Dearest Mother and Daddy,

I know you are anxious to know that we arrived safeand sound---so now I will recount the wole trip for you, which was really
very short, compared to our other journeys abroad.

We left Paradise, Calif. Friday, www.Sept. 1 for San Francisco arriving there about noon. Bob took the car to the shipping agents and some extra luggage tobe sent by ship. Then we checked Diana with the hotel baby sitter, and the rest of went to the circusthe Bib Barnum and Bailey, Ringling bros. Circus. Well, Walter never shut his eyes or mouth the whole 3 hours....in fact all three were fascinated beyond words.

The circus has changed somewhat from what it used to be---I missed the dirty glamour plus all the side shows--of wich there were none at all....but plenty of animal acts, clowns, trapese, and other fasciwating and breathtaing acts--enting up with two people being shot out of a cannon. We ate the usual popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy--plus hot dogs, but nobody got sick.

I thought Walter would split his sides laughing over 3 clowns trying to paint a statue——they of course spilled the paint, fell off ladders, hit each other, slid down in the spilled paint, dumped buckts over each others heads, etc. pure slapstick, I've never seen him laugh so much. (of course, it wasn't real paint but must havebeen finger paint made out of seap and starch)

The dog acts were very good, and they even had cats and rats trained to perform.

The night after the circus we went to a Japanese restaurant (where Bob and I had eaten before—wen you go in, you have to remove your shoes and sit on the floor. This was a bit hard on Ray for his has arthritis or rhematism about like you Daddy.

The children were so tired that they kept lying down on the floor water kept crowling under the table.

Early the next morning we left the notel to catch our plane wich left at 8:00----It was a big Pan American jet (DC-8) ----we got to Los Angelas in 55 minutes. Had about 40 minutes there and flew on to Guatemala City. There they announced that plane had to go on to Miamai for servicing and we would have to change to another plane which was identical with it. (Amazingly enough there were people on booked that plane on their way from Los Angelas to Miami, and Hou ston.)

It was the same plane that was hijacked by the maniac'and forced to fly to cuba--the purser told Bob about it--only they were on a different flight--to Mexico.

After a hot hour of waiting in Guatamala in a crowded little waiting room we wereable toboard the other Pan American jet and in two hours were in Panama (Total time from S.F. was 8 hours)

That is where we suffered --- going through customs -- all jampacked in to a little waiting room ---- with no ventilation at all. About the time when I thought I would just pass out we were able to leavein a taxi to the fabulous Hotel El Panama Hilton.

It is huge --- the rooms were air conditioned, and so comfortable -after some ice cream we fell into bed and slept the cock around and spent the whole next day in the swimming pool (Sunday) -- exen eating there. Diana thrived ---

wontrary to popular belief Panama City is cool -- very high humidity but really cool ... in fact after swimming and out of the sun I was cold.

Monday we went to see the Canal. It was so very interesting I just wish you could have seen it. As weapproached it, it looked like two big ships were sailing across them eadow, but as wene ared we saw they were going through thelocks. We saw one entering and one laving .--- two way traffic. The name of the locks we visited were called the Pedro Miguel locks -- on the pacific side. You probabally know all thefacts about thecana, but I will recount someof the interesting things we observed and read while there:

It was built from 1904 to 1914, however, it is believed that Baboa, discovered of the Pacific Ocean first conceived the idea of uniting the two oceans by a man-made strait.

Charles V of /Spain was the first monarch to grasp the significance of a canal to join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He initiated the first investigations in 1523, and in 1534 ordered the Gov. of Panama to make a formal survey of the route following the ¢ general course which the Panama Canal takes today.

From that day most maritme nations of the world gave earnest consideration to the project. Even American interest was stimulated during the Nations infancy by such statesmen as Ben jamin Franklin and Henry Clay.

The first real effort to build a canal came in 1880 when at the the Frenc was doomed to failure and the comp ny was dissolved nine years later. "www Hwww French Canal Company was formed. "Thes valiant effort by

"The French rights and properties were purchased by the United States for \$40,000,000 and the formal transfer was made in Panama City May 4, 1904. The ceremony culminated a series of historical events which eventually led to the successful completion of the canal and the fulfillment of thedreams of geographers, navigators, statesmen, and traders of the previous four centuries."

