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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

LAURA A. BOYD

EDWARD J. WOLTERS

October 4, 1940

My dear George,

Eva started for Baltimore yesterday noon. I took her to Grand Rapids and put her on the train with a round-trip ticket in her hand. Just a couple of hours ago I had a telegram from her saying that she had reached her journey's end in safety and had spent a restful night.

Just what she will do next we do not know. She left here with the intention of returning as soon as possible but she may change her mind when she tries to pick up the tasks at the university. She will, at least, meet the class tomorrow morning and see how many there are who wish to take the course and then she can decide whether it will be worth her while to continue the teaching.

It is most difficult to know what she should do. It seems too bad to sever her connections with Johns Hopkins until she has made some better connection elsewhere but there is no doubt in my mind that her health will profit by leaving Baltimore and the manner of life that is forced upon her there.

She has made remarkable progress since she has been here. She has gained almost ten pounds in weight and has lost that haunted look in her eyes. Her speech difficulty is much less and her eyes were much better the last few days. This is really the first time since she knew she had diabetes that she has been able to eat at home for any length of time and I think that the proper food has a great deal to do with her improvement. She sleeps all night without waking and has reduced the amount of insulin by ten to fifteen units a day. I know how happy you will be at all these signs of improvement and how devoutly we all hope that they may increase. I can see no possible reason why she should see a psychiatrist at this time because I believe all that trouble is connected with her nervous state and when she gets stronger she will be entirely well. I may be too optimistic but she certainly has wonderful recuperative powers.

It has been such a pleasure to have Eva here for these past weeks and the house seems strangely quiet today. I will have to admit that I am longing for her return but I feel the decision to give up her place in Baltimore must be her own and none of us can influence her. When and if she returns we shall use our best efforts to find something for her to do so she can use her hands. What can it be?

We are looking forward to a visit from you after Eva returns. Would you care to come before that time? I shall be at home this coming week end, Oct. 12, 13, and should be glad to welcome you if you can come then.

I hope we have Eva started on the right road. May it prove a pleasant one for her.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Boyd.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. George B. Van Schasck
247 Kelta St.
East Lansing
Michigan

Friday P. M.
Dear George, just a line to
say that we are getting on
very well. Eva is still
weary from the journey
but is as hearty as ever.
She will write to you
in a few days when she
has rested somewhat.

We are both very grateful
to you for bringing us
safely home through the
storm and hope it may
not be long until you can
pay us a visit Sincerely
Laura.

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

LAURA A. BOYD

EDWARD J. WOLTERS

January 10, 1941

My dear George,

Your letter to Eva came yesterday and I am replying in order to spare her the task of writing which she finds most difficult. We shall be happy to have you spend next week end with us and trust that roads and weather will be favorable.

Eva wishes me to thank you for your most generous and useful Christmas gifts which reached her in time for the gala day. She will tell you about it when she sees you but she wants you and Constance to know how much she appreciates your thought for her.

I wish too to add my word of thanks for your share in securing the fine wood basket which now graces our hearth. It matches the poker, etc. and fills a long felt want.

I hope you will not be disappointed at the slight improvement Eva has made. She is very easily upset and any change from our routine makes her extremely nervous so you will not see her at her best for even now she is concerned about your visit.

We shall be glad to meet the bus on your arrival and until then,

Our best wishes,

Sincerely - Laura -

P.S. Eva says "please ask George to bring the snap shots."

R.A.B.

George,

The keys came.
Perhaps you know
why Mr. Swan has
the bicycle. Pass
his letter for me, please.
Much love until?
See you. Eva

Holland, Michigan
January 26, 1941

My dear George,

I have been slow about sending you a letter but I have waited from day to day hoping that I would have better news to send. Eva has been so nervous ever since your visit that we have been hard put to it to know what was the best thing to do.

She put forth such a great effort during your visit that it seems to have exhausted all the tiny store of strength she had been able to gather since we came home. She was so happy to see you and enjoyed every moment with you but she has had to pay too high a price for the pleasure. We are trying very hard to get back to our simple routine but have not succeeded entirely as yet.

I am very sorry to have to write this to you because it will mean that your next visit will have to be postponed for a few more weeks and we would have been so happy to see you again in February but that will not be wise. It takes so long to build up a little resistance and such a short time to tear it all down. Please do not blame yourself for this set back on Eva's part. We had to let you come so we could see what could be done and you are in no way to blame. Eva is no worse than when we first came home and we will start again to rebuild her nervous control.

She asks me to tell that she has tried the glasses and finds them clear. She carried them one day to watch ice boats on the lake. She also wishes me to thank you for the box of lovely note paper which you sent. It may be some time before she is able to use it but she is happy to have it. Writing and reading are two very difficult tasks for her and we avoid them for the present.

May I add my word of thanks for the kraaklingen which you sent us. That was very thoughtful of you and it will provide a real treat.

The proofs of your parent's pictures came and Eva sent them on the same day as you suggested. She is a good deal worried about the proposed trip south but there is nothing we can do about that except wish them a safe journey. It takes very little to cause Eva to be anxious and she cannot help worrying about many things that seem trifling but are important to her.

Parts of every day Eva is her own sweet self and then we are very happy; the bad nervous spells we get through the best we can. Today she has been a little better than yesterday so we should take courage. Write to her to let her know you love her. She loves you very much and is so glad to have seen you.

The skating is fairly good now if the snow will not spoil it. Eva has not felt able to go but we hope she will soon be able to try it.

With loving greetings,

Saura -

My dear George - Just a note to
let you know that things
are going much better here
than when I wrote last.
Cora has gone skating on
the lake a number of times
but the warm sun has

spoiled the ice now.

yesterday I didn't have any exams so we went to Grand Rapids - had lunch - chopped and had a real nice time.

Tonight we are going to a home talent play - so you see we are trying to have Eva meet some people - strangers. for they are much easier for her than friends.

She is making progress once more and we can only hope that we may be able to hold the ground we gain.

Best wishes for good success at Amherst.

Sincerely,

Laura

Eva asked me to write you

See this time - and she sends
much love - R. A. B.

My dear George-

I am sorry the trip to Amherst did not have a happier end but feel sure that success will soon crown your efforts.

Things here are going about as usual but I feel it will be kinder to Eva if you postpone your next visit for some weeks. She said yesterday, "Perhaps I will be strong enough to enjoy a visit with George when spring comes. I would like to take him to the dunes in early spring to see the first flowers." For the present we might take that for our cue.

Eva is showing improvement - she is less nervous and is no longer

taking luminol. We went to see
"Philadelphia Story" the other evening,
came home, went to bed and slept
until morning.

We still have some bad times
but hope Matt can help us solve
some of our problems.

I am so glad you liked him. He
hasn't been here yet but I know he
will come as soon as he can.

Until then we will continue to do
our best.

Sincerely,
Laura.

