

rascal! And how he likes to play with the record player. We have plenty of trouble keeping him from breaking it up. We enjoy seeing him when he does something the right way, but he does not do everything when he is using the player that he ought to do. However, we have hopes, because he has been improving rapidly the past two or three weeks. He can put the record on quite well, and has not yet broken one. But he always manages to put the adjustment of the timing and the other one of the pick-up, which holds the needle, out of kilter if we leave him alone with the player for three minutes.

He's learning to play pretty well with the other children now, too. And he's getting to hold his own with Kenny. We think that they are going to be growing up in about the proper way. The spacing is about right. But we are convinced that we should not have any more children until we have been in Africa a little while. Then perhaps we have have brother or sister, or even two more, to go with the older boys.

Oh, yes, we have to watch all the children about the matter of fire. We try to keep the match boxes high. We guard again little hands playing with the still warm oil heater, like the one I burned my hand on years ago. We also guard against their playing around the fogão, the little Portuguese made stove. We hope to send you a picture of us kindling the fire. I think I have one now of the stages in the starting process, but the film is not developed yet. I just took it in this afternoon. I said at first that I had never seen such a badly designed outfit, but despite the arduous method of lighting the fire I think now that the stove is all right. But let me tell you how we go about getting the oven ready to bake biscuits.

First, the stove stands perhaps a foot and a half high. And it's about three feet long and a foot and a half wide. The fire box will hold about three small sticks of wood comfortably. It holds about five or six small shovels of coal. Well, we clean out ashes and clinkers left from the previous day. ( This is the morning chore you will understand ) Then we put into the top of the stove, through the one round hole there on the grate side, the brush which we use as kindling. It is a good kind of kindling I must admit, and we do not have to use coal oil at all now, although we began by using it. Around the brush, which sticks out through the top we pile small pieces of kindling wood, which we have bought from the nearby store. Then we touch a match to the bottom of the whole and, leaving the covers well off, do a bit of fanning with a straw fan. Pretty soon there is a lot of smoke pouring up the chimney hole. When the brush is consumed and the kindling has caught we pile on charcoal and coal until the stuff runs all over the stove. The fan is the next object we grab, for the second turn, and after more fanning we have achieved headway enough so that we can poke the mass down into the fire box. Then it's time to put on more coal. After a little more fanning it may be possible to close the covers and get a clear channel through the smoke pipe to the chimney. In twenty minutes we have a fairly decent fire, if all goes well. Then it will burn nicely, if properly kept, all day. And now I suppose you're going to ask how we can stand the smoke in the room, for must it not be terribly smoky? And the answer is that the chimney is very much open. It's like having a smoke pie run into an open fireplace. The chimney open right into the kitchen. The stove rests on a cement and tile shelf about two feet off the floor, and directly under the chimney. The smoke pipe of the stove runs up into the chimney about four feet and there stops. And despite the seeming clumsiness of it all, it's a good outfit.

But I must stop. Lots of love to you all. More in the next. Hope to hear from you that you are receiving the twenty dollars. God be with you.

Me too  
Love  
Ozella

Lovingly, Mackil