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Jan. 1, 1944

Dear Folger,

Happy New Year! So the "forties" are half over. By the end of the second half some one should have been able to think up an appropriate nick-name for this unfortunate decade.

Two or three days ago your letters of Dec. 10 and 18 arrived and were well received. How satisfactory that Grandma really has nothing seriously wrong with her. Things in Gardiner sound well indeed, and I guess Uncle Bob is in a good place, though it doesn't look as if he would reach 101.

So the skulls turned up. Good! You'll not be sorry to hear that there have been no recent additions to the collection, none in fact since *Urocyon cinereoargenteus Floridae* (gray fox). But you don't know how to tell it from a red fox, that is skullwise, but it's very easy, a matter of ridges.

T. Richards

