

The Seeman School
El Monte, Cal

July 2, 1943

Dear Nannie - 280 Del

Yours of last Tuesday just rec. My letters have not gone astray just not written. It is very difficult for me to write here, not that I am working at high speed by any means but there is no definite separation between engaged and free time. One seems to be always putting about something - and I have been into Los Angeles only one afternoon and two evenings - twice going to China Town (new) and the Old China City to look for your blue enamel brooch but finding nothing satisfactory - only very cheap looking jewelry or a few kingfisher ornaments at fantastic prices. Both China towns are attractive and picturesque and full of interest and give me nostalgia for the real thing.

It was very good of you and Stan to hunt for the negative of the handsome gent for Asia, and you are a wonder to have found it. I cannot guess which one it might be but will know when seen in print.

I have been thinking that it has been pretty warm here but no doubt not to be complained about compared to your heat wave. The vegetables here are doing quite well especially beets and chard which are eaten in enormous quantities daily by the boys - also delicious young berries of which there has been an unlimited supply. The potato crop, onion carrots etc are good - and the squash - the tomatoes do not appear to be thriving and the peach crop is expected to be nil. We are eating very tasty Summer squash and the Winter ones will be still better. We are expecting some

W- had a pre-4th of July parade the other day and I in uniform with Sgt. Stokes pinned on, troops from a table top, with field glasses and made two prompore speeches in the manner of our Post Commanders. The boys were terrifically impressed.

200 chicks to hatch on July 18th. Nothing to report yet on the peanuts - a lot of which have turned out to be water melons instead.

Our lady school teacher for the smaller boys has gone on her vacation (to Seattle) and I have held, (or tried to hold down) her classes since two days. I feel as if I'd been thru a tornado, a train wreck and the front line of battle simultaneously. Previously I had been working with modeling classes, and a few older boys (most of them have turned into farmers)

Also I have been designing a wading pool with ornamental sculpture for the baby nuts - An intriguing project if we get around to carrying it out. I am using ordinary red clay for drain pipes, (actually melting down the unfired pipes) for the ornaments which when fired will be something like your vegetated bricks.

I've heard no more about my Out Assignment except two notices that my name was coming up at the next Committee meeting. I had not read the article from which you quote about cut-down of funds.

I have been more expectant of hearing something concerning the Walter Handforth estate - but you mention nothing of it.

Hurray for Mary! even if Out is blue. Even Washington isn't big enough for her.

We have two ex-circus men on our staff and plenty of wild animals of boys and freaks so you can't make me envious of your circus evening.

Love and best

Thomas