

Tully Archive: LeHand Papers

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Marguerite ("Missy") LeHand Papers

Box 10; Folder = Correspondence: Unidentified

Correspondence: Unidentified



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, October 23, 1939.

Dear Missy:

Thanks very much for your nice letter, and for the enclosure too. Honestly, I had forgotten all about the rod and reel, so that when the check popped out, Oh, Boy!! it was like finding money that had been cached in an old vase and forgotten. Probably the reason why I forgot is that I am always in funds now, for I am getting \$2500 a year, as against the \$1 per year I was receiving when I was with the SEC and the Maritime Commission. I hope the repairs to the rod and reel were satisfactory and that the fish were not so choosy that they refused to be hooked with a built-over tackle.

We have been terribly busy, but it has been a most interesting experience, and Mrs. Moore and I are still living in our little apartment next door to the Embassy. We have had three air raid warnings. Of course I did not know that the first one was a try-out, but try-out or no try-out, I was the number one man in the dug-out all three times. I never paid much attention to the expression: "He sleeps with one ear open", because I thought that was an impossible stunt, but I am ambidextral, I sleep with two open, and when that siren chirps and before it can get its breath to chirp a second time I am on my way yelling "Tally Ho"! I can dress so fast that all I need is one minute's start on any bomb built and I will be down five flights of stairs and into the dug-out sitting in a reserved seat with gas mask on and still be a minute ahead of the bomb. If there is any race track in the country that will agree to start the dogs with a siren instead of a gong I will enter myself against the pick of the greyhounds of the world, give them half a lap, and bet that I can beat not only them, but also the tin rabbit they chase, to the barrier.

I never knew before that the ladies used so many gajets for fixing their hair before retiring, but you learn lots about coiffures at 3 a.m. in an air raid shelter. Just so that you will be ahead of Vogue, the very latest thing in ladies wear is a one-piece siren

costume/

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,
The White House.

custume consisting of pants and blouse with hood attached. One "zip" and they are ready for the cellar. It is marvellous how the girls can hop with flapping stockings down over their shoes. We have the last word in shelters. They tell me that it is a dandy; that it will stand up against anything but a direct hit, and is equipped with shovels and pickaxes so that if the building falls on top of us we can always dig ourselves out. Do not be alarmed if you should hear a report that I am among the missing, for confidentially I am spending my evenings at home charting the currents and drifts that occur in the Atlantic between here and America and the first time that Joe relaxes his vigilance I am going to start swimming for New York via Palm Beach.

If you have an opportunity please remember me most kindly to the President. Also give my kind regards to Steve, Grace and Paula, and to you I send all best wishes for good luck and happiness.

Most sincerely,

Eddie

*P.S. 5:15 P.M. Monday Oct 23. 1939
Jim all right yet
E*

Miss Marguerite A. Leland,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

This is funny because I don't remember opening it and wouldn't, knowing it was personal.

Return
to
Missy

SERVICE
OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, February 8, 1940.

Dear Missy:

You certainly were sweet, with all the things you have to do, to remember us at Christmas, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness more than we can tell. We were away when your cable arrived but the office relayed it and it came to us just about as we were to sit down to Christmas dinner. This year with Rose and Joe and the children in America and being the second year we were away from our families it looked for a while that Christmas for us would be a dull one, but it turned out swell. We had a house in the country for the holidays, invited an American couple along and had loads of fun decorating the tree and house with wreaths and holly. We stayed for ten days there. Joe's butler and cook took care of us, and she certainly knew how to cook a real (Somerville) Christmas dinner.

Mrs. Moore and I are fine and not a bit worried. The only thing that does get out goat is the blackout, and it is perfectly terrible. It is not much fun prowling around after it starts in, for buses and taxicabs can still hurt a lot if they creep up and nudge you. However the days are getting longer and daylight-saving starts this month, so it won't be long now before we can have a little exercise before bedtime and not have to stay in the house every night listening to the terrible radio programs they have here.

Sugar, butter, ham and bacon are now being rationed and they tell us that by March 15 all meats, with the exception of chicken and liver, will be rationed. They must have had me in mind when they left out chicken and liver, for I am very fond of both. To give you some idea of how London feels about bombing, up to a month ago every one carried a gas mask; now nobody does, and parents want their children returned to the evacuated areas, but

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.



