



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

W. Coxackie N. Y.

Sept 19. 1947.

Dear George,

With your mother's letters going to you right along, I trust you gather from them that we are getting along alright.

I had dreaded the time when you were leaving. But I've been pleasantly surprised that things have been going very good. She is looking forward for Eva to come, altho she doesn't like it 'cause I'm going away. Any way she ask if I were going away when she comes and she said, 'It was too much for her to take care of Eva alone.' So I told her, Eva was better and was going to take care of her.

No doubt I should have had your mother to have at least sent you a birthday card, but I was afraid to mention it, afraid she would want to go shopping and I knew neither of us would know what to select for you. But in the letter

where you mentioned your birthday, she didn't seem to take any notice of it.

Last night I went down to her room half past nine, she was fully dressed and asleep on top of the covers. But the register is set on 70°. So I guess she won't get cold any way.

The last 3 nights have been much cooler. with warm sun in day time. Cloudy to-day.

We took Bessie to dentist in Catskill on Tues. your mother has appointment to get her teeth cleaned next Tues.

So glad to hear you have a nice room. And ~~Self~~ ~~and~~ ~~Veronica~~ you have a fine year.

BROWNIE

Sincerely Virginia



Dr. Geo. B. Van Selsack
Dept. of Math.
Washington University
St. Louis 5-
Missouri

Mrs S.W. Delp.
W. Coxsackie
N.Y.

Dear George, I will
write for you.

Mathematics Department.

I just wrote letter to Harold -
He sent me a long letter from
you. I have had a nice
time today but now I am not
ready to go to bed. I hope
some day you will have a
chance to visit us some time.

My teeth are all fixed so
I guess I'll not have trouble
about my teeth. Now I must
go to bed soon - I long to see you.
We hope we will come here soon.
Hope you are happy and will
help as well as you can.
Love from Mother to you.

Sept. 28, 1947

Dear George,

your letter came
yesterday, that was really
air service. not long ago I
had air mail from Eva and
it was 3 days getting thru.

I was glad to hear from
you, and thank you for the
check. But it was perfectly
alright that you hadn't
written before. Of course I knew
where you were all the time, as
I had seen all of your mother's
letters. I wrote only because
I know her letters to you and
the others are not too straight,
and I thought you should know
we were making out alright.

Yes, your mother misses
you a great deal and realizes

of had gotten stamps for your mother not long ago, but she finds them. She wishes of me can find them.

you are quite far away, yet before you had reached St. Louis she was looking for you to come home. I tell her you are too far and that you have only started on your school. She says, 'yes, she knows, but you might come when we aren't looking for you.' What I had dreaded, I was afraid she would worry herself sick and beg for us to send for you. But she has been well as can be - Eating like she did before you went to Canada. Very hungry for each meal. Can hardly wait.

Eva is to come Friday, 3rd.

She first wrote she would be here Sept 30. on Tues. then the air mail wanted to know if it would be alright not to come till Friday.

I had planned to go to Hudson on Wed. as Gordon & I are going

some business to gather. Then I am to go to Waynes on Sunday Oct. 5 to stay the rest of the month. Our address there is Ravena R.D.

Edith is entering Catskill hospital next Sunday for an operation Monday morning -

So I will take care of the children & keep house. - Tho I didn't know a thing about this last June, or when ever it was that I told you I thought we better make plans for me to give up the job. Then we agreed that I would stay at least till Jessie got home which would be end of Sept. So then after I thought I would be making a change Edith told me the Dr had said some time ago she needed a minor operation, could I come and help out, before I got new employment

else where. So of course I promised to go.

Now, I think it is a good thing that Eva is coming to stay a while. She will have a chance to feel things out, and be more satisfied in her decision, for she has written me she feels she should take care of her mother etc. But so far as I know now I can come back in a few weeks to stay the rest of the winter. But if Eva should want to stay on I will look for new employment.

As to me being able to stand it to stay on here has been hard to decide too. But I haven't been so upset, or at least beside myself for quite a while, and I believe it is because I am more firm with your mother, that is in a way. She doesn't make any ado of her spitting any more

I've decided to go to church to-day but went for a walk this PM. Pleasant day after my first had 3 or 4 frost already. Walk 7 min. garden in shade and coming to

Once when she was having rather a bad spell, soon after you left I tried to get her to use the salt water, but she just wouldn't. So now we don't even mention it or have any on hand-

yesterday noon we talked about Eva coming next Friday. I told her it was a week-almost. Last night when we came in from our drive she said, "I thought Eva might come to-day!" Then to-day she ask me if I knew yet when it was that Eva was coming. So really she has no idea of the time- and she hunts for something a lot of the time. But I think if I read a lot and not pay too much attention, and come to my room part time as I do, seems I should keep myself under control.

