January 23, 1954

Miss Ocllo Boykin Smith, Jr.
Miss Sandra Lee Smith, Sr.
1109 Pace Parkway
Route 4 - Skyland
Mobile, Alabama

My dear Ocllo and Sandy:

In talking to your pretty mama the other night she told me your checks had given out. I thought of it a dozen times, but your Papa has been "tip-toeing through the tulips" and has been pretty busy, and I am dictating you this letter long before daybreak.

You will note that the checks start the first of January. I imagine I gave you the December checks. If I didn't, let me know, and I will owe you six dollars. Since it is a new year, I believe I had better step these checks up a little bit; so you will note from the enclosed checks that I am sending you that they are for four dollars instead of three. You see, you are getting to be such big girls and when you buy a dress it might take a little more cloth; then you can't tell about the lipstick; you might be using a little for that. Anyway, be sure and use plenty of toothpaste, and be sure and get Squibbs, because the Mathieson Chemical Company owns that company and they will be making that right at McIntosh out of our own salt dome.

Anyway, I take great pleasure in sending you all each a check for each week of 1954 for four dollars apiece. I hope you enjoy it and buy just exactly what you want with it, and don't forget that "Everything is made for love", and mind your Daddy and your Mother, and help them with that Riley Boykin Smith. I was just looking at some of the pictures that I received today, and it certainly looks to me like he is being a good boy, especially in that picture where he is standing on the stairs up to the balcony in Mother's living room. Well, the first thing you know, I will have to be sending Boykin, Robbie and Dickie a check too, won't we? And little Gracie too; she will soon be as big as you all are, and it is mighty nice to have you two big ladies to look after and show this little lady Gracie just how to go and what to do, and it is going to be so fine that you are going to have your Uncle Bob, your Aunt Browder, and little Robbie and little Gracie right there next door to you. It is too bad that

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we couldn't have Dick and Beppie and little Dickie and Mr. Lee and all of them right on the next lot, but you can't get everything exactly like you want it in this world, but you can in the world to come; and it will be nice to have that nice place up at McIntosh to go in the summertimes and all other times, and I understand Dickie has been down to see you all, and Boykin has been up to see him. I reckon Lee will be raising Cain to do the same thing pretty soon.

Anyway, I am sorry that I skipped a month, but here it is now.

God bless and keep you, and with lots of love to your big Daddy and your pretty Mother, and to Boykin and all of you, now and forever, we are

Devotedly,

Mother and Papa

FWB:m
Enc.

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