Recife, June 5, 1930.

Dear Margaret,

Your nice letter of May 10 and Peggy's of May 11 have reached me here. They were forwarded from Rio de Janeiro by aeroplane. The stamps that bought them are enclosed for Gertrude and Billy. The hotel reservations you have made seem to be for the right dates.

Rio was very beautiful, and these northern cities, Bahia and Recife, are also attractive. I stayed only a few days in Bahia and then came on to Recife. When we were in Bahia the Graf Zeppelin came by on its way to Rio and circled over the city, flying low. On the return voyage the Zeppelin reached Recife the same day we did and was moored to the mast when we arrived. Dr. Murray of the U.S. Public Health Service was on the boat with us and he invited us to accompany him in his inspection of the Zeppelin ~~before going~~ at as a preliminary to giving it clearance papers for the United States. So we went out there in the afternoon and went all through the ship, not only the part for passengers but ~~especially~~ also the interior. The frame ~~structure~~ looks like Billy's erector set.

It was a long way from end to end and we had to walk on a narrow board. The first mate wanted to know if it was necessary for us all to see the interior, and Dr. Murray told him it was and that Dr. Richard was in charge of yellow fever in Pernambuco, Connor in Brazil, and I in Africa and America. He let us in!

I have been travelling like mad. To-day we spent the whole day riding in the railway train to the south western part of the state of Pernambuco, where there have been recent cases. We have also made a number of long automobile rides, and I have seen so many towns and villages that they are blending into a hazy type with individual characteristics blotted out. Everywhere there are fields of sugar cane, much of it in blossom with heads like those of giant grass.

If you were here, you would welcome your old vegetable friends of Brisbane, — pineapple, custard apple (pina), choco (chuchu) (the summer squash hanging in our vine), etc, etc. Jacaranda is the name of their finest hard wood, — almost black, but I cannot find out whether ~~it is our~~ the tree is one beautiful friend of Brisbane. The poincettias are in flame and the Antigone (?) or "Honolulu" vine is as beautiful as ever. It rains part of every day at this time of year and my rain coat has been in frequent use.

(over)

My outfit has proven ~~alongt~~ about right this trip and very little was forgotten. I've used practically everything I brought. The thing forgotten was only nail scissors. I have immediately

used all the languages I have any knowledge of: French, German, English, & Spanish mixed with Portuguese. I had a nice talk in German with the head of a Franciscan monastery at Olinda, near Recife. He showed us the old carvings which they are restoring and the ancient paintings on wood in the Church. This region was held for a time by the Dutch as well as the Portuguese.

I saw the Frobishers in Bahia. They seem happy and he is still interested in complement fixation. Now he will also have the white mice to play with. 196 were still present and accounted for when I handed the cages over to him.

I am sorry to have been away on your birthday and ~~Father~~. Hope you had a happy day! I am enclosing some prints of photographs. Please keep them for me unless you want to send them to some one. I can of course have new prints made for the album from my films

With much love to all the group,

Hilbert.

P.S. How do you suppose I took the pictures of your dog wood tree in absence? H.