

Director of the Mint, D.C.,

Sept. 5, 1950

Dearest Belle:

Just hearing from you makes me home-sick to see you. Bless your heart, you know how much I love you - And rejoice to hear of every good thing that makes you happy - having in mind at the moment the improvements on your lovely summer home, the new Cadillac etc.

How the summers fly don't they? None are long enough to suit me. My, what a lot you have had going on about you, all summer - with so many children, friends & kin a-coming & a-going. But how dull, too, life would be without them.

I'm concerned to hear of Howard's attack. He surely should not postpone having a thorough examination. What about yourself? You never say how you are getting on with your gall-stones, or your lame knee. Please do in your next letter.

Margaret's son George was just a dear. Is it possible I have failed to write her since he was here & tell her how much we enjoyed his too brief stay. Braddie was carried away with him. It happened that day that Bradford was tied up in his office & Braddie & I went out to the airport. George had information all wrong about the bus schedule & had to go down on the train.

I thought too I had written Margaret that Bradford & I had bought a farm together down on the Potomac - 52 miles from Washington. It may sound crazy - & the fact is we are just crazy about the place - all of us. It has a sweet old brick house on in 150 years old or more; a lawn that goes right down to the water in front of the house, I guess about 200 or 250 ft. from the house. The house was equipped with electric light, plumbing, telephone & furnace & was in many ways in good condition - However we have found a world of things that had to be done before we could get any pleasure out of it. The ceilings upstairs were so low that they were almost down on our heads & sagging. So we had them torn out, & had the ceilings raised, by raising the rafters. All the mess went all over the floors - all over the house. Country carpenters knew no other way of doing things. We had to make over the bathroom & refinish the upstairs floors. Also have the porch painted, which is such a large lovely one. All we've done on the first floor was to repaint the kitchen wall & plaster one ceiling. All the walls are drab & ugly downstairs but we can't afford any more expense now. Drab & ugly except for one room - the drawing room. It is beautifully paneled from floor' to ceiling - evidently be hand - And there is the most lovely cornice at the top. Also a huge fireplace; oval in shape. There are four of them

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in the house. Downstairs we have this drawing room, a large center hall through the house, a large dining room & a room off it which we will use for a sitting room. (It has a fireplace in it) Then there is another downstairs bedroom with fireplace, off the front hall, which in a light moment Bradford dubbed, "Mrs. Cash's boudoir." Dorothy & I howled with laughter. Mrs. Cash was the former occupant, & such a dismal wretched room it was when we first saw it, you can't imagine. Upstairs there are three large bedrooms & a bathroom off a square hall. I had long casement windows - French door size - put into the end of my room that overlooks the water. I love the effect. Oh I wish you were here to tell me what I can do to give that room a lot of oomph! I had the walls painted a pale peach. Any color would blend. I want it quite gay. On each side of that long double window is a chimney breast painted over. I thought I might have some kind of gay hanging on each. And maybe a valence above the window. I don't want to shut out any light or view. I'll be going to San Francisco before long. I may find something in Chinatown, gay with flowers. I don't want Chinese figures in a hanging for that room. I may get those fine bamboo blinds rather than the venetian. And I'll have old-type furniture, needless to say, picked up at auctions. I am appalled at the cost of everything. I am counting though on return enough from the crops when we once get started to make it a fairly good investment. And if you could see the joy Bradford & his whole family were getting out of the place you'd say that I should count that some return on the investment. I was a little blue this morning about the cost of all these improvements but the reminder in your letter that it "is later than we think" made me feel better. For there is nothing out of which I & all my family get so much pleasure as a country ~~xxxx~~ place. This is a very much nicer place than the other Md. farm. And the water is such an asset. There is sort of an inlet from the river runs up in front of the house which makes fine anchorage for boats - & we have a good strong pier. The children fish & fish & fish. And Bradford when he is down there goes out all hours of the day & night with an outboard motor fishing for hard-heads, perch & crabs. Crabs are abundant.

Tell Margaret I want George to come up here the next time he has a vacation. We have not up to now had ample sleeping accommodations at the farm both because of the upheaval upstairs & because we have not had enough beds down there. Transporting things presents a problem.

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After starting on this sheet I found it was torn in half. I hope it won't mix you up.

It's distressing that after all this time Ann is still not well. I don't wonder that Virginia is worried. Isn't it strange that a young girl like her should lose her ~~best~~ health as she has? I hope to hear good news before long.

Margaret's cottage must be lovely now that it is enlarged & all fixed up. She & Edward both seem to enjoy lovely things so much. And both have been here I believe all summer.

When you get all your children & grandchildren about you, you compose quite a clan don't you. Think of Elizabeth having two full-grown sons! She & Mac are such a devoted pair & always seem so contented & happy.

You ask me if I would like to visit you at Walloon next July. I surely would like to. It's beautiful up there. You said you once thought I didn't care for it. I surely do; only while I lived in Wyo. Memphis held out more allure largely because I could see you all at once there & there was no heat problem in Wyo.

As for next summer I would like to get you down here at this farm of ours - for awhile at least. Of course it's very different from the lake but I think you would like it.

No, Belle there's nothing in that ~~xxxxxx~~ report that I had left the Mint. If you knew the generous things both the President & the Secy of the Treasury have said to me about my public service you would not think they were ready to throw me over. This only for family consumption - I never want to seem to be bragging; certainly to outsiders. You evidently didn't see a little journal called Family Circle which contained an article about me & my picture & was sold apparently in every Safeway store in the country. I don't as a rule send you all these things because I think you have enough affairs of your own to keep up with. Three weeks ago the Baltimore Sun had an article in it - about 2 columns, about my administration of the Mint & my picture. A week or so ago I was in New York of the Television (sic) program of "We the People." The next day I was on Nancy Osgood's radio program. Much of my talk each time was about the Mint.

My term of office will be up three years from last May 1st. Unless something unforeseen occurs I will doubtless go on until then. Of course I may lose my health, misbehave, or for some other reason quit before then. I will be glad to call it a day by that time you

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may be sure.

While I think of it I mention that I had Tayloe up here this summer for a month or so. George saw her here ~~the~~ & then I took her up there for three days. George was thrilled to see her; thought she was wonderful. I left her in N.Y. while I went on up to Providence, R.I. to receive an honorary degree from Bayard College. I flew back with the Secy of Commerce & George brought Tayloe down here. She had quite a whirl here & in New York.

Such a long letter I've written you. It's seldom I find time to say so much. Won't you please after you have read (& perhaps the girls) send it on to Margaret - with my love.

Please give my love to the whole family - large fry & small fry.

As always devotedly,

Nellie

I enclose this envelope to make it easy for you to forward this to Margaret.