

September 22, 1938

Dear Esther:

Do you remember in the Titusville house boxes of sea shells? I think you must have played with them. I know your father and Aunt Sara and I did. They came to us from a friend of father's - a sea Captain.

So far as I know the boxes of small shells have disappeared, but a fine conch shell serves as a door stop in the little sitting room at the Farm. The most beautiful piece, so I always thought, was a fine abalone shell which Mother particularly liked. It was passed on to me after her death and I have used it ever since on my dressing table.

A few years ago when I was in Italy I asked a sculpture who made beautiful bronze replicas of old pieces to make a frame for this shell. I have always thought the result, that is the shell in its standard, was one of the most beautiful things I owned. I hope you will feel something of my sentiment for it for I am sending it on to you as a birthday present.

I suppose your Mother keeps you informed of family news. I was up over Sunday and felt that things were getting on as well as could be expected. Your Father is better, but still weak. I do not know what the storm may have done to them in the way of broken trees and wires, but I feel sure they have not been washed into the Atlantic. I do not feel so sure that Aline Wilkes may not have been for she was at Fire Island which the reports say got the brunt of the storm. I have been trying all morning to get in touch with her and now have got the local Red Cross on her track, I hope.

A letter from Sister shows that she is having a tough time getting adjusted to her new situation, but she is plucky and will be a wiser woman when she gets through with this struggle.

Bob has been getting on with two days work a week and doing housework to help pay for his board. Also, taking the Scranton Engineering Correspondence course which is said to be very good. He writes me that his boss tells him that in a very few weeks he will be given full time, probably for two or three years, and if he wants in that time to see his family he better run out now which Bob is thinking of doing - hitch-hiking I suspect.

Franklin who had a bad accident - they feared concussion of the brain - dived into too shallow water - is reported all right again and to be going next week to Georgia. I hope you will try to keep in touch with him. I cannot get a word out of him.

I am glad you have had such a successful summer. I really think you have started something - permanent.

Love to you all