

Ione Piné, California
Feb. 2nd. 1945

Dear Laura:-

It is good to have your letter which came yesterday...this I hope to mail tomorrow when we go down to our PO if we can..the "if" being due to a snowstorm which has stormed for twenty four hours and already piled up two feet of snow...my car is parked down the mountain a mile or so, and we may or we may not find the snow too deep to progress from there, whither we snowshoe. If too deep, this letters gets mailed later, thats all!

Elizabeth had told me you had left Boeing and I stupidly had the impression that you were east or somewhere away from Wichita. I am so sorry about your friend.

Read an article
^
About the manuscript. Its a long time since I saw it and my memory is hazy. I will help however I can. I am uncertain. Likely the best course is for you to send it here and I will read it again. Then I will give you my best judgment as to what to do with it. For a while I am and will be very busy, completing a book and a short story, and editing a long novel that I have been commissioned to work over. But I'll have time to read, of course. Then we'll see. I may even be able to get some clue from Sam Sloan as to the real chances there ..or elsewhere. I may also send the Mss to my New York agent to get his reactions. Let's see.

Aside from the book, and what may or may not happen with it, do let me know what develops with you. Geographically, too. This is a superlative country, photographically, and perhaps it would work out that you might visit me. I have a pleasant summer guest house you would be welcome to, subject to other scheduling, for I hope to see several friends here this season. There also is a chance that you might make some photographs which would be usable in articles I want to write. If the articles are bought, you would be paid; if not, no. Which is a gamble and something you might not care to undertake. Ultimately I plan a book, a leisurely volume, about this place, and for it I suppose pictures will be used .. but I dunno ..thats some way off. I have a pretty sizable writing schedule piled up.

I had the courage, or something, to turn down a fair job in Hollywood. I want to stay right here for a longish time. I have much that I want to write. And I crave a period in which to thaw out spiritually...or something. Neary three years of Army leaves marks..especially India and China...and I was knocked out physically over yonder, which needs some mending, too.

My best to you...I look forward to meeting up with you again. And count me in on any help I can give,

Sincerely,

S.P.P.