I feel sorry for Wilbur part of the time, for his mother is out in hall asking for money sometimes several times a day. He gave her hand. ful of silver which she

liked ^{it} very much.

Your mother didn't have any teeth pulled. The girl cleaned them for her. Took about 15 min. was 2.

I had wondered how you were getting along finding some thing you could eat. I'm sorry its such a problem.

I'm also sorry to tell you I have over run my allowance - A few weeks ago Eva sent me a \$10 check and said for me to get some things she knew her mother needed and that she would get money perhaps from you later. So I wrote her that you made a check to Sears and we had the things she needed.

But as I've run short I've cashed Eva's check and using that - Of course the buying of peaches and tomatoes to can - ^{3 milk or 4 eggs} extra sugar & can rubbers & tape etc. wasn't so much - then getting the car greased - and

I had used ^{it} already at the beginning of this mo - and 2 milk bills one first of mo. & one yest. So you can see it really takes a lot. Hope you may yet find a good place to eat.

Sincerely, Virginia

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Dr Geo. B. Van Schaack
Dept. of Mathematics
Washington University
St. Louis. 5-
Ms.

V. Delp
West Cossackie
N. Y.



A Country Lane

pcw



With best wishes for

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Virginia

Dec. 10 1947.

Dear George.

As your mother hasn't written to you, (or I don't believe she has) since I came last Wednesday, I thought I better send you a few lines.

Your mother is looking for you to come, so doesn't want to write. Most every day she says she doesn't know why George doesn't come. I try to explain that you have to wait until you get your vacation, etc.

I think Eva + her mother enjoyed being together very much. She is also looking for Eva right away too. But I think that will wear

off.

Your mother seems well
and about the same as before
I left two months ago.

Eva took the nine o'clock
train from Albany last
Friday night.

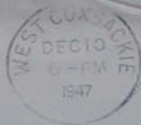
We have had a little snow
but it is all off now. Was
a very windy day yesterday.

The birthday pkg. to your
mother came this A.M. ^(thankies are beautiful)

Thank you for the check which
was waiting for me when I re-
turned.

It is calm and cold to-day
Sun shining, your mother &
I are about to be off to her
Missionary meeting.

Hope you have a nice trip
home. Sincerely Virginia



Dr. George B. Van Schaack
Dept of Math
Washington University
St. Louis. 3-
Missouri

Mrs S W Delf
W. Coxsackie
N. Y.



Dec. 14/1947

Dear George.

Eva wrote that she had a nice trip. Miss Boyd met her in Grand Rapids.

It is nice that you are coming home just a week from now. Your mother is looking for you every day, though she hasn't said as much about it last couple of days as she did. She realized it was her birthday, enjoyed the cards she got and Jessie brought in a little cake with a few candles on it just before we had supper. She liked it very much. The handkerchieves you sent are simply gorgeous. Eva got your mother in the habit of using the paper hankies, which is much better for every day use.

I think it is too bad for you to have to do the cooking for yourself & your mother all the time you are here, especially since you are all tired out and need rest. But with no spare bed rooms, it

might not be so comfortable on downpart
for so many nights. Altho I'm sure it
will be alright for me to sleep there on these
nights, when you are leaving on Friday
after Christmas.

I would like to suggest to you now,
(for I may forget it when you come) that
you put a tangerine and a glass of
milk, maybe a bowl of rice crispies on
the table at night, and maybe you can
get your mother not to call you early
mornings while you are here. Two mornings
lately I had a tangerine in her plate
and she had eaten them, says she is
so hungry before I get up, which is little before
eight. I expect I will be up earlier this week.

We have a coating of snow and it
is quite cold. 40° above this morning
and I don't believe it went up to 30° at
all to-day.

Thank you so much for planning to
let me have Christmas and so many
days off.

Hope you have a nice trip
Sincerely Virginia



Dr. G. B. Van Schaack
Dept. of Math
Washington University
St. Louis 5
Missouri

Mrs T. M. Dals
W. Coxsacke
N. Y.



W. Cosackie N.Y.

Jan 9, 1945.

Dear George,

Despite the storm you had to encounter on your Christmas vacation. I suppose you are back to your duties in school.

We continue to have real winter here. Altho the past two days were beautiful, and your mother and I were out with the car, third time, yesterday

enclosed in last letter.
And I thank you again
for my nice Christmas
vacation.

Your mother's mouth
conditions seems to have
improved a great deal,

and she keeps well and
about the same. She
has been looking for you
the last few days - She
stood your going away
very well - and only
the last couple of days
talked of you coming back.

since Christmas, It did
us both good to get out
again. We took Mrs Moore
with us and drove to
Athens and back on the
river road.

