

December 28, 1955

Dear Fommie and Hewie,

How's everyone? Hope all of you had a very nice Christmas. Hope you are resting up from what must have been a very busy season. How was business this year? I read in the papers that it was a record breaking spending season - hope you had a share in it and keeps up. I often wonder how your business is now and what new ideas you have. I miss hearing all about it. Perhaps by next year when we go back - end of November I can help out during the rush season. As I remember, around the end of January, you will again be busy with gift shows, etc. Hope you have a good staff to help out.

It was too bad that the Christmas papers you sent me haven't arrived yet but I made out by getting some that was locally available. Will says he is rather disappointed that he didn't hear from the children since he has been over here, especially Norman because Will sent him several cards. I hope they are in good health.

We had a very nice Christmas. Went to St. Paul's for Christmas Eve service and Westminster Abbey on Christmas day. The English really celebrate Christmas in a big way. The stores have been closed since last Saturday and won't open til tomorrow, Thursday. When I say 'closed', I mean everything. On Christmas, not even movies or gas stations were open, and for two days, we didn't get any news - papers. If we didn't have a radio, we would be cut off completely. Fortunately, it hasn't been too cold or else I'm just getting used to it. I read in the papers that you are getting lots of rain and there are floods everywhere in Northern California. It must be a really wet winter.

I guessed from your last letter that you moved. Do the children like it better there? Do you have any help to keep house for you? It must seem rather inconvenient after having lived right upstairs but if the children like it, that's better. Is Norman still going to Presidio Hill or did he change to Laguna Honda? Does he still collect stamps?

Did you get the package we sent you? Hope it reached you in time. I'm sorry it was not very much but we find that the best things made in England are exported and are not to be found in local shops. We do plan to take home a sport coat for Hewie and other things we expect to find in Europe when we go over to the Continent next year. We find that the average English taste is about 50 years behind times. Have you heard anything more about buying up the property on Post Street and widening it? Do you have to



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AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
 ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
 OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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move out soon? I remember the man who wanted to appraise it was there about the time I left in April.

Please write and tell us all the news. We are really interested and enjoy hearing from you more than anything.

We are looking forward to New Year's Day when I will open some of the canned foods we have been saving for the occasion, such as onochi, kimpira, etc. which you gave us. We will have a real feast. I plan to make onushi too. Will miss otōfu but I'm sure he can wait until we get home and it will taste that much better. What we miss most is good restaurant food in general. Unless we go down to Soho to an Italian or French place, the average English restaurant food is simply awful - you'll never know what I mean unless you come here and find out for yourselves. We from San Francisco area are especially spoiled, I guess!

Our love to you both and the children. Please ask them to write to us, even a short one; it will make us very happy.

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