



Maud Hart and Delos Wheeler
Lovelace Family Papers.

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Mrs. D. W. Lovelace
845 E. Bouita (L-52)
Pomona, California
91767

Air Mail

C

I'll get them (2)
to switch the account
to my name and I'll
take over the payments.

I don't know what
you've heard about
them that makes you
think they've not a
good, reliable company
- but it does seem to
me as though if the
Gardens trusts them
with all its moving
and storage business,
they must be O.K. -
and they've certainly
made a good impression

Dearest Mama,

I didn't go out to
Oradell today, so I
took advantage of my
leisure to call the
Mag Company.

You are paid up
there through August,
so you don't have to
worry about it at
all. And if by any
unlikely chance I
can't get out before
the end of August,

on me.

I'll be busy with the big article for another two or three weeks, and I just can't plan ahead at this point - but I'll really try to get out as soon as I can.

Everything's fine with us, except we're so darned busy. Next week I ought to have some Five Island snapshots to send you.

Lots and lots of love -
Mein

WOOD SORRELL AND SEA BINDWEED

by Heather S. Buchanan

Published by Gordon Fraser Fine Arts Bedford

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MERIAN KIRCHNER
36 GROVE STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014
WATKINS 9-7891

9-23-71

Dearest Mama,

I guess I won't try to write a long letter today, although I do owe you one again, because I have a busy day coming up...but at least a note to go with your INNOVATION, which I will take right along to the postoffice. (Bert has a long piece in the TALK section, I think I wrote you about it while it was in progress. I think it's very fine.)

I was terribly sorry about Emma. Even though she wasn't well, I had the feeling that she was still getting so much out of life, and giving so much...she was the kind of person who should have lived to be about 120. And as you say, she was so tied up with so much of our lives. A rather strange, cold letter from Ann, I thought...not cold to you, but in the feelings about her mother that came through in it. Well, we know there are reasons for that, if I'm right. What a very strange, complex family story that one was!

My cyst came out OK., but the splint is a simply frightful nuisance and won't come off till next Monday... because the operation had to be postponed from last Tuesday to last Thursday.

At least, the postponement enabled me to work at the polls on Primary Day, which was last Tuesday, and I had felt kind of guilty about scheduling the operation for that day in the first place. They were really glad to see me at the club when I showed up all in one piece after having told them I'd be in the hospital! We had a fairly serious challenge for the district leadership from the old De Sapio organization, which does keep popping up and up and up...serious because they got a very well-liked man with a big following among the old-timers in the community to run, and sent out an 11th hour mailing with some silly and inaccurate charges against the VID that we had no time to rebut. But we won quite handily, and just from the looks of the people on line at the polls, I would say that the new 18-to-20-year-old voters may have saved the day for us. I hope we prove worthy of their confidence.

Nina Colahan has really and truly sold one of her three houses, the one she and Chuck lived in, and the word is

that she has definitely decided to sell the other two. All three Fair Harbor real estate agents are involved with her now, and she is driving all three of them nuts, to say nothing of her tenants! (The people who have been renting her other rental house for the past several years want to buy, too, just as we do.) The price she is asking for our house right now, according to Rose Larsson, is absolutely ridiculous. I'm not sure we could bring ourselves to pay it even if we could arrange financing that would make it possible for us to do so. But we can be pretty sure that at that price, it's not going to be sold during the remaining weeks of this season... not even if all three real estate agents actively push it, which I don't think they will...so we can postpone the agonizing decision for another winter. It's really a funny story, as long as one retains one's sense of humor, and I will tell it to you in detail when I write a longer letter.

As I've told you, we want to stay on in the house this year until the second weekend in October, and I've been trying to get Nina on the phone this week to get her O.K. I really think it will be all right, it would be just gratuitously nasty of her to say no, and on the personal level, she has always been very pleasant to us. So if all goes well, I will be going out along on Friday the 1st of October, and Bert will come along late the following week when the Conference-Workshop is over. As an emergency number for me in October, take Rose Larsson's: 516 JU3-5617.

Thank you for the check - I got Bert a beautiful sports shirt!

Tom is arriving tonight from Princeton and will go to the Island with us tomorrow.

And I guess I'll make this all for now, and write a longer letter before I leave for the Island next week.

