

Estill, S.C.
Oct. 3rd. 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

Here it is Wednesday and I just haven't gotten any letters written this week yet. I hope you will soon be at home so I won't feel so mean about it when I fail to get a letter off on time. It seems that I never catch up. I see the others sitting around, walking about and taking part in street conversations, but I rarely ever have a few minutes to listen to the local news. We had an automobile accident, right in the causeway of Robert's Pond, on Monday morning and one woman was killed. It seemed a family of four had a son in Florida in the service and the Mother and daughter, about eighteen, wanted to drive down to see him, so the Father was afraid and drove them as far as Columbia, through the large cities and mountainous roads, then he took the train there back for New York and the daughter was to drive the rest of the way. On a perfectly clear stretch of road, she was about to pass a small negro, whom she had seen, but evidently the mother had not and called "watch out", so the daughter slammed on brakes too hard and it threw the car completely around on the road turning it over completely until it landed back on the wheels. The girl was unhurt, but the mother died before Johnston got to her. John Edw. McKenzie saw it all. Johnston brought the girl to their house and she stayed there until her Father came yesterday afternoon, then a couple of hours later the soldier son arrived from Florida on the Silver Meteor. They all went back north today on the noon fast train. We never know just when our call will come. Otis & Mildred are here. They have taken Aunt Irene's apartment and will be there until they can get their house built. Robert Wiggins is putting materials on his lot so I expect he will get busy on his house soon. Aunt Mahala's dining room is complete except for the floor and I believe the painter is working on that now. She has the walls a pretty light green and the woodwork is white. It is quite an improvement over the old dark stain and the extra ten feet added makes a much nicer room. I believe the outside appearance of the house is improved by not having so much porch. JFW seems to be all in a rush with a real estate deal. He and Mr. Harper were interested in buying the hotel building, for Mr. Harper, I think, and were trying to close the deal when they learned that it had been sold just day before yesterday to Mrs. Jessie Davis (Olivet Mason) of Scotia & Furman. Maybe I never mentioned to you that the Davis' bought Mr. Jesse Causey's place out of Furman right after he died and Mrs. Causey has been staying in Charleston since then with her daughter there, but now that the daughter's husband is coming home, she has bought the Jesse Davis house at Scotia and is to move there soon. It seems they are now trying to buy the hotel from Mrs. Davis. I do not know just what is up, but guess it will out in a few days. Understood that the freezer-locker was to be started this week, but have been so busy that I haven't had a chance to ask anything about it. Do not know what Otis expects to get into. Haven't heard a thing. I'm still puzzling my brain about how to improve the planting on the east edge of our place. This morning I hoed grass from around eight plants on the lawn, also worked on the east side for a while. I thought if I could get the grass all cleaned they, I could cover around everything with the fall supply of hardwood leaves and in late December I'd put a layer of compost on top of that, which would become effective just at the right time to produce a healthy spring growth. I tried to get Mildred to make suggestions, but she seems not to have any ideas about planting. I'm going to move a few items and rearrange in some way early one Sunday

morning as soon as I am able to get a sturdy negro to do the heavy digging. There is so much I'd like to do around the place. Did I tell you that I'd sent a couple of floor plans to Randolph to estimate materials and asked him if he would build a small house on our west lot as soon as he is released. He said he thought that would be a splendid way to get started so I hope it will work out all right. I had an idea that I'd wait a couple of years, save all I could, and then build another house for us to use, but have decided instead to build a small tenant house, then when I've paid for that I'll begin saving for another place to call home for us. Robert is certainly queer. At times he is quite willing to cooperate and be pleasant, and then he gets in a mood and pouts about nothing for weeks, but he acts much better when the two ^{of you} are just here. I believe he is simply jealous of the attention I give any one of you. He seems to be able to take it for a while with either of you, but it's all the same after a while regardless of whether it is you, Randolph, or Ruth. Mildred isn't hearing from Joel regularly at all and is getting upset over no mail. Said she had only received one letter in the last two weeks, whereas Joel writes every day and she has been receiving mail regularly until lately. Some of the others are finding the same trouble about mail from Germany & France. Think I wrote you that Streak & Sarah Lawton were to live in Walterboro and that he was going to open a men's clothing store there - however I hear that he has accepted the job as Principal of Olympia School in Columbia and they have settled there at present. J. T. Theus is serving as recruiting officer there. Don't know what Walter has decided to do. Nothing definite yet. See Lalla Lee and Dr. Dalton here on a visit. Pidge and her husband were here last week end. She called to me from upstairs, as I was passing, and asked about you especially - and told me to remember her to you when I wrote again.

Must get busy as I have lots of warehouse receipts to write. There isn't any news worth mentioning anyway. Certainly am counting on seeing you within the next three months. It will be wonderful to have you here again. Lots of love and good wishes,

Mother

15 Oct Received

Estill, S.C.

Oct. 9, 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

Received your two letters yesterday P.M. and another two this morning with various enclosures. Am glad to hear the details of your fall for the letter saying you were recovered was received some ten days ago and this telling how you were injured only arrived today. I am very grateful that it was not serious. It all depends on what one terms "rich". Actually I feel richer by far, having three children grown than I could ever feel having a few paltry thousands of dollars without you. I am not interested in accumulating this world's goods only to the extent that in my old age - should I attain that status - I do not want to be dependent.

I've been thinking about your army standing and wondering if I were to contact some of the folks of importance around here if it would help to get you home quicker. I am so hopeful of having you here for Christmas.

About the Bank of America Stock. I find that I only secured one additional share for you at the price I mentioned. I asked that they get two, and thought that my request had been fulfilled until I actually received the Stock, when I discovered it was only one. I have written you about this before, so you probably already know.

Don't believe that I've written you since I received Randolph's latest letter saying that he should arrive here about the 15th., and that he is discharged although he doesn't get his official discharge until some time in January, due to accumulated leaves of absence not used, or something like that. Otis is the same status although he is to get his official discharge in November, I believe. They have set up housekeeping in Aunt Irene's apartment. So far have heard nothing of what he plans to do for subsistence. He expects to build a home, but from what I hear about the scarcity of materials I do not know when he will attempt to get that done. Mildred is bringing her church letter here, so I offered to keep Ben next Sunday, so that all the family could go to the service. You know little Mahala has to work every Sunday until around 4 P.M. She has Wednesday's off. Last Sunday was quite a day here since they had a memorial service in honor of the two windows given commemorating Mr. C.L. Peeples and William Peeples at the church, then that afternoon there was the service, or unveiling, of the monument in honor of the veterans of the two World Wars. There were two men killed in War 1 and six in War 2, however I knew only one out of the eight who have gold stars opposite their names. Estill has been very fortunate. Mr. Baker is quite proud of this monument, but I can't see much to it.

I had written Randy, sending him a couple of floor plans, and thought I'd let him build a small tenant house on the West lot, but recently have heard rumors of such scarcity of materials until I do not know if it will be possible, or advisable. Am going to let Randolph investigate, then we will decide what to do. You know I do not have time to get around and really know much about what is available. Other than lumber, materials are not so much increased, however labor is what pushes the cost up, and that is entirely too much.

A negro man was killed at the Gin here yesterday, so I have not been as busy as usual since the gin did not run again until late yesterday P.M. A few Peanuts are coming in though, and that is plenty of work. JFW has gone to Sv. this afternoon to a Boy Scout meeting. We shipped 150 bales of cotton yesterday and today, and that is quite a bit of work, along with all the other things. I am feeling fine and now that the weather is not so hot I do not feel so tired. Have finally gotten the yards all cleaned except that bad spot opposite the east kitchen window. I just cannot get that portion cultivated enough to keep down the grass and weeds.

I'm going to try and get Randolph to help me clean up that spot and plant it in something that will make enough shade to keep the weeds and grass from taking the place. I'm also going to do something about the east side of the yard. Pecans are falling now, so every day I get my daily dozen picking up nuts. Our back yard is quite pretty now. I should have some Camellia blooms this year. Of course I had a few that were pretty last year, but the prospects are much better this season. Some of the plants have grown well. All appear to be healthy, although the plants from Augusta definitely have some type of disease. I've been doctoring them a little, but you know I do not have time for much of that. The idea of your possibly being over there until March, or April, is certainly disgusting, but since there is absolutely no reason to keep anyone in that district I do hope you will get home long before then. Do you ever see Bobby Solomons?

The hotel building here has been sold to Mrs. Jesse Davis of Scotia and I understand she is going to have the Rhodes to vacate their office and will have a dining room, and etc. down stairs. Mr. Harper has been trying to buy the building from her, but I understand she is asking quite a lot of profit, so I do not know what the outcome will be. I should have gone ahead and bought that place. If I only would have the courage to follow up some of my ideas I'd be much better off. Do not see any visible activity about the Freezer-Loaker plant, although I understand it is a definite deal.

Well I hope you will do as Randolph has. He was howling terribly about things in one letter, then in the next he was on his way home almost. I am not going to mail any Christmas package out there for you, for I just believe you'll be here then, or soon afterwards. Keep writing as often as possible and please take care of yourself. I want to see you at home soon.

Lots of love and good wishes. *mother* -
Robert is fine. We rode over to Hampton Sunday afternoon with Mildred and after getting over there decided to stop and have supper at a new Tea Room that has been recently opened there. It was quite nice. It is also a sort of Gift Shop, so I admired a ruby colored bud vase, they being displayed in pairs, and Robert insisted on buying two for me altho I only wanted one. Guess I'll give the extra one for a Christmas gift. Ruth seems to be rather depressed, but busy doing her class work. I wish I knew what to do to make her happier. It worries me a lot. Mildred says she needs a love affair. Ruth is so critical of everyone, I'm afraid she'll never find a man that she thinks worthwhile. She can't seem to overlook the many little faults that just everyone has. When a person is fine in many ways, they also generally have numbers of faults, fo no one can be perfect.

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples
P. O. Box 45
Estill, S. C.

Oct 11-1945-

Dear Bobby - We're having our first continued touch of cold - There's nothing except routine work, altho peanuts are coming in regularly now and that's more work for me - A few more are back from the war - understand that Jack Warty is opening his office here on the 15th - Another letter from Randolph says he may arrive the 13th - 14th or 15th - Will write you to meet him in Yemassee - Milton Rhodes is home - Robt. Solomon said Bobby was expecting to be here for Christmas - I know he won't have less "Points" than you, for he has only been in service a little over two years and had been on foreign duty just about four months before you - Your letter telling of the fall you had finally arrived ^{before} yesterday - You certainly did have a nasty fall and I am grateful that it was not serious - We are never as careful as we should be - nor as thankful to our Creator for his loving kindness and constant care - Due to the almost impossibility of buying building materials don't know what Randolph will get buy doing, but expect he will have some idea of what he wants to do - Still know nothing about Otis' plans - understand the Freezer - Locker Plant won't begin operation before next April since building materials are not to be had - Keep plugging away at the grass & weeds around and now have added the gathering of pecans that fall - There's always more to be done than I can possibly do - Hope to hear soon that there's some prospect of your coming soon love mother

22 Oct. Received

Estill, S.C.

