

[Transcription begins]

#66 11-20-1944

Dear Douglas - Generally I write you in the evening but tonight is my regular Martha Waterman Club meeting & Mrs. Hard is to give a talk on her trip out to California and back.

Last Wednesday night Mabel Dick invited me to a concert sung by Kipnis¹, baritone with the Metropolitan, a very good entertainer as well as singer.

Saturday night Dad and I went to the Thyrsus Club play, "Thin Ice," with Shirley and Harvey Whipple taking prominent parts. Harvey just had to be himself which he did to perfection without being the least self-conscious. Shirley had two distinct characterizations--first as a languid, semi-invalid (in her mind) mother of a large family and later snapping out of it to become a dazzling, vivacious charmer, in a svelte black gown & modern cerise be-plumed hat. Both she performed excellently [sic]. It was interesting to see how much she looked and acted like Aunt Marion. Later we went to their house for refreshments with Uncle Hartley and Aunt Eleanor.

Yesterday Dad and I went to Calvary in the morning and then to a vesper service at Central Baptist Church in the afternoon with Hards, Goodchilds and Dicks. The speaker was the Chaplain for the Quonset Navy Base and the music was by the Quonset Choir, consisting of nine men, six of them colored. The leader made us think so much of Harold Brown that I think he must have been a Westminster graduate. We enjoyed it very much and after the regular service the men sang several more selections including several spirituals. I noticed the leader used a pitch pipe similar to the one I sent you which I hope is proving useful. We gathered at the Hards' afterwards for Welsh Rarebit & (horrors) pineapple salad! When we returned home we found that Bill had arrived on the start of his hoped for ten day leave. So he will be home for Thanksgiving and his brother Wally is also home on leave from the Maritime Academy at Maine. Dad and I are leaving Wednesday afternoon for Carver and will return late Thursday night. We will miss not having Daryl with us for I know she would have had a fine time playing with Deanne and her baby sister Marilyn.

We are quite thrilled to know that the last of April Daryl should have a little brother or sister! Marilyn is real pleased for as she says, if they wait until the war is over there would be too much difference between them and she's tied down now, anyway with Bill not home. She was a good sport and did not tell me a thing until I had made my decision about a very interesting job which I think I wrote you about, but which I finally refused for two reasons--one, it took me out of the home for too many hours and two, should you come home unexpectedly I couldn't have had any time off. How glad I am I refused, for I would much rather be a nursemaid than a secretary!

¹ Alexander Kipnis, a bass-baritone, had a career with the Metropolitan Opera Company from 1940 to 1946. He was the most widely recorded singer of his time.

I trust Manzala has planned well for Thanksgiving and I know whatever the fare you will be thinking back to the wonderful feasts we have enjoyed so often in traditional New England style. Perhaps next year will be the one when we can be together again--who knows!

Norman has been released by the Army to help salvage the hurricane downed timber.

This letter is rather short today but you must admit it contains news! Daryl is in my lap, the clothes should come in from the line and as it is well after four o'clock, supper should be on the way, so so-long for awhile.

Love from us all

Mother [Transcription ended]