Hey, have you developed the pictures we took while I was in Claremont? I am eager to see them.

Lots and lots of love ~

Mein

but they can buy articles from me. (5)
It won't be as much, but I think
I can sell them two or three articles
during the rest of the year at least.

I'll be pretty jammed up until I've
cleared up all the loose ends at M.E.
and done the Black Enterprise article, but
it's nice to know there'll be a little
more free time soon.

With the new developments at M.E., I
might have decided to put off coming
to see you until later in August -
but that's not so good, because the
Kennedys will be with us on the
Island from August 13 to 26, and while
I won't stay out with them for the
whole two weeks, I'll try to be there
most of the time.

And I don't want to wait till
September - I know you want me to
come soon, and it would be silly to
run up another month's storage on
the books. (Remember, you are paid up
through August.)

What I'll try to do, either the week
of August 4 or the week of July 28, (6)
is fly out very late on the Monday,
stay in L.A. Monday night like I
did last time and get to Claremont
Tuesday morning, and leave again
Thursday afternoon for a flight
that will get me home very late
Thursday night. That's really a flying
trip, but I will need a couple of
days either week in the city and/or
in Oradell. And I don't want to be
away over either of the two
weekends involved, because they're a
break between the Strages (who'll
leave the end of July) and the
Kennedys, and we do want a little
chance to relax with just us and Amy
and Jeff (who'll stay on through
Labor Day). And I need some time
to get ready for the Kennedys,
polish the coal scuttle, as Stella
used to say.

+ + + + +

It's Tuesday now, darn it. I took

(7)
this along on the weekend, and to
count yesterday, and didn't get a
chance to finish it.

Getting back to where I was... Mom,
I just hope you don't mind too
much. That I think I'd better make
this a very quick trip. I feel bad
about it, but I just have so much on
my plate this summer that it seems
like the best I can do.

I'll decide in a day or two
which week it should be, July 28
or August 4, and if I should
decide to come next week, I'll be
calling you before the end of this
week. But I guess the week
of the 4th looks better, the way
this week is shaping up.

One thing to keep in mind - now
that this trip has postponed itself so
far into the summer, it won't
be all that long before I'll be
coming out again.

As soon as I know definitely when I'm coming, I'll call The Gardens and arrange for a room. And I'll call The May Company and arrange for delivery of our boxes. (8)

I never did tell you, but after you called last month, I called Kelsey, as I said I might. I was kind of worried about the possibility that I might be really urgently needed on financial matters. But Kelsey said no, Mike is getting everything straight and not to worry. I would like to just meet him when I'm out, he sounds so nice. And I'm awfully glad you let him take over the bookkeeping, it was just an unnecessary strain on you.

I guess there's not too much new news. It has been the rainiest summer I can remember, but that's good for the garden, at least (did I ever tell you we're growing pumpkins this year?) - and

(9)

we've been having a fine time on
The Island on weekends anyway.

Bert has gotten Mark into the
National Science Foundation project,
and they're really having fun working
together.

He is getting really busy on that
now, and still doing a lot of work
for Black Enterprise. What with
one thing and another, I doubt
that we'll get any real vacation this
year. Though I'm still kind of hoping
for a week in the fall some time.

I guess I'll wind up with this
page. You know, Mama... I say
the same thing every time I
write, I guess... I'm just so sorry
I've been such a terrible correspondent
this ~~o~~ past year, and sorry in
retrospect that I didn't get back to
California sooner. If I'd known I'd
be at Medical Economics so long, I
wouldn't have let them keep me quite
so busy. Anyway, Thank you for

9
bearing with me.

I hope you're feeling a little better, darling.

I will either call you within the next few days or send you a postcard to let you know I've decided to come out the week of August 4. I'll be calling you before I leave, anyway.

So much love -

Merrin

10

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7/23/75 * 25

Dearest Mama,

I'll definitely be out the week of August 4, arriving Tuesday, August 5, probably around 10:00 or 11:00 in the morning.

It turns out I will be on jury duty all this week... maybe even through next Monday... and I have to see a man next week about an assignment I might get in September. So trying to make it next week would be too much of a rush, but the week after will be fine.

I'll call you early next week, after you've gotten this letter and the one I mailed yesterday.