Oct. 16, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: A telegram on Sunday morning from Randolph stated he was arriving in Columbia from Cincinnati at 5:15 P.M. and asked us to meet him there if convenient, otherwise he would spend the night with Aunt Ethel and come on home the next morning, so Robert wanted to meet him and we left here at 2:30 P.M. then had to wait a little more than an hour before his train arrived about forty minutes late. We went in George's car, since I do not have four tires in good condition. Have another permit for one, which will put me in fair shape, but tires are rather scarce. Randy looks well and I expect he has ideas about what he is going to do. I would like very much to get the tenant house built, but materials are practically impossible to get. Yesterday he unpacked his locker, pulled out the one suit I had saved for him, which he took to Gardner to have some alterations made. He is heavier than when he wore that suit about three years ago, then he went over to Lib's and got an address where he could buy some nice quality white shirts for a more reasonable price than the regular men's stores offer them for, also they have no white shirts as a rule. Lib loaned him one of Clydes and gave him a brown-striped one, which Clyde will not wear, since he only wears all white. Last night he asked if he could have the car next week to go prospecting for work. It is also State Fair week, so I imagine he will just take in things in general. We went by to see Ethel and Stoney for about an half hour. Found Ethel in her room sewing. They have done over all the walls of their house in blue, about the same as our living room, and also repainted the white woodwork. It looked pretty. Ethel is even fatter than when you were here, but doesn't change much. Lilah, Billie and children came in while we were there for a few minutes. The little boy is a better looking chap than little Billy, but he is the same type of nervous child. I believe little Billy has calmed down some. This is his first year in school. We had supper up town before leaving Columbia. Robert and Randolph had each a sea-food plate. It looked mighty nice. I had an half-fry of Oysters and some cold slaugh, which also looked delicious - however it didn't taste at all as well as it looked, and Randolph insisted that I sample his deviled crab, which I did, but I did not like the way it was prepared at all, neither did he. It isn't often that one is served well prepared food in restaurants. Randolph brought me a nice Swiss, seventeen jewel, wrist watch - yellow gold. I am quite pleased since I let Ruth have the little Benrus I used to use, which she dropped on the tile bathroom floor and which has not kept time since although I've had it at the repair shop two or three times. He also brought Robert a wrist watch - waterproof- and I'm sure he is pleased. We are busy at the office all of the time, but I will take off a few moments to write a letter since it is so much easier to write when I am up town. I have one hundred baby chicks which I got Saturday afternoon. Have lost four since. Yesterday afternoon it was very cold, rainy and disagreeable although today it is much more pleasant, yet it is cold for this time of the year. Otis, Mildred, Peg, Charles & Anne Harper have gone to Columbia today. They are to meet Peg's friend, Forest Summer, there and he is coming home with them to spend a few days. Don't know just the whole purpose of the trip, but believe Otis and Charles had some business plan in view. Charles just came home a few days ago. He is out of the Army. I have not seen him yet. Think I wrote you that Mrs. Jesse Davis had

bought the Hotel building here and that Mr. Harper was trying to buy it from her. I understand that it is still in an unsettled state, and now Mildred says that she has heard that no change, or improvement, is going to be made and that we still will have no decent place where we can go, without notice, and get a lunch or dinner. I surely wish I'd gone ahead and bought the place, when I started to investigate about it. Could have cleared a cool five, or six thousand. Well, like most of my ideas, which I never get around to realizing, they are generally sound and would produce profit if I could only drop my daily driving work and follow up to a conclusion. Maybe some day I'll get a start and make a little, if I just retain my health for a few more years. Kept Mildred and Otis' baby so that she could get her membership transferred here last Sunday. He is quite a nice little fellow and was as good as gold. Seemed to be charmed with the little chicks and the warm sunshine on our back porch. The coral vine is beautiful, in fact the place makes a nice appearance and I'm always glad to get home. Randolph said today that he'd like to put down some new linoleum in the kitchen next week, but I told him that I'd rather wait until I am able to get an electric range and have it installed, then do over the room. The present linoleum is not worn in two anywhere, although new one would look much better, but will wait until Spring anyway. Clarke Baker is back in the States and I believe Cecile is expecting him some time this week. She has moved downstairs at Claudia's, having the apartment that Mrs. Drummond used to have. Mrs. D. has moved to California to be with her husband, who is stationed there now. Your letters do not come through as regularly as they used to come, but I am hoping each day that I'll get good news about your homecoming. It would be mighty fine to have all of the family together. Did I tell you that Lilla has come back home for the winter? She looks unusually well, but said she had bought a round-trip ticket so that she could go back next spring, since George is in an army hospital up there and she likes to be able to go to see him. Believe he is a mental patient. Nothing of any especial interest. We're just doing the everyday routine. Ruth wrote that she has caught a cold and wasn't so well. I hope she is improved by now. Love and good wishes,

Mother -

26 Oct 45

29 Oct
Mrs. Robert R. Peeples
P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C. Oct. 19, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Surely miss your letters, which used to come pretty regularly but now are coming hit or miss style, arriving in a group and long in transit, however I haven't had any at all for about two weeks now. Life in Estill continues as usual. Randolph has been just taking it easy. We spend the day with Aunt Mahala on Wednesday. Peg had a girl friend from Columbia to spend the night and day with her, also her 1st. Lt. Forrest Summer was here and stayed until Thursday morning, however the girl friend went back Wednesday afternoon. I haven't heard anything about whether Peg will be married or not. Their living and dining rooms have surely been improved. Mahala is not feeling any better physically. She seems to stay nauseated almost all of the time and practically every time I am around where she is she will have at least one vomiting, or gagging spell. I certainly do not like it, and I'm going to insist to Otis that he try and take her somewhere where she will get some help, if it is possible. She had a lot of x-ray pictures made recently, but Dr. Crawford said there was nothing wrong that he could detect except that, after a rich meal, the gall bladder did not seem to empty as fast as it should. He gave her something to take that he said would remedy that, but I do not see where it has done any good. Frankly, it worries me a lot, however I guess she will be here probably when I've just dropped off.

They're having "open house" at the new parsonage tonight. Randolph is quite flattered because he had a special invitation. All of the community are invited. Do not know if I'll go or not. Just depends on how I feel when I get home.

Cathryne Wyman Maner has a young son. She is elated. Quite a few of the young boys are getting back into civilian clothes. Otis, Randolph, Walter, Milton Rhodes, Tommy Folk and Streak Lawton are the ones I recall right now. And today Mannie Lawton, who was a Japanese prisoner for so long and his Mother mourned him as dead, is in town greeting the various folks. I do not know him, although I know all of his family, and have been interested in any news of him. I am glad he came through safe. J.T. Rhodes is in Columbia working for the Army as Recruiting officer. Vincent Wyman is out and back on his job with the Goings - insurance. Otis has decided to build a store, believe he has bought a lot in front of the bank, 55x100, from Aunt Irene and expects to build a 26ft. front store, put in a stock of ladies dresses, children's wear, etc. and also a beauty shop. They will have an apartment upstairs to live in at present, I expect he will farm also, since he has a right nice place. I understand that Laughlin had been counting on him until recently to work with him, but a few months ago Otis told him not to depend on him, so now I hear that Wise Batten is leaving Ward and going with Laughlin. Cousin A. & Thelma came over last night to visit for a bit. They are planning to go to Sv. Monday and Randolph is going with them and expects to buy some clothes. He had one suit that I had kept, which he is having altered. It was a little tight in the waist. We are quite busy now with the tail end of the cotton season, or rather cotton is still going pretty strong and peanuts are coming in regularly. It is a lot of tiresome, meticulous work, for there are a lot of forms to be filled and they have to be perfect.

I surely hope to hear that you're going to get home very soon. Ruth seems to be O.K. and going on with her work, but she doesn't have the interest that she should. Still have quite a bit of work to complete and I see two fresh loads of peanuts just arriving, so expect I'd better get back to my books and get things done. Do write me, and please take care of yourself.

Love and good wishes,

mother -

Robert is fine -

1 Nov

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C.

Oct. 22, 1945.

Dear Bobby: Certainly miss your letters. It has been two weeks since I had any word from you. Of course I am glad if this delay will mean your earlier homecoming, but I do not think it is fair to keep you there and withhold your letters also, especially when so many unnecessary things are being given first priority for transportation. I hope you are hearing from me regularly. Today I received an Easter Card that I had mailed to you about two weeks before Easter. Think you had changed your address is why it never did get to you, as the A.P.O. I used is 16795 A. which was one of your various addresses.

Am quite busy with cotton and peanuts. The latter is certainly a nuisance, since we have to give government drafts in payment and that is more than a little work.

Yesterday Robert had to get up early to meet a train and attend to the unloading of two car loads of mules, so I decided to call Randolph early and get a couple of plants moved. Am trying to get a background of evergreens on the east of the yard, so I decided to leave the large Lucidum back of the tea olive, as a focal planting, so moved a dog wood (one you had planted that was about the size of the one on the left of the Lucidum) and placed it on the right of the Lucidum, then took a large Japonicum Ligustrum from the corner of the side porch, right next to the Plum tree, and moved it over on the East. This gives a pretty good break there now, and later I'm going to put two large Nandinas about four feet to the front of the background planting and in between the other plant so they will correspond with the two that are on either side of the Tea Olive, and this will then make a pretty fair green break all of the way - yes, we had to dig out the Old Man's Beard, so I put that in the back yard, the present chicken yard - to be exact. This morning the large plants we moved looked fresh enough, although late yesterday they were a little droopy. I want to move the Tea Olive around by the side porch, but I am going to wait for you to do this job. Robert came out and tried to make me put off all of the moving until you could do it, but I knew what he was up to, so I paid no attention, and am delighted to have these plants moved. Robert got busy and hoed up a bit of grass, the remainder of the hard spot opposite the kitchen window, which I can't seem to find time to keep cleaned during the season. Aunt Mahala wants me to give her the two Japonicum Ligustrums, that you planted near the fence, to put on either side of her steps, so I have decided to give them to her for her birthday. Will replant with several of the smaller ones that need transplanting. Aunt M. now has a Pink Perfection Japonica on either side of her steps, but they have not grown any and do not show at all. If the other plants will add any pleasure to her life, I'm sure glad to let her have them. Randolph went to Columbia last Saturday with Otis. He bought a right pretty grey suit - said it was the only thing he could find that was near his size. He wore it to Church yesterday. He had planned to go to Sv. today with Cousin A. & T, but Cousin A. caught a cold and was not feeling equal to the trip. He and Otis have gone to Hampton this afternoon, and I believe he is planning to go to Columbia for the Football game this week end. Mildred went to Savannah yesterday to see Cathryne and the new son at Oglethorpe Hospital. She spent the night. Paul is at home for a couple of weeks. He looks well. Peg is taking in the Fair

also and will meet Forrest up there. She hasn't made any plans yet, or at least she hasn't told anything if they have decided. Had a letter from Ruth yesterday. She seems to keep busy. Had been asked to go to Statesville N. C. to hear President Truman speak, in person, but said she did not know if she wanted to get in that rush or not, also that she had a lot of papers that had to be written, so was probably not going.

