

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHÉ
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

375 Collins St.,
July 9, 1943.

My dear W.C.,

I was very much delighted to receive your fine letter of May 20 and am dictating a reply before I leave on another journey for ten days or so. I am glad to hear good word about you and Gertrude and the people of the town. I am especially happy that Colonel Washington is doing so well. Remember me to him if you should think of it. You will also find Colonel M.A. Cross a very delightful man. He was in the Artillery with me and an instructor at our Coast Artillery School when I was a student there. I last saw him at Fort Scott, San Francisco. His brother is a Doctor in Kansas City and he voluntarily and without solicitation gave us \$500 for the Military Science School which I thought was a very fine spirit.

That brings me to the building, and I am certainly pleased that it is now under contract for completion. It's been two years and a half since I obtained permission for its construction.

It's hard to reconcile our cold weather with the hot season you are having at home and I suspect about now you would be glad to go to Minnesota, but no doubt it's wise, from several standpoints, not to make such a trip. One does feel guilty for using too much gasoline these days.

I presume Philena is now settled in our new house in Berkeley, in fact I am waiting for her next letter which will tell about it. She was packed and sitting on the door step of the old house, so to speak, when she last wrote. John was still with her but expecting to go into military service at any time. Bruce Cameron has certainly been considerate of him, but because of his eyes he will get only a limited assignment. I presume he is still shipbuilding at the moment. My oldest son is doing very good work as an engineer, and we are still waiting patiently for some official word from Chandler. I think eventually we shall hear and then perhaps only in some stereotyped form. I was extremely interested in your remarks that your son John Lewis, who died in 1928, was the same age as Chandler. Mrs. Baldwin bears up very well and I think it's a good thing she has plenty of work to do. I still want her to come out here but so far I have not had courage enough to ask. I think eventually they will permit all the Diplomatic staff to bring their wives, though the new Consul General here in Melbourne, Mr. Clarence Spiker has left his wife and son in the States. I am waiting to talk with him when he arrives.

Lawrence, I know, has done well with her brilliant Red Cross