community Fund & keep coming back to the house to report their luck and experiences. Mr. Schmid has just been in to return some things Marilyn left at their house over the week-end so this letter is more or less interrupted.

Bill came in unexpectedly late Friday night and had to return at seven Sunday morning. Now he is to run out of South West Harbour [sic] near Bar Harbour [sic] where he is to service the buoys, pull them up and paint them, etc., so it looks as though he wouldn't be home for awhile although he has a ten day due him before long.

Everett Jones is awaiting his ship at San Francisco. I do hope that sooner or later you see some of these friends that are heading in your general direction but don't think I don't realize how vast is the area but coincidences can happen. On the ferry back from Long Island we met Dr. & Mrs. Hunt, Tommy Hunt's parents & it always is pleasant to meet people from your home town wherever you are.

Wednesday and Thursday I spend in Boston with Bunny Stang, Mae Millard & Bessie Owen as the guests of Clara Kern. We have tickets for "Rebecca" & will do some shopping. That makes this week very short & busy & all the pictures that I have wanted to see are here! "Arsenic and Old Lace" is one of them--I saw the stage play & it is hilariously funny. "The Conquering Hero" has the same setup as "Miracle of Morgan's Creek" & "Wilson" is another "must" on my list altho they say it is definitely propaganda & all the bad boys are Republicans but it is considered excellent. Hope they all come your way sooner or later.

I know it does no good to worry but my thoughts are constantly of you during these anxious days.

All our love and prayers.

Mother [Transcription ended]