My dear George-
Please forgive us for
having sent you so little news about
Eva. She is not able to write and
I don't seem to get it done.

There is not much change in
Eva's condition. She is still very
nervous but we have been able to
discontinue the use of luminol and
still keep fairly composed.

Dr. Peelen has been here twice.
He is much interested - and very
optimistic. Eva is taking a course
of treatments under his direction
which include the injection of
hormones. It will be several

weeks before we can hope to see
any results so all we can do
for the present is to keep Eva
as quiet and happy as possible
and wait for the medicine to
do its work.

Please don't ever let Eva know
that you went to see Dr. Peleu
for she cannot bear to feel that
she is being forced to do anything.

She talks of you often but we
both feel that it will be wise for
you to wait a month or six weeks
before you come again. Since Eva's
welfare is our greatest concern
sure you will understand why I
speak this way. Sincerely yours
Anna.

My dear George.
Your letter came this morning. Eva was so happy to hear from you. Ever since your last letter came she has been hoping that she could write to you but the effort has been more than she could manage.

The bicycle came on Thursday and yesterday Eva had her first ride. Everything seems all right except the horn which refuses to toot. but that is nothing very serious and can be mended without much trouble. I am sure Eva will enjoy the bicycle very much.

A bird feeding station is her
chief interest now. We are
making plans for an herb and
vegetable garden and so are trying
to create interests and activities to
offset this terrible nervousness.

There has been improvement since
we came home - but we still have
a long way to go and we advance
very slowly. As yet we have not
seen any results from the thalamic
treatments but we are hopeful.
Matt should be here tomorrow.

One sends her love and hopes it
may not be too long before she
can see you. With all good wishes
for a pleasant holiday - Sincerely,
Lina

April 18-1911
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

My dear George.

Eva has been hoping that she would be able to write to you this week but it has seemed too great a task so I shall try to give you news of her.

She wishes me to thank you for the Easter card and for the book. You could not have chosen a book she would enjoy more - the short chapters, inviting appearance and interesting subject matter, all appeal to her.

Eva had six or eight cards for Easter. There was a particularly nice one from Constance which she has standing on her desk near your picture.

We celebrated Easter by going to the sunrise service at the chapel to hear Mr. Dimmitt speak. Eva is often at her best in the morning and rising early is her everyday habit so her schedule was not upset and she did not seem any the worse for the experience.

Dr. Puleo was here last Sunday and will probably come again this week end. He is hopeful that the thulin treatment will help Eva. We can see very slight improvement in her condition so far as her nerves are concerned. But we realize that we are treating an illness of years and must not expect a sudden change. We try to spare Eva every

effort and to make life as easy as possible. Both mentally and physically.

Spring has brought many new interests. Eva has transplanted hepaticas, marigolds, ferns and arbutus from the woods to our lot. She is just starting work on the vegetable garden. Even these tasks in which she takes great delight are difficult for her when she is alone. When I am with her she can concentrate for several hours (2 is the longest we have tried) but when she is alone she is apt to start and stop or perhaps not be able to get started.

Matt advises us not to do anything which makes Eva tired or nervous so is a strain of any sort. We are trying hard to obey instructions but it is more difficult than it might seem. Such little things cause her distress and some times for no apparent reason she harks back to a trouble or worry that is months or years old.

I marvel at her patience and courage and the hopefulness of her outlook! She is trying very hard to regain her poise and self control and such a noble effort will surely be rewarded!

With her best love and all good wishes - Sincerely
Laura.

June 13, 1941.
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

My dear George -
You have had scant
news from Eva these past weeks
but you have often been in our
thoughts -

There has been so little to
write - From day to day there
is so small a change in Eva's
condition that there is nothing
to say - Looking back over the
six months that Eva has been
here it is possible to see some
very marked differences - Our
path has not always been an
upward one and there have
been a great many discouraging
features but we have never lost
hope and now we are beginning

to see some real improvement.
An outsider might not see it
but we notice many slight
changes.

Dr. Cullen is most encouraging
and we have great confidence in
him. He visits us about every
two weeks and we are following
his instructions as closely as we
are able.

The garden is a source of
great pleasure in spite of all
the bugs, the neighbor's dog
and the lack of rain. Working
in the garden gives Era the
needed exercise without taking
the long walks of which she

became so many.

Our plans for the summer are vague. - We shall try a short trip, after the churches are picked, and see how well we get along. - If that is a success we may venture farther but we shall not make any visits or try to see any one we know. Mother Nature is still our best friend.

Eva and I regret that we are not able to have you come to us but hope to be more hospitable in the future.

College class the 18th and we are eagerly anticipating that

went although Era does not
plan to attend the festivities -

The visit of the Princess was
a real thrill - Era went to the
Concavation and enjoyed it all
and was none the worse for the
effort -

Era is always glad to hear
from you and she will follow
your summer wanderings with
great interest -

Sincerely -

Raura.

Martha Jane Gibson is coming
to town for commencement - It will
be nice to see her -

Era reminds me to tell you that we
still have your suitcases - Shall we mail them to you?

Holland, Michigan
March 1, 1942

My dear George,

Such a long time since your letter came and as yet no answer sent. The days are so full and the letters seem to have a way of being pushed aside.

I wish I knew just what I ought to say about Eva for I know how anxious you are to know just how well she is. It is very hard to say. Today she has been better than for some days past but that is no promise of what may be tomorrow. Some days her nerves seem to be beyond her control from the time she arises in the morning until the medicine finally takes effect and she is almost drugged. On bad days it sometimes takes three grains of pheno-barbital before there is any relief and then she suffers with head ache for the next day. On good days she gets up feeling fine and the whole day is more or less restful although sometimes the nervousness comes on about the middle of the morning. She is still taking the diethyl-stilbestrol but not as often as at first because it upset her stomach and Dr. Peelen said we should experiment to see how much she could stand for everyone was different.

Eva looks fine, her color is good, her weight is just right and does not fluctuate. She sleeps without any sedative. She has almost lost the nervous twitching of her face and her voice is perfectly normal, there is no hesitation in speech except when she is much excited and then it soon passes. She can do many things now that she could not do six months ago but her improvement is slow, so slow that we find it hard sometimes to smile and go on but we are seldom discouraged and never both of us at once so there is always one of us to "remember the Maine."

I think it would be a good thing if you would call Eva on the phone once in a while. It would not do her harm even if you chanced to call on a bad day. We are rarely gone in the evening and are almost always at home on Sunday afternoon and evening. For the past six weeks Eva has gone to church in the morning and seems to enjoy that contact. We go to the picture show once in a while when the picture seems to be one we would enjoy. We go to the afternoon show because that breaks our schedule less. I think it would be good now if Eva would go about a little more but I do not want to urge this but rather let it take its own time for she knows what she wants to do and what she can do easily.

