

[Transcription begins]

#29 Monday March 20, 1944

Dear Douglas:

The first day of Spring and a beautiful snow storm! It started last night about eleven o'clock and by this morning everything is covered so that it is a beautiful sight. Dad shoveled or rather, pushed clear the front walk and driveway and said it was light and probably will not last too long. He is quite pleased with his "push-shovel" which he bought this year for a dollar. It is still snowing at ten o'clock but it is too late in the season for it to last very long.

Bill was home three days last week and appeared again Sunday afternoon until Wednesday morning. He is to run cargo between Newport and Martha's Vineyard for the next two weeks. Marilyn has received word from you that you are willing to be godfather for Daryl so now the problem is to get Bill and Janet Richmond home for the same weekend!

Friday afternoon we received your #93 letter with #91 #92 still to come, it was dated March 11th and received on the seventeenth which is remarkable time. You mentioned talking by flashlight with Roger so of course we had to telephone his people immediately. What an interesting experience, to think that two boys living on adjacent streets should meet so far away from home and in such a way!

Sunday afternoon all the Kerns including Don, Jr. stopped just for a few minutes. The baby is fine and healthy and looks like his father. Frances says she wants six children and hopes to have another by this time next year. Ambitious girl! Clara was in her usual form and told us how her son has supreme charge of all the building of the largest ships made in his yard. If constructed in other yards, after the trial run, he re-designs them and builds them all over. I casually try to get your name into the conversation once in a while for the fun of it, and when I mentioned that you were vaguely connected with radar she said, "Oh, yes Donald changed the rada [sic] all over on the "Wasp" (which he also designed, built and best of all "they let him have his say about the camouflage so this time he picked sky-blue!")"]

Incidentally [sic], in the last issue of April Popular Science the first article profusely illustrated, is about Destroyer Escorts, Radar Office in particular.

Quote - “[W]hile he may be out-ranked by others in the ward room when there is business he is ‘the works.’” We are saving the article to keep with your letters for the illustrations are excellent even to the garbage being collected on the fan-tail (another one of your duties if I remember correctly[.])

Wendell sat next to a returned Admiral from the Pacific area at a recent banquet. The Admiral mentioned being present while a Jap prisoner was being questioned. He was surly and sulky and at last he said, “Well, you’ll never take Pearl Harbour [sic]” What a rude awakening some of them must have at times.

We had a very pleasant time Saturday night dancing at the old Dutee Flint castle on the boulevard¹, now the property of Harmony [L]odge of Masons. The interior is so lovely and the floors perfect. There was a very good four piece orchestra and for fifty cents admission we enjoyed that, punch, icecream [sic] and cake and a door prize! Dad wore one of the ties which you gave him last Christmas.

Last week Dad and I stayed down town to see the “Miracle of Morgan Creek,” a zany picture if there ever was one but how we laughed! To tell the story would sound flat and not to be in at the beginning makes it a failure but it really is funny and at the end they flash on a caption “Please do not tell your friends this surprise ending.” Perhaps it will come your way.

Clara Miller tells us this morning that you are still behind on receiving mail. I suppose you will get it all eventually but it is discouraging and we still wonder whether you have received the Christmas snap shots. Roger Senior received his last year’s Christmas box from the family this Valentine’s Day. By the way, we have dinner with them next Saturday night, the Buffums are also invited.

Last night I went to a surprise birthday party for Mrs. White, seventy-four years old and had a most pleasant time. Most of the women from Coles were there and they were all so anxious for us to open our cottage this year,

¹ Built as a home in 1901, The Castle was located at 1332 Narragansett Boulevard in Edgewood, Rhode Island. In 1920, the largest Ford dealer in the country, Dutee Flint, acquired the house and began Rhode Island's first radio station, which later became WPRO. The Castle was later demolished after it served a number of years as the Harmony Mason Lodge.

which we are thinking seriously of doing. The man who bought Simmons' house is enlarging it, but out towards the back and has put in a bathroom and electric pump. Wish we could do that to ours.

My time is getting short at the BWRS and now that it is, I am looking forward to doing a lot of things that I have let slide at home. You know how the things accumulate in your bedroom during the winter months! I must buy new curtains for all the windows upstairs this Spring. Marilyn has bought a lovely pastel blue suit for Spring and one almost the same color for Daryl, I mean coat and hat for the latter.

We enjoy the cartoons we receive from time to time from you, sorry that I have no clippings for this letter.

Mrs. Marble spent a night with us last week, she says it seems so strange to be in Providence and not have a home to go to. They both will spend the night with [us] this coming Thursday for there is to be a Glee Club Concert. I shall give them our room and go in with Marilyn and Dad will take the living room couch. Another month and we can use upstairs but we are going easy on coal just in case. We are all right so far but have to have an inspector look at [the] cellar before [we] can get any more delivery [sic], and Dad will wait until the last possible second for you know how he balks at red tape and regulations! But he keeps quite happy as a general thing and loves the music collection. I am looking forward to the time when you can also enjoy it, which should be without too much conversation, and I wonder whether the time will ever come when we will want you to stop telling of your adventures! Your idea of harmonica is excellent, can you get one! My father used to play one beautifully but I never could get to first base with one. Bill is trying to find a small accordion.

You speak highly of your skipper which makes us very happy for it means for contentment of mind on your part. Tommie does not seem so pleased according to his last letter, maybe he has intimated such to you, if not, don't mention it.

Your trips sound like long ones, five years ago whoever would have dreamed of your sailing the blue Pacific! The best of luck to you and hoping that one of your missing letters [is] in our mailbox at home and that several of yours from us will be delivered soon!

Lovingly
Mother [Transcription ended]