

Marion's Diary 1949

January

1. Saturday [no entry]

2. Sunday: Good roast beef dinner for Ruth, and to store in refrigerator. She went in afternoon. I packed and sorted. A bite of supper. Mr. LeClair took us over. A longish wait in the lobby; up to our room. Newlin went home. I undressed and went to bed behind the curtains.

3. Monday: Trundled off early – too doped to know what went on at 8:33. Nasty rubber nose piece! Saw Wicky round and placid as a Buddha! More dope – then came to at 3:00 with Newlin talking to me. So nice to see him even through the fog. Doped all night, too. . . Monday's child is fair of face!

4 – 5 [no entry]

6. Thursday: The elephant dance! My head split when I got up, but I tried it. Pretty shaky and pins and needly.

7. Friday: Bought a nursing bra – she fitted it too tight. Two bits that is why Mrs. Keef couldn't nurse Brian. I took mine off, the milk kept coming and Wicky, hungry, kept pulling – so I nurse. Newlin visited – sent a special delivery home. It was delivered Monday a.m. So Mama didn't hear for a whole week. No wonder she worried herself sick.

8. Saturday: Head ached in am when I sat up, but not again when up during the day. I didn't do badly when my head didn't hurt. Read too much Cornelia Otis Skinner – she is wonderful!

9. Sunday: I looked out the window at the Boys Latin School, and

thought about Meeting.

10 – 12 [no entry]

13. Thursday: The day! I got shivers thinking about it. Home, and all the responsibility. I just want to loaf, I guess. Went down to pay the bill, enjoyed the gift shop – I'd like to spend some money there! Home after supper with Allen Sievers – Fenwick heavy in my arms in his white blanket. Helter skelter – put him to bed quick. Worked all right.

14. Friday: Linford off to school while we unpacked and squared things around. Mrs. Le Clair came up. Tommy has grown incredibly.

15. Saturday: Linford wouldn't go out to play – too fascinated by the baby. He is good at running errands – trying to be cooperative and good, bless him.

16 – 24 [no entries]

25. Tuesday: Cold and cloudy and raw! I wrote a couple of notes. Too brief nap. No nap in p.m. Sue Manly called, with a blue sweater! Nice visit. Mrs. C. to Arlington. Me to bed early. Linford 99 4/5° rectal reading . . . sniffles. No spots yet.

26. Wednesday: A cake and peach ice-cream for Daddy's lunch. Linford shooting squirrels. Men painting storm windows. My throat is scratchy and Linford waits for measles.

27 [no entry]

28. Friday: What a day. The carpenter pounded in the attic all day. My cold got worse. From napping in the desk room without electric blanket. Just too drafty. Mrs. C. made quick mix rolls –

very good.

29. Saturday: Newlin came home from a bootless trip to Sears with twelve beautiful red roses. One in the “bud vase,” one in the fishbowl, rest in glass vase just glowed!

30. Sunday: The roses are just beautiful! And we had a dinner to end all dinners – steak that Newlin anointed with vinegar and garlic. Frozen lima beans, mashed potatoes, green salad, peaches, whipped cream with nuts. We purred all afternoon. My cold is a mean one – throat.

31. Monday: At 8:00 a.m. the storm windows started on. They’re SO NICE. My cold threatened ears and sinus, so I stayed in bed almost all day. Six inches wet snow for Newlin to shovel. . . . Linford asking to go to bed early – with little lunch and NO supper! No letters again. Durn.

February

1. Tuesday: Wicky slept from 12:30 to 6:45! The little dear! Dry, too. Mrs. C. couldn’t come. I made it all right for one day, but it would be pretty tiring. Mrs. Mack waxed us up. Linford vacuumed his rug – “driving” with much effort and pleasure!

2. Wednesday: Clear, cold, windy, and we didn’t know it with the storm windows. I went to the store – first trip. Not bad. Legs got tired. Wrote the last of the thank-yous – up too late. Mrs. C. made hot rolls (called biscuits!) for supper. “Does the baby cry?” Linford: “When he is wet.” . . . We washed countless rags – Mrs. C. ironed them all!

