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December 23, 1964

Dear Diana and Mike,

I can't tell you how much we enjoyed having you in New Orleans for the meeting of the Alton Ochsner Surgical Society and, Mike, I am very grateful to you for accepting this assignment, because I know how heavy the demands are on your time. Giving up the time to come over as you did meant a lot to us.

Isabel and I have just returned after having been away over two weeks. We first went to the Southern Surgical Association meeting and then went to Puerto Rico, where I addressed their medical society, and saw all our Tulane Alumni. We got home just in time to spend the night at home and to get some fresh clothes and then went to Honolulu, where I spoke at a testimonial dinner given for Joe Strode. It was really a very nice affair given at the time of his retirement. He has done a great deal for the Islands, and it was nice to see that the people of Hawaii appreciated what he had done. We were there only three days, arriving home yesterday in the late afternoon and this is the reason I have not written to you before.

I was so pleased to see the nice write-up in TIME about you, taking care of the Duke. Isabel and I entertained him in 1950 when they were here for Mardi Gras. Lester Alexander, who was Rex in 1949, and I, in 1948, were asked to be their hosts and we gave a dinner for them at Antoine's. They are indeed most gracious people.

Thanks again for giving up your time as you did. With love to you both and best wishes for the holiday season to you and the boys from all of us.

Sincerely,

