Salinas, Calif 720 No Main May 4, 1945

Dearest Arthur,

Walden is working "swing" shift and Freddie is in bed, but not asleep so

I've the evening to myself. I always get so much done on this shift. Freddie
has had a little trouble in going to sleep lately for he cannot suck his thumb.

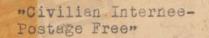
I am applying a bitter liquid to stop him from it and it is working fine. He very
seldem even tries to put it in his mouth. I should have done it long age but
neglected to do so. He has worn an adhesive plaster on the finger before but it
rather hindered his playing and eating. He has been worse about it recently due
mainly to the fact that he is cutting jaw teeth.

We are leving good garden weather. Our garden is lovely. Walden works in it a lot and really has a grand one. We are having radishes, turnips, greens, spinach, a few beets, carrots. They help our grocery bill. Oh yes, we had our first Irish potatoes yesterday. They were nice. The neas are full of pods, large ones and blooms. Our chickens are nearly 9 weeks old and nearly ready for the Orisco. They are doing so well and a sting a great deal. Of the 25 we did not lose a one. We bought a chicken house already cut out ready to be constructed. It has a one inch mesh floor throughout with a wire sum porch and partially wired on sties. It is certainly nice for small back yards such as ours. They never get on the ground and there is no fear of their being molested by animals or of their getting in the garden, etc. The man next door seems terribly afraid they should be on the ground so they can scratch. However, when they do not get so much exercise in running over a large yard, they can be fried when much larger than otherwise. I gave them grass and green spinach twice a day. They seem to enjoy it. The other day Bro Stone, who has a station next door, and with whom I went to Texas last year, hour we want how the went down the street where he buys eggs and on the way back he left an egg in the chicken house. I suspicioned him for he is mischievous. So the next morning I called him up and asked him if his chickens were laying yet. I told him mine were. He laughed and had a lot of fun

We saw Paul and Edith Tucker about two weeks ago. Then the following Tue she left for Tennessee, for her father had passed away. She had only been home three weeks. He got orse efter she left though. He has been in ill health for several years.

I hear Freddie fussing so I'll close and see about him. He is getting so large. Runs around a lot and isalways into something. He is an awful tease. Throws everything he can get away with into the bathtub. The other day when we were in the garden he was busy going to all the tonato plants and spitting on them. He does not try to talk much yet but says a few things. He said "hot" twice the other day when I told him the dish water was hot. Goodbye for now. Lots of love and God bless you. We see all well.

Nola





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