Bert isn't coming - I hope I didn't sound too optimistic about

the possibility that he might. He
doesn't have any California
interviews at this point. But
he'll be on this project and
traveling around to see people
for months and months, and
I do hope we can manage to
synchronize things and come
out together at some point. (2)

+ + + + +

Friday now, and great progress
has been made! I called
The Gardens yesterday and
I've got Room L-24 in The
Lodge for the nights of the
5th and 6th. I wanted to
talk to them myself because
I had a couple of questions to
ask, and I wanted to know
exactly where I'd be as quickly
as possible so I could go ahead

MERIAN KIRCHNER
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April 19, 1971

Dearest Mama,

Here's another Innovation! It is following so fast on the heels of the first one because it took Bert quite a few days to get me extra copies of the first one, and this one is right on time. It comes out about the middle of every month, except for two months (July and December, I think) that they skip. I think the NASA article is very good and funny, and the illustrations are absolutely hilarious. And you will notice he's on the masthead, under Editorial Staff and Creative Board (the latter is their subtle way of indicating the more important members of the Editorial Staff!) Also he has a little piece in the "Talk" section. You should look for those every month, most probably he usually will have something.

I'm also enclosing St. Luke's programs for Good Friday and Easter. The 11:00 Easter service was so beautiful, an enormous procession with banners old and new, and one of the new ones was made by the kids at St. Luke's School, bright yellow felt with two doves on top, a black one and a white one, holding an olive branch, and lettering that said "SAINT LUKE'S CHILDREN PRAY FOR PEACE."

I'm glad if our Easter flowers helped you a little bit, I can just imagine how hard it is for you to get through that service... it is so very emotional, with the trumpets and all. It makes me want to cry, too. We just have to remember what it means, and believe and be glad.

I thought St. Ambrose would go overboard on the new liturgy! I hope I can get to a service there the next time we're out, I'm really curious to see what it's like, although I don't think I'll like it either. I guess I have heard the form you're using once. It must have been three years ago, the first year of the trial period, St. Luke's did it on Thursdays in Lent. I went one week, and the changes were pretty drastic, though I can't remember that they changed the wording of the Lord's Prayer, for Heaven's sake! But as I told you, there seem to be three different versions now, and the changes in the one we are using are really miniscule. And the reasons for them have been explained to us so carefully, I really don't see how anybody could mind. We are getting new

prayer books, you know, so we won't have go on juggling with booklets and cards and mimeographed slips indefinitely!

We were told that ours hadn't come from the printer yet, and if you don't have yours either, I guess that indicates that the same printer was doing them for all the Episcopal churches ~~XXX~~ in the country and was late with all of them, which is really kind of funny! But the powers that be had decreed that we all had to start using the new liturgies at the beginning of Lent, so we are improvising.

Do you still have Morning Prayer at St. Ambrose, or doesn't the new liturgy provide for it? St. Luke's being so very High Church, we never had Morning Prayer anyway, except for the early, early matins that were probably attended by nobody but the nuns. All three of the regular Sunday morning services were Eucharists, and still are, of course. And some of the responses in the Eucharist that I think will be new to Low Church people, we had been using all along. It's all very complicated.

And what have you done with the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church? I seem to remember, in that Lenten service at St. Luke's three years ago, it was eliminated entirely and replaced by a long, long litany kind of thing. What we are using now is basically the same old prayer with some minor changes, and I must say I like it better. The most important one is that instead of praying for "the minds and hearts of all Christian rulers", it's "all leaders of government," or something like that, which is certainly much better. Maybe in the 17th century all the rulers who counted for anything were Christian, but that is surely not the case today, and it always seemed a bit ridiculous to exclude the Russians and the Chinese and the Israelis and the Egyptians and so on! (Thieu is a Roman Catholic, as it happens, but Ky is some kind of a Buddhist, and he certainly needs praying for.)

