

July 16,
1955.

Dear Laura:-

Doubtless you are thinking me a nice one after your effort about my slides. There are reasons for my silence. First and foremost we have had a really rough time of it here at this house. Poor little Betsy has had weeks and weeks and weeks of pain and muscle tightness from the shingles. Shingles alone are bad enough but have them in polio affected muscles and the complications are terrible. But she has been wonderful throughout. Never a complaint and periods of intense suffering. She is better but it is Oh so slow. She is up and about of-course but her strength is very limited which has meant that much of her share of our housekeeping I have taken over, and gladly. But it has limited my time. Then I was due to show the slides again at Los Alamos late in June and I wanted to see how this time went before I wrote to you. I have made many changes and improvements since the last showing, and gaps have been filled in etc. Not that there isn't still room for improvement. But it did go over well, I felt and I hope I have learned the art of tackling that opening sentence like a nettle. This was in the big auditorium with somewhere around 500 people present. I showed my fall set and the story told as best I could. It took just 1 1/2 hrs. And I was surprised and pleased to find how many children were in the audience and that they were interested enough to be perfectly still and ask for more. So I guess I am launched on a new line of endeavor. Plans are now pretty definite that I start east September 15th and several stops along the way. I have four "engagements" in the Washington area beginning October 24th. to 15th. Also some work to do there. Then I shall go up to New York and stay I don't know how long. All depends on many things.

Now about your Museum- if the director hesitates so about this, I would rather leave it for a future time. When the book is out would be better anyway for Museums and such, but I shall be glad indeed to show the slides to a smaller group if you really have one in mind. So any time the last half of October or early November would be fine. I'll be in the vicinity.

I am working very hard now to finish the book and see the end in sight, I hope!

Incidentally, when I show the slides at the Potomac School, I have Marian on the list of special invitations.

This brings all our best wishes and my regret at being so long-----