Hear that cousin Irene has a bid of \$26,000.00 for her home here, and that she is considering taking it. Otis is planning on buying a part of the vacant lot in front of the Picture Show and putting up a two-story store building, using the upstairs as living apartment for the present. The Freezer-Locker Plant will not get going before April 1st. Think I wrote you that Mr. Charlie Camp, from Savannah, is going to put this in and the building is to be on the back of the lot your grandfather used as a garden, which is just in front of Clyde's.

Mr. Wyman has gone Marsh Hen hunting today and will be off Thurs. and Friday for the Football game in Columbia.

Robert is fine and life in general goes on as usual. Nothing of any interest. Do write as often as you can.

Lots of love and good wishes,

Mother —

5 Nov

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C. Oct. 27th. 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Have just gotten back from my noon hour and am still in that rushed feeling - in fact there is so much to do that I stay that way. Randolph came back from three days in Columbia last night and brought Stoney with him. Stoney left Cola. with his pint in his suitcase, and Randy said that he couldn't do anything about it. Consequently he was high when he arrived. Fortunately Randy caught Robert, just as he was leaving for Allendale (he always has to go there every Friday evening) and he took Stoney along with him. They had something to eat before they came back, but S - was still right high so Robert carried him out in the car and did not bring him home until about time for bed. Randy gave him his room, then he slept on the enclosed back porch where I have a comfortable cot. I surely wish Mildred could move, that is that Joel would come on home, for I really do not like having just one extra room. This morning Stoney is still feeling pretty bad, but I had a nice dinner and he ate a reasonable amount, so maybe he will stop and be feeling better by night. I have asked Aunt M. and family, Otis and Mildred, to dinner tomorrow. We have had so many dinners with her during the spring and summer and she hasn't been to my house in a long time. I did have Barney and Peg one night when she was in the hospital, then we have had the young folks over a couple of times in the evening to play Bridge. I am definitely anxious about Aunt Mahala. Last night I asked Otis why he didn't insist on having something done. He says now that Johnston said there was nothing that could be done except to drain the gall bladder. I asked him what Dr. Crawford said about her condition actually - for I knew Johnston had not, and would not tell me - and he said that it was called a couple of big names, that he really did not know what the meaning was. Folk wrote recently that he should be here by the 15th. of Nov. This was quite a surprise, as all along he had said he would not get here before next June - so I am going to hope that you will have some good luck and get here yet for Christmas. I am so disappointed, for I did not send you a package thinking that we would be here together. Will send one next week anyway and if you do not get it before you leave then you may just tell them to give it to one of the native friends. Going back to Aunt M. I am going to insist that she go back with Paul and enter Duke Hospital for examination and treatment. Paul is here for his vacation, about ten days, which is the longest he has been at home since he started his college work at Duke U. Randolph had decided to accept work with The Boyle Const. Co. of Sumter, S.C. They made him a better offer than either of three other places he interviewed. The Hwy. Dept. was the lowest. The work will be assistant estimator on construction jobs, mostly in the office although he may have other odd work when he is needed in a jam. I hope he will do well. He is to begin work Nov. 15th. I have scanned the article you sent on your "Day in India" and it sounds wonderful. Left it at home for Randy to read and then I'll read it carefully again the first spare time I have. Mildred has gone to Garnett today. They are to bring Cathryne home from the Hospital, with her new son, and Mildred prepared a few things to take with her and said she wanted to go and see that

things were ready as much as possible.

Last night between twelve and one (I had not yet gone to sleep) the fire alarm sounded. It was the office building at Harper's Gin. Randy and I went down, but there was nothing anyone could do except see that none of the sparks set fire to the many bales of cotton lying around, or caught some of the other buildings. We stayed only a few minutes. It is rather cool here at night now. Thanks for the Grape Seed. Will send the letter on for Ruth to read. She seems to be busy all of the time, although I believe I wrote you that she was sort of planning on going to Statesville this week end when Pres. Truman is expected to be there. Guess I will not hear from her again before the middle of next week as she will not have time to write before Monday night.

Cannot think of anything that might be news of interest. Believe folks are all well and life continues about as usual.

I'm going to keep hoping that you'll get here for Christmas. How long does it take to come by boat now that the trip can be made by the most direct route? Must get busy and complete what I have to do for the day. Lately all of the crew are leaving at noon on Saturdays, and Buck is taking almost all of every suitable Saturday for fishing - so it leaves me to be about the only one on full time, long hours. I'll have to do something about it.

I love you more each day and sure want to see you.

Good wishes,

Miller

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C. Oct. 31, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Perhaps a time will come when I may live life leisurely and not have to be continually offering excuses for not doing the things I want to do so much. I think about you often and want to write, but instead I keep rushing from one thing to another and never getting to a place to quit. I've had several letters from you recently, some coming behind others, but I've enjoyed all of them, also about the "Day in India". It was well written, vivid, and surely gave me a vision of what you did on that day. I am glad that you do have some unusual experiences to bring home in your memory, not just the drab everyday living that consumes most of your time. You are fortunate that you see so much in all of your days, as is anyone, for it surely lends contentment to a certain degree, and that makes life and living better and happier. Today Randolph has gone to Savannah with Cousin A. & Thelma. He hopes to do some shopping and also to go out and attend to the filing of expense claims, which should sort of close up that part of his army life. I wrote you that he has accepted a job, estimating contracts, with a construction company in Sumter. He is to be assistant to the present estimator. I hope he will succeed. Mr. W.L. Rhodes offered to arrange for an interview with this gentleman, which was quite nice of him. I recall that he also offered to do the same for you when you completed your college work. I often wonder what the result would have been, if you had accepted his offer instead of the one you did take. Well, it seems the family is to be overwhelmed with weddings, Mahala and Forrest Summer; Barney and Reba Miley; are being married in January - and Folk and Margua Denny are to be married Nov. 24th. He is to arrive around the 14th., having just a thirty day furlough. I'm wondering if he will take his bride back to France with him. Believe Folk is making a pretty good match. Mr. Denny builds homes for investment, and has a group known as the Denny (have completely forgotten what Otis told me the development was known by) in Columbia. At least I understand he is successful financially. Ruth wrote that Cele Rhodes' neice and family are coming down to visit here from Wed. evening Nov. 21st. through Sunday Nov. 25th. and has asked her to come with them. I am delighted, for this will enable her to be at home for several days and at the time of Folk's wedding. Just fits in perfectly. The neice attends W.C.

The old B. Parsonage has been made into two apartments. Ed. Cone and Frances Batten have taken the upstairs and Paul Solomons will occupy the lower. Ed. Cone is going to work for Mr. Brewton in his store. Paul S. has been working for Ward for several months. Did I write that Tommy Rhodes has bought the other portion of Aunt Irene's lot, adjoining the part Otis bought, and will build an office building for them, also one for L.D., who is coming back here to practice, and also a store building and will open a Drug Store there. You may recall the frontage there is 110ft. beginning on the lane and extending to the corner. Otis has the 55x100 on the street across from Dr. Morrison's office and Tommy has the part across from the Bank. Aunt Irene sold for \$5,000.00 - I understand that Mrs. Jesse Davis is going to open a restaurant where the present Rhodes Office and Bone Long's store are. Mr. Oast is having to move and Maxie Mason Bolton is going to have that building for her store. She is now operating in Dr. Wyman's old office building, which is quite cramped.

In the Bank today, I was told that Montague has landed in Yokohama. Lalla Lee's husband got his discharge a few days ago and is now in civilian dress. I have heard that he is going back for a couple of year's more hospital work, which will enable him to become a member of the National Med. Asso., or something like that. They are now here in Estill and have been here most of the time since he got back from France, Germany, or wherever he was. Mildred still seems to believe it will be several months before she will welcome Joel home. Cathryne Maner is at home again with her new son "Jimmy" - J.K. Maner Jr. - There was quite a write up about Mannie Lawton in Sunday's State. He is a Major. I do not know him. Mildred said he is certainly a handsome fellow and has regained all of the weight he lost when a prisoner of the Japs. He went down to a mere eighty pounds, having been one of the survivors of the much talked of "Death March". Am enclosing a financial sheet. The first in a long time, but never have a paper at the right time and place. Hope you are well and that you will get home earlier than you now expect. Robert is well and enjoys hearing me read your letter
Lots of love and good wishes.

Mother -

Pandy and I are still doing some replanting of shrubbery - also the Pecans are to be harvested - Milton Rhodes is working in the Drug Store here while you. Elyzer goes to the U of S. C. to get a degree in Pharmacy - Have some nice baby chicks now almost three weeks old. Look good and should be ready for Christmas -

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C.

Nov. 7, 1945

Dearest Bobby - Have received quite a few letters recently ranging from Oct 1st thru Oct 26th - all of which I read with pleasure and interest. Ethel, Stoney and little Billie spent Sat night & Sunday with us. Ethel & B. came down Sat. a.m. with Mercedes Denny - the girl Folk is marrying on Nov. 7th at 8 P.M. - enjoyed having them even tho I'm practically on the sick list. Have suffered agony with my back and would have had to go to bed and stay there if Johnston had not given me something to deaden the pain - so I've kept on the regular full schedule and also went shopping in Augusta yesterday - Mildred carried Randy - me & little Lenee - Alice Ellis is having a big luncheon party Friday evening for Dad, then there were four weddings coming off - Folk - Madeline - Barney - and Lib Tuten so I knew that a new dinner dress was a "must" - Found an attractive black - 29⁵⁰, which was too high - but that was little compared to most - Mildred also bought a black dinner dress - Randy got a grey suit - not what he wanted, but he had to have something to wear. Clothes are really scarce, It's almost impossible to buy a shirt, in size 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 15 & 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ - Will be glad to see things plentiful once more, altho I doubt if it will ease up for several months yet - Guess I'll end by giving checks as gifts since I prefer giving silver, and now the silver just isn't on the market - Will include your name on the gift cards - I wanted - to go to see Miss Jane, but just didn't get there - Felt so miserable I know it was but that I did not get there - Am still in quite a lot of pain - The work continues heavy - Have given up the idea of getting the tenant house built since materials are so short and

labor is exhorbitant and trifling - and I'm just too tired when I finish the days work, to attempt anything more - maybe that will be a job for you to supervise when you get here - Randolph begins his new job next week - Certainly hope he will make good - He has been gathering pecans all day and also put out some rose cuttings and moved a couple of leguminous for me - Tonight he had gone out for a change - We bought eight Foster's Coasters - like mine - to give Ben Rudling - This was quite a savings as the only other presents that looked worth having were much higher in price and certainly less useful - I certainly hate to try to buy anything because I cannot help feeling that I'm being robbed - Orville had a Bridge Party this afternoon for Lit Tutu - Orville won the high score prize - Robert has gone out to see George - who is right sick with Flu - or a severe cold and high temperature -

Lizze fixed supper for one Sat. night and Arnie came on Sunday - so you see I am trying to take care of myself - Ruth expects to come home on Wed. - 21st and stay through Sunday 25th - Am delighted that she has a ride with Lucile Rhodes' niece - sister, husband - and young son - Quite a treat -

Hope you are well and that maybe you'll be coming home sooner than you expect -

Take care of yourself - Love
 Orville -
 will try and do better
 next time -

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C. Nov. 19, 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