3. Thursday: Linford back to school – thank goodness! I pattered and cleaned up. No nap in p.m. Mrs. C. made good apple pudding. Linford played outdoors all p.m. The storm break is good on the

front porch. So glad to have it.

4. Friday: Hammering in the attic goes on – they finish it up today. Newlin frantic with mid-year papers. I baked a sponge cake for Mrs. Crosby. She returned the five eggs when she went to the store. Ruth is running into snags! Durn it all – it is tough luck. Wicky restless at night . . . ! Then slept seven hours again.

5. Saturday: I typed our Christmas letter – got ham to have while Newlin is away. Even had ice-cream for supper.

6. Sunday: Just another day. Big breakfast – Newlin off to school to do papers. I got quick dinner. Frozen limas excellent! Linford played around. Mrs. Quimby came over at 5:30, stayed till 6:00. Saw Wicky up. His skin is clearing a little bit. To bed, tired! Finally fixed up our Christmas letter.

7. Monday: We washed – poor day, though. The windbreak is just grand. I rested as hard as I could in honor of Sally and Fred coming. Nice quick visit – took Crokinole and Parcheesi. Brought four bibs for Wicky. They papered and painted the living room! We served cake and milk. Calvin came over in p.m, made chocolate cookies. They played burning houses and stuck [sic].

8. Tuesday: Perfectly gorgeous mild day. Bright sun, house 82°. I walked to laundry and engaged Rita Buckley. Mrs. C. stayed in p.m. while I went to Mrs. Ringers' for big session of new wives. Took a sponge cake along. Nice time – home to Wicky “demanding.” Newlin packing to go to Swarthmore. Linford very tired and cranky. Felt good to get out. The men fixed front porch roof – now done except for combination storm windows.

9. Wednesday: Wicky's portrait day – on H.S.S.'s blanket on the dining room table. Then I took the films to Arlington Center and got the enlargements. Bought a Mademoiselle! Can look, can't I?!

Nice things in it. . . . Swept sand off the walk with buckets of water. Balmy day. 82° in living room till bedtime! To bed at 9:00 after reading.

10 – 11 [no entries]

12. Saturday: Large day – last of the storm windows went on – at 15°! Dr. came to check Wicky’ restlessness. Tight sphincter muscle! He’s growing – 1½ inches! Measured. He starts orange juice in minute amounts Also Vipenta. Turkey’s Christmas package came. Pretty bag and lots of clothes. Just a hectic day in every way! Phew!

13. Sunday: Up late. Newlin and Linford off to Meeting. I rested, then shifted desk room furniture. Does all right. . . . Had elegant sauerkraut dinner with Greenwoods – enjoyed then so much again. Home singing “Everything’s Up to Date in Kansas City.” Wicky had been restless!! Too bad. Newlin did Wicky while I slept . . . felt better.

14. Monday: Didn’t send a single valentine! Should have. Wicky slept nine hours after Mary Ann paced the floor with him! Washed a big wash. Newlin home with nasty headache – to bed with aspirins. Wicky restless. I wrote a card and went to bed. . . . Durn. I crave clothes!

15. Tuesday: Muggy damp. Linford’s shoes are gaping! We went for new ones \$6.50, and RUBBERS – \$2:00, while Mrs. Mack washed the bathroom. It looks better! Porkchop supper. Jim Michener’s “Fires of Spring” is reviewed in Monitor – good, with drawbacks. Newlin to School.

16 – 19 [no entries]

20. Sunday: Up lateish. It doesn’t pay – no dishes done. Wicky fed.

Linford and I to Meeting to assist teacher. Boys baked cakes 25 minutes! Saw almost no-one – but it was grand to get away. Wicky fussy.