Enough of this brief history, expept when for one other quotations from the little guide book "The magnitude of the task can be grasped by considering some of theindividual pro bles: Digging a ditch and building locks wideand deep enugh to accomodate the largest ocean ships afloat (at that time); sanitating an area where yellow fever, malaria, and dysentery were rampant; building 10 homes, roads, hospitals, schools; assembling a force of workers from hundreds of miles away: bringing equipment to excavate and move millions of tons of earth and rock.

"All these and many other related tasks were required, for the route of the canal lay in an area where these did not exist.

These other facts we found interesting:

The average vessel pays about \$4,700 in tolls but may save as much as \$50,000, in one voyage by cutting over \$7,000 miles from one trip and saving 20 days in sailing time.

Generally withing a year's period there are ships in transit which fly the flags of 35 to 40 different nations.

Approximately 300,000 ships of every class and category have passed through its portals sinceit was opened to commercial traffic in 1914.

The canal is 50 miles long. It was cut through one of the narrowest places and at me of the lowest saddles of the long is thmus which joins the North and South American continents. The original elevation was 312 feet above sea level where it crosses the continental Divide in the rugged mountain range.

It requires about eight hours for the average ship to transit the canal.

A ship is raised or lowered 85 feet in a continuous flight of three steps at Gatun Locks (Atlantic side). Each lock chamber is 110 feet wide and 1,000 feet long. The length of the Gatun locks is one and one-fifth miles. There are two othersets of locks a ship must pass through, plus Gatun lake wich is the largest man made lake in the world, and the Gaillard Cut which is 8 miles long through solid rock. The locks we saw (Miraflores) are the higest of any in the system because of the extreme tidal variation in the Pacific Ocean. They are 82 feet high and each gateleaf weighs 730 tons. Each link of the fender chain weighs 70 pounds.

4 to 10

For each ship the well to wing locomotives are used.

It takes 2 minutes to open or close the lock gates which are 7 fee thick.

To fill or empty one lock chanber (remember these are 1,000 feet long and 110 feet wide) takes 8 minutes.

The water consumption used (and lost from the man made lakes) is one canal transit is 52 million gallens.

Well, these were just a few of the many interesting things learned during our visit wich I wanted to pass on to you. Wehaven't had our film developed yet, but I hope it is good so you can enjoy it with us when we go home.

Tuesday, Sept. 5 we left Panama wiwww by plane for a flight of two hours to Cali. From the plane window we could watch the coastline enlarge to or widen to form South America and then as we flew inlade saw the undulating country until finally we were above the high, wide valley of cooks where Cali is located. We arrived at mid-day and it was hot. I thought I had been fooled into beleiving this was a country of perpetual of spring time, but about 3 in the afternoon it became very cool, and as I looked out the hotel window at the surrounding mountains I felt I must be in a mountain resort, except for the continual hooting of cars, roars of buses, and general confusions in the narrow streets below

What I have seen of the city so far reminds me of the little to have seen of Mexican tens wiwedwwwwthwthe towns narrow streets, doorways

seen of Latin American towns——rather dirty narrow streets, doors opening onto the streets, thumwininamawnomwoodmimmamagingm formw——all this along with high modern buildings, department stores and shops, modern butels (ours has a roof garden with a swimming pool). The people areas diverse as the buildings——ranging from the very chic to the Indian in rags and mens overshoes and hats.

Our only means of transportation so far has been by taxi which we find suitable for air large family——most of these are failed modern American cars which will take you to any given point in the city for 2 pesos (24¢)...sometimes they have to look quite while for a certain address (I spent a good 40 minutes driving around a few blocks looking for a house to rent), but on the whole are reliable.

In looking for a house in wich to live we have discovered that the main fear for knusembank home owners is buglary. We thoush we left that behind in Johannesburg, but apparently that was just nothing compared to Colombia—due I presume to the extreme poverty of most, and the extreme wealth of the few. Because of this most every house is built with just one door—the front door—and most house shave no back garden at all—and if there is one in front it will be ally a few feet square.

However, theinterior of the averagehome makes up for this---ther e is usually at least one and perhaps more platers full of trapical plants--usually a sky light or two for plenty of sun and light in the house. We have seen one house with a beautiful fi sh pond in the living rom. Most of the newer homes have tilefloors through out.

Only today Bob signed the lease for a house for us and weares thrilled with it.

