

February 16,
1955.

Dear Carol:-

It is with the greatest reluctance that I "take my typewriter in hand". Due to many causes, the last one being a very accute attack of shingles now being endured by my side partner, that I just am not going to be ready to come east by early April. I woke up to that fact last night. Betsy is better but it will be a while yet before she can take over the house again, and this as well as other matters have put me way behind on my book. /THAT BOOK! Will it ever get finished??? But it is coming along and I now have three publishers interested and am not worrying about it being taken once it is done. But to carry all this and earn a living at the same time just has me slowed down to the point where I plainly see it will be June before I finally finish. Now, is it going to in convenience you too greatly to fill my date in April with something else? And please may this only be a postponement? I shall in all probability be coming east some time in late August and stay on for a while so that I can make any early fall date that would suit you. But maybe you dont want to plan that far ahead. It distressed me deep ly to have to cancel something I was looking forward to so eagerly. There are just too many factors involved to make it possible by April.

I have ju t written to Miss Speer, and fortunately I had not yet made an effort to get more dates. Several were "in the offing" but my time was too late in the spring. I am also writing to the Arts Club. Ofcourse they can have my show just the same though I should have liked to be there. Perhaps they may be able to switch to fall also.

Poor little Betsy has really taken a beating ith the shingles. I had no idea how terrific it could be. Maybe by fall we will be able to manage for her to come too. This brings our joint love and my very sincere regrets to cause you any trouble. It must be an awful n isance to count on something and have it fall through. Only please make it postponement only!

Much love

Affectionately