

c/o Albert Wilson  
654 Creek Drive  
Menlo Park, Cal.  
Dec 29, 1944

Dear Nannie —

So many thanks for the beautiful sweater! It is something that I really needed, and a very good color, to say nothing of the quality. I couldn't resist opening the package on the 22<sup>nd</sup> since I was going that night to a Christmas party and I was wondering if it was something I could wear. And worn the sweater has been ever since! The rest of the box was much appreciated too, the Fanny Farmer chocolates disappearing quite suddenly; There are two growing boys about the place so I can guess where the chocolates are.

I feel like a heel not sending anything to you and Stan. I never did paint the close up of the pine or fir tree that I promised, so you see I am just one common swindler. But I will try oh so hard to have it ready for you — when you return from Brazil? However I am sure you don't trust me after all the promises I have failed to fulfill.

It was very pleasant having Christmas with a family again; all the bustling preliminaries, the shopping, wrapping the house decorating, (Brie makes the most beautiful sweaters I have seen and distributes many to friends), the tree lighting and then all the confusion of unwrapping on Christmas morning. Mable, on Saturday evening entertained family of two sisters two brothers in law 5 babies, and her mother. There were numerous Tom & Jerry gatherings during these days at various houses around the Lakes.

Until late Christmas afternoon I was still not sure that

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I would get off to California on the 26<sup>th</sup> but I did manage it.

Did a work bench come from Edmund in Sept or will as in Aug?

Around Tacoma the heaviest fog on record had lifted and on Christmas Day after a light dry snow in the morning the sky was clear and Freshwater Lake frozen enough for a little skating. But California was dark with rain. I came directly via Frisco to Palo Alto where my friend the botanist met me. His house is only a few blocks from the station. He was still not quite ready to receive me; although his tenants had left four months ago. he has been painting and repairing the house and the floors & furnace etc are still not in order. In the meanwhile he is living in a pleasant but tiny apartment over the garage. As the arrangement of the house would not provide ideal working conditions for me, and as I am not quite sure why I am here anyway, I have as yet come to no decision whatever about making it my headquarters. Furthermore the rain poured harder all day yesterday (the 28<sup>th</sup>) than it had all the while in the Northwest which considerably dampened my ardour but today is bright and sunny and I feel less regret for having left Tacoma. The attractions are 1) San Mateo County, the wealthiest residential county in California 2) Stanford University which is almost next door 3) the proximity of Frisco 4) the large number of Old China Hands (esp. the Berkeley Colony) settled in this area. 5) the general attractiveness of this residential countryside.

But more later.

A Happy New Year to you both with love  
Tom