And, how do you like the Exchange of the Peace? (I'm sure your form has that too - actually, it is the most drastically new thing in our form.) I hope you like it, because Daddy would... it's really going all the way back to the early church, and it's emphasizing the Christian fellowship that he always thought was so important. The way it works at our early service, it's very nice, the priests come down from the altar and exchange the peace individually with everybody in the congregation...there are only maybe 30 or 40 people there. At the later services, with a couple of hundred people, it's still a bit sticky, the priests come down and clasp hands with the people in the first pews and they are supposed to kind of start passing it back...and everybody is kind of looking around in an embarrassed way, trying to decide who to clasp hands with so that it will get passed back all the way and nobody will be left out. And on Easter Sunday, of course, there were lots of people in church who probably hadn't been there since last Easter and didn't know what it was all about and were just totally baffled! But we'll get used to it.

I hope I'm not repeating myself all over the place in this liturgical discussion, I remember I wrote you a little bit about it at the beginning of Lent, but I don't think I went into so much detail.

RR&R is still at Harcourt Brace, I know because I talked to Nannine last week and she promised to telephone as soon as she got words. And I will telephone you, whether it's good news or bad. I must say I'm feeling hopeful, ~~XX~~ I think it's just got to be a good sign that they've kept it so long, but I know we mustn't count unhatched chickens.

Yes, we thought Steve's son's piece was awfully good...and no, Tom doesn't know him, the law school is pretty much of a separate entity and an undergraduate wouldn't be very likely to know a law student. I wish we'd known Steve's son was there, we could have gotten them together and Tom would have gotten some good information about law school...but it's a bit late now, with commencement next month and Tom pretty frantically busy. He has decided now to forget about Law, at least for next year, and go to Princeton for comparative literature. He's going to Germany this summer on a fellowship...only two candidates from New York State were accepted, so it's really something.

I have lots more to write you about, but nothing that can't wait a bit, so I'll stop now and get your magazine off. And write again later in the week.

Lots and lots of love -

Merrin

Dearest Mom,

As soon as I mailed the card yesterday, I realized I should have put a note in an envelope because there were things I wanted to send you.

I hope Coop's obit doesn't come as a shock - don't really think it will, you and I had been talking about the possibility that he might be seriously ill, and maybe he had an obit in the Progress-Bulletin... but I thought you'd like to see the Times one, it's good. I'd forgotten he had a son, as well as the two girls. Did you ever meet him? And I'd forgotten how handsome Coop was. He and Daddy must have been quite a pair back in Minneapolis.

The other clip is about the sermon that our glorious leader, as Annie and I call him, had to listen to on Easter. Not said.

And one piece of news - our Horizon article on chess is being picked up by a new magazine called Intellectual Digest. Kind of fun, and maybe a check if Horizon is generous - they did buy all rights, but I hope they will want to share the wealth with us even though

They don't legally have to. ID is just what the name implies - it runs condensations of articles from all the more highbrow-type magazines. We had never seen it, but they sent us a copy with a very nice letter, and it's kind of interesting.

We have our copies of Horizon, by the way, and I'm sending you one today.

That's all for now.

Lots of love.

Marian

no longer use, whether have not for
some time or will no longer.

Sweden.
884 W
Horizon.

2 of my meals at
home

Must come in at
for medical
unit.

in
several months
for 5
lunch 2 times
dinner 2

Ethel Stewart.

Wednesday

Dearest Grandma,

Here's The new Innovation. (see page 44)

Lola's number is 516-JU3-8361.

And you should note down The name of The real estate lady, Rose Larsson, for a kind of permanent reference, because she is always There. Her number is 516-583-5617.

I still don't know when we're going on vacation. In fact, I wouldn't be too surprised if we just don't get a full two weeks in This year at all. We'll probably be out for parts of The next two weeks, though, before and after Labor Day.

But has business appointments

the next two nights, so I'm going ahead to the beach tomorrow and we will follow on Saturday morning.

I really have so much to write you about now, I will, yes I will, write a long letter while I'm by myself on the Island.

Hope the strike situation isn't too bad. Maybe they will cool it off for the 90-day wage freeze period?

Thank you for the nice card -

lots and lots of love.
Merrin

1-15-74

Dearest Mama,

Here are Betty's magazines - I'm sorry I hung onto them but glad I didn't throw them out, if you follow me, because I really didn't think she wanted them back!

I'm sending along a clip from yesterday's New York Times - I thought the kids' little essays were so moving, and that you would like them too.

