Dear Julia -

Almost February - and I'm only now trying to answer all the good Christmas messages that came while I was down with the prevalent flu bug. It prevented my more visit to Tony & Sara's too - and the week here with Ray much - loved Tony. Oh, well! Had to be it, I guess.

Jon and I seem to be stay at home now a days. Believe me, I likes yon fires chair is such a pleasant place to stay in. So comfortably warm and easy to tidy and with so good an outlook. The desk now is in the front window - for both Warmth and view.

Around Thanksgiving Virginia went back to Columbus Georgia to be near Ruth - who is 16 miles away at Fort Benning. Her last letter says the one-room, separate bath shared, and kitchen shared on about par substitute. If she can keep

nothing more Suitable. She may come come home
Soon. Columbus is a Sort and dirty town
with most unpredictable weather. She not
be Sorry to leave her back. Her three
Camp following wives endure their present
lives is beyond me. Virginia says this
glad to hear you and has had good
times with Keith and his friends. He
became a Second Lieutenant - and stands
the big firing on the troops learning
the noble art of war fare at Benning. Not
a job I'd Crave.

We had some grand storms this winter.
Doubtless you read of the blizzard Storms
piled up in the Appalachian Mtns and
of the two that Crashed in on our
Court Cottage, flinging a tree into
the walk - the crushed shake. Both
lived - but me in the hospital getting broken
ones mended.

Jane hasn't been from home occupied
until Spring yet now. While it still
rains it's a home friendly down com-
fort. The old man with the Sophie lives
here unfortunately factor has absents recently,
visiting down there of my nearest neighbors.
The house of the poet has been
sold to Mrs. Pliny Holt since Mr.
Stearns death. I have an idea
some of its attractive uses will
this afternoon a be carried from the
tables on Mr. Appel.
Mrs. Sicfert, in the lonely adobe
back of this lot and Keith died very
unexpectedly last Mr. Siefert is
staying on. She was sick so long
I guess he learned how. He has both
this house and garden.

Cheerful letter from Gertie - she could not be persuaded to the fighting front.

Jim not feeling down hearted - just relating actual facts this time. Really Jim glorying in the gun fills and lovely cloud effects the birds flying on the old Indian and they all fall lying and struggle on 7/3.

So a good old world — Around Carmel. Come try it. Nothing could please me better than a telephone message saying Gertie landed this day.

A good new year to you. Julia.

Emma.