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Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

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I am quite sure if they drop a bomb around these parts all this will change overnight.

The mails are terrible. You never know when to expect one and not sure when one will go out. It takes a letter many times as long to come by Clipper as it would by boat. A Christmas box has not yet arrived. It was mailed before Christmas, and Mrs. Moore is pretty cross about it and wants to sue somebody if I can find someone for her to sue, as it contains a dozen pairs of nice silk stockings, gifts from a sister and friends. I am quite sure that you are closer in touch with the news of the world than I am here, so I will not attempt to give you any.

Please give my kindest regards to the President and remember me to Steve and Grace and Paula, and to you I send best wishes for all good luck and happiness.

Sincerely,

Eddie

PRESS ROOM

PRESS ROOM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Miss Le Hand:

Please dont expect too much of Miss Tully today. After cheek-to-cheek dancing for several hours with Senator Barkley a little girl is very apt to be tired the following day.

Fred Stor says he heard a report that Grace and Senator Capper of Kansas were offered a bill at Roxy's -- four a day -- to do their little hopping number.

I just came back from the bank where I cashed the check

E L R.

with
paper
to offer
send
her
get
for
to ask
paid

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PRESS ROOM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Missy:

I had an awfully hard time selling this one.
Please send the money to the pres-room. I'll be
waiting.

E L R

with
paper.
to offer
send
her
paper
table
thank
her hand

RENTING OFFICE
VINCENT ASTOR APARTMENTS
120 EAST END AVENUE

BUtterfield 8-4720

NEW YORK,

Dear Missy

Thank you so much
for all your efforts with
Mrs Roosevelt for my paper.

It is nice of her to offer
to help us. I will send
you the dummy for her
to see. You are so eager
to take all this trouble
will you please thank
her from me for her kind

interest.

When are you coming
to New York I hope
very soon. Please let
me know well in advance
so that I could keep
myself free, also what
day you wish to see

Yours ever

Cheryl



Delft Haven

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.

Marguerite dearest,

Well, the Post gave me a vacation to make up for lost sleep, and I have found Paradise here.

It seems so long ago that we were together in Washington- ~~so~~ much happened after that- but I shall not forget that pleasant time together- I felt quite light-headed after those ~~D~~ inquiries at the Willard when you were about to leave that day, but, curiously, you must have inspired me because I am told that the story I wrote after you left was "my best" from "the states"- I think you will recall I ~~seemed~~ a little up in the clouds but it appeared to be good for the story.

I hope you received "the stamps". I sent one very interesting "cover" and I thought You might be interested to tell the President that no one in the world has a "cover" like his. The letter was sent "registered" from the Royal train. It seems that the Postmaster Ross received 10 one dollar stamps. Seven of them went to the Royal party for packages. He had "three " left and he informed me that not one was used for a letter. So I thought It would be interesting to put them on letters. The best one- with the number went to the President- And there are two others in existence- of that combination - one I have - the other I gave to Williams- The British journalist you met at the Willard- The President's is

Delft Haven

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.



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The No. 1 stamp of that special series of ten. I thought it was kind of the Canadian Postmaster. I am sorry to say that our American postmaster for four days in the United States was not very accommodating. He was very annoyed with the stamp business on the Royal Train. He thought it was a lot of nonsense.

Michael McDermott of the State Dept(Do you know him?) did a grand job for the press, and particularly at the World's Fair where Mr. Grover Whalen behaved in a strange manner. I can't imagine what possessed Whalen. There were correspondents from all over the world and he never greeted one of them, the same men that the President of the United States took time to shake hands with after his conference at Washington. Mr. Whalen never informed the Fair authorities to honor the passes of the State Dept. and Mr. McDermott had a terrible time getting us through. But when he got through, he saw that the State Dept. came out on top. We all remained with the King and Queen and walked with them through the Six Pavillions. As we walked along with the King and Queen, we all saw J. P. Morgan standing behind the ropes. That pleased us not a little- We were all New Dealers after Washington - everyone on that Pilot train.

I suppose you heard that Whalen had 700 of his admirers in Perylon Hall lined up to shake hands with Their Majesties This was not on the programme and Lascelles saw to it that it was



Delft Haven

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.