About the book, "Under the Greenwood Tree". It was not a gift from Claire to Eva but a copy that Eva had Eleanor buy for her for the express purpose of giving it to you. She had planned to do this for some time and had set aside the money to pay for it. She had Eleanor buy the book and have it autographed. She took great pleasure in planning this surprise for you even if it was a wrench to part with it after having it for a week or so. Claire promised Eva a copy of the book she did before this one but forgot to make good on the promise so Eleanor gave Eva money, for a birthday, to buy a copy of that one. Eva did not get it before she left Baltimore so Eleanor got that book, "Sometime Never" and had it autographed at the same time she did the Hardy.

We have not seen Dr. Peelen since Christmas so he does not know much about us now but I cannot understand his failure to answer your letter unless he did not receive it. He was away from Kalamazoo for a few weeks in the fall attending some surgeon's meetings and your letter may have come during his absence and been overlooked in the rush of work after his return. He was pleased at Christmas to see Eva so much better but she has not been that well all the time since. She still finds it very hard to do a definite task at a definite time and cannot concentrate for long on any thing unless it interests her very much. She reads more than she did and likes to listen now when I read aloud. We have read several books this winter and she reads the daily papers and the magazines for herself.

She takes great pleasure with her bird feeding stations and when the birds stop coming it will be time to make garden. I am still hoping that she will suggest having you come for a week end but as yet she has said nothing and it is better to wait than to try to hurry her in any way. She still cannot bear to be told what she ought to do. It will be at least another year before there will be any possibility of her having work to do because she should wait until she is really able for the job before she takes it. What she should try to do we can not decide now but her heart seems to be set on teaching in this section of the country. We must wait and see how things go. In the meantime anything you can do to show her how fond you are of her and how much you trust her judgement with regard to her own affairs will help her along.

The new furnace has been a real comfort but we shall be glad when spring is really here and we will not have any snow. We won't mind getting up by daylight either.

With all good wishes,

Laura.

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

LAURA A. BOYD

EDWARD J. WALTERS

July 22 1942

My dear George,

I found your letter this morning when I went to the office at the college to pick up the mail. I should have had it yesterday if I had gone for the mail but I do not go every day during the summer. I hope this will reach you in time for the information to do some good.

The fact that Eva wrote you a note the other morning to tell you about the orchid will tell you that Eva was well able to carry on Monday. She has been more nervous since but not as bad as she was before you came and not nearly as bad as she has been countless times during the past months. She is very tired and sleepy and has lain down for a nap each day after lunch which is a good thing. Today Eva seems more nervous than yesterday but she has kept busy all the time and that helps to conquer the nerves.

We were both very happy to have you here and we feel that Eva is not having to pay too highly for the pleasure which was hers. We hope that by the end of the week she will be rested again and that the nervousness may decrease again.

Since you have been away Eva has thought of so many things she meant to tell you or to ask you that I can see very plainly that it will be necessary for you to return soon to satisfy her.

Eva has just called up the stairs to say that I must tell you that she has been canning beets and apple sauce today so you will know that she is able to do something. She also said that she has made some sandwiches and that we shall take them with us when we go to town to mail this letter and then we will go to Macatawa and sit on the sand and eat them for our supper. So you see she is feeling much like herself and by tomorrow we trust she will feel rested.

Eva sends her best love and thanks for the card which you sent to promptly to let us know of your safe journey. Plan to come again some time in the not too distant future but you better not surprise us for the present.

With all good wishes,

Laura.

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

LAURA A. BOYD

EDWARD J. WOLTERS

August 31 1942

My dear George,

Eva is so tired tonight that she does not feel equal to writing to you but she wants you to have a letter from her before you start for home so I shall be the scribe.

There are three things she wants me to tell you.

First. We have had two good days. Saturday and Sunday were fine and the first good days we have had this long month of August. Today has been bad again as bad as any we have had in a long time. It is no wonder that Eva is worn out tonight after the awful day she has spent. All we can do is to hope that tomorrow will be better. There was no reason, so far as we can see, why today should not have been as restful as the day before. Sunday we stayed at home all day and saw noone. Eva slept well but awoke as nervous as could be.

Second. We have made all our plans to go to Mrs. Godfrey's cottage on Friday, September 4 and will stay there for a week and one or two days more depending on the weather. College opens on the 16th but we shall come home on Monday preceding because I may have something to do with registration. We are looking forward to the days at the beach and I trust they may do Eva a lot of good. Your generous holiday gift to Eva will pay the rent for the cottage so you are having a real part in making Eva's vacation possible.

Third. The tomato plants did not all die. In fact we have canned 73 quarts of them, sold a half bushel, and the end is not yet. The plants have some sort of a blight which made them lose a lot of their leaves and stop setting new fruit but some of them seem to be doing better now and we shall have all the tomatoes we can eat from now until frost and then we shall start on the cans. Eva is fond of them and they do not "count" much so we have them often. The squash and eggplant are doing themselves proud and we can hardly keep ahead of them. The peaches were real nice and we canned 27 pints for Eva. These were canned in peach juice instead of water so they ought to be very good to eat. We are still having fresh peaches twice a day. We picked the pears and have them lying on the basement floor to ripen. There are not many, less than a bushel.

Eva had a letter from your father on Friday and a card today saying that they were having a fine time. We have laughed a lot over his letter when he said that he had spent 19 cents for two eggs and two peaches and the four of them did not cover the bottom of the bag. Your letter came this morning and was very welcome.

Eva sends her love and best wishes for a pleasant trip home. We shall look for word from you.

With all good wishes,

Laura.

Dear George,

My love as always. The Christmas cactus is sending forth new leaves. When you & the others find a way to get into a deep breath and have a grand vacation. We've come home here a few times to both home plants and a

get recognizable. Lanna will have to be with the faculty for an all day
and all evening meeting on day. I have my new cup fungus book and
identified my fungus, collected August 8, on Sunday. It was the first
I had used a microscope in 21 months. I think I'll use the 5th Mrs.
Musselman send me for my birthday for a book on the nitrofungi etc.
(I think needs) and then I can identify some of my best collections which I
have intended to get at for years. Thank you for the good letter and
much love ever and always.

Ever

I was relieved to know you had written lines about Cuscuta.
I'm sure they were enjoyable. I have not worried about you although
my heart goes out to both you and Cuscuta. So far as I know
your trouble had nothing to do with the bad month of August. Before
you came in July I had two seed water and times and again
I'm sure has lived through such times with me. Heaven knows from
whence he draws strength and patience. From Heaven. I'm sure!

Love, Ever

Holland, Michigan
November 2 1942

My dear George,

Eva is letting me write a few letters for her this afternoon. She still finds writing so tiring that we have decided it is better for her not to exert herself when she suffers so much for it afterward so if her letters are infrequent you will know that it is not lack of interest on her part that makes them so. She is delighted to get letters and wants to thank you for the lovely flower cards on which you have written your notes lately. She is treasuring them carefully.

