

Monday, November 23

Dear Rob,

I'm very slowly reading a book of essays by a librarian-bibliophile (dad read right through them and enjoyed them). Much is about music, too. He mentions hearing Der Hötendämmerung in Paris - where it is called Le Crépuscule des Dieux! The very sound makes me try to envision it in a French Opéra performance - complete with ballet, of course.

The temperature in Chicago this morning was 13°. How what the Army is saving you from? Also - 18 inches of snow upstate with a good snow expected tonight.

Saturday night

I know, I've been a miserable correspondent lately, but there really hasn't been much to write about - not even thinking about.

Tickets for 1776 have arrived - for Tuesday, December 22. There are three of them. How about going with Jack - Jack - Joel - whoever is around? I can see it another time if I wish - but it would be something around which you could build a very nice gathering.

Thanksgiving was busy and bustling - but not quite the madhouse I thought it would be despite 29 people (Dick and Pam couldn't come). I'll probably reread much of what Thoma has written, but I guess that can't be helped. Alki was in California for some consultations in various places - and called Dorothy at the Uncle's yesterday morning (we went back then for breakfast - lunch before going home) to tell her he would be home Wednesday instead of Monday because he's been asked to fly to Hawaii for another consultation! As a consequence of his absence, the two boys were normal little boys -

he wasn't there to show Joshua off. Carolyn and Jack seem happy with their move to Maine. Carolyn is teaching again and seems very tired - the school sounds like something out of the Dark Ages. Carolyn had brought a whole carton of Becky's outgrown clothes for Susie's Carolyn - and Becky gave us a fashion show all day. At one point she had climbed up on the roof of the dog's house wearing a long pink flower girl dress, an old snowsuit jacket, woolly navy stockings, and pink shoes.

Kristin is growing up - becoming more independent and quite pretty. The older kids spent most of the time outdoors, thank goodness. Calvin had to kiss all the girls and women goodbye to show off his moustache. Susie has put on some weight and looks better. David has a moustache too - Dorothy pointed out to Susie that he was wearing a pink shirt, a dark red sweater, blue plaid slacks, and green socks. Susie said, "He dresses himself." Little Carolyn claimed Joshua - and he seemed to enjoy it - even told me she had said he looked like a girl with his long hair. Little Nicholas took a while to warm up but then trotted around very happily, especially with Bobby and Linda's David. He's a chubby, angelic-looking baby with very blond curls. Little David looks very much like Bobby and Jimmy. The two played together (like very little children - they'll be 2 in February - side-by-side but not really with each other.) Later they took a bath together - with an audience, of course. Unfortunately, there were no flash cubes left but I decided to take a chance that the fluorescent light might be enough with the white porcelain tub as reflector.

Did Mama tell you that Linda is expecting another baby in June? I wish you could see Bobby with David - it is wonderful, beautiful, and funny.

Mama and I have decided that the Uncles are a bad influence on Dad - he goes off without telling us and says fresh things à la Kinnie and Teddy. I wish Mama fed up to the trip more often, though - I think it's good for all of them being together.

Back to work.

Bye good.

Stay well.

Love,
Dais