

Here's the new Saint Gardens stamp. Issued Sept 16th

356 WEST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK CITY

1940?

September 18th

Laurie my Dearest:

The Mystery of the Watch deepens every hour! I was so distressed when I learned it had been giving you all that trouble.

Was furious with Macy's for pawning off a poor article on me. Marched up there full of righteous indignation, ready to demand a new watch to take the place of such a dud.

Wound it up and wore it on my wrist going there. Had to wait half an hour for my turn at the head expert, so tried out the "stop" part every few minutes for various times. Far as I could see, the thing

worked perfectly, but then, your letter had said it would do that for the first few times. Finally my turn came & I made the man read your letter.

(He remembered & had a record of all its visits to the hospital). He took it into his sanctum & spent three quarters of an hour over it.

Then he reappeared with the most baffled expression I've ever seen.

Says he: "I've examined and tested it thoroughly, and I cannot find a single thing the matter with it. See - it works to perfection. I cannot account for the trouble your friend has had. I tried my best to find something wrong."

"Well", says I, "give it back to me, and I'll wear it for several days, & keep trying it out at all sorts of different times, & see if I can catch it

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misbehaving."

That was last Thursday. It is now Wednesday evening. Six whole days. I've let it run everywhere from three seconds to three hours. Snap, pop she goes back to the dot as trim as can be. And I only wish my own watch would keep as good time.

Monday, I had a new idea: could it be the altitude that affects it? I know some watches act up in extreme heat or cold, so perhaps?

Called up Mr Baxter, & propounded my theory. "But," says he, "I don't see how altitude could affect it. These watches are used mainly by aviators, & we've never had a single complaint from them."

I want your watch to work - d - n - it! Lovingly - Brendie

Now I've only one last & rather fantastic idea - which may be all wrong, but might also be worth trying.

A matter of bodily heat. You know how some people can't wear pearls, for instance, 'cause their ^{internal} make-up turns them black. Some people can't wear flowers fifteen minutes before they're all faded. As I remember, you are one who gives out a tremendous quantity of heat. Maybe enough (shut up in the dark-room with rubber gloves on, etc.) to affect the watch.

If I send it back can you try not wearing it - just keeping it near you? Afraid that may be a nuisance, but you may find some solution.

I feel rather a brute sending it back, but do wish you'd give it one more try.

If you still have trouble - do take it to your best man in Colo. Spr., & send me his bill if he does find trouble and fix it.