The past weeks have shown little change in Eva's condition. This past week was a good one but before that we had a couple of weeks that were not so good. That seems to be the way things go and there does not seem to be a cause for the bad times - at least not one that we can see. For the most part Eva is cheerful and keeps good courage and that is a big help. On the whole she is better but we have to look a long ways back to see much improvement.

Just now she has taken a renewed interest in her study and has set up her microscope in the dining room so as to have it where she can get at it easily during the day time. She has fixed up an old study table and a set of shelves so she can have her things at hand and I am in hopes that she will enjoy working with her specimens. Last winter she had no interest in such things so this seems like a big step in the right direction. This morning she put out the first food for the birds and will enjoy watching them from now on. We have seen some in the yard but are not sure whether they are our old friends or not but we will try to draw them closer so we can see them better.

In spite of the fact that we had a killing frost a month ago we still have cosmos and some other flowers from the garden. The cosmos have been especially fine this fall and we have enjoyed them very much. We went to Port Sheldon a few weeks ago and Eva gathered some materials for the little winter gardens which she arranges in a glass bowl. They look very nice. I hope she may have a chance to give you one of them.

Eva says to thank you for the cactus which she has put in a pot and hopes it will grow. She has not examined the other things you sent but hopes to do so before they are entirely dried. She washed the socks but has been so busy knitting for the Red Cross that she has not taken time to darn them yet but she will get at them after a time. She likes to do them for you.

Our good doctor Peelen has had to go to war and is now at Camp O'Reilly in Missouri. We felt bad to have him go so far away but we hope we may not need him. Our local family doctor who has known Eva since she was a student died a month ago so there is nothing for us to do but get better.

Eva sends love and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Laura

Holland, Michigan
December 11, 1942

My dear George,

I neglected to pick up my mail at the college until today and so did not receive your letter as soon as I should.

It was very fine of you to send such a generous check for Eva's Christmas and I shall try to spend it wisely for her pleasure. I think I shall get her either a pair of jersey slacks, which she wants but considers an extravagance, or a "wind breaker." If I find the kind of a wind breaker that she wants I shall put some more with your check and make it our gift.

It is very late for me to make any suggestions as to other things that she might like to have but I shall mention a few that occur to me but you must not think that she has to have all of these or indeed any part of them.

As you know nuts, cheese and the various kinds of fancy crackers are always welcome to change her diet. Some sort of case to carry her insulin outfit would be nice to have when she goes away from home for a meal with the unmodified insulin. She read not long ago about a thermos carrier for insulin which she thought she would like. I have heard Eva say a number of times that she wished she had ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ a pedometer. But they cost a good deal and are only playthings.

A pair of boys lined leather mittens or gloves to wear about the yard in winter would be nice. A little ornament to pin on her tweed coat would please her for the one she has worn is broken. She likes fancy candles and incense.

It seems there is no end to the things I can think of that she would like. She is well provided with ordinary clothes, scarves, gloves and such things because she does not use them very much. But if you have made your purchases before this reaches you and you have not hit upon any of these things you know that Eva will be delighted with whatever you send.

Eva has not felt too well lately but has been some better than a week ago.

With all good wishes for a restful vacation and a pleasant holiday season for you,

Sincerely,

Raura

My dear George. School begins tomorrow and then we will be back on schedule very soon - It has been so nice to have vacation and Eva and I have had a very pleasant time - For the most part we have been at home but we have made several trips to town - one to Grand Rapids and went to the midnight service in the chapel on Christmas eve - Twice we had guests for a meal - on Christmas day we entertained old Mrs. Otte, whose daughter was a class mate of Eva's - On New Year's

day we invited my cousin and
her husband and daughter. Mr.
Whitwell is not very well and
was unable to come but the two
ladies were here for most of the
afternoon. Both times Eva
seemed to enjoy them and was
not too tired afterward.

Our Christmas was very pleasant
and your box of gifts did much
to add to our pleasure. Thank
you so much for the "fancy"
handkerchiefs. They are useful as well
as ornamental so what more would
a Scot ask for! -

We bought a pair of brown
jersey slacks for Eva with the money

you sent. She helped choose them and is taking real pleasure in wearing them - Eva was so pleased with all the various gifts which your package contained and was able to write her own thanks so I need say no more.

Just now Eva is out shoveling snow away from the garage door so we can get the car out in the morning. It is so dark at 7.50 when I start for chapel - Let's hope the legislature does something about the time situation.

We hope you may be able to come to see us before too long -
With all good wishes - Laura.

My dear George-
Eva and I are so glad to know that it will be possible for you to come soon to see us. Will it fit in with your plans to come for this coming week end - Jan 29.?

We can arrange to have you any time but Eva is anxious to see you as soon as possible.

We hope the weather will be warmer and that there may not be so much snow by that time. Just now we have lots of snow - much more than we really need. Driving is not too bad as we are

getting along very well.

Eva has been fighting the flu for some days but is feeling more like herself now. Today she has been nervous but for the most part she is not nearly so nervous as she was a year ago.

Eva says I must tell you that we haven't eaten the entire soup yet but will save it to eat when you come. You sent such a generous supply of good things we have had a great deal of pleasure in using them. Eva enjoys trying new dishes and different flavorings.

If your schedule has been
changed and you are busy this
coming week end - don't hesitate
to say so for we can plan to
have you at any later date.

Ever send our best love -
and we both hope to see you
before long -
As ever - Laura -

Friday - 3:00 P.M.

My dear George - [Feb. 1943]
Eva thought she would write to you today but only got as far as addressing the envelope - so I'll try to write a note for her.

We were glad to know from your card that you made the return trip in safety even though you had a long wait in Grand Rapids - We hope you were not too tired after the trip for we want you to repeat it soon.

Eva has been very tired all week. She slept two mornings until after

big snow piles are slowly
shrinking. They can't go too fast.

Cora says she wants to add a
bit so I'll leave some room for
her. Your short visit was
much enjoyed and let us hope
you can come more often from
now on. - As ever - Laura.

Dear George,
Ed, Laura and I called on Margaret and
Nelson last Sunday, we came home to have
Cinnamon toast and tea and fruit. I did
so wish you ^{were} with us. I found pictures ~~wrapped~~
for your lunch in the cupboard the next
day and remembered them about the

seven o'clock. She had to take
a sedative one day but aside
from that has not been so
nervous as she was before you
came. She seems less tired
today and was able to start
the dusting while I was at
school this morning. That is a
real accomplishment in our lives.
Her stomach has not been quite
as bad as it was and we are
trying to be very careful of what
she eats. She has just come
upstairs now for bicodal so we
are not all cured yet.