First, I am surelt is cmpletely buglar proof (except perhaps buglar frm wi thin thehouse hold by servents). It has 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, a large living room—dining room area with hugeplanter and a shall. A really modern kitchen with a garbage shoot to the garbage cans in the doublegarage below. In the kitchen is a laundry chute coming from the bathroum above. There is dothesline space in back of the garage with a sky light for good drying. On the grond floor (living room area there is a door to the back yard—it is small, but huge compared to none at all for most houses...in this small enclosure is a small swimmi g pool——frm 4 to 7 feet depp——and about 10 feet long and 8 feet wide——small, but perfect for the children....there is a small terrace and a a few tropical plants and trees and grass—and some orchids ——the whole house is surrounded by a very high brick wall—I never knewbefore why most Latin houses have no garden, or if they do it is in the form of a Patio. Anyway——it is for protection——some say it dates back to the days when Political

garden, or if they do it is in the form of a Patio. Anyway---it is for protection ---some say it dates back to the days when Political enemies would try to get revenge, etc.... I forgot to say that on the roof of the house the whole area is fenced in and usuable as a huge terral-it will make a perfect play area. This has been a very sketchy glimpse of our house--but is is awfully pretty and modern.

999999//// 00

My Spanish at the moment is just hopeless---Bob so unds like a native already. Walter asked the other day if wewere not going to speak American any more.

Jan and Peggy started to school Thursday---Jan says there are few Americans in her class, but she seems to like it. Both say it is much easier than their other school wich worries me for I hatefor them to idle away their time. I want to TA meeting tricon might - about half the formet were colombians.

we number our letters sowewll know if any havebeen lost—at least until we see how the mail service is. I don't know just when we will get into our house as wehave to wait for our furniture to arrive(it is coming by air--imagine.) But don't know about receiving mail at home -- some say it is better to receive it at a business address. (the address good.) Our only means of transportaion so far has been by Well, all the hildren send their low e-- Diana is still the best traveller --- so happy in ay enviornment -- unless too many strangers speak to her at once. 1 of evol vent semijemos ... (245) sosed 5 rol certain address (I spent a good 40 minutes driving around a few blocks again our assure on one of I will write more news later ... do write. DR. R.H. KOKERHOT ent gerockefeller Foundattion evil of and the Chick anisol all Departamento de Medicina mo for antital anisol all we left that behind in Johannandel Lol Se go Sald Jal ew nothing compared to Colombia-due I presumplify the elaborator of most, and the extreme wealth of the aming be bat bus term house is built with just one door -- the front door -- and most house s ( P.S. I may savesome of this information about our trip for our Christas letter --- or is it too boring? a few feet square. of the averagehome makes up for this -- the However, theinterior is usually at least one and perhaps more platers full of beingthealth partacos de necessario e tigo de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania de la compania del c living room. Most of the newer homes havetilefloors Only today Bob signed the lease for a house for most of searles others with it. First, I am sureit is empletely buglar proof (except perhaps buglay frm within the holes hold by listing room by l A really modern kitchen ham thought a partition the double garagebelow. In a modern with the bathrown above. There is dotheslind space, with a sky light for \$6.4 0.0 Mg A A More 14 Minteres ( starting of the back yard with its small but luge compared to none at a 1 for most houses. in this small enclosure is a small swimming ( o 88.6 m. out carlos and ) for house in this small enclosure is a small swimming ( o 88.6 m. out carlos and ) for the children. . . there is a small terraceand a a few tropical plants and trees and grassand some orchids --the whole house is surrounded by a very high brick wall -- I never knewbefore why most Latin houses have no garden. or if they do it is in the form of a Patio. Anyway --- it is for protection --- some say it dates back to the days when Political enemies would try to get revenge, etc ... I forgot to say that on the roof of the house the whole area is fenced in and usuable as a huge terrage it will make a perfect play area. This has been a very sketchy glimpse of our house-but is is awfully pretty and modern. My Spanish at the moment is just hopeless -- Bob so unds like a native already. Water asked the other day if wewere not going to speak American any more. Jan and Peggy started to school Thursday --- Jan says there are few Americans in her class, but she seems to like it. Both say it is much easier than their other school wich worries me for I hatefor them to idle away their time. I wanted by meeting & river right - about half

to pounts were colorabieno.