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called off. Lady Nunburnholme told me that the Queen said that the White House and Hyde Park visits were the crowning glories of the tour- memories never to be forgotten. Did you get to know her well. I think she is beautiful, almost as lovely as the Queen who is my first love.

I don't know why it happened, but when the Queen with the King said good-bye to us on the *Empress of Britain* (We were commanded to appear) I was about the 20th in the line and she stopped to speak with me- called me by name- As soon as it was over, I had to rush to the wire to send off the farewell of the sailing- All the correspondents came rushing to me to ask, "What did the Queen say to you". I gave them all the quotes I thought proper to send, but a couple of things she said- so charming and kind- I thought silly and in bad taste to send - Frank King of the *Ass. Press* teased me and said that he was going to telephone the Post and give them the full story- But when I returned, my editors complimented me on keeping the copy "objective" and "impersonal"-

I boasted too soon. Miss Tighe of the *N.Y. Post* stayed on to the bitter end. When she heard that I was finishing at Halifax, she got the Post to keep her on. Inez Robb also finished and then made the transatlantic Clipper. She came to Boston with me on the *Lady Drake*- SHE IS VERY NICE PERSON - But that Tighe woman made



Delft Haven

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.

(4)

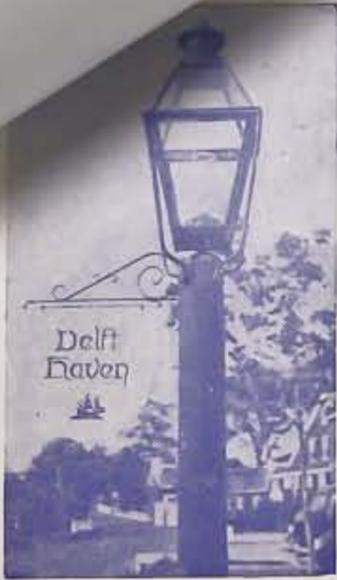
life unbearable at times. Doris Fleeson (You are quite right about her- She is a fine newspaperwoman- Did a grand piece of reporting on the church service at Hyde Park) told Inez that she pitied us when she heard that Tighe was with us. I don't know why our sex has to be like that. The men individually were all grand. - The conflicts between British, Canadians and Americans on the train remained pretty much to the end- Americans- Canadians- joining in against British at times- Mr. Williams was shocked that I told you that- remember- how he changed conversation-

At Hyde Park I met all the Washington correspondents and they knew the story of the Banff meeting of the press and Their Majesties. Do you know a chap by the name of Driscoll from the Herald-Tribune- He had even a more fantastic version of what actually happened and what was said. The story had grown in the telling and re-telling-

The best bit, I think, was the King's remark when The Boston Globe man said to the King, "Your Majesty, have you ever heard of Boston ?

"Oh, that was something about tea, wasn't it?" said His Majesty".

And the Queen's rescuing remark, "It's out. Go on". Mr. Dixon of the News whose language was the contributing factor in that scene dropped out at St. John's and was not at the finish. In the Maritime provinces we had rain and the arrangements broke down.



Delft Haven

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.

(51)

The destroyer, Saquenay, on which we were riding, missed the train and we had a horrible ~~motor~~ drive to catch the train at Valley. Even the Queen got wet that day. We were so ping wet, drenched to the skin.

Well, Canada is a vast country, very beautiful in parts, but I was happy to find this seclusion in this ~~beautiful~~ glorious land's end of a peaceful, timeless world. The people are very poor in Canada, much worse off- those with small jobs- than our people who are on WPA. They all want to migrate to the United States. MacKenzie King is a liberal- a do-nothing- nice old man but that's all. Such a huge country - only 12,000,000- in territory almost as large as our own 48 states- no industry- parched lands through the great prairie belt- The people are lifeless and depressed. Only the Queen seemed able to arouse them from their lethargy of despair. They ought to run her on a ticket. She would win an election in any of the dominions.

Please let me know when you will be in N.Y. I think I may run up in a week or two. Do you think you will change your mind and come to N.E. You would love it here. I go back to work Monday- (Let me know if this letter reaches you safely-)

Love to you, As Always

Grace

(I am trying to get you a second crown so that you will have a pair- Donegall said he will send me one as soon as he finds a matching one)