It is warm here today and the

button you wanted moved on your coat.
I'm so sorry I forgot both these things.
Not that fitches bear any direct relation to
misplaced buttons. I wrote to Harold
and Marge this morning and that was
all I could do. Had to write to thank
them for a special delivery card and present
which came at Christmas. ^{have}
and I have been enjoying the good things
you brought and have been enjoying
I that so ahead. Thank you so much.
I am finishing the cleaning. I will
take me ^{quite} about a supper time. ^{have} is
ready to go to faculty meeting. Getting the
cleaning done in Friday is a great event.
Just your coming & that. Love
in great measure as always and thank
you so much for making that long trip
for a day with us. Eva.

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

LAURA A. BOYD

EDWARD J. WOLTERS

[4 March 1943]

Thursday-

My dear George -
your letter contained startling news
and I hardly know how you should tell Eva of
your decision - She will not be entirely unprepared
because she has said a number of times that she
would not be surprised if you did try to get
into the army as an instructor in Math.

She will certainly want to see you before
you go - It seems to me that it might be
well for you to write to her soon and tell
her what you are planning so she will have
time to get used to the idea before you
actually leave - If you could send your

letter so it would reach her on Saturday
it would be better for them I would be here
to help her bear the first shock - However
use your own judgement -

Eva knows of Harold's accident and your
father's trip to Boston and was not much
upset by either -

We shall be glad to see you - but you
better write to Eva, tell her what you plan
and ask her to invite you - In haste
Laura -

Holland. Mich.
June 10-1944

My dear George-

Eva wants to send you this letter which she received the past week from Mr. Walker telling about the work he is doing on the flora of the Aleutians - you will see that he asks for your address - We sent it to him and you may hear directly from him -

Eva is busy these days with the garden - The flowers are still very much of an unknown quantity and we have many surprises. Just now the roses are very pretty and we are enjoying them to the full - The peonies are nice but we do not have very many of them - In the vegetable garden the beets and carrots are the best we have had - so far - The tomato plants have a good start and so has the head lettuce.

There is nothing new to say about Eva's health. Some days she gets on very well and again she is extremely nervous and tired - She worries about not being able to get a job and she worries about your mother but no more than she has done for a long time.

The samples came a short time ago and.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

← This address
is sufficient.

May 26, 1944.

Miss Eva B. VanSchaach,
Coxsackie, N. Y.

Dear Miss VanSchaack:

You may be interested in knowing that the paper I told you I was writing on the Aleutians is turning into the type of thing that your brother needs. Things have a habit of growing larger as they develop into realities, but sometimes they grow so large that they can not be born! Such may be the case with this, and I am not sure whether the powers above will issue it in the form that it is being prepared. Dr. Austin Clark of the Museum staff has prepared a very interesting treatment of the birds and animals for this same publication and I am trying to make my part come up to the high standard of usefulness to the "common man".

It has occurred to me that it might help my project if your brother would write me a letter asking for a popular treatment of the plants for the use of the bored soldiers stationed there and telling how much use he thinks such a work would be. With that I might have better success in persuading the Institution to publish it. Of course the great drawback to the whole thing is that it takes time to get out such a thing as this and to get it into the hands of those who can use it. By then the winter storms of 1944-45 will have started. The bird part will, however, be just as useful in the winter as the summer. I plan to have an extra copy of my part made when it is typed and send this to your brother. If you tell me how to send it I can save a few days in its despatch.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. E. H. Walker

P. S. Your letter with your Holland, Michigan address seems to be mislaid.



Holland, Michigan
July 25 1943

My dear Mrs. Van Schaack,

Ever since you went home Eva has tried to write to you each week, sometimes more than once, because she knew you enjoyed getting word from her but the effort has been almost too much for her and she has asked me to write this time. I know you will be disappointed not to hear from her directly but know that you do not want her to undergo such a strain when it can be avoided.

Eva has been more nervous than usual the last few weeks. It is, I think, the reaction from the very great effort she put forth while she was at home and then for some time after her return here. She lived for so many weeks on a strain that is no wonder that she gave way at last. Rest and quiet will work a cure I feel sure and we may try the osteopath if she is willing. It seems to me that might help to give her some relaxation but we will have to be patient and wait until she feels like trying it so we will say no more about it for the present and hope for the best.

The garden has been rather a disappointment this last week for so many different kinds of bugs and diseases have come to attack nearly every thing we are trying to raise. Eva has sprayed and dusted patiently but there seems to be nothing to do for many of the pests and it is hard to see the fine plants wilt and look so sick. We try to be philosophical about it and not take it too seriously but that is not easy when you have put so many hours of work into the raising of the plants as Eva has done.

We are enjoying the fruits of the garden and try to think of them rather than the hard luck. We have had squash several times and think it grows better each time. Today we are to have our first cucumber and there will soon be a number of them. We shall make pickles as soon as there are enough cucumbers for they may not be so good later on. We are having beans too and shall can a few of them tomorrow. The plants do not look too well and we are afraid our crop will be short. The tomatoes are growing in size but there are no ripe ones yet.

We took our supper to the beach on Thursday night and ate there in the sand. It was very windy and we enjoyed watching the waves. It was not a very hot night so there were not too many people on the beach and we always like it better that way.

Eva wants to thank you for the letter from you which came on her birthday as well as the one you wrote to her on that day which came a few days later. She wants too to thank you for the generous gift. As yet she has not spent the money but will let you know what she does with it. Eva was well remembered on her birthday with a letter and a card from each of her brothers well as gifts. She had nice letters from Jessie and yesterday she had a letter from Mary.

It is fine that Harold was able to get such a good position and that he and Marge can be together again. We hope this will soon lead to some permanent position so they can feel settled once more. It would hardly seem that Harold would be drafted after all that has been in the papers about the army wanting the younger men.

The ladies who gave the little skit at missionary meeting were Mrs. Bernard Rottschaefer, who took the part of the native woman and Mrs. Van Franken, who took the part of the missionary. They are both living in Holland in the missionary residence. Dr. Rottschaefer is on his way back to India now but they would not

allow Mrs. R. to go with him. She is alone now because their youngest son who was in college last year is in the army now and is stationed in Indiana where he is attending school. He plans to be a chemist or a doctor. Mrs Van Franken's daughter is in college now.

Eva sends her best love and she will write to you again before too long. She says to thank you for saying that she might try the osteopath treatments and she thinks she will.

With much love,

Laura-

Dearest Dolly,

Well try to write again soon. Am so sorry I kept
I in letter. I thought surely I had returned it right
off. Did you get turnip seed? I sowed
Purple-top white globe and Golden Ball turnip
seed day before yesterday. It comes up this week
Need the seed, about 1/2 packet each. It is best
too late to sow turnips but too late for rutabagas
I suppose. Perhaps Mrs. Deep has more than she
can cope with now. Well, if you want the seed,
let me know. Lots of love to you both and to W., J.
and B. Eva

Holland, Michigan
August 13 1944

My dear George,

Yesterday the paper said that it would be cooler today but we think the new weather-man must have made a mistake for this has been another day when we got up early and closed the doors and windows and then stayed in the house as much as possible. It has been an unusually hot summer and the last month has been very dry. Eva waters the lawn and the garden by turns but a good rain would do more good.