21. Monday: Clear cold day. Linford has vacation. Played outside – cheeks pink. Washed a huge wash. Trotted to store in a hurry. Wicky impossible all evening. So I gave him a sticker for relief. BETTER! Newlin to basketball game. I'll go some other year. (Baked a cake for Mrs. Crosby.) Started to clean up carriage.

22. Tuesday: Wicky went from 11:15 to 6:15 – fine. I felt better. Up, fixed our beds and things before breakfast. Linford caughed badly, so I steamed! Donny and Calvin came over in a.m, played nicely. Pork chop dinner. I napped. Newlin did dishes. Junket, meringues, and tea. Rainy day. Newlin home seems like Sunday.

23. Wednesday: I put all spare time on washing the carriages. The black one fits out back, the brown one in front. We took Wicky to the store – it was one long howl! Dr. came to stretch him in a.m, bound his navel. He was jumpy and restless all evening – finally quieted down after a B.M. Mr. LeClair carried the package up and visited Wicky.

24. Thursday: A bath first. Dressed, mail picked up. Mrs. C, cleaned and ironed. Lin and I to Arlington for handsome girdle – no Keds. Food, snaps, etc. Added a bottle to Wicky's noon meal for the First Time! Nap, then to Dr. Newell. Should see him before Virginia. Muriel rolls and baked goods! To bed pretty tired. Wicky relaxed and resting after the big day yesterday.

25. Friday: Off to a good start – Wicky a bath. I washed a quick load. Linford washed all his trucks. It rained – everybody had a good nap! Daddy at Harvard Library – home for late supper. We “built something” and so to bed. Made mayonnaise – a good day. But I went to bed sleepy. Had to add two ounces to Wicky's noon

meal.

26. Saturday: Half freezing rain – good guns, another day cooped up!

27. Sunday: Just another day. Newlin had a cold and lay around all day. Linford didn't want to play out. Nobody ran on schedule! Durn. No Meeting. No radio. No nothing. Rita did take Linford for a couple of hours while we napped. Not even letters done, and Mama is sicker!

28. Monday: Mrs. C. sick. I washed a good wash. Newlin no classes – a cold! Linford and Newlin went to Arlington Center for Keds and rubbers. Home in blowing snow. I decided to go to the Antiques Show. Fine time. Tart tins for Mrs. Croy!! Iron roll pan for me. Home in blizzard, all pepped up. No wine glasses.

March

1. Tuesday: Linford home – snow, blow, blizzard. He played out and I did Wicky – then quick to the store. Quick nap. Talk to Mrs. Mack and off to Quimby with Linford. Quick and hectic visit – home. Newlin shoveled, and supper late. I held Wicky 1½ hours to nurse, etc. Reading “The Plague and I”! Called home, then wrote home . . . to see Uncle Jack.

2. Wednesday: Woke Wicky at 6:10! Fine! Newlin up early, everything rushed.

3. Thursday: Baked a sponge cake and laid out bed jackets for Mrs. Q. Took them on way to Faculty Wives – Weather forecasting is a drip! . . . I must pull myself together and look better and get some clothes. Mrs. Q. made coat, jacket, skirt, hat, and bag for \$50.00.

4. [no entry]

5. Saturday: Linford is milling around with Darlene and Joyce and Bonnie much more. Nice, I guess. They talk of the beach. He is beginning to ask about it.

6. Sunday: Up early. Newlin laid out income tax stuff – no Meeting. Linford whiney – at 12:00 I decided to go to the Beach. Sandwiches in basket. Waves, stones, merry-go-round, ice cream cone. Junky place – depressing section of town. Home with half a sinus, but so glad Linford has seen the Beach.

7. Monday: Pretty tired – but washed. Ruth phoned [several words illegible – lousy pen!] Mrs. Crosby can stay. Wicky up just wrong for supper – everything upset. I did my purple dress hem. Phoned Mrs. Fulton. Couldn't get Calvin.

8. Tuesday: Up at 6:00. House all apart. Newlin to school, Linford to school, me to train. Pa phoned at 7:00 – long peaceful luxury ride.

