

DorleLettersM L0003 (English)

Hofheim, February 27, 1950.

Dear Folks! How are you all doing? Do you have someone now? You could send us Käthy's address sometime. It seems she didn't write to us first after all. Have you actually finished rating the diary? Are you done with pruning? And have you already sown? We still have to send you 3 weeks' worth. We are finishing up with threshing. For raspberries, we have the "Preussen" variety. When the helper, the son, and I are on it alone, we prune currants. There are a lot of black ones, but red ones too. In my opinion, the people here in Oestlau are not as progressive as we are on Lake Constance, although Mr. Betzel's is one of the most exemplary farms. Summer pruning is also done. But the pears, for example, we haven't scraped, and they have been scraped every year! With the currants, much more of the older wood is left, especially a lot of older wood. All the young shoots are removed; at most, if a branch is withered, it's taken out. When I told him before that we cut out the old wood, Mr. Betzel said he had seen bushes with branches as thick as an arm. He said those would really bear fruit. Well, who knows best! There is one small sweet cherry tree, but otherwise, for cherries, there is a