Your mother wrote us the good news of your promotion some days ago. We are slow with our congratulations but they are very sincere. Promotions do not come too easily and we are proud that you have been thus honored.

Eva has been wanting to write to you ever since her birthday to thank you for your most generous gift but she has not been able to do it. Writing still makes her so nervous that she can only do it the first thing in the morning and then the effort is apt to leave her so tired that she is miserable all day. She tries to write to your mother as much as she can but sometimes she lets me do that too. She spent some of the birthday money last night to telephone to your mother. It was your father's birthday and she thought it would be a hard day for her. She had been raising croquets, she said, but it had grown too dark and so they were having something to eat. She seemed in good spirits and it was fine to be able to hear her voice and know she was all right. We are looking forward to a visit with her before too long but she has not set any definite date as yet. She will, of course, visit in Cleveland as she comes this way.

Eva had a very nice birthday with many gifts and cards from the family and from her friends. She enjoyed everything as she always does and still has some money to spend.

We had a real treat for dinner today- the first baby limas from the garden. They are a new kind and they are the best beans we have ever had and the promise now is for a good supply of them so we are hoping for some to can. During the winter we bought a pressure cooker for canning and are enjoying canning the things from the garden. Last week we bought some sweet corn and canned that. Our garden is not large enough for us to try to raise corn. A few weeks ago we went into the country and picked blueberries. They were the cultivated kind and were lovely. Help is so scarce that many orchardists are having people come and pick the fruit and then you pay a little less. It was fun to do it once but I don't think we shall hire out as berry pickers.

Eva wants to thank you for the specimens of ferns and other plants you have sent in your letters. She enjoys seeing them but she is not yet able to study such things and try to find out what the plants are. Concentration is still a very difficult task for her. She is able to do much better than she did but the botany study calls up many memories which make it difficult to do. Eva looks fine and when you see her I hope you will think she looks the picture of health. She says to tell you that she is trying very hard to get well so she will be all better when you

come home. We hope that will not be too far in the future.

We have been reading some books aloud this summer. I read while Eva knits or rests. Sometimes I will admit both reader and listener go to sleep but even at that we have read some good books. One that we enjoyed was called *Dragonwyk* by Anya Seton - its great interest for us lay in the fact that it was a good story written about the Hudson Valley with Hudson for the scene of the tale. Just now we are reading an older book but one we had not read before, *Oliver Wiswell*. Eva reads a good many books about gardening and flower raising and she enjoys the daily papers and news magazines that we get. We are so busy all the time that we do not read as much as we would like.

There is a small dog house attached to our garage with an opening into the garage and one out door too. A few weeks ago a mother possum and nine young moved in and we had an interesting time trying to learn all we could first hand about her and her family. Eva hunted up all the Nature magazines and articles we had and we found that our possum must have read them for she reacted as the book said she should. Once she went away and was gone for some days but just when we had given up, seeing her again there she was and all the little ones with her. We were never able to see her start on her nocturnal walks with the young on her back but suppose she took them that way. Finally she disappeared and except for one of the young ones who came back during the day we have seen no more of the possum family. Most of our friends who did not see her are a bit skeptical of the tale and we cannot blame them for the possum has not lived in Michigan very long.

Eva is starting to fix our Sunday evening lunch so I had better go and help where I can. She says we are having deviled eggs and sliced tomatoes. That sounds good.

Eva sends her very best love. She thinks and talks of you often and treasures every word from you.

With all good wishes and kindly greetings,

Laura -

Dearest George,

It's Sunday morning and a very hot one. Wish I could carry a few quarts of this heat. My heart is close to yours ever and always and I regret more than I can put in writing that I am unable to sustain you now with letters and advice about the plants. I am delighted with all you have sent. I hope you haven't been too warm on it. Drying plants is tedious and slow there are failures. Herries etc take lighter pressure than ferns and fernery plants. I was worried as I wrote she was in the room last night with her string. Love you & Eva
2/19

Holland, Michigan
September 2 1944

My dear George,

Birthday Greetings from two "maids" in Michigan! We hope this greeting reaches you near enough the proper day so that the significance of it will not be entirely lost. It is rather difficult for us to know just how long it takes our letters to reach you and we have been surprised sometimes by the speed with which your letters have come to us. Hope this one travels fast as well as the package which Eva started to you some days ago.

Ever since we moved into the new house we have been trying to get some decorating done. I made a brave effort to have it done last winter while Eva was at home but the man has not come yet and we do not have a very good promise of when he will get here but we are hopeful and are going ahead on the assumption that he will get here before college opens (Sep. 20). So we have been doing the things that always seem to need doing whenever the decorator comes. We have been painting the white woodwork in the bedrooms, varnishing and waxing some of the furniture and getting the house torn up from garret to basement. Eva is a master painter and has done such nice work and we think we are going to look much better when the big clean-up is over. We have new drapes for some of the rooms downstairs but we have not gotten that far upstairs.

The garden is past its best but we have had a fine garden and will enjoy the fruits of it all winter for Eva has been canning all sorts of vegetables. We have lots of tomatoes in spite of the fact that the vines got some sort of a bad blight, leaf spot, which caused them to stop setting new fruit some time ago and some of the plants look almost dead. The summer squash are doing nicely and we enjoy them very much.

Our friend the opossum still comes back to the cupboard in the garage once in a while. He has not been there now for about a week but he may show up at any moment. The last few days we have seen a number of warblers which we suppose are migrating for they have not been here all summer. Yesterday we saw several black and white warblers and Eva saw another bird which she thought might be a female redbird. If they would only stand still until we have time to get the glasses and the bird book.

We are looking forward to a visit with your mother in the not too distant future and hope she may not find the trip from Cleveland here too tiring. She will have to change cars in Detroit but all in the same station so that will not be too bad.

Our summer weather seems to be with us today but we have had several intimations that fall is just around the corner and some days we have had the furnace turned on part of the time. We hope your warmer weather will pass for some time yet for each nice day now seems to make the winter shorter. There is lots of work to be done in the garden before cold weather and it is so hard to get help. We have had three different boys to mow the lawn since college was out. The boys of fifteen can get good jobs now in the stores and filling stations so they think they are too old to mow grass. It is a strange world.

Eva sends her best love and we wish to assure you of our continued interest in you and our good wishes for your health and

Holland, Michigan
December 3 1944

My dear George,

It has been such a long time since we have had a letter from you but we shall not reproach you because we remind ourselves that it has been a long time since we have written to you. While your mother was here we ~~de~~anded on her for news of you and since she has gone home we have been a little busier than usual trying to get the house and the yard ready for winter.