It was fun talking to you last night, and I hope I didn't sound sort of colous and unseintimental about my birthday! Even though we have plenty of money, coming in again, thank goodness, I am not spending that much on myself, and an extra piece of cash to play with is really the most fun!

Can't remember whether I wrote last right before New Year's or right after... but we've had a very quiet start on the year. Had a nice evening with Annie and Roy, and went to a concert last week, and Annie was in to spend an

afternoon with me. She is in charge of her Montclair Smith Club's big auction this year, and I dug up a few old things to give her.

Bert is still at Black Enterprise just about full time and no sign of their wanting to let him go... and on the side, he has written a brochure for an electronics company... and I have another assignment from B/E, as I started to tell you on the phone, a travel piece on Columbia and a big chart showing what all the major corporations are doing to help black people get ahead.

It looks as if we'll be going to Boston early in February.

Guess that's all for now -

So much love.

Mevin

P.S. Since I have one hand, I will also enclose the December B/E with my stuff in it.

①

Oct. 8, 1978

Dearest Mama,

It's early in the morning (not 7:00 yet) and I will write you a quick letter before I get started on the day.

I do have some interesting news - a new assignment popped up, and I started on it last week. I'm writing for a Magazine called Medical Economics that lives out in Oradell, New Jersey - about an hour from here door to door. As the name implies, it's about the business and financial side of a doctor's practice, but also about what the editor half-jokingly calls "The doctor as human being" - how to get along with your patients, colleagues, family and so on. It's well-written, well-edited, stalked by awfully nice people, and I really think I've got a good deal. (Got it, incidentally, via a call from Jim Hendricks, our friend who used to be Bert's managing editor at Space/Aero.)

I'm filling in for a man who's on leave of absence writing a book, and what they really wanted was a full-time, temporary, in-house staff writer for the next three or four months. I told them I couldn't quite manage that, but I'm meeting them more than half way because I really wanted the job. So this month I'll be going out to Oradell as many days as possible - four, most weeks - and after that I'll probably be able to do more work at home, but it looks like Oradell at least three days a week most weeks as long as I'm with them.

It makes for a tight schedule and some problems getting household and personal chores done, but I don't really mind because working out there is kind of fun. They have a lovely place and I have my own private office, everything nice.

And the money is unbelievable - they are paying me at the rate of

\$350 a week, which works out to \$70 a day on a per diem basis. More than I've ever made, and since Bert is making more than enough for us to live on, I really think this will mean we can get clean out of debt this winter.

1 p.m.

I'm out in Oradell now - will finish while I eat lunch!

Angus and Eva and Sara and Peter Kovack were all with us on the Island weekend before last. No company this weekend, and I think we'll have the place to ourselves for the rest of the season.

We are having a new chimney built! Old one was rusty and full of holes and getting to be a fire hazard. So we went up on the roof and took it to pieces (it's one of those pre-fab metal things, not a regular brick chimney) and I stayed over two Sunday nights

to bring the pieces to a metal products manufacturer in Bay Shore so he could copy them. Stayed over again last Sunday night to go around on Monday and view the finished product - it's almost done, and I hope we can get it installed over this weekend. We've missed using the fireplace, but the weather has been so good we haven't really needed it.

We are also getting a new washing machine - old one broke down beyond repair last month.

My garden is just great - we have home grown cucumbers and tomatoes every weekend now.

I meant to say before I got off the subject of my new job - the only bad thing about it is that it will make it harder for me to get to Cal. Fornia this fall.

I'd been pretty much taking it for granted that I'd come out in late November or early December like last year. Hadn't said anything about it because I imagined you

(5)

were talking it for granted too...
and of course I keep hoping
that some project will come
up for Bert that calls for a
trip West so we can come out
together and have a little
vacation, too.

I don't know... way things
are now, I could come out
late in the fall, but just for
sort of a long, long weekend.
Or I could wait till M-E
is through with me and I
can stay longer.

So let's see how everything
goes with you, and you tell me
which you'd rather.

How are you feeling now, Mama?
I hope, I hope Dr. Johnson is
finding things to help. I really
planned to call you last week, and
every evening something seemed to come
up. So now I may as well wait
until after you get this letter,
but I will call soon if you don't
get around to writing us. Take
care of yourself. Lots and lots of
love- Meriam