It seems as though this is going to be another full week for me. Randolph came in Saturday afternoon. He seemed to be quite pleased with his work in Sumter and said he had gotten a nice room, but he figures his living expense, spending money and etc. will be at least half of his salary, then his insurance is around \$25.00 per month, so he will be able to save approximately each month what your first job paid you, that is if he is careful, which I doubt if he will save more than about half that he is counting on. Randy does not count the value of his spending money as you do. Mildred has not been well for several weeks, so she decided to go to Florence to see the Doctor there, and gave Randy and Robert Smart a ride back to Sumter yesterday P.M. She said she expected to get back here tomorrow evening. Then I am looking for Ruth Wednesday afternoon to stay until Sunday. We'll go up to Columbia Saturday morning, so that we can do a little shopping until we go around to Ethel's to dress for the wedding at 8 P.M. The reception is to be at Laurel Hill immediately after the ceremony. Aunt Mahala is expecting Folk to come down this afternoon. They have gone to meet him now. Margia is to be here Thursday for Thanksgiving. Peg is going up there tomorrow to stay over for a party being given for Margia on Wednesday afternoon. So much is happening until I can't collect my wits to get down to work. Lib Tuten talked with George last night at 1 A.M. This morning she was telling everyone she has at last talked with him and he is in the U.S.A. Am wondering what will take place next. If he doesn't come on down and marry her, I'm sure we'll have a funeral. Out of a clear sky on Friday the Johnstons next door had a letter from Earl Yarley saying not to write to him anymore - that he supposed they had received his cablegram - and that he expected to be home for Christmas as he was now on his way. They are quite thrilled and surprised, since the cablegram has not come through. Believe I wrote that I had ordered a place setting for us to give Folk and Peg, also suggested substitutes in case Brodnax did not have these. Well they did not have the flat silver, but sent me two handsome sterling silver sandwich plates, \$26.00 per each. In Augusta the cheapest I priced, and not as heavy or handsome as these, was \$45.00, so I am keeping them and will give them from all of our family. I feel sure that they are exceptionally nice. Randolph is to be in Folk's wedding. Don't know if they are going to use uniforms, or tuxedos. Peg has gotten her bridesmaid's dresses and is having an all white wedding. Believe she expects to use bronze chrysanthemums for the maids and red roses for the two matrons - but all dresses will be the same. Sure wish you were going to be here. Jerry Harper is to sing, and a Mrs. Smoak - a classmate at Coker and granddaughter of Cousin Harry Folk of Bamberg, is to play, and the wedding is to be at 7 P.M. Dec. 27th. Ruth is to be a bridesmaid. Otis has gotten the foundation down for his building, but is not doing any work this week since they wanted it to set for ten days before beginning. Robert Wiggins' house is going up nicely, however Louise said they did not expect to move in before around the first of March, or April. Imagine all of this seems pretty small - it does to me too when I think of world conditions. Hope you are well and happy as possible, and I sure do want to see you.

Wish I could have a good surprise like you do - I'll bet I wouldn't take it so calmly -

Love mother

Estill, S.C.
Nov. 15, 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

Each day this week I've thought I'd have plenty of spare time - since current work is much lighter - and would write you a nice, long letter but first one thing and then another keeps coming up and I am busy all the time as usual. It is now four P.M. though and I do not know of anything much to have to do within the next two hours, so I'm planning on picking out some pecans to make the dark fruit cake for Christmas although I may not even get started, for I never know when something will come up and keep me busy right till time to go home. I have a card today from Randolph saying that he has engaged a room in a private home in Sumter and believes he is going to be happy in his work there, which is of course optimistic since he had not yet started on the job. I'll feel better when I hear what he has to say Saturday night when he comes back. I let him use my car and would let him keep it next week if it were not for the fact that Ruth is coming on Wednesday and we want to go to Columbia Saturday to Folk's wedding - if he gets home as is expected. I am sending you an announcement as of today's State, and Margia has all ready to have the wedding on the 24th. She is having a large reception at one of the Hotels, since she wanted to ask all of her friends and their home would not accommodate that many. Yesterday morning I transplanted eight of the Shiney leaved Ligustrums. I only had about an half hour, but then it is such little dabs of work that keeps the place in condition. This morning I picked up about ten pounds of pecans. We had a wind storm yesterday afternoon that lasted about ten minutes, and did not real damage, but there were a few nuts to be gathered. I did not have time to get all of them. At noon today I had about fifteen minutes, after my lunch, so I grabbed a bag and stopped by the tree on the sidewalk back of Mrs. Johnston's and picket up over three pounds of nuts. I brought those on to the office with me and will shell them whenever I have a chance. I'll have to do the same little job tomorrow as I did not begin to cover all of the ground under that tree. I like the nuts from this seedling tree better than any of the others, although the two Stewarts really pay the most, since they sell for about ten cents per pound more than the seedlings. I've sold twenty dollars worth so far and will have a few more. Have planned to try and go to Gerbing's Nursery some week end before Christmas and I want to buy a few of the smaller plants so I will get a variety of choice Camellias. Have written them about coming on Sunday and am planning to go down Saturday P.M., spend the Sunday morning at the nursery and return Sunday P.M. if it can be arranged, and will go either the Saturday, Dec. 1st., or 15th. I want to buy several plants around \$3.50 and I'm sure the trip will not cost much more than the express and the 10% packing charges necessary to have these plants shipped - besides I want to buy some of the small plants and would like to see just what I'm getting, not to mention that I just want a change from home. I sit and sit and do the same things until I sometimes wonder if I am not plain stupid, for I should be able to get more out of living than I do. Yet I look around me and believe I like my life better than I do anyone I know. At least I don't have to be dominated by my husband, even if I do earn my own livelihood, and there are very few independent women in Estill, other than widows. Caro, who has sufficient income of her own, is the only one I can think of at once. So you see I'm not unhappy at all. Actually I like to work and would be lost if I did not have something to do.

Bill Baker has had conversations with Clarke and with Maine, who have arrived in the U.S. just recently. Mr. Arthur DeLoach was in here a few minutes ago and he said that Arthur is expecting to arrive any time. Mildred had a letter yesterday from Joel that really floored her, for it seems he is being sent further into Germany and said it now appears that he will be over there until next July. I keep wishing that he would come on home, because I really want the room. We can always arrange things when Ruth and Randy are here, also when you get here but I do not like to feel cramped, and I really need the little room. There isn't any news that I can think of. Just know that I miss you and hope that something will come up that you'll get home sooner than you think, and if not remember that we'll have a wonderful celebration when you do arrive. I think I'll defer my usual Christmas Dinner until you get here, since I am having the Rehearsal Dinner for Peg on the night of Dec. 26th., which is as much as I can manage during that week. I have always entertained the family each Christmas, so I will not feel bad about delaying my dinner this year for your homecoming. Please take care of yourself. I'm feeling fine once again.

Love and best of wishes,

Matter

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples
P. O. Box 45
Estill, S. C.

Nov. 20th. 1945.

Dear Bobby:

Wrote you yesterday, but have the enclosed letter that I thought should be sent on to you.

Also had a notice today from Pearce, Fenner & Beane stating that you had sold some stock, and asking for Power of Attorney and the stock certificates. Will try and attend to that tomorrow. I have just been swamped with work at the office this week and do not see how I'll possibly catch up before leaving Friday night - then being off on Saturday will put me that much more behind - but I'm just going to forget it and do what I can and leave the rest, which maybe I'll get around to some time.

Will have Thursday off for Thanksgiving, so I'm going to try and rest some, that is if I can get some house cleaning done tonight, otherwise I'll be obliged to change curtains and etc. Haven't gotten around to taking off slip covers and putting away summer clothes yet.

We're having wonderful weather. I surely thank you for the two pictures, your nice letter and the clippings. Saw Cousin Irene at the pictures last night * Robert just insisted that I go and it was restful and a little better than average picture - and she said she'd had a thanksgiving letter from you, which she seemed to appreciate. Numbers of folks have mentioned receiving same, and all were appreciative of your kind thoughtfulness. Well, as stated before, I'm disappointed that you're not to get home for Christmas, however I'm going to wait until you arrive to have my regular christmas dinner, and I'll keep your packages for you here. I hope that you will have a nice day, as no doubt you will, since you do seem to be able to maneuver something of interest wherever you are. It is a delightful attribute.

Must get back at the several endless, or so it seems, tasks.

Love,

Mother

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples
P. O. Box 45
Estill, S. C.
Nov 23-1945

Dear Bobby -

Have just finished the letter to P. F. & Beane to be registered, with Stock, United Aircraft Corp - also assignment of interest - Had to get Stock from Bud look boy then hunt up the other paper - put away carefully and then forgotten where -

Yesterday, being Thanksgiving - had a nice day at home - Randy had gathered the biggest part of the Pecans (my usual job for the day) so I did nothing except prepare dinner for us - Dot Parnelle did eat dinner and supper with us - In the morning we went to Aunt M's - She was making Chicken Salad for supper & mother was dressing a turkey for Sunday dinner - They were all living at Edna Brentons' - Margia Denny also Forrest Sumner coming down for the day - They're all getting off today for Columbia and Folk's wedding tomorrow - we, Robt. Ruth & I are going Sat. a. m. - will stop that morning - No news. must get dressed now for the day - Have just finished Robert's breakfast and lunch - so still have dishes, feed chickens & straighten bedroom to do. It is 7 A.M. - try to get to the office a little

early today as I have ²⁻ lots to do and want
to get off an half hour early to go over to
Hampton before the dress shop closes -

Love -
mother

Have one open Pink Perfection Camellia -
There were three gorgeous pink Killarney
rose buds and one red Kadence for
Ruth's homecoming - The narcissus are
also beginning to bloom - Intended to pick
enough to fix at least one vase, but
never got around to doing it -

Mrs. Robert R. Peeples

P. O. Box 45

Estill, S. C.

Nov. 25th 1945.

Dearest Bobby -
We had a pleasant trip to Columbia yesterday -
Shopped and had dinner at Jefferson Hotel - shopped
more and actually found nothing - was searching for
a brown coat, shoes & bag for Ruth but none
would do - Bought 2 pair of hose for myself and
a pair to give Rosa Lee for Christmas - That was all -
we had let Ruth take the car so we got a taxi and
went to Etzel's about 4 P.M. - She was out with Robert -
Her car was broken - She had invited about 30 for a
Buffet Dinner - most of the wedding party - all was
pretty and nice - we dined before dinner - I bought
flowers for one of Ruth, so we felt a bit extra - all of
the men dined at Etzel's - Wedding at Lutheran Church
at 8 P.M. was pretty - expensive affair - Reception afterwards
at Laurel Hill - a large home used for such affairs -
Flower must have cost hundreds of dollars - Mr. Denny
gave them 1/2 of duplex apartment as wedding gift -
the other half to his other daughter, Martha - served
Punch - a variety of sandwiches & cakes at reception -
Bridal Cake was exquisite - Got home about 12:30 A.M.
Ruth left to go back to Greenville this AM at 10 o'clock -
Guess she'll be worn out - Have tried to take it
easy since she left but had to clean up some, then
got started making & picking up nuts and so worked
three hours out doors after doing the dinner dishes -
Guess I'll be sore tomorrow - and busy at the
office - No, I could not do my work in any less time at
the office - I have to drive myself to keep up as it is
and only manage because we do have some bad
weather holes there is no interruptions and so I get to pick
up the left over work - The business has increased a great
deal since I began working there - Guess I'll have to get

some help this Spring if I expect to go to Ruth's graduation - which I hope you'll be able to go with me - Randolph said he was getting on nicely with his work and that there was plenty to be done -

No news - all about as usual -

Dororgia seemed quite pleased with the sterling sandwich plate -

Have chkd for \$322 odd for the 10 shares United Aircraft Inc. Stock - where do you want this deposited?

