Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive
Series: Marguerite ("Missy") LeHand Papers
Box 10; Folder = Correspondence: Roosevelt, Anna [Dall, Boettiger], 1939-1940 and undated
June 10th, 1939

Dearest Missy:

It was grand to get your letter. We've been imagining all the hustle and bustle and headaches of preparing for the royal visit. According to press stories the King and Queen have been worried stiff as to whether the U.S. would give them a cheering welcome or one mingled with boos. I can well imagine that all of those who had anything to do with the preparations will be terribly near collapse after tomorrow has passed. Pa and Ma will probably not breathe entirely freely until their royal personages have passed safely over the Canadian border once again! Those who probably enjoyed the "show" most were Jimmy, Elliott, Frankie and the gals, as I don't suppose they had much worrying to do. We wished we could have joined them in looking on.

Please tell Pa many, many thanks for the check. I'll drop him a line later, but hate to even bother him with a note right now, especially as we're hoping and praying that Congress and Europe and all the other millions of details that plague him can be taken care of (temporarily!) so that he can take the trip west. We're counting so strongly on seeing you all soon!

I'm deeply apologetic about Pa's check to me for last September. Either I never received it, or I lost it, for I have no record of it. I'm truly not in the habit of such casualness and feel very much ashamed! I think you'd better forget about it - I'd hate to own up to Pa!

We're on the train now on the way from San Francisco to Seattle. John made a speech on Treasure Island to the wine makers, grape growers, bottlers and merchandisers of California who are launching a big advertising campaign which we, of course, to get our share of. We then borrowed a car, and at Mr. Hearst's request paid him a days visit at San Simeon. He was very friendly and happy (because Marion is on the wagon!) but gives me the feeling more than ever of being completely removed and out of touch with the world as it is today. We are told he still has charge of the editorial policies of his papers, but, again, my feeling is that he very largely controlled in all things by those who are in charge of the business end of his ramified businesses. Aside from all this, and a few business calls we managed to go off dancing alone two or three times - our
first "toots" in many, many months.

Now, we rarin' to see the kids and find out how much young Johnny has gained since we left!

Lots of love, and see you soon - I HOPE!

Anna
September 12, 1939

Dearest Missy:

It was grand to get your note, even though you did have to labor on Labor Day! The check is, of course, very, very welcome. What check isn’t? But quite honestly, I don’t see how you find the time for such details. I can well imagine how really hectic life is for everyone around the W. H. these days. Pa’s calmness and patience is so remarkable, in the face of the increasing responsibilities.

Mother wrote that she was a little worried because Pa had had a return of his nose trouble. I do hope that the weekend at Hyde Park helped some, and that he did manage to get a little rest on his cruise.

You certainly have not had much holiday this year, so be sure to take good care of yourself.

The whole family here are fine; the two oldest kids back at school, and young Johnny doing his best to stand up, at five months.

Let me hear from you whenever you get a chance, and give Pa my love and a great many thanks.

Always affectionately,

Anna
September 22, 1939

Dear Missy:

Thanks a lot for sending me the packages from Rose Kennedy. She sent Johnny the sweetest little coat and hat and two little wash suits, with a note telling me that Joe had commented that these garments were only a beginning as styles would have changed by the time the other eight children had arrived! I'm afraid Joe doesn't know me very well!

We listened with bated breath to Pa's speech yesterday. It was very wonderful and beautifully delivered.

I hope you are all getting a rest at Hyde Park this weekend.

Always affectionately,

Anna

Miss M. A. Le Hand
The White House
Washington, D.C.
November 8, 1940

Anna dear,

I have your letter of the fifth and am sending a letter of thanks to the lady for the poem. I can imagine what you have gone through out there but isn't it wonderful to have it all so happily over.

The President is very, very sleepy and now has come the let-down but he is in good spirits -- is sleeping late in the morning and going early to bed! Next week he is taking three or four days off and will just "sit" on the POTOMAC down the bay, do stamps, read and sleep some more, taking with him only two or three of the men who like him and are also in need of a rest. Of course it will not be much diversion but physically will be very helpful.

Are you coming East for Christmas? I wish you could. I wanted so much to say hello to you election night but there was too much confusion and too many people who wanted to do the same thing.

Lots of love to all of you.

Affectionately,
November 5, 1940

Missy dear:

I don't know what you're doing with all the election mail and poems. It just happens that the attached one is the only one that has come to the United States with the specific request that it be sent on to Father. This doesn't mean that we haven't been deluged with lots more, however! Naturally, we've also been deluged with so much vitriolic tripe, and the latter has literally nauseated me. You should have seen the special enormous banner headline in red which the Seattle Times ran here when Steve and the negro policeman had their argument. Well, I guess I'd better not get started on all that!

Father has done such a terrific and perfect job with his speeches, that words can't describe what I feel. I only hope that he won't feel exhausted when all the excitement is over.

This is all for now - plus lots of love.

Affectionately,

[Signature]
Missy dear:

Thanks for your little note which came with the Christmas stocking for Sis. I immediately mailed your letter of thanks to the gentleman.

We hate to think we are not going to be with you for Christmas, but are hoping against hope that John and I can get away from here in time to be in Washington for Inauguration.

I hope to goodness that Father is getting a real rest on this trip, and that you yourself are getting a little chance for relaxation.

Love from us all,

Anna

P.S. - The check just arrived and is naturally a great boon! Thanks no end! I'll write.
December 19, 1940

Dear Missy:

Chief E. W. Yoris, and Captain Fortner, of the Seattle Policy Department, and Mr. John Wachter, of the Post-Intelligencer, are tomorrow shipping to Father some moose meat. The meat is the result of a hunting trip they all took in British Columbia. It has already been well hung, and therefore can be eaten immediately. I just wanted to let you know that this was arriving, because I realize how many packages there are arriving at the White House just now!

Merry Christmas to you, and lots of love,

Anna

Miss M. A. LeHand
The White House
Washington, D.C.
Dear Missy, Grace and Paula,

Your perfectly delicious gift to John and me arrived last evening, and I can't tell you how thrilled we are!

We promptly and obligingly figured out that we should use the glasses for cocktails as well as all wines except champagne - and we don't drink the latter!

We loved mother's
Passed, and are so very happy that there match them.

A million thanks to all three of you from this very appreciative and very stiff-dwellers.

Paula, thank you loads for your very sweet note! I am terribly sorry that you have been ill and I hope that all goes well with you soon. Don't you feel when any of you, separately or collectively, come to N.Y.
that we want you to come up and pay us a visit. You can have your choice of beverages from either your glasses or Mothie's!

Many thanks again.

Affectionately,

March 5, '35

Anna