

Auburndale, Mass.
July 24, 1947

Dearest Mother ,

We've just finished writing to Ruby and Francis. Now we'll try to get you off a letter about the weather and what we're doing and any news there may be.

The news is very meagre. We don't know yet when we're going, but expect to hear sometime this week or next what the date of our departure will be. Probably we will sail from New York. If we do, we shall have to go to New York a few days early in order to be there in time to receive yellow fever inoculations before the hour of sailing. When we hear what the date of leaving is we shall tell you right away.

About the weather we can say that it has been damp and hot here since the Fourth, but the past two nights have been cool enough so that we have slept very well. We still have to wash and hang out clothes, because the weather has not been good for drying anything and off course we don't wash when there is no chance to dry. We had heavy rain showers last night and the night before. Yesterday we left here in the rain with Kenneth and went into Boston to buy shoes for the boys and a few other small items which we shall very much need. We needed our raincoats only from here to the station, and had to carry them on our arms the rest of the day.

We have still some shopping to do and lots of packing, but think we have things pretty much in hand. We're still studying with the tutor three times a week. In between times we use the records when we can and talk together.

Oh, by the way, I must tell you about Kenneth and what we did yesterday. Shopping gets to be pretty tiring after half a day of it, and K. got tired of the whole business. He asked for a drink of water about four-thirty and I took him to the Spanish Tea Room in Jeardan Jordan Marsh's Store. When we were seated at the table, K. said, without my prompting, that he didn't want ice cream, but warm milk. He got it of course. One small boy is growing up some.

Today we tried to get him to say some Portuguese words. Senhor Rodrigues said over many words and ointed out the nose and eyes and mouth and so on as he said the words which mean subh things in the language. But all Kenneth would say was that he couldn't say the words. However, tonight as Mummie and I were eating, K. came up to us and told us that he could say the words. Betty had just given Kenneth something that he wanted and asked Kenneth if he could say the Portuguese word for thank you. He said he could, and said it. And then he added, " My can say words, Mummie. My can say them for Senhor Rodrigues. Senhor Rodrigues home now. " And then he said several more.