There are so many things to do and we do not know too much about a good many of these things and we can't find any one to help us who knows as much as we do, so we go ahead. We are feeling good to think that we got as much done as we did before the first snow came. There are still some things we did not get done but they do not matter too much and we did the best we could. We got the plumber to come and drain the pipes in the yard but we did the rest ourselves. It is lots of fun to have a garden but it is lots of work too.

It was so nice to have your mother here for a few weeks. Eva was so happy to have her here and to do things for her. After she left Eva was very lonesome for some days and very tired. She has not entirely gotten over being tired yet but she soon will. Eva is able to stand a great deal more than she could some time ago but she is not as strong as she should be to begin work again or to assume any responsibility which is not self imposed. She looks fine, weighs about 120-125. Her teeth still give her lots of trouble, her neuritis is bad at times but the diabetes seems to be well under control and she does not take nerve pills of any sort except under stress of unusual excitement. She is very anxious about you and looks forward so eagerly to the time when you will be coming home.

Our good doctor Heelen has been sent to France after serving for a year or more in a large general hospital in Kansas. He had not wanted over-seas service but you take what you get in the service. We hated to have him go so far away. His wife and children are here in town until he returns.

We are having our first snow of the winter. About 8 inches when it fell but the sun had shined today and there are long icicles on the eaves and the trees have lost a lot of their burden. We have had no severe cold this winter and are glad of it and hope we may have a mild season. Our heating plant works fine and we keep very comfortable. The old car too seems to know there is a war on and is giving fine service in spite of the fact that it is '38.

Eva tried an experiment this fall when it became cold enough so we thought the tomatoes would freeze. We pulled some of the plants with green fruit on and hung them under the garage where it is cool and dark but not too cold and not too dark. The tomatoes have been getting ripe slowly ever since and we have had them to use all the time and there will probably be some until Christmas if nothing happens to them. When they get nearly ripe we bring them to the north window in the kitchen where they soon get red. Then we store them in the refrigerator. Seems nice to have ripe tomatoes now.

We have the bird feeding station in place but have not had many birds as yet, blue jays, cardinals and, of course, sparrows. We hope for more callers soon.

Eva send her love and best wishes.

And so do I. *Laura*

Miss J. Mrs. De Sui's friend, a "mistletoe", has just blossomed. It was lovely thing, the blossoms were a waxy pale pink.

Dearest George,

My love goes out to you as strong and deep as ever. I miss you so. I don't write that to make you feel sad but only to let you know how great a place in my life is yours. I cannot begin to tell you how good it was to have Maama here. Did she ever write you that she walked all the way downtown several times? That is from 25th street to 8th and in addition she walked up and down Legat street which is the shopping district. She seemed very well and in many respects in better spirits than last spring. Of course now that home is no longer new, it seems in looking back upon it less burdensome and bears ^{to her} account. Thus a few months ago. But that is only human nature. I have not yet become accustomed to the change and so often very mixed later she about the house to you. After a bit the change will seep in. You must feel somewhat that way, too. I have had a very welcome and wonderful presents which I think must have come from you, two books from the Cambridge Press, Shells of Molluscs and and invertebrates of Southern Michigan. Such delightful and send you appreciation hugs and kisses and warm greetings. I had been wishing that kind books, had read a thousand in other languages on Natural History. Paula Anne is a dear to find out what I want. Well, my dear boy & mother, this ought to have been put on a separate sheet. Do forgive me for such a messy letter. I love you for you please. I cannot think how I'd love without it now. The very best love today. Thank you for it. And my love and ideal of love to you.

Holland, Michigan
February 4 1945

My dear George,

Eva has been talking for some days of writing to you but she finds writing such a hard task that I have offered to type a few lines to you so you will know that she is well and about as usual. In some small ways we can see real improvement but it is still very slow but at least we are going in the right direction and that is rather important.

We still have winter with us and if the bright sunshine on February 2 had any significance we are due for at least six more weeks of winter. We have a lot of snow which has been with us since November 30 so we're getting quite used to it. Every once in a while we have some fresh clean snow to make things look better so we get along fine. Our next door neighbor, whose son rides to college with me, has taken upon himself the task of keeping the driveway clear and that is a big help. The city shovels the front walk so we do not have much of that work to do.

Eva's feeding stations for the birds keep us entertained no matter how stormy the day for birds must eat. We have a whole flock of pheasants, three or four cocks and ever so many hens, that are getting so large we are afraid someone will mistake them for turkeys. Their colorings are wonderful when seen close but they are very shy and we have to be careful not to frighten them. The downy wood peckers come and the male hairy has been here too but not so often as the others. The jays, chickadees, juncos and sparrows are numerous and come every day so we never lack for back porch guests except when company comes and we want to show them off and then there isn't a bird in the yard. Such is life!

Eva and I are busy as can be every day but there does not seem to be much in our activity that is worth recording in a letter for Eva cooks and does a thousand things about the house, goes for a daily walk and writes to your mother, I go to college. Once in a while we eat a meal down town just for a change and when a good picture comes to town we try to see it. A week ago we had a good laugh at When Our Hearts Were Young and Gay. We had read a condensed version of the book so knew what to expect in part. We thought it was good but the students say, "Those girls were awful dumb." Perhaps there are some advantages in age.

My nephew Foster who has been in the service for a long time is now on the ocean but we do not know in what direction he may have sailed. His parents will soon have his mailing address and that will tell us whether he went east or west. Which ever it is it is a long ways from home. We are looking forward eagerly to the time when you may be having a vacation or a furlough or delay-in-transit or whatever it is that will let you come home for a rest and change. Eva thinks a great deal about it and talks about "when George comes." We hope it will not be too long.

Mr. Welmers says that Everett has had an offer of a position in some other place but he thinks that he will stay where he is now. He likes that place and owns his home there. Mr. Welmers is having some rather serious trouble with his eye and is disturbed about it but does not like to have anyone inquire about it. We are all wondering if he will retire next year when he becomes 70.

Here comes Eva with some supper on a tray so that will put a period to this letter.

With all good wishes, - Cordially - Anne -

Dearest George,

February 5, 1905

Am busy mending the bathroom ceiling. I did the bottom walls and underwork Cas. & walls and, in order to avoid another period of stiffness, I am keeping at that sort of work. The D. A. R. meets here Thursday. Did not try to play around for the meeting - I think I'll go skating if the weather is suitable. There is quite a large skating place not very far from here. I haven't been yet this winter but only last week did I discover there was a good place at least of ice all right & was here. I shall have to prepare equipment. There is a committee for that. But I do want the house to be passably clean. And I feel much better when I work hard. I miss you and think of you too, whenever time allows I am doing a few small jobs. I shall find it very difficult to do anything that I want to do - I receive everything that I later much planning. I am glad, however, that I can do some jobs. I do enjoy the birds and wish I could send them to you and Alaska, such as ^{different} ~~various~~ ways in need of the joy they bring me. I keep thinking there may be to hear me, a good while perhaps. But the men we have are very gay again, much. The chickadee seems liveliest when the weather is coldest. 4° below has been our lowest and that only once. And in the paper there has been 111 numbers seen in type case. We've had about 35 and that seems a lot. I wonder whether I read that right. I mean about type case. Well back to the ceiling and then the floor wall! Much, much love as always,
Ever

Holland, Michigan
March 25 1945

My dear George,

Eva was so delighted when your letter came the early part of the week that we decided to answer it soon for then we could begin to look for another.

