

one tree decked out with electric lights and all quite like an American tree. However, I think that Americans and Portuguese, speaking in a general way, prepare for Christmas in about the same sort of way. This would lead on to the attitude toward Christmas, which I shall have to omit now because I know nothing about it. All I can say is that I saw many people shopping. They were some of them looking at the expensive gifts, and I have a feeling that many of them took good care to see that their children were well-provided with toys.

Now a word about toys. Yes, we bought the boys some. We got a hard wood toy of the kind which Kenneth can use now and then for building a few things. It is composed of fairly large pieces and he can use the set for putting together a truck, a tractor, a trailer truck, an automobile, and several different kinds of houses. The only difficulty we have experienced with it so far is that it has several small pieces which can be easily misplaced, and have been misplaced so that we have not found them for on or two days, and some are still missing. We have been able to keep track of the scissors a little better, but they become misplaced, too. I have just taken Tommy's pair out of my shirt pocket. I found it somewhere in the house last night and put it in the pocket for safe-keeping. Since I have carried the same scissors around with me for about twelve hours, I'm not sure who may be responsible for misplacing them always. I shall have to watch my step, won't I? The boys have had two little toy boats, but those are now destroyed. They were very fragile. Also bubble pies and balloons, equally fragile, and now gone. The blocks which they got were not awfully good, but are still among their toys. I'm not sure about the wooden model of the electric car which Dorothy Schauffler of the Canadians gave Thomas, but think it is still here. We have bought durable toys for K and T from time to time, and these are Portuguese made, but we must pay a good price for them, so they have only a few of these. Kenny's set of building materials was one of these. And for Tommy we got a while ago a train made of hard wood. Oh, yes, I forgot, as usual, also among their toys were two kaleidoscopes, which they still have. Also they have several books. We brought Mae's gift from America when we came, and opened it for Christmas. We bought one or two books of a kind. And then two came from America in a box of books from Everett Church. The boys are enjoying all. Of course Kenney enjoys most Joy's little iron, copy of a big Portuguese style one.

Kenny also enjoys putting stamps into his book which Uncle Hal bought before Christmas. We got Kenneth a few more stamps for Christmas, but have been slow in helping him to put his stamps in. There are too many other things for them to do at night now before they go to bed and it will very likely be two or three weeks more before we get back to stamps. Oh, one more thing; the boys got another record, a Pinochio one, to add to two other Pinochio records which we had already bought. By the way, we are happy that we brought the record player along. It has meant much to the children.

A little more about Christmas. We missed the school programs which are made much off in many American schools. And the Sunday schools here have no such programs at Christmas time as we are accustomed to having. What we saw was a crêche or two. One particularly good one we took a picture of with black and white film. It was at the Zoo for children, and seemed most realistic of all the number which we saw.

A bit more about Christmas food and I'll stop. We had turkey for Christmas, and it lasted for only two meals. Turkey is the Christmas dinner bird here, but some people hold theirs over until New Year's Day. We saw on New Year's Day a young fellow walking along to what we supposed was his girl friend's door with a live turkey under his arm. We like to think that he was taking it to her and to her family. Love to you and God's blessing.

*Kisses from the boys for Grandma + Aunt Olive xx xx xx*