

Stelacoom Lake

Tacoma

Monday Nov 7 [1944]

Dear Marnie -

The plaid shirt, restored to new by your nimble fingers arrived on Friday. On Saturday it was worn by Ned to a hard times costume party and I expect to be wearing it on all formal occasions this winter. You see what a help you have been in giving me such an Xmas present.

Your letter received a week ago was such a bombshell that I am still dazed by it. I am sure that you, with a million details of plans to make at once (to say nothing of learning Portuguese in 2 mos.) must be really dizzy. Perhaps you have already returned to Wilmington tho we expect a notification of your departure from Richland, and perhaps you have an ~~clear~~^{other} idea of the conditions under which the house would be rented. As stated in this letter of yours it sounds clear enough - it sounds like an ultimatum to me and I've got to do something about it quick. If it is going to be definite that I will be unable to get at my things for a year I had better try to come to a decision and have everything of mine in the house moved out to California. This state of living without possessions has gone on too long, but still theres no roof! Now I have a brainstorm of an idea that I might find a place for my things at Menlo Park, but I would not

know definitely if it were feasible or desirable
~~without~~ before looking over the situation in person.
I do not even want to mention it by correspondence
~~to~~ the parties concerned as I have no leads
whatever. It just means going to Menlo Park
as soon as possible in order to come to a decision
in time to clear my belongings out of 604
before Jan 12th. There are a few items such as
the long scroll, a piece of embroidery, in the living room,
one rug in the hall, etc which should perhaps be
included now, or else I will forever after have to
hold my peace (since a lawyer is taking charge)

So, I must try to pull myself together and try
to get off to Calif next week. The day after tomorrow
I start a portrait of Mrs. Shaneman, and by running
about I could probably sell a few more pictures but
otherwise there are no commitments to hold me here.
The weather seems to have settled into its winter
wetness and I am completely bogged down as
far as local landscape painting is concerned.

By now you will have thought out your
house situation more thoroughly and will be able
to tell me if you consider my proposal to move
out completely, a bit too drastic. It would
of course cause a lot of extra last minute
confusion, and would I have to come there to
see that everything was packed or could you
just turn it over to a shipper? Oh, could

12 it be planned so that I could have my possessions removed after you have gone "south"?

Also the Lindsay Rd address has been such a convenience to me and your clerical service so much a part of the system, that I am, even doing without my possessions, still at a loss for a solution to the mail problem (unless it can be solved at the same time at Menlo Park). But is it not possible that you will rent the house to someone you know and who can be trusted to forward a limited amount of mail at least?

At present I do not have any addresses in Rio or thereabouts. Mrs. Whitmore's daughter Elinor has been there for a year (Red Cross with the Air Corps) and has just now been home on furlough. But that isn't the kind of address you want.

Nothing sensational has happened here since the big community costume dinner dance at Lakewood Center two weeks ago. Everyone was in the right spirits or the right spirits were in them so it was a boisterous affair, and Bea did her solo ^{farrealy} very nicely.

I have continued to worry about my heart but a specialist says there is nothing wrong with it, although the final report is not in. It may be just my imagination getting the best of me.

Last Saturday Bea cooked a very delicious Mexican dinner for bridge guests of the Sheras, so now she talks of opening a Mexican Restaurant

(in connection with a language school and Mexican dancing) in the City of Destiny. That is unless you need her as a secretary in Latin America.

Please keep us informed of developments!

And many thanks for the shirt

Yours

Tom

Nov. 8. After sleeping on it, this Menlo Park idea doesn't seem to make sense, but some action is necessary. Do it not?