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Dear Uanis -

Last Summer has finally come to an end, with a couple of days of rain breaking the drought followed by a few nights of frost, and snow in the mountains - and now next Spring is already well upon us with blossoming and budding trees. Some afternoons during the first two weeks of Jan were actually scorches with a few brave folk rushing to the beaches, but I have not indulged. For some while I've kept my nose spinning against the drawing board - working on six pages of full color illustrations for a new edition of the 14 volume Childcraft publication. Mine are for vol II - verse for young children ~~to~~ which quite a number of Toplight illustrators are contributing. Preliminary layouts had to be submitted, and no know quite how complete they were expected to be. I did practically finished paintings, and am now waiting their O.K.

As might have been expected there were series of farewell parties for James Lee and I was dragged into many of them. Then just ^{the day} before he was to leave - Jan 16 - as a result of over shifting his big trunks around here in Akana's garage he had to have an emergency operation for strangulated hernia, which turned out to be more serious and complicated than average, and although he has been back at the Hills for two weeks he hasn't yet come down stairs, and the doctor wants to keep him under observation for at least two months more. These plans of mine and men are blown away.

As for the Castle of the Four Winds, I am letting it soak for a while. A brother friend of mine did, last week call up old Storoom, (brother in law of the widow owner), and both of them, claiming they weren't going to be taken for suckers, called each

other lots of nasty names. Anyway the house hasn't been sold and no one seems to want it but myself which makes even me doubtful, In the meanwhile come more signs of a breaking market, so I am not worrying one way or another.

In the way of wearing apparel what could please me more than a ~~corduroy~~ shirt? - yellow-beige, or grey - or what? 16" is correct for the collar with little button & loops to close as well as to be worn open. But the sleeve length should be about $31\frac{1}{2}$ ". This depends I suppose somewhat on shoulder width - from cuff to cuff I think Stans shirts are just about right for me, and body size, as you say, about what you would wear - with shirt tails to be worn either in or out, I suppose, tho I've never yet indulged in the latter mode. But whatever way you design your creation, it will be most appreciated here, and you are a sweetie pie to offer it.

Two Sundays ago the Akamas and Daisy and I drove to Riverside and were given a specially conducted tour thru the Mission Inn. If I had had any idea that it was such a fabulous place, I would have advised your visiting it last Sept. It has crypts & catacombs filled with Spanish & Oriental antiques a large chapel and street of a Spanish town, with fountain in the middle of the street, all on the second floor. Its great halls give much of the feeling of old private palaces in Europe. Now they're just torn down the original adobe home stead in the front court to modernize the place and make room for a swimming pool.

Love
Tom