Attardea has a daughter - Sylvia Lynn Pepler - She is in Ridgeland Hospital but imagine she will be at home within a few days as the baby is now almost a week old -

must get to bed - Love -
mother -

Estill, S.C.
Nov. 28, 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

When I wrote you Sunday night I had not seen the article I am enclosing about Folk's wedding. It evidently was written before the actual ceremony, but thought it would give a much better idea of the affair that I wrote. We had a cold week end, but already it is again almost like a balmy spring day. I thoroughly enjoy such weather. Had a little rain last night, but just enough to make everything look fresh and sparkling. I keep transplanting a few things along, so hope to have all in order when you arrive. The plants that Randy moved for me look wonderful. No sign of wilt. Personally I like to get such things done in the fall so that the roots will become established well before the spring growth begins. Robert wanted me to wait and let you do all of that, but I really believe Randolph enjoyed it, and it certainly was good training for me to let him help around a house and realize that it takes plenty of work, and hard work, to keep things going, also I edged in the little matter of costs so that he wouldn't have the thought that a house can be run on too slender funds. Robert was never taught anything like that and I have had to suffer for his poor training.

I have made out an order for some Camellias from Gerbing's. Had thought that I'd go down there one Saturday afternoon, look over his place, and bring the plants back with me on Sunday morning. However, it would be a four hundred mile trip, two hundred there and two hundred back, and I've read so much lately about wrecks and such until I'm about to back out. The actual cost of the trip would not be much more than the 10% packing charge and express on the plants I want, so maybe I'll go the week end of the 15th. I am anxious to get some small plants and have a variety. Otis' building is beginning to show now. Have the walls up about five feet. I understand the Glass House (an organization that operates a chain of restaurants) has either bought, or leased, the old hotel building here and will remodel and establish a place here. I surely will be delighted to see something of that kind of business here.

Lib Tuten has announced her wedding for Dec. 12th., however have not seen invitations out yet.

I mentioned in my other letter that I have your check for the United Aircraft stock and would like to know where you want it deposited. If I do not hear within the next two weeks, I'll just send it on to Augusta. JFW has gone to Columbia to attend a Football game. Do not recall just what, but he and Hughsie seem to enjoy them a lot. Guess they like the drinks most. When I told Peg that I was going to have the rehearsal dinner party, Mildred immediately said I'd have to get the drinks lined up, but I mentioned this to Peg and she said decidedly she did not want drinks, and since no one in the party will expect them, naturally I'll do as she wants me to. Personally I see no harm in drinking a little, but when a person makes a spectacle of himself, never knowing when to stop, it is most disgusting. Drunks at a wedding are loathsome. I surely wish that you were going to be here, but hope that you get here safely soon afterward, since you keep telling me there isn't any hope to see you around Christmas. The Johnstons, next door, are expecting word that Earl has arrived any day. I also understand that Jordan is getting out of the Army and will be home in a few days. He is at a separation center now. Don't know what he plans to do. All of the Baker boys are here. All except Broughton are in civilian clothes. Haven't seen Clarke to talk with him, but Cecile is back at work in the Bank. Charlie L. is sick in bed with the Mumps. Talked with Maine Sunday afternoon. He said he had not decided whether he would settle here, or not. Sigo Solomons is going to move in the small house next door to us. Believe he expects to farm. At last the little servant house across the street has been torn down. If they would only clean up the lot now, maybe the view would be improved.

I am still quite busy at the office, and it doesn't appear that there will be any let up much - except when the weather is rainy I'll have a light day. JFW is warehousing all of the cotton he has now and will not sell any more until after the first of the new year, which means that we'll have all of that on hand to clear up along with the early fertilizer and seed sales.

Must get busy with some warehouse receipts. Have written several hundred recently and still have a hundred or so to do. Can't think of anything that might interest you. So many keep saying they appreciate the Thanksgiving letters that you sent out. You must have remembered everyone. Speaking of Aunt Mahala's health. I simply can't understand how it is. She hasn't had a spell for ten days - right in the rush of the time before and after Folk's wedding, including a big Thanksgiving Dinner at Edna's, with all of the family. Prior to that she was having them almost every day, and often would be in bed one and two days a week. I just don't understand. She always seems to get better when another Doctor is going to make an examination. Jack Wertz is treating her now. Well, I hope he will see her often enough to do some real benefit.

Love and good wishes,

Mottel

Recd 9 Dec
Ans - 12 Dec

Estill, S. C.
Nov. 30th. 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

This morning my letter mailed you on Nov. 12th. came back. It was properly addressed, so just imagine there was some error on the part of a clerk somewhere. Am sorry this happened, since your letter of Nov. 20th. stated that you had just received my letter of the 8th. of Nov. in which I mentioned being in lots of pain with my back, and of course I wish this letter of the 12th. had gone on through for I know you have been wondering just how I am. Today, I am feeling splendidly. The weather is clear and mildly cold, but just right for me.

Since I know definitely that you do not expect to leave over there until late January, I've thought of sending a christmas package of some kind - but after mentioning it find that many folks are having their packages returned, even though they know their men will not be home, or even on their way, at Christmas, so naturally I'll just give up the idea and will hold everything until you arrive, which is what I wrote you once before.

No, I do not believe you ever find your life drab and dull. I must have failed to express myself clearly there, for you seem always to have some interesting place to go, or someone of interest that you met, so that you never want for something to do. However, I'll rejoice with you when you get back home. This is after all the best place to be.

Yesterday when I came back from lunch, Cordelia was here and broke the news that she had just talked with Mr. Wyman and that he was in the hospital for an appendectomy. He went up Tuesday, was examined Wednesday for gall bladder trouble and it was not until Thursday A.M. that the Doctors decided his pain was caused from chronic appendicitis. He was operated on early this morning and she called from Providence Hospital, Columbia, about noon saying that he was getting along nicely. He should be back within ten days or two weeks. At least I know he was quite relieved to know that it was appendicitis and not gall bladder trouble.

All is quiet in Estill. Otis' building is beginning to look like something, and I believe Robert W. will be able to move earlier than he expects. Randolph is coming this week end. He said to spend my birthday with me, but I rather imagine he wants to take the car back with him. I have applied for some pine seedlings from the nursery at Sumter, so I hope I'll have a planting made all along the back edge of our lot. Will plant at least four deep all across so that eventually we'll have a screen and later some timber. Maybe enough to build houses for my grand children, when they are grown up.

Mahala and Margia seem quite pleased with the silver sandwich plates. I think they should be. Mahala said she was expecting Folk & Margia back for this week end. They were supposed to go to Greenville the night of the wedding and then on to Atlanta for several days. They used one of Mr. Denny's cars. Mr. Denny gave them one-half of a duplex apartment as a wedding gift. The other half he gave to another daughter, Martha.

Must get back to the office work now. Hope you are well and that the ships will come in faster and that you will get home sooner than you hope.

Love,

Mother

Estill, S.C.
Dec. 5th. 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Well, my fifty-first birthday passed just as all other days but, after Randy wrote that he was coming home for the week end to spend my birthday with me and I felt that I should prepare a little extra meal I decided to invite Charlotte and Rosa, Dock and Alice, to dinner. Randy arrived on the late Bus Saturday night bringing me a box of candy. He has absolutely no imagination, or at least he doesn't take the trouble or care to find out what a person would like, so when I reminded him that he knew I had three boxes of candy in my room unopened when he was here before, then he said, this is just something to bring and you select something you want, so I am going to buy a couple of plants and charge to his account. But that is not the training I want him to get and realize. He went to Church, but Annie sent me word about ten A.M. that she was not coming to prepare dinner as she had agreed to do, since her daughter had come unexpectedly from Sv., so I had all of the work to do. After service Dock came in saying that Brother and his wife, Virginia, had come on the midday Bus and therefore they would not be able to come, said Alice had just run by the house and happened to find them there - anyway I insisted that he go back and for all of them to come. I had an abundance and only had to add two places at the table. After dinner, I cleared the table, put away the food, and just left the dishes till that night. Virginia is quite thin, also George does not look well. He was released from the Army four days before Thanksgiving and they had just gone on a little trip up to Raleigh and then stopped to see his sister Mary for a day or so and they were tired out, so they left and went to Alice's to get some sleep about an half hour after dinner, but the others stayed late. When Mildred came in from her customary afternoon outing, she and Robert went in the kitchen and fixed plates for their supper and for Bucky, but I did not want anything, so I rested by the heater. Cousin A. & Thelma came in just as I had finished washing the silver, so when M. finished eating she proceeded to wash all of the dishes, so I only had the pots to do later. Folk and his wife are here. They came over to see me Saturday night and found me cleaning the woodwork in the living room. Actually I had done everything and was just dusting and getting a few of the most noticeable spots, so it was nice to sit and talk with them for about an hour, then Barney came for them. Folk tells me that they were given twelve of everything in their Old Master silver, also twelve of everything in a Wedgewood set of China, then Mrs. Denny gave them a nice gold band set of China complete, so they have two. Also said they have practically two complete sets of chrystal - one is Tiffany and the other a gold band set. They brought the pictures of the wedding and reception for me to see. All were splendid. I understand that she is going to go over to Belgium, or France, to stay until he is ready to return to the U.S. He also said the portion of the Duplex apartment given them rents for fifty dollars per month, however that Mrs. Denny wants them to get possession of the apartment and said she would have it done over and furnished for them to live in, an extra gift. Seems that Mr. D. has made quite a lot of money in recent years, and I believe they have only the two daughters.

It has been raining slowly all day yesterday and today, but I managed to put out quite a few Thrift plants that Charlotte brought me from Clare Strozier's. Put some out during dinner hour yesterday and got the balance out early this morning. She must have brought at least two hundred plants Rosa Lou gave me a box of face powder, CaroNome, which is what I use, and I needed it so it will come in right. Mildred gave me a bottle of French Perfume that Joel had sent. I had told Ruth not to send me anything, for I did not need any of the usual things, and everything you get is too high however she sent a lovely card and the sentiment expressed showed that she had selected it with care. I do appreciate all of this and your good wishes, too, and we'll be looking for the package. I really feel that you should have just waited until you get here to give us the things, though. Carolyn and Frampie Jr. came home from Columbia yesterday. Said Mr. W was having visitors, had gotten back on solid food, and was getting along

well. A card from Cordelia to Mildred said the same and that they hoped to be home within a week or ten days. She is staying with her brother, Robert. Her mother is also there.

