

LINE 210

[Linschmeyer?]

4724 Big Bend Blvd.
Webster Groves 19, Mo.
April 10, 1945

APR 12 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt

4/12/45-JS

Your daily newspaper column is a source of great interest to me, but I probably would have gone on reading it indefinitely without written comment, if you hadn't mentioned your mother-in-law's dishes yesterday. I have a small number of pitchers and hand-painted china plates, and adding to this collection is one of my best enthusiasms. You stated that you hoped your children would want to use many of the things you didn't use. If there's a plate or a pitcher or a vase in one of the barrels that no one wants, or would miss particularly, I would appreciate it from the bottom of my heart and assure you that it would receive the most loving care and would repose in an antique mahogany cabinet that I found recently in my browsing.

I am a housewife, as of October 1943, (worked as a secretary for 16 years) have 3 brothers and a sister in service (2 Navy, one Army band wounded in German breakthrough in Dec), one Spar, who joined to keep from worrying about her husband in Air Force), do 2 days of volunteer work each week; 3 days each week at a part time job. It is a real relaxation to turn to a book on china or glass collecting when the battle news is especially discouraging, or post war plans for jobs or peace seem ready to fall apart. The psychologists call it escape I think, but it seems harmless and restores my tranquillity of mind.

As stated above, I read your column

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Daily — I don't always agree with your views. Though not a Southerner, I feel as they do toward negroes. However, since doing Red Cross volunteer work in the Home Service Section, I have tried hard to regard them as fellow men and to view their plight from the proper social angle. Although the current attitude of those in St. Louis, en masse, keeps me from ever going out alone at night, I do believe that with proper education and food and medical care they may eventually be elevated to a better scale of life. In spite of this logic, I have tried to persuade my husband to settle in another community where there is no race problem — if there is such a community.

In the beginning this was to be a simple request for a piece to add to my collection — the letter "just grewed". You see, many an evening has passed all unknowing as my brother, sister, husband and I discussed some controversial topic mentioned in your column. We don't always agree, but at least our minds are opened to new angles on the topic discussed and we gain a better insight. I hope you will continue writing the column. If only all housewives would read it and state their views. Perhaps the weight of public opinion snowballing from this would make for a better country.

God bless you.

Most respectfully
Helen W. Linszenmeyer
(Mrs. Robert N. Linszenmeyer)