

October 6, 1931

Dear Julia, Ettoile, Grace, Janet, Blanche, and Louis:

Dear folks. I am writing to you all and sending carbon copies in order to save time.

It was just a week ago this morning that Gertrude fell and broke her arm. On Thursday night the arm was properly set by the use of a special contrivance and what is known as a Steinmann nail through the elbow. The purpose of this contrivance and nail was to put traction on the arm to make the bones and muscles remain straight in their natural manner. So far as we can see, we believe she is doing just as well as could be expected. Of course at times there is considerable pain and constant soreness and tenderness, she has been very brave. We shall take another Xray in the near future and if the bones are as straight as we think they are we shall feel happy. The appliance is made of aluminium and as you may know Xrays pass readily through this metal.

The item that Mrs. Medhurst, our housekeeper, was going on vacation was put in by one of her friends and was premature, as she expected to leave a week later. When Gertrude was injured Mrs. Medhurst at once volunteered to stay and look after the house until Gertrude was able to look after things for herself and direct some one else. At the hospital Gertrude is attended by a little nurse from Kansas City, named Miss Howe, who is a product of western Kansas. She is sympathetic, energetic and kindly and Gertrude likes her very much. Gertrude is also well pleased with the Superintendent and others at the hospital. Dorothea was asked to take the lead in a play to be given soon by members of the faculty and students known as the Kansas Players. This requires rehearsal every evening.

The children have been very attentive to their names and visited her once or twice daily. It is possible that Gertrude will be able to go home next Sunday, which will be twelve days following the accident. But we shall not hurry matters and if it seems best will have her remain longer at the hospital.

Julia has very kindly offered to come and look after things and we should be glad to have her if there were any need, but as it is she would be spending most of the day alone at home or by visiting at the hospital, so we do not think it best to have her put herself out now.