

P. S. I know this is full of errors but I havnt time to correct them.

PHONE CHURCHILL 9-3845

WALTER W. GREGG

1901 PARKDALE PLACE

Mar. 21, 51.

MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA

- Dear Collie-(I should really say, my VERY DEAR Collie) (for we probably never will see each other again) but I think of you often, and treasure all your letters)

I used to be a good correspondent but it seems now as if I hadnt ambition enough to do all the things I ought to do, and that especially applies to writing letters. Norma reproaches me often for not writing oftener. It's funny how people always like to get letters but never seem to remember that they have to be answered.

You are more fortunate than I, for you have your children ~~xxxx~~ around you to visit with, while my only one (and such a wonderful girl) is so far away. It is too bad. Her other husband was a Rhodes Scholar, a graduate of Oxford, and an army officer, but he didnt know how to be a good husband. Not that he was a brute or a villain, but he was used to one kind of life, and she, to have stayed where HE was, would have had to give up all of her writing and stage experience, as while he went into Georgetown University in Ky., as professor of English, all of HER life was in the field of music & the stage. In the short time they lived together, she had to stage TWO productions that took her away from Georgetown. I remember that there were two factions in the hotel where we lived who took sides as to whether she should marry Capt. Barnett, or Lt. Milledge Bullard, who were both stationed at Ft. Benjamin Harrison (near Indianapolis) They were both just out of the army, and both wanted her. Even in the hotel from the manager down, they took sides. But she took Allen Barnett, and was married in the most beautiful home in Indiana, and went to Chicago on their honeymoon, in a lovely car that Walter gave them for a wedding present. Being a popular writer & composer, as well as a producer, people came from Indpls. out to Muncie for ~~xxxx~~ an interview with her from the Indianapolis Star, & the Indianapolis Daily News. She went to Chicago as I told you, & while she was there, she took Allen over to meet Julia. And to show you what an impossible person he was, during a discussion of the Civil war (he was a Southerner, of course, born in Haelbyville, Ky) he had the bad taste to commit the faux pas of saying "Of course I wasnt born then, but I would have been on the Confederate side if I had been there". And Julia gave him THIS, in reply, which I think was perfect. (You know Julia) She said, well, COUSIN ALLEN, you know the 'war' is over, and we are ALL just GOOD Americans, now, arnt we?" *** Walter tried to get him a position as representative for the General Motors Co., as he spoke English & French. It would have been a wonderful future for him, but Walter's friend, who was the big mogul of the company, said, after interviewing him, "He wouldnt do, Walter, he isnt a good enough mixer". In other words, he was too stiff and unbending. So that was that. Norma never complained, but a friend of hers who was visiting her from New York, having been very close to us in the show business, & a producer herself) came to Muncie to see me where ~~xxxxxx~~ we were living, as Walter was in the oil business there, buying and drilling oil wells) As she & Norma came in I looked at Norma & noticed she was very sad & long faced. I asked Ann, her friend, what was the matter, and she said "O, mother, she cant live with that man: he is impossible." And at that poor Norma laid her head on the table and cried! She had never complained & I know now, it was because she knew I was ill with Bronchial Asthma, (and thereby hangs another tale) I wasnt in bed, though, and when the whole story came out, where she didnt even have heat in her bathroom, had caught cold from it, I said, "You cant live with a man like that, when you have been shielded & protected all your life". So, Walter & I went down there with her, (Ann went back to N. Y.) and told Allen we had come to take Norma away. They didnt even have a home of their own; only a