

It's a stitch I like, although it does take longer to do and requires closer attention than I am accustomed to giving, and I'm now engaged in making myself a skirt, striped, of it. The difficulty there is that I have so many balls of yarn going at the same time they become

When Harold mailed it for me, I asked him to tell you that it is machine-washable and dryable but should not be blocked. If a stitch should accidentally be pulled, pull the blanket gently until it falls back in place.

Your letter describing your reaction to the blanket pleased me very much. The fact that the MA came out so well was gratifying, too, because I had charted it on graph paper using one space for each stitch and each row, but that was for conventional knitting. Then, when I decided to do it the other way, my chart was wrong and I improvised as I progressed. Anyway, I hope little Miss Ma will enjoy its comfort.

Dear Jennifer:

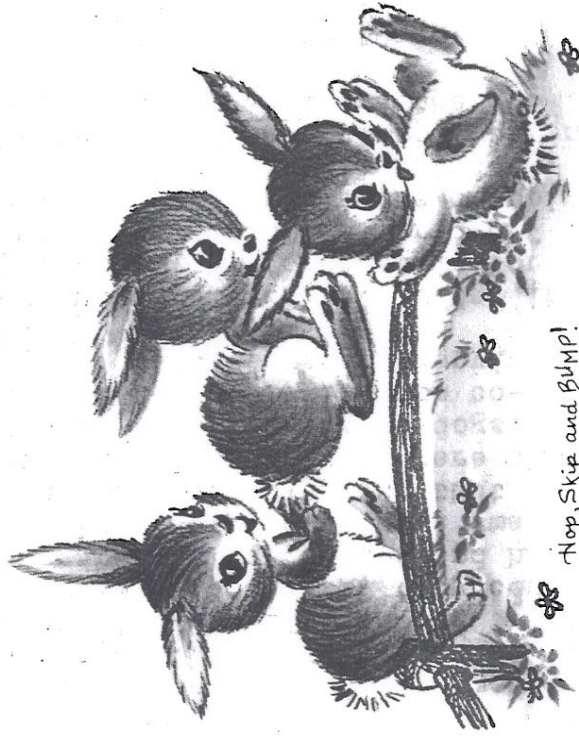
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I do want you to know how pleased I am that you like the blanket. And I enjoyed doing it. As Harold has probably told you, I do quite a lot of knitting, and am always glad when I have a specific project on hand. Miss Ma should use it only in health and happiness.

As you have noticed, I've used a very abbreviated form of her name!

Our best wishes to you both for the New Year, which we hope will be better than we expect.

sincerely,



Hop, Skip and Bump!



entangled from time to time and it takes a while to sort them out.

As of Monday, January 3, I'll be working Monday through Friday, but I'll have fairly regular hours, nothing as exotic as those you seem to keep. That will last through April 17, although I usually stay on a couple of days beyond that to close up the office and help out with the stragglers who just don't get around to doing anything about their income taxes until after the deadline. I like the work and for the most part I enjoy the people who come for help on their taxes, but I am sorry that the person who worked with me the last two years decided she'd rather go home to California than spend another winter here. I am somewhat envious of her since the family bought a boat and is returning that way, stopping off wherever fancy strikes and staying until they become restless and move on. There were the three of them here, father, mother and 13-year-old son, and they were somewhat uneasy about starting off on such a long journey with no additional manpower, but the older son and his wife came on, arriving in time to help them finish packing and to accompany them on the trip. They are headed for San Francisco and their plans call for their arrival there about May, when they hope to go on to their home in Placerville, but fear that Aerojet may decide they'd be happier down around Los Angeles. Whatever happens in the end, I am very envious of their ability to spend seven to eight months afloat. That's the only method of travel I'm interested in - and probably the one that is most remote for me.

The bunnies on the flap are to tell you that we have some here that feel quite free to come close. Harold was quite pleased yesterday when a couple of kids who live in the housing development back of us came over to ask if they could feed the animals. They had been here the day before and had brought with them a dog who promptly started chasing a small rabbit. Harold discussed it with them, pointing out that we like the animals and this is the only place around where they can feel safe and we don't want them being chased by dogs. They thought it was a wonderful idea and would like to cooperate, and Harold is quite pleased that he was so convincing.

The weather here has really been quite remarkable. Today it was very cloudy and rainy this morning (the forecast is for thundershowers this evening), but it has mostly cleared off and the temperature has been up to 60, although it is dropping some now. I can only hope that we will have a mild winter since that is the only time of year that I have to get out on a regular schedule - and I do hate wind and cold weather.

From starting out to write just a note in answer to your letter, I seem to have wandered pretty far afield. I hope I've not bored you, but my typewriter seems to take over.