

Wednesday

Dear The Society,

Well it all would have been perfect if you had been there. It was the only flaw. Now I suppose I am meant to go back and recreate it all but from the beginning and don't think I mind and don't think but what you'll all hear it all over again in the same detail when I see you again in person which, I hope, will be soon.

Don called on Wednesday night, after I got back from the concert and said that he had the leave and could we get married please. The answer was yes in case there is any doubt and I immediately called up daddy it being midnight and woke him up out of a sound sleep to say that we would be married on Monday. His comment, "You say you have been married since Monday?" Then I called Eun and telegraphed you people and the next day, since Don couldn't get off and I had much to clean up, I went to work and got everything where I could leave it.

Eunie met me on the train to New York and we went up to Saks and picked out the dresses-for Gilman, Eun and Whit. Frankly they were not everything my little heart would have desired but they were green-but a sort of off green or if I must be frank they were olive. You see what you didn't miss. On the other hand we were damned lucky to get three alike that fitted on such short notice anyway. I then went on to the hotel where Don was meant to meet me at three thirty and as usual someone got hurt and he didn't arrive until five thirty and I had sat for two hours reading the same page and staring blankly out at the redfront houses on West 57th Street. We went over plans with Eun and stuck her on a train to Boston and proceeded to enjoy ourselves mightily. I had dinner on the ship Saturday night after we had paced fifth avenue looking for a ring which we liked and would fit. We finally ended up in Saks and they had a jeweler come down from his shop to enlarge it. We got it at 6 PM Saturday night just as the store closed.

We went up to Cambridge Sunday and got there in the late afternoon by which time Don's parents had arrived and various friends like Aunt Rache had started to arrive and it was all quite mad and for one awful moment I felt very young and bewildered and like a little girl who had had too much Christmas and I thought it would all be quite horrid and then everything was all right all of a sudden and we had a wonderful time. We had a dinner party that night at the Continentals for the Chrisman's, the Fishers and the Bridal party who had never seen each other before but who turned out to be marvelous and we all got along beautifully and it was very nice. Of course I had to tear out at ten to go to the doctor's but that was a small point.

Monday Don and I spent largely in the Third District Court getting a waiver from a kindly judge after he had spent two hours convicting a bunch of shabby looking prisoners to thirty days for crimes ranging from drunkenness to incest. As Don put it what an introduction to married life. Then we whooped off and got the license at City Hall from a character with black hair and spit curls and an Irish brogue and then we went and saw Mr. Pennington, the minister, in the meantime having called up Stearn's to tell them to have my dress ready when I came in and they had apoplexy because I wasn't going to have it fitted. Mr. Pennington was delightful and understanding and when we were told him we wanted to hear the music he suggested we come to the church together and sit in the ministers parlor with him and Uncle Ralph who of course managed to arrive.

In the meantime from what I gather every friend the family ever had was doing yeoman service cleaning my silver and pressing linen to display stuff on and moving furniture and putting white flowers into white pots and ironing my trousseaus underwear as fast as Don's mother put the tucks in the back. Ell iott arrived from Kentucky after two nights up on trains a with a dollar in his pocket and the sentiment that it wouldn't be legal without him. We had a luncheon at the Faculty Club with all the family-Chrisman, Shoe and Usher and Elliott and then I wen back and packed and Elliott and Don took our skiis in and did some shopping a d arrived home exactly 15 minuteds before Don and I were to leave for the church. My dress really did look well-I was rather amazed myself. It was completely simple with a shaped neckline and then I wore a hoop so it stuck out/. The veil turned out beautifully and I carried a very small old fashioned bouquet of carnations and white roses-very simple. The bridesmaids had yellow roses (for Gub). You can see how I missed you.

At four Don and I went down to the church and went out to to the back and listened to Wallace Woodworth who is head of the Harvard Glee Club play for us. We had the Handel Largo, Aa Mozart Organ Concerto, a Handel Organ Concerto, the fourth movement of the Brahms First. Then I ducked around through the basement and up in front-leavi g Don to cope with two frantic ministers . They were w worried because Elliott hadN8t arrived as yet but we knew he'd be late. Finally they all arrived and addy was trying to convince the Head Usher that he should go down in the family pew when I reminded him that if he didn't mind I'd like him to go down the aisle with me. He was horribly nervous poor dear and I felt marvelous. The ceremony itself was very simple-we used the Unitarian-and very lovely and we both were quite firm about what we had to say. We neither of us dropp ed the rings but I must admit that what with concentrating on not losing my engagement ring and turning around with hoop and train and getting my flowers back from Eunie I nearly forgot to kiss Don. Oh I forgot- I came in on the Beethoven Ode to Joy and we had the Tannhauser March for a Recessional/

Tye reception was fun because it was smwll-the house looked lovely-all lit by candle light and Seilers were there and the food-what I got of it-was marvelous but that wasn't much. Pop disappeared completely so I had to manage the reception line. We cut the cake and everything was most traditional. I cut first a peice for us, then one for Granma, then one for Don's mother and then I announced the next piece as for the Society and it was given to Mrs. Breed to take care of.

We left about 6 and nearly got out without the confetti act by dint of my turn ing out the downstairs lights from upstairs but they caught us. Damn them. We went out to the country-to a wonderful little inn and had our own living room with a fireplace and one forgot that there had ever been a war atall. It was marvelous and Tuesday there wqs the bright clarity which is only New England winter sun and old white houses and little boys going to school and I was most happy and so was Don. We went on further north then and spent our time skiing in feet of snow. I can't tell you wher exactly because Don wants it for us-don't ask why unless he's making an early at empt to control a garralous wife. But the snow was marvelous and the scenery better and God I love New England.

We went back to Cambridge thursday night by which time the family had nicely vacated the house and we had the place to ourselves. We used all our own on

china and silver and linen and it was all very much like being married for years. We had a bang-up celebration of Christmas and then went back to NY. Don left Sunday morning.

I hope this is enough detail and I hope we can repeat it all some time as EH suggested and I did miss you all dreadfully. As for married life-I had expected it to be wonderful but I had never expected it to be so complete and so peaceful all at once. Don and I spent most of the time wondering why we had waited so long. I feel so close to him now that the separation is nothing.

love to you all

miriam