

*Norman A. Norman*

527 W. 170th Street  
Hazel Crest, Illinois  
November 16, 1949

Mr. W. C. Simons  
2500 Vermont Street  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Simons:

Miss Nancy Ann wishes to thank you for the very useful blanket holders and also for the first contribution to her bank. She is progressing very nicely and has gained a pound and a half in weight, she also discovered that she has a voice that will get certain results when she uses it and she uses it very frequently.

Our change of address was brought about in the middle of August due to an \$8.50 increase in rent on our apartment and also our desire to get out of Chicago and away from the smoke and dirt there and to find a place where our son Billy could get out and play without having to worry about his getting hit by a car or such.

We finally found a place South of Chicago in the village of Hazel Crest that was almost what we wanted and within our means. Hazel Crest has a population of three thousand, stores, churches, school and the Illinois Central for transportation to Chicago. The air is clean out here, no factories within five miles, and it is very quiet. In the evenings you can sit outside under the trees and listen to the crickets and birds.

The house we bought is on a 52 by 130 foot lot and has a four foot, cyclone wire fence around the yard. There are three green gage plum trees and a cherry tree in the back yard, a large maple on the West side of the house, a Lombardy poplar in each corner of the lot, six fir trees and a cedar scattered about the yard, a gooseberry bush and several lilacs and some other trees on the parkway that I do not know the name of. This all sounds like a young forest and you will probably wonder where there is room for the house and garage. The garage is located on the rear of the lot and is large enough for two cars, but has only one door.

The house is sixteen years old and is a frame house with a full basement. We have five rooms, living room, dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. There is an attic, but it is too small to be of any use. We have hot water heat and have used very little coal so far as the house is small and the water holds the heat a long time.

The man we bought the house from is an engineer at Republic Steel. His wife passed away a few years ago and he finally decided to go and live with his Mother, who lives a few blocks from here. We bought all the furniture he had in the house, as we had very little of our own and had to have something to get started on. He would not sell his refrigerator so that was the only new piece of furniture we had to buy.

We paid \$9,000 for the place, \$3,000 down and a twenty year mortgage on the balance, which I think I can handle. Taxes on the place are low, only \$45 a year.

With every good thing there is always some bad. Mine is that I am twenty one miles from work and have to get up at 5:00 in the morning to get to work. I finish work at 3:30, but it is a little after 5:00 when I get home. On Saturday and Sunday I drive to work as the I.C. service is not so good on those days.