This morning it is
sleetng and raining
The roads are a sheet
of ice. Yesterday the roads
were bare. with high banks
of snow on the sides.

Thank you so very
much for the two checks

With best wishes
Sincerely
Virginia



Dr George B Van Schaack
Math. Dept.
Washington University
St Louis 5
Missouri

Mrs V. M. Delp
W. Coxsackie
N. Y.

VMO

January 23, 1948

Dear George,

Before the end of the month I thought I would write to let you know I have a nice balance of household money. We drove to Catskill yesterday. Jessie went with us. We both got quite a lot of groceries, so I shouldn't have to get very much more this next week altho I will have one more milk bill. But I have \$37 so should still have about 30 by end of the month, and think another 25 should be enough for next month.

We haven't been able to go out in the car very much

can see things will go on here about the same until schools close for the summer -

We continue to have a lot of very cold weather. we know only by the thermometer, for it is nice in the house - and the whole country side is deep with snow -

Main roads are clear and dry in the middle, we hear back roads are icy -

Your mother and I went with Wilbur & Jessie to Belle Coopers funeral last Monday. Have you heard that Miss Morgan died week or two ago - Wilbur told us last night that Chas Winnems was buried yesterday, the fellow

So yesterday was the first gas we caught this month -

I have heard from Eva, but as yet, she didnt know what she is going to do. but wanted to know how long I can stay on, and if I will stay any after the end of June. As I promised to stay till then if she should get located - So I have written her that I can't stay any longer than July 1st and if she feels like coming before then I will be glad for her to come, but I dont aim to urge her -

I just thought I would let you know the plans, and you

that was at Rattie Townsends - Mrs Moore told us that Mrs Doyle was never at home, and the house was so cold that Mrs Jackson had to quit staying there -

I believe I forgot to tell you in my other letter that my brother got along nicely, after a time, and he ~~has~~ been at home quite a while - Dan and his family are in Ariz. missing a lot of cold weather!

Guess that is all the news.

Hope you are fine.

Best wishes

Sincerely
Virginie

P.S. Monday - according to our thermometer it was 23° below this morning. Didn't get above zero all day Sat.



Dr George B. Van Schaack
Dept. of Math.
Washington University
St Louis 5
Missouri

V. Delp
W. Cossackie
N.Y.

February 12, 1948

Dear George.

It's above zero this morning, and that is something! On your card to your mother, she received last night you said you had a little snow. I suppose we must have about three feet.

The State road and the road past here are bare in the middle, but side roads I think are mostly bad.

Thank you so much for the two checks. I really had forgotten I hadn't written to you until your card came yest. P.M. and that reminded me I must write, because I know your mother isn't writing to any body, not very often any way. I suggest to her to write some times too.

but she doesn't seem to want to.

I didn't write to Eva for a week
or two and she became quite
worried.

We had the missionary meeting
here yesterday. I didn't tell
your mother till yesterday morning
so things went very well. It was
a cold windy day, so only 5 came.

Sincerely
Virginia



Dr G. B. Van Schaack
Dept. of Mathematics
Washington University
St. Louis 5-
Mo.

V. Delp
W. Cossackie
N.Y.

March 4. 1948.



Dear George,

Thank you for the checks. You didn't have to worry about getting them here to the minute. I still have them. It snowed last Friday night. was rather nice Monday, but snowed all day Tuesday. Guess we got a good ft. in the one day. So we haven't been out since Friday except, we went to church with Wilbur on Sunday - your mother keeps well, as can be. but worries about something most of the time - Her understanding is awfully

only telling you this just in case she tries to tell you some of her worries and you won't know what it is all about.

Eva writes either a card or letter to her mother most every day. In a letter to me she said she has been having some very bad head aches -

Certainly seems queer to think of the grass being green and the early flowers shooting up. And us with snow every where - piled very deep in places - It is sunny now, but not thawing very much -

Best wishes,
Sincerely
Virginia.

one sided. - She tells me about a "hundred" times. (it seems to me) a day that Wilbur have gone somewhere or have Jessie + W. gone; etc. So one morning I said to her, "you have told me a dozen times already that they have gone out." So she goes to bed and cries for hours. and when Wilbur comes in with the mail she tells him, I am mean to her. Some times she tells him that, and I don't even know what she is referring to. She also tells me that Jessie is so cross with her. and Jessie said, she didn't say at all what she told me she did. Every thing is alright. I mean same as always. I'm



Dr George B. Van Schaack
Dept of Mathematics
Washington University
St Louis. 5-
Missouri.

U. Delp
W. Corackie
N. Y.

March 24, 1948.