The bad upset which sent Eva to the hospital a few weeks ago is still having its effect upon her and according to the books it will be a long time before she gets the diet regulated as well as it was before. She tries so hard and measures and weighs her food and makes charts and tests but still it seems very hard to make it come out right all the time and she has some rather bad reactions. But we shall try not to be discouraged and it will all work out in time. Eva looks fine and I am in hopes that when you see her you will think that there is a marked improvement in her nervous condition.

Spring is almost a month earlier than usual this year so we are busy in the yard now doing many jobs that ordinarily come later. We have been making some changes in the vegetable garden and are going to put in a strawberry bed and also an asparagus bed. That will make the space for vegetables smaller but we feel that we will have room enough and that we will get a great deal of pleasure from these other things and that they will not be as much work as the vegetables. We have ordered the plants and roots from Harris and are trying to get the ground ready before they come. We may have frost later but they are hardy and will not suffer.

An old man in a neighborhood grocery told me a new weather sign the other day. If there is a thunder storm in March there will be a frost on the same date in May. So we will have to watch out for May 16 for that was the day in March when we had a regular thunder storm.

The spring birds have begun to come and many of the winter ones are still with us so we have lots of company. Eva saw a female hairy wood pecker the other day. That was the first time we had seen her at the station although the male bird comes once in a while. The ~~hairy~~ downy wood pecker are still here and so are the cardinals. We hope they will nest near but don't know anything we can do to persuade them of the advantages of our nesting places. On Friday we took our lunch and drove to a woody hill where the hepaticas are lovely and while there we saw a brown creeper and a thousand (I didn't count them) juncos. Suppose they are migrating?

Eva is much interested in all that you write about the flowers you find. How fine that you could have a meeting with the scientists for it would give you a great lift after the monotony of your island life. Eva is enclosing a letter which she had from Dr. Walker which will tell you about the book you wanted.

I must not forget to say that Eva's foot is better. We had Mr. Schouten come and look at it. He said she had sprained the tendon which goes from the heel to the knee and had also bruised the heel bone. He said to keep off it and apply dry heat. We did that for almost two week and then all of a sudden it was better and she could walk with out the crutches. It still swells a little some nights but not bad and there is no pain.

With all good wishes - Anne -

No. 9 did not know the name of the nest. E

Please return -
Eva

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 25

February 5, 1935

Dr. Eva B. Van Schaack
Coxackie, N. J.

Dear Doctor Van Schaack:

As I am not sure you are still in Michigan, I am writing you at your home address.

You have probably heard from your brother of his botanical activities in the Aleutians and of his valuable contributions to the paper on the Aleutian flora which it was my lot to prepare. Because of the stimulating influence of your letter of last March 3d inquiring about a flora of the Aleutians and because you put me in touch with your brother, I am asking the Smithsonian to send you a copy of the War Background Study on the Aleutians, issued today. Had you not started me thinking in this direction I might not have responded favorably to the suggestion that I participate in this project. I sincerely hope the results prove more satisfactory to George than would Hulten's flora. Incidentally your returning that work impelled me really to look into it, and when I did I realized how wholly inadequate it was for his needs.

George recently wrote me that he was concerned lest he be transferred to another station before he had another summer to collect. In my efforts to get others in the service interested, I am using George's experience as an example of the morale building effect of a sideline interest in collecting. So you see your letter of inquiry has had far reaching effects.

The collections which George sent reveal clearly that he was on Attu last summer, as a number of the species are known only from that westernmost island.

Sincerely

E. H. Walker

E. H. Walker
Assistant Curator
Division of Plants

Dearest George,

I am writing to Dr. Walker to send you Hulten's book if he still has it and can spare it. Since I do not like to keep him waiting ^{for the money}, I am sending him the money and you can reimburse me. I do not think the book will keep us identifying plants but the collecting

Mamma has received the publication mentioned and did not send it on to me as I had for she was interested in it upon finding your name. She may send it had from asking Dr. Walker. I will get a copy of it for you to have. I do not know how to contact you, but I will try to get it to you.

Chaplin will undoubtedly interest you. After I had
 returned to Dr. Wacker last Spring was very ^{glad} for I was
 had a fountain to know ^{how} what you needed. I mean I was
 less able than ^{now}. What about blotters and a plant
 press? I could not send you a package that large, but
 perhaps Mr. Wacker could. ~~The ^{two} people in Chicago~~
~~announced quite recently that they had blotters of various~~
~~sizes. I'll try to find that and send it to you. Perhaps you~~
~~could order them directly. I am limited by 5 lbs. weight and~~
~~15" in length and 36" in length plus girls. If you had~~
~~blotter and corrugated cardboard to put between every 50~~
~~many blotters your work would be greatly simplified.~~
 You wrote in your letter of about Feb. 6 (your collection
 one ready ^{was in the hospital then} Feb 13 - in 7 days) or perhaps it was the ~~1st~~ one
 just before that, ~~that~~ not to send you more food since you
 expected to be transferred. ~~Wacker~~ wrote just this week that
 you had written ^{recently} or you would have a package this
 season - that is, the Spring or Summer. I have a notion
 to send you something anyway. It's not for the moment
 cheese would be all right. I guess, for ^{we} seem to be very short of good
 points. I don't know how it happened. Perhaps having your ^{small} ^{pieces}
 away or in one way or another ~~we~~ we've used a lot. I fell certain
 the ~~big~~ ^{nut} ^{meats} would please you. I once sent me a few
 at Christmas time and just as I was getting your package
 ready I cracked them and sent you the larger piece, h. and
 I had the small piece ^{apple + celery} salad. (We did eat some h. ^{h.}
 in passing! How don't remember to write me for sending
 the nuts meats to you. I'd send you anything good I have
 I thought I would please you. h.'s account of Schuller
 London is a little wild but no matter. I visited ~~with~~ Schuller
 London, St. Paul and was anchored in feet and knee, and turned
 a horse in the way of its head. The doctor didn't seem interested. I should
 tell you that the upshot with my diabetes, was caused by a very
 quickly developing intestinal bug. Never before have I had
 threatened coma although that was good luck in part - keep
 my love to you in great measure and see them and pictures
 that back for the spirit you have and for your contributions to science.

The plant album on the other side is for you.