Yesterday Mahala, Folk, Margia and Peg went to Savannah. Rolk said he was going to put in the order for the flowers, since, if he didn't, it would not be done until too late. I believe Peg has finished most of her shopping, but they have not planned anything and I expect at the last there will be a lot to do. The family is large though, so when things begin to lag behind they will all get busy and all will be accomplished in due time. Believe that I mentioned that at last the small servant house across the street has been torn down, also that Sigo Solomons is going to repair the small house next door to us and he will live there. He is going to try farming. Mr. Camp has rented Thelma's house, however I understand he does not expect to move here before late spring. Otis' building is being held up on account of the weather, however Robert W's house is nearer completion so they are working right on. I have heard that Miss Eva is going to get the house that Robert is now living in and will continue to keep her few regular boarders. She said later on that she wanted to build a home of her own here, since she does not want to move away. Her two sisters want her to come to Columbia to live, since they and Cash are there, but she has not consented to leave yet. RosaLou said that Mrs. Jesse Davis, Olivet Mason, was going to operate the hotel, that plans had been decided on for remodeling and new furniture had been bought, or the order placed. Mrs. Johnston had a wire from Early Yarley yesterday saying that he was in Boston, so I expect he will be at home for this week end. I imagine he will go back to Columbia to work for the Drug Company that he worked for before he went into the Army.

Randolph seems to like his work. He came primarily to get the car, but never mentioned it until time for him to leave late Sunday. Of course it puts me out some not to have it, but I did without so long until I am capable of being satisfied without it for a short period, then I can call on Robert for anything especial, or even on Mildred. It certainly does not leave me so flat as we were once. I believe you had the worst deal of any of our children, since when you needed help most is when we had least. Rolk has just been over and spent about an hour with me. Fortunately it is raining, so I could talk some, although I've been doing considerable work along with entertaining him. He is beginning to plan to get back to the U.S. as soon as possible, although he feels sure that he will have to go back across, before he will be able to get released. Folk tells me that he placed the order for Peg's flowers yesterday, also they bought her wedding dress. Said they ran into Mary Margaret working at Mayer & Berkle Jewelry store during the holidays. Said she told Mahala that her husband was in Augusta nursing his father and mother, both of whom are in critical health. The father having had several strokes of paralysis and the mother ill with heart trouble. Queer, but it seems any good daughter would have taken over - especially with her Navy hospital training - and let the son get himself established in some business line. I'll go over and hear just what she did tell Mahala. At least I am not sorry that Randy did not get her. Think he was right lucky.

Haven't made any Christmas plans, except for the rehearsal dinner for Peg. Ruth finally came out with the fact that she wants a fur coat. Guess I'll have to let her have it, however my bank account will be flat, for it will cost three hundred, or maybe a little more. She said she found one just right for \$318.95, I believe. Things are too high, and many are hard to find than during the war. Still have my regular work to do, so must get busy. Hope you are well and that it will not be as long as you expect before you are here with us. I want to have you home more than I can convey to you. Robert is fine. No especial news.

Love and good wishes,

Mother

Estill, S.C.
Dec. 7, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Yesterday I received your letter of Nov. 30th. and today yours of the 26th. of Nov. both of which I thoroughly enjoyed. I do feel mean about not getting a Christmas gift off to you, since you do not expect to leave there until so long after Christmas, but guess there is nothing I can do about that now. I'll certainly try and make it all up to you when you do get home.

About the lot across the canal back of us. I really would not consider giving anything like the price you mention for this, since, in the past few months at least an half dozen negro houses have been built just across the street. There are three facing North and on the corner directly back of the Laffittes there is another then just behind those there are two or three more. The only use I could see for that lot would be simply to own it to keep MPL from selling it to negroes to build up closer behind us, and then it might be cleared and a person could use it, together with what I have to develop a nursery - but as far as the lots being valuable for residences, or business, I simply can't see that. Then too, it is an ill shaped lot being possibly two hundred feet deep on the east edge and only about twenty or thirty feet deep on the west edge, and it has a frontage of two hundred and ten feet, facing south, which is just what we had. I know MPL gave his old cook, Gener, I believe the children used to call her, one hundred dollars for this piece of land and certainly I would not give him more than twice that amount. Anyway, the canal is pretty good protection, and I have plans to have the bank cleaned off and then to plant seedling pines at least four, or more, deep to make a background there and to keep our place more private. If I could get the back lot in my possession, I'd like to have it and might try and establish a small nursery, building a two room house to be occupied by a suitable workman, but I'll keep quiet and let you see if you can make the deal when you arrive. Frankly, I have so much to do, I do not actually have time to sit and think quietly, much less put things into action in carrying out any ideas. I have had some very good hunches, which if followed would have made me better off, but the press of everyday living and work kept me with my nose at that. You wonder what I am saving. Well, I used most of what I had to buy the automobile and drained my checking account then. I had to catch up there. Then I've spent money for an oil burner for the upstairs, doing over the little room, just plain living, and keeping Ruth in college. Robert gives me regularly fifty dollars per month. That generally buys the cash groceries and pays the laundry, but out of my salary everything else has to come, including his insurance, Ruth's and mine, fire insurance, taxes, automobile upkeep, and Ruth's college expenses, and clothes for all of us. With things as they are, there isn't much that could be left over without denying myself until I felt like life was too much of a financial struggle. Remember, I have spent no less than two-thirds of my life and I have had little opportunity to have, or do, the things I want to do - so I cannot deny myself some of the things that I feel add a little pleasure to my life, just in order to accumulate worldly goods. I feel that I am carrying ample insurance to take care of expenses when I pass on and there will also be something left for each of you. There is no reason for me to try and anticipate what the years just ahead will hold for me, but I have every reason to believe that my health will continue so that I'll be able to work for years - if I do not just drop off suddenly - so I expect to keep on doing my best and try to work regularly for another two or three years, then I hope to be able to keep on with a part time job that will be not so confining, and yet enable me to maintain my own home and a car and live as comfortably as I do now. I could have made some money by asking Randolph to buy a cotton contract this past fall. Mr. W. told me that he was sure it would be safe - but I simply could not bring myself to even mentioning it to Mandy. It might have started him on something that would have been terrible for him, so I did not consider it, even though I felt sure it would be quick profit, which it was. I felt it would be better to do as I have been, slow. I am not unhappy as I am, as long as I am well.

You guess correctly about the Wiggins house. It is facing the Library, and it quite an addition to our section. I do hope Sigo does something worthwhile to improve the appearance of the small house across the lane from our place, which has been vacated for him. I thought I heard some workmen there one morning, but the weather has been so rainy I haven't seen or heard anything today, or yesterday. I am having Mr. Winn to put a fresh coat of paint on the outside woodwork of our house. This will cost around eighty, or one hundred dollars, material and labor - but you know Robert would have old Sapp to do the work before and it simply did not hold up. Bill Singlaton told Mr. W. that he saw Sapp boiling the paint one morning, so maybe that is why it was such a poor job. In fact it had all mildewed and turned grey and black, until I felt something had to be done. Robert paid for the other job, but I am paying for this, so I have bought the best Pittsburgh Titanic White Paint and Mr. Winn is charging me \$50.00 to do the work, so I hope I'll have a job that will last at least five years, or more. It will be a satisfaction to go home to a white paint job, as it should be. One hundred dollars spent, it is true, but I'll feel that much pride in having a well kept up looking home, beside the satisfaction of feeling that the lumber is properly protected with paint.

I am sending your check from the Brokers for \$322.98, also your two, fifty dollar checks - Oct. and Nov. payments - to Augusta tomorrow. I never did get the check off last month. Every time I thought of it the book would be at the house, or something, and now the Oct. check and the book are there at the house in one pocketbook, while I have the Nov. check and the Broker's check here at the office with me. I'll certainly get them together tonight and get the letter off in the morning sure.

I hope to make my dark fruit cake on Sunday. Cake materials are harder than ever before to find, as well as many other things. Folks seem to think all will be vastly improved after the first of the year.

Peg is being married on Dec. 27th. at seven o'clock. Lib Tuten is being married on Dec. 12th. at 6 o'clock. Folk and Margia have been here all this week. Jerry Harper and Eunice gave a Bridge Party for Peg and Lib Wednesday afternoon. Yesterday Edna and Breedlove gave Mahala a Kitchen Towel Shower. She received around fifty. Mahala said it was quite attractive and was thrilled. Said the decorations and entertainment were pretty and interesting. The towels were given back to the doners, and each supplied with a needle and thread and asked to autograph their towel, which was nice. The dining table was arranged with a Bride Doll, and things in general unusually attractive. I went over to ask Peg to supply me with a list of the folks taking part in the wedding, so I'd know how many to expect and also so that I could ask the husbands of the married ladies taking part, and the parents of the little folks, but haven't gotten it yet. I'm going to have a large Swift's Premium Ham, whipped cream salad - if I am able to locate two cans of sliced pineapple - beets, diced, potato suffle - which will furnish a rich yellow color, green peas, and coffee. Will let B.B. and Mary Lou pass around small cinnamon rolls, and there will also be dark and light fruit cake - or maybe dark fruit cake and chocolate layer cake and salted pecans. Guess I'll decide on some type of sauce, pickle, or something - and I may have rice pilau - but I am trying to plan to serve things that will not require toomuch time to get ready right at the last, and I imagine there will be around forty, or more, people.

I've sent an order to Gerbings for some Azaleas and Camellias. Am going to use some to give for Christmas, but I'm getting a few more for myself.

Bought ten real small ones, varieties that I wanted especially, and to see if I can do snything with plants like that.

Must get back to work. Mr. Wyman is getting along fine and expects to come home on Monday. We are well. Love and good wishes,

Yesterday and today, during my lunch hour, I picket up pecans and raked leaves. I'm trying to geto the whole lawn raked before Sunday, but am afraid I will not because it is always dark by the time I get home at night. I do no less than an hour's work each day in the yard. Part early in the morning, orat noon. It takes that to keep things going.

Estill, S.C.
Dec. 11, 1945.

Dearest Bobby:

Your letters are always so full of accounts of what is happening and the things that you are doing that I am almost at a loss what to write when I begin. It seems that I never do anything except work around the house, rush into my clothes and spend the day working up town, then on Sunday there are generally so many things that I want to do at home that I rarely ever go to Church even, therefore there isn't much that I see, hear or do, except the daily routine. Today is Aunt Mahala's birthday. I found a pretty bud vase (recently she told me that she did not have one) at Maxie's that matched her hurricane candle shades, so I gathered some Narcissus and a few sprigs of ivy and carried them over just before I came to the office. I found all of them in the kitchen having breakfast (it is pretty cold here today). She seemed to appreciate my remembering, especially as she said she felt the two Ligustrums were enough - you remember I wrote you that I had given her two and that Randolph had planted them out on either side of the steps for her. Johnston seemed to be pleased, and evidently had not thought of it being her birthday for he dug down in his pocket and pulled out a twenty dollar bill and told her to buy herself something today. He was taking her and Peg to Augusta for the day. Yesterday they had gone to Sv. with Mrs. Wiggins. I asked Peg what they were shopping for now, since I understood that she had gotten everything she needed, and she said, oh, we're just looking around now. Mahala continues to lose weight and now weighs only 135 lbs. Quite a come down from 178 lbs. She looks a nice size and I think looks fine in the face, except for her eyes. She shows there that she isn't well - the color is not good and they are invariably watery, like the eyes of an old person. After Christmas and this wedding I am going to insist that she go to a hospital, Duke, Mayo, or such and have something done - or maybe it would be a good idea for her to go out to California and pay Charley an extended visit. The change of scenery and family might be just what she needs. Totsy Smith's mother died last night. She has been sick a long time, however this last spell only came on last Friday. It was a heart attack. Aunt M. said that she never had an ache or pain any time, only nausea, and occasionally a pain in her head when she was vomiting.

