Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, October 31, 1950

Linda Grace Hoyer

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Dear John:

This is the fifth anniversary of our removal to Ploversville. Or did you think of it? I thought of you last night at dark, remembering our last hour in the house together. There was fear in your eyes and more in my heart. And if I had known then how much you hated to leave that house, I might not have had the courage to go.

Now, of course, it seems altogether right. Your father has actually taken to bragging about the place so much that I was ashamed of him at the chicken supper on Saturday night. But with Henry J. Taylor (did you hear him last night) shouting about our utter defenselessness and food prices going up, I can't imagine a better place to be.

Do you feel safe in the Harvard yard? I hope so.

Did I tell you that we went to hear Le Tourneau on Sunday afternoon? On second thought, I'm not sure that I can do justice to the man. He looks exactly like the pictures of him, very large. And when you hear him tell the story of his relations with God you wonder if he could not be the most important man in the United States today. At any rate, we
are lucky to have at least one man in our country who is both intelligent, rich, and on speaking terms with God. It is a comfort to me and a tangible refutation of the old belief that it is impossible to follow Christ and make money. The person who has something of value to others will be paid for it and God will not prevent it. Why should we believe that Satan is the world's banker? Don't blame Le Tourneau for the last three sentences. I'm just talking to your Uncle Don who says you can't be a Christian and a success on the same days.

Thank you very much for the papers. Daddy was delighted with the Christian Science Monitor because the lady driving the old car looked like my twin sister, twenty years younger than I am. Did you notice the resemblance? You see, in Daddy's reformed state of mind he even sees me as I was twenty years ago instead of as I am.

Love,

P.S. Daddy put twenty-five in bank for you today.