Dear George

just a few lines to tell you I will have some money left over again this month, and I believe we can level off at \$40 per month. Of course we have hardly had any car expense, and will now be using it

road where the big
trifts had been.

Your mother keeps well
and we are getting along
alright, same as usual
any way. We both enjoy
the car a lot, so that
is an out let from
just sitting in the
house all the time.

We heard "the
Crucifixion" Cantata
Sunday at 2nd church
at 4 P.M.

every day. But I kind
of figure 10 for the car
and 30 for food - altho
we go over 30 part of
the time -

I ordered the lily
They are \$ per bloom this
year. I told her not to
let it go over \$5.

We are having lovely
weather. The snow went
off in a nice way. I
saw a few snow banks
yesterday along the

Hope you have a nice
Easter.

Sincerely
Virginia



Dr Geo. B. Van Schaack
Dept of Math.
Washington University
St Louis 5-
Missouri

Mrs S W Delf
W. Coxsackie
N. Y.

April 6, 1948

Dear George,

I suppose you are back from your trip. Hope you had a pleasant vacation -

We have had some wind and rather cold, part of the time, but on a whole very nice spring weather. The lilac buds are getting quite large now. Wilbur has been cleaning on the back yard this morning, but got rained out, guess it is only a shower.

The sunny days and pleasant weather, somehow makes a big difference in "our dispositions" mine as well as your mother's.

A while back she took a disliking for me, and I said, to Jessie, I didn't know what to do about her being so unhappy with me,

Guess this is all for now
Sincerely
Virginia.

P.S. Mrs Treesdell was in
Church Sunday - just back from
Fla. Rachel has a new baby girl
about 3 weeks old now. Also
Gordon & Margart have baby girl
name "Judy," about 4 weeks old.

Oh, I meant to tell you
your mother was very much
pleased with the Easter Eggs
They are very pretty and your
mother looks at them over and
over again.

Jessie said, "Don't do any thing".
Now that we are out most every
day, we are getting along fine.

Thank you for the two checks.
I'm sure the household allowance
will be adequate, as I had a
nice balance. altho, for food alone
cost \$37+ for March. and honest
I wasn't extravagant or elaborate!

We had a most beautiful
lily. And when Willbur told your
mother it was from George. she
said, "yes, I know, he always sends
me one". So she remembers you
have given them to her before.

Cost \$4. It had six blossoms
and buds, the last ones being
open now. It is a short stemmed
plant so was cheaper than the
tall ones.

Mrs V Delp
W. Coesackie
N.Y.



Dr Geo. B. Van Schaack
Dept. of Math.
Washington University
St. Louis 5
Missouri.

VMO

W. Cossackie N. Y.

April 24, 1948

Dear George,

The care of your mother has gotten to be a very serious problem, and as the time draws near for Eva to leave I dread the responsibility so much I just don't know how to manage. She can't wait till the after-noon to go for a ride, so has gotten out on the street twice. Once when I was hanging the wash on the line from Jessies back room, and once thru Wilbur's front door when she was looking for Eva. Altho she doesn't know Eva and

other things of course - But now we have the problem of her falling, and of her slipping out. I would have to sleep down stairs as she carries on so much thru the night! which would give me no rest.

I hope it is possible to get her into safer surroundings and care earlier than you had planned. I spoke to Eva to-day and ask her if it were at all possible to get her moved right away, and she thinks there is a chance. - But she says she must hear from you first.

Eva has changed, and so have I, about not wanting her to go to an Institution. But the time has ripened fast. A good deal

keeps saying, Eva was going to come, and wonders why she doesn't. She expects you every day.

On Sunday after you left at Christmas, she got to laughing with the woman in the mirror and by next day she was going back and forth from the bedroom to the bath room, trying to get at the woman, so finally by Tuesday she got so nervous and cried over it ^{so much} ~~so~~ Wilbur had to take mirrors out. All of your pictures she tried to feed then one by one all the pictures from the front room had to be taken out 'cause they wouldn't eat. All this we managed and

of the time she doesn't know me,
and she asks Eva about her father &
mother, and if she has any children
at home.

I don't know just why I am telling
you all these things, except of course
I want you to understand. Condi-
tions are bad, and I hope you
will understand and do your
best to help us out. I dislike
very much to quit when you are
depending on me to stay on the two
months longer. But I feel it is un-
safe ^{for her} and very trying for me -
should I have . . . to stay on.

I am terribly sorry to write
this, and hope you don't get too
up set about it.

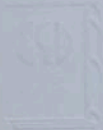
Hoping every thing works out
alright. Sincerely, Virginia



Dr. George B. Van Schaack
Dept of Math.
Washington University
St. Louis 5
Missouri.

Mrs V. Delp
W. Coxsackie
N. Y.





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