We have had about ten days of cloudy, wet weather, but it is now so cold I imagine it will be fair tomorrow. Have been having lots of aggravation with the dogs scratching under the wire fence, getting into the chicken yard, turning over the feeders and wasting the mash, also letting the grown fowls get in with the young chickens, and above all letting all sizes out in the flower beds, also find evidence every day where the house has been raided and the eggs eaten. Eggs being sixty-five cents per dozen - it counts up. Today I happened to get the eggs first, got three - on Sunday Robert caught a dog in the house eating an egg, salvaged one out of the nest that he had not gotten, but last night only found where eggs had been eaten during the day. I love dogs, but I think they should not be allowed to run all about and annoy people. Robert talked it over with Abe DeLoach, the policeman, on Sunday, but it doesn't seem to have done any good. Sunday afternoon, we, with Clyde's family, rode down to Dr. Morris' place and looked over the grounds. Mr. & Mrs. Brooks walked around with us and gave us several Camellia blooms. They have some huge trees, but not many were blooming. He told me that the freight alone was five hundred dollars on two of the Camellias shipped there from Alabama. Mr. Brooks said he preferred buying the smaller ones and letting them grow, but Dr. Morris had bought about fifty large ones - some of the trunks were two huge limbs about five inches in diameter, or ten inches right at the dirt where they joined together. They were pruned to a height of around fifteen feet. He wanted to give me some cuttings, but I refused because I had a light cold and I did not feel equal to putting them out, also I do not imagine this is the right season for propagating. He said he'd bring me some in the spring, since they always trimmed them.

Wed. Evn. Dec 12th 2.

Couldn't finish this yesterday - so will add a little today -
 Thanks for the Christmas Card also your letter of Dec 1st -
 Will give you financial information later since your book
 is in Augusta right now - no, I have never deducted anything
 from your account for last Christmas, nor will I until
 you return, then you may decide all of that - I have all,
 within reason, that I need or especially want - I do want to
 remodel my kitchen in the spring and get an electric stove,
 but I need help and ideas - time for thought and planning
 more than cash - so that will be something for you to do as
 soon as you get home - I'm living for that time - I miss
 you so much for definitely we are more congenial than the
 other two - maybe I never had as much time with Randy &
 Ruth - They're both fine and I'm proud of all three - Ruth is
 changing as she matures - which I've persistently told you
 she would and I believe Randy will make good - I am
 most thankful for all three - Dick Luton is being married today
 at 6 o'clock - I hope to go - will wear my new black dinner
 dress and a Carnelia Corsage (2 deep Rose ones from the movie place
 last Sunday - which I've arranged on the base of the corsage I had
 for Folk's wedding) - Robert is off - but refused to go, so guess I'll
 have to hunt for a partner - Mildred is not going either -
 Connie A - insists that I attend the Book Club meeting with her
 tomorrow -

Lots of love,
 Mother

Estill, S.C.
Dec. 14, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: At Lib Tuten's wedding reception, Mr. Eugene Peeples and wife were saying that, due to various conditions and their daughter Aline's death in the late summer, they had decided not to observe their fiftieth wedding anniversary, that being chalked up on their life record as one of the big disappointments. That is just how I feel about not having you at home for this Christmas. I do wish that it had been possible for you to be here. Anyway know that I love you dearly and miss you more than is possible for you to realize. As I've written before, I'll keep your things and we'll surely have a big celebration when you do get here. Take care of yourself. I do hope that the Day will be most pleasant for you and I believe it will, since you have that happy faculty of making friends wherever you are and generally having more to do of interest than you actually have time to do.

Yesterday I delayed my lunch hour by one hour and took in the Book Club meeting at Cousin A's. Enjoyed being with the ladies and the lunch was delicious. Lib's wedding the night before was all that could be expected. There was a full church and the three large rooms and two halls at the house were jammed with people for the reception. The gifts were not quite as lavish as I had expected - considering his political connections - but maybe she received cash to be applied on silver and china that are not now available. From all Folk said, they must have received fully two or three times the gifts that Lib had on display.

We have had almost three weeks of rainy weather. I developed a light cold last Friday, got it under control during the week end, but today it is worse again. The sun is trying to shine a little, though, so maybe if the weather clears then I'll be able to get rid of this bad feeling.

Otis has not been able to make much headway with his building, due to the weather, however has the walls up to the second floor and have put in the window frames down stairs and all floor joists are in place. With a couple of weeks of clear weather he could have it complete except for the interior work, which generally takes the most time. I have an idea that he'll be in and open for business by the first of March.

I am expecting Randolph to come home Saturday afternoon. He is to bring some Pine Seedlings from the Sumter Forestry nursery. Robert has promised to try and get some men to work on the cleaning of the canal bank and did the holes, so that it will not be too difficult to get the place planted. I'm going to put them a little thicker than recommended and at least three rows across the back of the lot, then maybe there will be a few that can be transplanted to fill in where any may die at focal points. I have bought several new Camellias and am expecting them almost any time. The Pink Perfection has several dainty blooms. If I could buy a lot of small plants and be successful with them, in ten years, they would pay big dividends. Anyway I'm going to acquire at least fifty varieties and then see what I can do along toward rooting and growing the cuttings. The blooms are so gorgeous that I get a real thrill out of just looking at them, the ones Mrs. Brooks gave me Sunday weren't even special, yet those four little blooms have added a lot to my happiness. There was one three and an half inch deep rose, and another a shade darker and a little smaller, then a large white Alba Plena, and a large bud flower, white with red light markings. The two red ones (I also wore them to the wedding as a corsage) I've had on the cocktail table in a small flat swan dish I have, which is perfect for them, and the other two I have in one of the little pear shaped glass dishes you brought me from Augusta once and they are on the table under the large mirror. Both quite pretty. See Aunt M. and Mattie out on the front cleaning the porches. There is always plenty of work to do around a house.

It's time for me to go to lunch, so will write more another time. Hope you are well. Lots of love,

Mattie

Estill, S.C.
Dec. 17, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Today at noon your letter of Dec. 5th. arrived. Surely am delighted that prospects are improving for your coming home a bit sooner than you thought heretofore. Randolph was here over the week end, however he did not arrive until late and I did not see so much of him. He came in and I gave him a ham sandwich and a glass of milk and some congealed fruit salad, then we went in the living room and I immediately put him to work changing the bulbs in the ceiling fixture, I got the ladder then he removed the shade which I washed while he was putting in the fresh bulbs and when that job was complete I asked him to take the two Christmas gifts for the laundry women, Maun Mary (Lilla's sister) and Lucia, (Mary's daughter) and bring the clothes and he wanted to see Folk, Margia, Mahala and Forest for a few minutes so he went by Aunt M's and stayed about an half hour before coming home - then I had discovered practically every brace on the piano bench was broken, so had asked Robert to get some new ones and fix the bench. He had bought the small angle iron pieces and screws but had not done the work, so Randolph tacked that job and completed about half before we will decided we were tired and it was time to go to bed. He finished the job right after breakfast Sunday morning, then he and I went to church service, then I rushed home to put dinner on the table, and bake the rolls, while he lingered at the church talking with folks. Cathryne Rhodes is here. She looks fine and is always strikingly dressed. As soon as we finished our dinner, Randolph said he wanted to see Wilson Tison - about the car he wants - so he and Robert went up there in my car. I had just finished the dishes when G.K.J. came looking for Robert, but I told him we were hurrying to get off to Walterboro to take Randolph, however the main thing was that I had called a Mr. Marvin, owner of Wildwood Nursery about four miles from W. and made an appointment to meet him at 3 P.M. Gerbing had returned my check for the plants I ordered, coming back to me Sat. A.M. saying that they had only \$11.00 grafted plants in the numbers I had asked for and therefore they could not fill my order. We got down to W. a few minutes ahead of time, but the young man, ^{was then} just released from the army about 3 months. He was a Captain, being a graduate of Clemson, had studied horticulture there and said he was going on up North to an University for Landscape Gardening. He had just dined at the Scarden home (Episcopal rector at W). He was quite nice. Had started this nursery before he went in army - about eight years. They all have the same idea practically. They refuse to sell the choice plants except in grafted plants and he wanted no less than fifteen dollars for most of them. I did buy ten Camellias and a Holly. He seemed quite willing to sell Prof. Sargents, so I bought three of those at \$2.50 (he would sell nothing smaller) but these were well branched and fully eighteen inches tall. I am giving them to Mary, Margaret and Thelma. I bought a Pink Star for Lib at four-fifty, then I bought a thirty inch Mdm. Strekaloff at \$6.00 to give Mrs. G.K.J. She has given me so many items at so many times in the past three years that I felt I could do no less. This was not listed among the most choice, but it was in bloom and is at least a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5" bloom, white with deep pink markings, peony type, and quite pretty variety to have. I bought two large plants for myself that will bloom by Christmas, at \$6.00 and \$7.50. I planted these on the corners of the back porch and I intend to cover them on cold nights so that I will have blooms. I should have some for next Christmas. It was freezing weather here last night, so the blooms that were open on these are now ruined, but I believe there are some more buds, so maybe I'll have a few blooms from them this season - if we have no more freeze right away. It is still mighty cold. I also bought a Noblissima a white that blooms now, also a Sweetiana Vera that is now in bloom. Put all of these in the back yard. Hope I keep them alive through the summer. Mr. Marvin said he was in favor of the plants having more sunshine than most folks seem to think they need. He said his grew better where they were in full sunshine. We left Randy at the Bus Station, he had a direct ride from there to Sumter, and came back home. I planted my plants during my lunch hour today. Mr. Ramsay let me have one of the boys to dig the holes.

Am delighted to get this all attended to, since I had planned to give plants and had not even thought about anything else. Everything is so high, and inferior. Now I am giving the plants to Mr. & Mrs. so that eliminates the wrapping of several gifts, not to mention the selecting of various \$1.00 items for men. You've no idea what a pain it is to try and get things now. It is worse than ever before.

Folk, Margie and Forrest came Saturday morning. They were all at church Sunday. Otis brought Robert a wild duck Sat. night. Robert had given him a box of shells the Sunday they all spent the day with us some time ago. Otis and M. came and sat with us a little while last night. She is a nice, sensible girl. Quite pleasant, but not as much family ~~as~~ ^{as you would} want, I imagine.

Ruth's letter last night said she would not be out 'till 9A.M. on the 20th. but I am going to try and get her home before then, as I must go to Sv. on the 20th. It is my only chance.

