

July 25, 1957

Dear Grote:

This will be as brief as I can make it since I have much to do. Schuy has intended writing you for several weeks now but the fact that he is traveling a good bit has made it impossible for him to do so. So I shall take over the keyboard for the moment.

I'm sure you will recall "way back when" - the matter of who wants certain items of furniture was never settled. You indicated that you were interested in some items, but you have never made arrangements to have those items shipped into storage for you. It is now imperative - I hate to use exclamation points and capital letters, but it IS IMPERATIVE that you make some arrangements about those items immediately. We are about to move from this house - in a matter of two or three weeks - and we must have this matter settled before we move.

As I recall the items in question were these:

1. Library table - which formerly stood in living room at 212.
2. Bookcase - which formerly stood in attic near chimney. Has glass doors. (The chimney did the back of the bookcase no good, but you may still wish to have it).
3. Two chairs. Made of chrome - one with yellow plastic seat, and one with arms and brown plastic seat.
4. One set of old Century Dictionaries (which were inside the glass doored bookcase).
5. Certain items of china and silver. When you last mentioned these things, you said that you did not want all of one pattern and none of another, but some of each. Schuy also has his own wishes in this matter. Frankly, he feels that to do as you suggest would be almost criminal -- since it would break up each set and make it utterly useless to either of you. China and silver has value of its own, I suppose, on the open market. But we have no desire to sell. Our only reason for wanting any of the china or silver would be to use it and enjoy it - with particular pleasure, since it belonged to Schuy's parents. He therefore proposes to make as equitable a division as possible - one pattern for you and one for him. He has every intention of being fair and honorable about this, and I must ask that you trust him in this matter. Certainly you will wish to keep some things of your Mother's -- but to divide china and silver on an "equal division" basis seems to me to be putting the stress on the dollar value rather than on the use and sentiment value. There is one item which I would like to request that you agree to let us keep - that is the glass punchbowl, seven punch cups, (I have bought others to go with that set) and the ladles. Altho' a punch bowl is not used often, it is still a pretty piece to use when the occasion demands and I have always gotten a special pleasure from using it in the past. It seems a pity to me to have it kept in storage instead of being available for use. So, please let us know if you agree to my proposal - a purely female request. A small amount of china has been used by us in the past year -- the oldest set, which is far from complete, with pink flowers around the border. There are also some cups and saucers with gold key rim which we have used. As I recall, still in the packing barrels are the dark blue and gold-rimmed dishes; a set of fish design dishes with fish platter; some dessert plates (some with fruit and flower design - others with simple green band); and assorted odd pieces. Oh yes, there are also a great number of demi-tasse cups and saucers - I imagine there are a dozen of these.

As far as the silver is concerned, you will undoubtedly wish to keep one pair of silver candlesticks with your Mother's wedding date inscribed on them -- you will recall that there are two sets of these candlesticks. I believe there is a covered vegetable dish, silverplated; carving set (we have a set of our own); plus the flat table silver. Oh yes - there is also a silver-plated well and tree platter, which

we have been using. Here again, I would like to keep that piece since it is of a good size to be useful to our family. Please let us know your wishes with respect to it, and whether or not you have any desire to keep it yourself.

The flat table silver is in two patterns. One is a simple Lincoln pattern, which we have been using and which we would like to keep. The other is a Rose pattern - with more carving on the handles. There are also assorted odd serving pieces. Schuy would like for us to keep the Lincoln pattern, so please let us know if you agree to that.

I realize that it may be difficult for you to visualize all these things -- matter of fact, I am noting them through memory mostly since they are still packed away here. If there is any special item which you would like to keep, please let us know -- and Schuy will have to be the one to make the ultimate decision, should there be any conflict of wishes.

6. Family photographs. These are still in the large metal box which was in the attic. Schuy will go through them and make up a packet for you and one for himself.

7. The last item I can think of is the dining room furniture (which we dismantled years ago and put up in the attic at 212, after you decided that you did not want to sell it). We have been using it in our dining room here. But we will not use it when we move. Therefore, if you want to have it put into storage for you, Schuy will sell you his share of it for \$100. If you do not want to keep it, we will sell it for whatever we can get on the open market, bearing in mind that used furniture of that period does not bring its full value. It might well be possible to sell it to the people who buy this house. Or else, we can put an ad in the paper.

It consists of one table with three extension leaves; six chairs; one china closet with glass front doors on top; and one small serving table. The small serving table is the only part of it which we might want to keep, should you not want to store the whole set. But if you DO want to keep the furniture, we would include the serving table with the rest of it and send along the entire set.

I believe those are the only items still in question. If I am wrong, please let us know right away. If there is anything which I have overlooked, we must know about it right away. Because we do not want to pay any more transportation charges on furniture which is not our own. We paid to have all this stuff brought down here a year ago, when you did not indicate that you wanted any of it put into storage. Last fall you indicated that you "just want to know where it is now, in case you ever wanted any of it". But I do not believe we should proceed on that basis -- I think you should have your things under your own control; and we should not have custody of anything which might be in question. I say this only to avoid the trouble we went through last year; believe me, our first year in this house was spoiled by all that unpleasantness, and I do not wish to go through that again in a new house -- now or ever.

