

July 5, 1937

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I sit here now waiting for some films to wash and there could be no better occupation than writing to you. I shot a couple pictures up at the swank Allagany Country Club and they seem to be very presentable. The film was this Eastman portrait pan. that seems to be rather fine for most work except portraits!

My darkroom here has at last taken a very handsome and definite shape. I spent the family fortune very carefully but completely and find myself lacking only a few odds and ends that I can pick up now at my pleasure such as 300 dollars film washing and print drying machines from Mr. Eastman's little establishment in Pittsburgh, Penna! My stock of pans and chemicals looks quite imposing and the darkroom itself is a little larger than yours in the matter of headroom! I copied your lay out rather carefully as that seemed to be the handy way to have it. I find myself now with one of those little light-tight drawers and all sorts of wires hanging overhead as you have them. I have an Elwood enlarger ordered and for the present I am doing only 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ contact prints. One cannot buy Tuma-Gas paper here for love nor money, so I am using the double weight 832 Special. It works well and gives swell blacks as you know. I shall send you a few prints latter in the summer for general criticism and what not.

I have managed to obtain a grand sort of job here in Pittsburgh for the summer. I met a very pleasant gentleman named Van Durant who does children's portraits. He soon became a good friend and now I am working as his chief assistant and bottle washer. We have great sport together and he likes my finishing enough to let me do a large part of his proof work. I made a great hit with him and several other photographic gentlemen here by giving them a lesson on carbon printing! I wish you could have watched. It was more fun than you could shake a stick at. All these fancy professional photographers and me teaching them how to print! I was a bit shaky but the prints came out very well and now I am considered an expert on the obscure process! Platinum printing is well known in these parts, but is considered too expensive and time demanding for professional use. Is George Murphy the only one who has carbon paper? It would seem so at any rate as we had to send there for it.

There is really nothing more to write now. I am enclosing a check for five dollars which will pay you for the lens. It works very well and so far has cut no corners or acted up in any way what so ever. I hope your trip south was pleasant and that you and Jock got together for the final lesson or two. I am so sorry I could not have gotten in on those. How did my portraits come out?

I am looking forward to seeing those as I have a couple I took myself which are not so bad to my way of thinking. Don't let them interfere with your other work, however, as there is no great hurry.

Please remember me to your father and mother asks to be remembered to you. Till I hear from you then,

My very best ever,

Winthrop ~~Co~~ II
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P.S. I wonder if you could send me the formula that you use for film developing? I have been using D-11 and D-76, but the first is too contrasty and the second too slow. Would you either send this to me or perhaps tell me where I could the formula here. I am using grains and ounces here so the formula in this system would be best. Thanks in advance and good-bye or aufwiedersähen once more,

W.C.F.11