

Jan. 21, 1942.

Dearest Fran:-

At last I have heard from Washington, and I enclose a copy of the letter. Do you take it that I am being gently let down or that when new mechanisms are started I shall get a job. These are excellent jobs, by the way I have been finding out more about them. Had I known about them two or three years ago, I should have applied then. So I take there is nothing doing at present any way, and if and when I shall probably be used in my locality.

So what next? One thing is certain, if I am to continue as a photographer I shall have to set up shop in town. With the camp in prospect there should be lots of extra work, and I am quite willing to do a lot of cheap work if necessary. Yesterday, I looked about town. Already shops are being rented etc. with the cap in view. Do you remember the old Emry studio? Upstairs over the old Grimwood store? It is still there and for rent. I imagine it is hard to heat in cold weather, both otherwise it would suit me very well. It is on the best block down town. It has a large reception and exhibition room, in front then a really good sized studio with a fine north light, and two work rooms. A window box down stairs. Rent \$35. a month, less in winter. I think it is the only thing for me to do. Next it means renting the house.

I should prefer to rent it unfurnished so that I can take what I need there and send some on to you. As a matter of fact I could sleep there, though I think I shall probably share a 3rd floor room with Betsy and have dinner at her house. Walk down and save my tires for what outdoor work I get.

This is in the mind only except that I have a refusal on the studio. First and foremost is what to do about father. If you are to be kept at the oil business and not in the army could you take him there? If you do go and could help me out here and Edna wants to come, she could come here, I move business to town and we each have a room here.

Poor old Dad is very feeble at the moment. He is broke, has not been able to get his car licence etc. with the result that he stays at home and is obviously not getting his usual daily drinks at the club. If becomes more and more obvious how much he has been getting as a daily dose and I am not at all sure that he can go without. His irritability is very great and every time I speak almost I am told that I am criticising or something. I do my darndest to just as pleasant as possible but he expects something else and assumes it is there whether it is or not.

Now I am wondering if you know at all what your future is to be. I think it would be a very good thing if Dad could come on for a visit. Could you come by train and drive him back in his car? Do let me hear from you.