9. Wednesday: Mama slept pretty well. I got up to milk at 5:00!

10 – 19 [no entries]

20. Monday: Linford still indoors! I did a big wash and changed all beds. I invited Sievers and Bennett for Friday p.m.

21. Tuesday: Linford out and tomorrow goes to school – it has been a long pull!

22. [no entry]

23. Thursday: Boy oh boy – I went shopping all day while Mrs. C. took care of things. Bought Navy sheer – \$7.00, redingote \$9.00, blue spun rayon \$8.00, cotton housedress \$3.00. Good work. Dead

tired, though – hemmed the navy in evening to wear to Faculty Wives' Annual Guest night tomorrow.

24. Friday: Bennett and Sievers to dinner. I wore the navy print. Disappointed in my social prowess! The Chief thing – play by Evrinov very interesting – a man makes his people happy – cute talking to audience in “empty” theatre of rehearsal – those sheets! Henry Bate just like Sgt. Thibeault! I liked it. Girls' Gym very nice and quite impressive.

25. Saturday: Everybody very tired. Hot spring day. Newlin put my new plastic washline up.

26. Sunday: Newlin and Linford to Meeting. I had quiet time. Newlin took Linford up to school while I napped thoroughly. Forgot to weigh Fenwick. No letters. Hemmed cotton dress. Hot day – no coats!

27. Monday: Washed a good sized wash. Quite windy and blustery so sheet and bedspread in attic. So nice to have Linford in school! Went to Hugo's to Pyramid Club – a depressed group but we carried through – saw a payoff! Incredible! Home tired.

28. Tuesday: I picked up and sorted out and put away all a.m. Mrs. Mack continued on the attic. The vacuum works well on it! Went to Pearl Dacosta's for fifteen minutes of Pyramids! Then up to see Valentins in “The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.” More symbolism and war than I recalled. Sat with the Greenwoods . . . nice. Newlin at American Association of University Professors meeting – Wicky slept out on porch.

29. Wednesday: Wicky coos and laughs and talks a lot. I walked out with Mrs. Le C. Visited with Mrs. Harrington, all with carriages. Fixed up Linford's ferry party. Loafed all a.m. Wicky on almost three meals a day. Newlin out in evening again. Pyramids

limp on!

30. Thursday: Good Lord! Howard Allen has not been on bus, trolley, subway, or Ferry! And mama may have to go along.

31 [no entry]

March

1 – 4 [no entries]

5. Tuesday: Wicky didn't let me go so Linford went to the Library all-by-himself! He saw the gang of little girls around the sandbox. "When I get back from the library, I'll help build something." He stuck the book under his arm and dashed off, proud as punch. All the girls saying "Does he go to the Library alone? Does he go to the library? Where is it?" I was happy for him.

6 [no entry]

7. Thursday: Almost too tired to get out of bed – but I had a quiet morning with Mrs. C. here, and went up to the Faculty Wives to see color pictures of National Parks and hear a dramatic travelogue. Good cookies – pastry ovals filled with raisins by Mrs. Ringer. Tops!

8. Friday: Wicky starts cereal – usually in the morning. He seems to like it pretty well. At least it goes down easily. No fighting the spoon, etc.

9. Saturday: Calvin was over here all morning – yelling fire engines in the garage! Watched Wicky's bath! Linford played out in p.m. too, and came in cold and sniffing! Durn it! But it didn't seem too severe.

10. Sunday: Linford and I went to Meeting. Newlin gave Fenwick his bath! A first! I took Mrs. Crosby along for a spring walk to see sewer pipe, etc. The little carriage is a good one for such rambles. Wrote the birthday letter home.

11. Monday: Linford home from school with a cold. Daddy home with a headache. I washed. We ate on the back porch in the sun! First time this year. Linford went to get his hair cut “all-by-myself.” Pretty tired again. My diary has lost its interest – Newlin said put in Linford and Fenwick’s doings. . . . so I have no life of my own!