

March 15th International issue of LIFE also set us to talking. Have you seen the magazine? We shall enjoy seeing Christmas tree snow when we return to our homeland.

What a lot of news in your last letter. Easter, children of Strong going to Sunday school and joining the church, the Prescotts, Aunt Mary and Cousin Lillie, Mack and Sheila, Francis's and Ruby's life. It sounds to me as if Blaine M. is a young fellow with ideas of his own. Let's pray that he will hang on to the good ones. And I mean "pray."

You may tell any of our friends that inquire about how much we shall speak English when we return and how much the boys will speak it will depend on what we are doing, but we expect to speak English with those who speak it and Portuguese only with those who speak Portuguese. We don't anticipate we're going to lose the words of our native tongue ~~which~~, and while we sometimes speak Portuguese here now without thinking about it, particularly when we are with Portuguese people, we expect in America to think in English. This goes for all members. Kenneth and Thomas have a sizeable vocabulary of English words, and use these vocabularies daily. Their thinking is English, even though they know many Portuguese words already and can speak a fair proportion of them. I believe that they will come to think in Portuguese and in Umbundu, too, but they will not lose their English. I don't believe they will lose the pronunciation even. You see, at home we shall be speaking our own language. Yet we shall both be sorry if the boys, and any other children we may acquire in the meantime, do not speak quite fluently the languages of their African homes when they return to America. I wish now that I knew lots more Latin than I do, for example. And if I can do it, I want to influence our boys to feel that knowing several languages is no sin at all, and that one can think in several languages. We meet people here who can speak Portuguese, English, French, and perhaps more languages, and they can think in those languages, which is the important factor. It's one thing to know the words and another to know the thought. Once in a while now we can speak and understand in Portuguese what we are saying. What a thrill it gives us! The boys will grow up in the language and think much faster than we, we hope.

I think now and then of Jane Forties (my spelling and typwriting, both, are bad today. Not enough practise lately.) and how much she could talk when she was two and a half. But I think that our Tommy does as well as Jane used to do. The difficulty is that he's growing so fast physically and mentally in comparison with Kenneth that sometimes we don't know just what to do with him. Discipline is much more difficult to manage with Tommy than it was with Kenny at the age of two and a half, although Tommy at times will be as good as gold. Of course we're always happy when this happens.

Now off again to another subject, but in reply to a question from home. We can't think of any picture which might merit appearance in the Lewiston Evening Journal, except some that we have with us. The one which did appear seems to be one which Barbara Van Allen took back in July, 1945. Oops, wait a minute, I guess it was August, 1944. Well, now I don't remember well. But we were in Boothbay Harbor in both months, and in one or the other Barbara got a picture of us. In August, 1944, of course Kenneth would be just a mite. In July, 1945, a bit larger. Probably one of the Augusta folks has a copy and sent it to the Journal. Sorry I can't place it well now, but you can tell by looking at the size of Kenny about when the snap was taken.

Once more to things which we have not taken care of in the past two or three weeks. Mother and Gammie, we enjoy the parts of your letters to the boys. Kenneth is coming to the age where he can understand gray squirrels and blue birds a little. The girls who teach Sunday school tell the children about