

c/o Brian Shera
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Dear Nannie -

Enclosed are clippings announcing my arrival in Tacoma (Aug 30th) - more important news in this neck of the woods than the invasion of Germany. We left Robe Ranch suddenly because the two cars which were available there were to be used elsewhere and we would have been left stranded 8 miles from the nearest source of supplies. I stayed one night and day in Seattle and then on to Brian's and Merle's at Shelacoom Lake where I have been since.

Of course the weather improved as soon as we came down from the hills and every day has been marvellous since which makes me so damn mad that we had to leave that wonderful place. Although the lake region is idyllic it is much less inspiring. I've been painting landscape here and did a portrait of Ned and have tentative orders for various sorts of pictures. Nothing has happened to force me to formulate any plans and so I am drifting. I am wondering if you and Stan have any definite idea about coming out here in the near future. If so I might be able to work out a schedule from that point on. Mrs Seeman expects me back at the school but there are so many other interesting things to do.

As you know Bea is here working every day as Brian's assistant secretary. She is very cheerful and happy although there are few people about of her age. Merle is doing well, but Brian has been

Drop us a line and please put these clippings on file.

Love Tom

under the weather for some time and is now having most of his teeth pulled. The boys are fine and healthy and quite amusing. They started to school last week.

On Labor Day we all went to Longbranch and ate lunch on what was the front terrace of the Stewart place. Where the house had stood is now a mass of blackberry brambles. In the big orchard most of the trees are dead and gone, and the baseball field has a tall stand of timber on it. That made me feel very very ancient. The church was deserted with windows broken and books strewn over the floor. We thought we identified the Summerfield barn but were not sure. We looked the orchard above the playground of plums and prune and Mable has made a winters store of preserves from them. Half of the old merry-go-round post, the two big maples and the small barn, and the old pump broken down and rusted, were the outstanding land marks.

I've tried to avoid being social but have been dragged in anyway to 11 o'clock breakfasts visits to old friends, and yesterday a trip to Seattle. Lunched one day with Mrs Seymour and went with her to American Lake; have been kidding with Harrison Clark (Allan's brother) who has four horses, and swimming in the lake from the Spera dock. I had hoped maybe to get up into the mountains again while the good weather lasted but that seems to

Be out for this reason: Don't you consider a trip crawling to your health & Stans amenable for the next year? How are you feeling?

Sept 12, 44

P.S.

Yours of Sept 8 just received. Merle says she will build a wing on the house at once, but it still seems quite vague when you will be here, so I guess we continue to take things as they come.

It looks as if I might be here thru Oct. There are a few commissions which I would like to execute also it looks as if our N.Y. show is off for the immediate future; also I may go out to Union, Hood's Canal to stay a little while. The weather continues good and there is a castle at Union waiting for me. How would you like to spend your vacation there???

Thanks for sending off the photos — and glad to hear you are makin' 'em go.

Hartily

Tom