Sunday the Silver Meteor ran into the Sun Queen at Cheraw, killing eight people and injuring over two hundred. Mr. J.T. Rhodes was on the train coming from John Hopkins Hospital. They could do him no good, so he is coming home to die. He was only injured slightly. Haven't heard about L.D, also on the train, and maybe others of the family. Seems that the Sun Queen was entering the siding in order for the Meteor to pass, had not quite gotten in, and the Meteor struck full head on in the middle of a car, in the middle of the train. We had no mail, so actually haven't heard anything definite, except that the Rhodes were not injured ~~seriously~~. Have most of my plans and packages for Christmas, except something for the immediate family. Have a lot of cotton receipts staring me in the face, so must get busy.

Will write again soon. Certainly hope your sailing date will be speeded up.

Lots of love and good wishes,

Mother

Dec. 21st. 1945.

Dearest Bobby: As Christmas Day draws nearer, I miss you more and more. Ruth had an awful time coming home, leaving Greensboro at 7:30 P.M. on the 19th. and arriving here at 6:30 P.M. on the 20th. The weather has been bitterly cold and just lots of snow above Columbia. We've surely felt the cold, but no snow yet. Yesterday we went to Savannah, as I wrote you I wanted to do, and it was one of the coldest days I've experienced. Fortunately there was no rain. We had a good enough day and found the essential things. I bought Ruth a fur coat. Don't expect that I should have spent so much, but the black coat she was wearing was shabby and she just could not find anything desirable in a cloth coat. Naturally she has trouble because of her height, and the coat we finally found was actually the only coat that looked right on her in all that I saw her try on, either in Columbia or Savannah, also we had searched the local shops without any success. I told her that you had said to give her ten dollars, so she used nine of that to buy her pocketbook, which matches the new brown shoes she had gotten in Greensboro. She is going to use a brown hat that she has had a couple of years, however the style is good, it is becoming, so I see no need to invest in another for the few times she will wear a hat. She still likes to go bareheaded all of the time. I am going home tonight and try to complete all of my packages. Mrs. Stoneman sent me two pints of Guava Jelly, which was most thoughtful of her. I haven't yet been able to decide on anything, but certainly I am going to send a package. I'd like to get a nice, not too large, home cured ham and maybe I will be able to send one a little later. You asked me about your bank balances. The Augusta balance is \$1272.38 and, after deducting Ruth's ten, your Estill balance will be only \$21.70. I have not deducted anything for last year's Christmas, or anything like that except when I've written you - which the books will show in detail when you arrive. I'd rather just wait until you come. We have all we need and while I do want to renovate the kitchen and install an electric range I do not want this done before late spring, and I definitely want you to help me decide how you think it can be arranged better. I came down to work this morning and when JFW came in he discussed balance due me on bonus and straightened that out. He gave me quite a bit more than I expected, so I should be left with a nice balance to begin the new year. It has been a hard, grinding year, and at times I've almost felt that I could not keep up the pace, but things are definitely quieter now and I do not think it will be so heavy again until the Beans and Potatoes begin, when I shall get some assistance, since I know I'll have to take in Ruth's graduation. I hope you will be here to go with us.

Went over to Aunt M's a few minutes this afternoon. Folk and Margia were just leaving to go to Columbia. They are coming back here Christmas morning, when Forrest will pass through Columbia and pick them up. Ruth said Sotney was not so well and I talked with Ethel on the 'phone. They had carried him to the hospital for a check up and thought he possibly might have to have an appendix operation. I have heard nothing more, although I asked her to let us know how he was and if he did have to be operated on. We have just heard of Gen. Patten's death. It is something we all have to do, and while we sympathize with the near relatives left who will miss him most there is fortunately for us a hope that those gone on are entering a new, fuller and more to be desired life than we have here. At times you grow to feel rather anxious to go on into the unexplored regions, so it is not a dreaded ordeal at all.

Last night Ruth and I went up to the school house where the grammar grades presented a Christmas play. Frampie Jr. was Santa. Pat Rhodes was one of several who told the story in poetry, then there were elves and etc. Bobby and little Paul were among those. It was quite nice and reminded me of the times when I used to go out to see you children taking part in such things. Chester and Emily are coming to spend this week end with Mildred. The first time she has had such guests. They are to use her room and I'm putting the cot back in Bucky's room for her to use. Emily wrote and said Chester

wanted to come and see all the home folks. Cordelia is still sick most of the time and JFW being not so well, I imagine he hesitated to ask to visit there. Snide and Lirene are still living in Savannah, and Walter Theus has gone to the Ridgeland Hospital to have his appendix out and of course Lilla is staying in R. with Dale to be near, so Mildred was a last resort unless he just wanted to go to the country at Cathrines and stay there, which for a restless sort of person like he is would no doubt be quite boring. I can imagine Cathrine has her hands full with a young baby, no help, and so much cold, disagreeable weather. They have things not so comfortable anyway. Mildred said that house was the coldest place she had ever entered. Each room has to be heated separately and I can tell you keeping up one fire is a task, not to mention three and four. It is slightly warmer today. I hope we do not have any more rain.

See Mildred Peeples, the baby, and Peg sitting out on the steps. Otis has made little progress with his building this week. It is almost impossible to work with mortar, or cement, when it is so cold. It freezes before it sets up, then when it grows warmer there is nothing to it, except gravel, or trash.

Your package has not arrived yet, however I expect it will get here in due time. I can sit back and wish I had sent you something, however I do not think it could have been anything you especially want, and I would have sent something regardless if I had not felt sure, until too late, that you were going to be on your way home. Am just counting on the time when you do get here. It is about time for me go get ready to leave, and there isn't anything of interest anyway. Am glad that we are to have a service here at Faith Chapel at eleven A.M. on Christmas Day. Understand that Eugene West is to give two sermons each month now. One at Heavenly Rest and one at Faith Chapel. I like that a lot.

Love and many good wishes, and I keep hoping each letter will tell me you're soon to be on your way, if not already in transit.

mother -

Estill, S.C. Dec. 29th, 1945.

Dearest Bobby: Your letter of Dec. 19th. arrived today. I enjoyed hearing from you and the time of your homecoming cannot be quick enough to suit me. Note what you say about business affairs. It is entirely out of the realm of reason for me to attempt anything more than I am now doing. Any transactions will have to await such time as you are here to do what you want to do about it. You simply do not realize what my work is, nor do you know the extra work it has meant having Randolph at home for around three months this year, nor the mental strain I've had in trying to keep peace between him, Ruth and Robert. At times I feel that I simply must break under the strain of it all, even though I do take things reasonably calm. I wrote you what your bank balance was a few days ago, giving the amount in each bank. You have a very small balance here, but I believe I have something extra in my account and Randolph is also carrying a couple of hundred, or more, balance so if you have decided to buy some stock, have so instructed your broker, then I will take care of your shortage as before and will pay the amount as stated due. I will send nothing more to Augusta. I wish you would not attempt anything until you return, but if you have already done this buying then I'll see you through by doing as you ask. All would have been much better if you had just let everything ride until your return, without trying to figure how things would work out - but that is all water over the mill dam now and you should forget it. I simply refuse to worry about finances, or it will undermine what nervous stability I have left. I know that I have a comfortable home, if necessary I can rent a portion of it for income. I have lived on a mighty little amount and if I have to then I imagine it will be possible for me to do so again. However, I should be fully able to continue earning more than subsistence for maybe another ten years so I am not denying myself too much. I want to be at ease now. The Christmas season here has been just a wild rush of work for me. Lib had us to dine on Christmas Day, which was the nicest thing that happened. We went to church service that morning at Faith Chapel. Gene West conducted the service. There were about thirty folks present, which was an excellent crowd. The rehearsal dinner at our house came off just splendidly. I think all were well pleased with it. Then the wedding the next night was unusually pretty. Much moreso than Lib Tuten's, if you'll pardon the comparison, which I understand isn't the best form. After the reception, Ruth, Dot and Broughton went up to Lambert's and had steaks. Randy and Lucius also went in the Laffitte's car. When they were coming back, Broughton had a blow out on the rear tire, lost control of the car and they turned over on side, then top, then next side landing in an eight foot deep ditch. The car is beyond repair, and how all were not killed is a miracle. I believe Ruth got the worst of the accident. This all happened about 11:30 P.M. right in the edge of town. Dot is full of small bruises and said she was terribly sore all over. Broughton doesn't seem to be injured at all. Ruth has a slight scratch about an inch long on the top of her head, then she has almost a fractured neck. Dr J.Wertz examined her carefully last night. He advised that she keep quiet for at least forty-eight hours. He said there was nothing to worry about, except a possible blood clot forming. She is not in any pain, so long as she holds her neck stiff, that is uses her muscles and doesn't relax. After the accident, Randy and Lucius were right back of them coming home and saw it all, they did not even tell me anything about it until the next morning since Ruth was spending the night with Dot. Believe this is about the first time she has ever spent a night there, but Auntie was spending the night with us, and with two rooms for all of us she decided to go to Dot's instead of having me move the cot out of Bucky's room into her room. Ruth also had an appointment ~~with~~ with Dr. Causey, which Randy took her to fill. She insisted that morning that she was all O.K., but the shock had worn off by last night and when I came in from the office she was ready to have herself examined and treated. We were going to dinner at RosaLou's and Marys and she insisted that we go, however she took a bath and went to bed and we stopped by Dr. W's and asked him to come around 9:30 or ten, which he did.

Broughton was driving Charles Harper's car. I haven't any idea that Ruth will be in condition to take that long, rough ride back to Greensboro, but we will know better within another couple of days. Randolph is going back to Sumter on Sunday afternoon. I certainly enjoy having him and Ruth at home, but it makes the work heavier even when they each do portions of it for me. Even having the apartment rented makes it harder for me. There is a certain amount of confusion and I am not able to relax as completely as when it is quiet. Bucky has been sick for a couple of days. Mildred said today that she had only slept about two hours out of the past thirty-six, but I can't understand that. I know he has slept considerably and I can't see any reason why she should not have rested also. I notice that she keeps a light burning all of the time in the room, she has brought him in her room, whereas generally Bucky is accustomed to being put to bed in a dark room, so naturally he could not relax and rest in a lighted room. That is her worry though, not mine. She speaks of others doing things the hard way, but I often think that she does also. Harrison has been attending Bucky. They haven't decided just what is wrong, although he was taken with a vomiting spell, a chill, and then fever, on the afternoon of Peg's wedding. He had no temperature yesterday morning, or this morning, yet yesterday afternoon and last night his temperature soared to around 103. I imagine it is either a cold, or malaria. Children are sick, ill, one day and ready to be up the next though, so I imagine he'll be all right. I wish Joel would hurry on home. On top of all the confusion, he is trying to talk long distance with Mildred from Switzerland, and I sat with Bucky last night from 11:45 till 1 o'clock A.M. - so you see how it is. One thing after another plodding me along to do a little more, when I am already worn ragged. The package you sent has not arrived yet. Ruth is quite anxious, as I am too. It is Sat. P.M. and we'll probably close a little early. I still have the regular work to do and thirty-six warehouse receipts to write, so will try and write again Monday. Hope you had an interesting Christmas and will soon be home.

Lots of love and good wishes.

Mother