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GENOVA 44
MEXICO CITY
MEXICO, D. F.

Jan 17th

Dear June and Jimmy,

I can't thank you enough for your nice Xmas gift. I have already had four copies and can hardly wait for the fifth to arrive. Nothing could have given me more pleasure.

I have been living in a rush ever since I came back. We came down here the night after we got back, and stayed until Monday night so I had only three days to work that week and spent every second getting off the Xmas cards. The rest of the time I spent in checking the hundreds of cards that came in, buying and wrapping presents and going to parties. There were more before Xmas this year than last, in fact it was like it was two or three years ago, and everyone got pretty worn out.

The Katz spent Xmas with us and the Matsons came down Xmas afternoon and stayed until Sunday. We had 28 for dinner Xmas night. The men went back to town Monday but Grace and I stayed on. Tuesday night a friend from Maryland came and George sent her right down here. Wed. night George came back and Sam Thursday night and Phyllis and Brewster also came and we all went to a nice party at the Circuits. We all went back Sunday night or Monday morning.

Ever since Heddy Linthicum has been here, we have been out nearly every day for lunch, and several nights a week for dinner and it looks as if it would continue until she leaves the end of the month. Besides that I have spent every spare minute looking for a place to live, so I am away behind with all my thank you notes and letters.

We had almost decided on taking two apartments in Fundicion and throwing them together, when I went to see a house Rosa Lopez is building in Barrilocco. It isn't any larger than the two apartments, but has bigger bedrooms and a nicer kitchen and has the advantage of a patio outside the kitchen, where some of the work can be done, also has two nice servants' rooms and a small garden, so we have taken it. I know we will feel awfully cramped at first, but with this big house down here it is really all we need and I am sure we will get used to it. I have always said I wouldn't want to live in Barrilocco and am still not very crazy about it, but one floor houses are hard to find, and this has beautiful closets and a dining room that will hold 16, so I thought we had better grab it while we could get it. *(It has three bedrooms each with a bath)*

We needed more storage space down here and decided to build a closet off the little downstairs bedroom and while we were doing it as it would not cost much more decided to extend that room out to the end of our bathroom wall, so now that room will be as nice as any of the bedrooms, and the closet is wonderful.

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All this sudden change and having to decide whether to take a fairly big house or be sensible and take a small^{one} and where ~~was~~ one was going to find something decent has kept my stomach churning ever since I left New York, and that has taken my appetite, so it hasn't been hard to lose some more. If I see something I want, I eat it as I don't care if I am up a few hundred grams the next day, but so far I haven't gained and am down to 134.

This week we had the Bill Pauleys over Friday night until yesterday afternoon, and the Woodulls came in time for lunch yesterday and went back after lunch today. Next week we are having the whites and the Rodriguezes. Sam and Grace will be with the Davies and Emma is taking care of Heddy for me, as we are short the one room, so I am having them all up Sat. night for dinner.

The Drapers are not taking our house, they think it is too big. She says they want a small furnished house or an apartment. I tried to get them interested in the two apartments that we nearly took, but she says they rented their house furnished and she thinks she would find it too difficult to furnish a house from scratch down here.

I hope you are going to like your new house and am looking forward to seeing you in it when I come to the States next time.

I wanted to send you a little gift by my sister, but they are not coming this year, so will have to find some one else to take it, but will get it there eventually.

Thanking you both so much and with much love to you all from us both

affectionately

Maim Messersmith