

Top side

8477 Val Verde Drive  
Canoqa Park, Calif.

[June 1944]

Dear Nannie -

Your telegram was phoned to me yesterday and I then phoned to Mrs Seeman to read your letter to me, since it had not yet been forwarded.

As the communications have thus far been only phonal I may not have comprehended the main import of your messages but my impression is that you are coming West about July 15<sup>th</sup> (1001 Hurrahs!); must make your reservations now, and that your route will be somewhat influenced by my whereabouts at that time.

And there you've got me! or, more exactly, you haven't got me!

For one thing, a request (which I accepted) came a few days ago from the Foreign Policy Association for me to illustrate a booklet for them (on China). My speed being as slow as it is, I expect it will take all of June to complete the job.

I had half promised Richard Bennett to join him in the Cascade Mountains "early" this month, and have still been holding on to that idea, only that I would arrive a little bit late. I am quite accustomed now however to having my plans for return to the Northwest to dissolve into thin air, and I am calmly resigned to the philosophy that no plans really matters.

Also yesterday came a telegram from Bennett, that ~~our~~ Subnormal Art has been accepted for a show by the Museum of Modern Art in N.Y. That to me is the most exciting and important achievement of the year. Bennett's letter, with details, to follow has not arrived, so I am just guessing that the date for the show would be in the Fall, tho the telegram says the Director want to write an article. I am not contemplating any involvement in this matter during the Summer. Bennett anxious to leave N.Y. by June 15<sup>th</sup>

P.M 5 JUNE 1944

will, now that his bit is done, no doubt get quickly under way.

About Avila, I am quite hesitant about recommending it to you. Doubtly so since you do not have your own car. Anyway both houses are occupied, which relieves me of letting you find out for yourselves whether you could take to the primitive life or not. I gather that Stan has in mind the sketch for the country estate, where he can fish from the pier and sail a little sail boat. Both these recreations are popular in Avila and I do think you should see the place. But there is much much else to see in California too. ——— Where I am now for instance, perched on the top ~~of~~ <sup>one</sup> and surrounded by hills of boulders, and looking down into the rich San Fernando Valley, with, in the middle distance, a reservoir like a fantastic lake in a Chinese painting (no fishing, swimming or yachting allowed!) We are twenty some miles from Hollywood, yet still within the City Limits! And there is an interesting place for sale next door! Can't you plan to arrive by the end of June and I'll promise to be here! A ~~great~~ <sup>great</sup> L.A. advantage in doing so is that my host as head of Moral Re-Armament Inc. has plenty of gas coupons!

Last week we took a glorious three day trip, via back roads thru Ojai to Santa Barbara, to a party in Oceanos, on to Avila for a few moments, back via La Purissima Mission & Lompoc to Santa Barbara and thence to Topside. The California scene never appeared more beautiful to me. Not satisfied with this we dashed off again the next day to Fontana, 100 miles South East of here to a dog show, where Miss Roe, one of our group won many ribbons for her Pinchers which she breeds. If you don't demand seashore, the San Fernando Valley

2  
is about the best place to investigate. It has infinite variety with many congenial communities, and at the same time great convenience to the city. As Edmund expresses it: a wondrous place between the Wild and the Mild West.

As for travel, there are always ways and means of getting on to buses and trains, tho its even better to know the right people - who have gas! Since you are travelling, I take it, partly for pleasure, I wouldn't get too involved with reservations on this Coast. Better less comfort and more freedom for the unexpected - if you have to choose!

If I do get to the Northwest and if our show is to be in the Fall, I would probably go direct from Puget Sound to New York, as it seems important for me to be there at that time. There may be a letter tomorrow from Bennett - anyway sometime during the week which will give me this information. My suggestion now is that you come at once to Cal. and do Puget Sound after.

This is a very unsatisfactory response to yours but more in a day or so. A car is going down the hill at this moment so I'm hastening to mail.

Will see you soon - somewhere!

Love

Toms