I have come across an authorization slip from Greyvan Lines. They are the firm which moved us from Wheaton and will move us this time to Memphis. They are a national outfit and very reliable. Once you have let us know just what you want packed and shipped to Hahn's (or wherever you want it shipped), I will supervise the packing and crating. The authorization slip was left with us for our own moving job; but I am sure that it will serve as proper authorization for them to move your things, if you will sign it and return it to us. We cannot send anything to Wheaton for you unless you send authorization. And you will have to arrange for payment on the other end -- perhaps Bert will handle it for you, as I suggested once before. Or perhaps Greyvan will bill you direct.

Just to make sure about all this, I have just spoken with Greyvan about your things. The minimum which they will accept for van transfer is 500 pounds. I assume that the dining room furniture, bookcase, library table, two chairs, china and silver would come to that much. But if it is under 500 pounds, they say it would be foolish to send it by van; far better to send via express or freight for that would be much cheaper.

They would undoubtedly pack it for you, thru their packing service, for a charge. Also, even if Greyvan handles the whole thing, they cannot bill you for it. They must receive payment on the other end. So you had better arrange with Bert or someone else up there to pay the charges for you.

Perhaps the best way for you to handle it would be for you to send a letter to us, authorizing us to have the merchandise packed and shipped by cheapest and safest method. Indicate in there all information about where it is to be sent, and who is to pay for it on the other end. Frankly, our cash is closely invested in buying a house and selling a house and we cannot be responsible for the expense of your shipment at this time.

This may all sound complicated, but please do not write back and say that we have thrust a problem upon you suddenly. Many many months ago we asked you to arrange to have your things sent into storage; but you did nothing about it. We CANNOT move anything of yours along with us -- we have no space for it in the new house, and we will not accept the responsibility of your things.

The only alternative which comes to my mind is that we could have all your things sent into storage here in Louisville. That seems foolish to me, but it is your decision to make.

We may well be moving the week of August 15th - so it is imperative that you write us by return mail, airmail, and let us know what your wishes are. If you do not want any of the furniture in question we will try to sell it and will give you a statement of the amount received.

I hate to harp on money matters, but I will stick out my neck. We were in Wheaton for ten days around the 4th of July. Schuy on a business trip, and the rest of us for fun. We stayed with Mary and Ed Varley - and during a casual conversation, the information slipped out that you had never paid Edgar for the storage charges on your car during all those months when he rented you garage space. That was umpteen years ago; and I am sure that the debt just slipped your mind. I think it came to something like forty or fifty dollars or something like that. Fifty dollars is not a great sum, but frankly it would be helpful to the Varleys. They have their oldest in college - Ed has struck out on his own in insurance - Mary is working at real estate, which is very slow - and I am sure they would appreciate your paying the bill. I leave it in your hands - it would seem to me an honorable act for you to send them a check.

Since we are preparing to move, perhaps you will understand that there are many details of our own to be handled during the next few weeks. It will be an extra day's work for me to supervise the packing of your things - but I will offer to do it in order to get this matter settled. All I ask of you is that you sit down right away and write us - letting us know what you want done. Indicate which items of furniture you want, and indicate your willingness to allow Schuy to make as equitable a division of china and silver as he possibly can. If we do not hear from you, we will have to go ahead and sell the items of furniture -- we have no other choice. We will not sell the china or the silver; but if you do not make a request for a distribution of those things at this time, then I will not be responsible for your interest in them in the future. That is not to say that if you do not speak now you have lost your chance -- but merely to indicate that there is a lot of headache for me in having a doubt over whether or not we should feel free to use certain dishes or silverware. And unless it is settled now, before we move, I will be unwilling to go through the motions of segregating your things from ours in the future.

So - please - let us hear from you immediately. And again - IS THERE ANYTHING I HAVE OVERLOOKED WHICH YOU WANT? If so, please say so right now, instead of six months from now! All this could have been avoided a year ago had you spoken up at that time.

And, Grote, if you write back and cry about how we are trying to do you out of anything or that we are forcing you to act too quickly, I am through - once and for all! The memory of all the mess we went through in the past year is still very clear - and at this time, when our money is needed in several places at once, it is especially clear when we look at the figures in black and white and see that your delay in settling the Wheaton deal cost us over \$600 cash - out of pocket! For such items as travel to Wheaton to try to get it settled; fees paid for the search for lots on which to move the house; interest and finance charges on money we had to borrow for close to a year, because we

did not get our money out of Wheaton; extra taxes which had to be paid on the Wheaton property for seven or eight months, etc. etc. etc. We were actually out of pocket for over \$600. Which does not seem to me at all fair. We mentioned it to Bert, but since he represented both parties he was not legally free to reimburse us. He may have mentioned it to you - he may not. To us, he indicated that he was sure you would not be unreasonable about reimbursing us for the expense you had caused. But at the time it was all wound up, we were so relieved and so exhausted over it that we did not have the strength to write you and start another haggle all over again.

In one sense, we would have no reason to offer to go through the added work of seeing your things sent off to storage for you, under the circumstances. We could well say that we could sell off the whole works and pocket the money ourselves, since you are in our debt. But I feel strongly that you may wish to have some of these things, for their value as part of your family -- and my conscience would not let me dispose of them without your approval.

So -- WRITE US -- IMMEDIATELY. O.K.?

While we were in Wheaton we had a nice visit with Ginny and Jack King. They had been out to Hawaii in January or February - had gotten over to Maui - and had flown over your old installation site. It was their impression that your apparatus had been dismantled and the site was now being used by the government as a radar station.

I hope you are well and successful in your work.

