

September 1, 1953

Dear Mum and all of you,

We were shocked at hearing of Manley's death. I feel almost as badly for you folks as for Avis. He was such a good neighbor. Tommy and Kenny felt badly too. They recalled how he let them help water the garden last summer. We shall all miss him just in thinking about his not being there.

The Welch family has finished with diarrhea and fevers all apart of getting used to new climate and new food.

Max was the last to be sick. He had the same thing that Tommy had, the grippe. Now we are all rested from the trip well and raring to go.

Susy and Patty are enjoying the Okuma children and their days are full of play. They come in black from making mud pies or dressed in high heels, the grand ladies. It is all lots of fun. They play dolls, they color, and they ride their trikes.

Tommy and Kenny are making new friends among the African boys who live near by. They spent the entire afternoon yesterday building a mud house. They have grown up so much, especially Tommy. They are learning to take care of their own room. They make their own beds, and tidy it each day. Now Mum about the box of clothes. We heard at the coast that there was no duty on used clothing sent by parcel post. I say send a box along when you can and we'll see. If it comes through O.K. we'll let you know.

Patty has looked so cute today. She has been wearing the little print dress with the wide blue stripe down the middle. It fits her so well color and everything.

We have had two thunder showers so far. They were unusually severe ones for such early ones. However it looks like no more until the rainy season really begins next month. We are enjoying the strawberries right now. I bought three pounds and a half for fourteen cents yesterday. We had them with sugar for lunch and in shortcake for supper. Then we made jam for the rest of them.

We can get all the fresh milk that we want here. We get about seven and a half quarts a day. It is remarkably rich, too. So we had cream for our shortcakes.

Ralph I suspect that you are getting your fill of sweet corn these days. Eat a few nice ears for me, eh?

Love to you all,