

Dec. 5.
Monday.

Dearest Roberta:-

Here we are home again, what's left of us! On the whole it was a wonderful trip, until I hit Rochester N.Y. Headed home. Somewhere I slipped my sacro illiac and driving heavy traffic caused an acute neuritis in my right leg. So bad that I couldn't drive and I had to hire someone to drive me back to Col. Springs. There went some of my hard earned dollars. Betsy's plans were upset as Emily's daughter had some complications following the birth of the baby (she is doing well) then Emily got intestinal flu and was in the hospital so Betsy was in C.S. two weeks longer than planned and visiting around was hard on her as she tried to keep up with everyone. But, in some ways she is better and now that we are home I hope she will pick up steadily.

Before I tell you all about my trip, we had a bombshell land from our dear landlady. One of Shush's friends came to call on her and A. hit the roof and has complained about everything under the sun to a point where I can no longer take it. Called Katherine E. and found that Augustine Stohls place is for sale again. The man is ill and must get out the altitude. We have just been down to look at and think very favorably of it. The bad feature is the present entrance which can be changed as an entrance can be made either on the Camino or from the Acequia. The man has done a lot to the house. Built a patio wall down in front. Fixed up the guest house which would make wonderful workrooms. You know the place. He is asking \$15,000. which I think too high. Katherine and Henriette both have the place and H. has just taken us down. I have asked her to find out if he will take \$5000. down and a balance of \$7500. at \$75. per month. We can scrape up about \$1500. but will have to borrow the rest. Having great confidence in your judgement of values what do you think? It is a beautiful lot, a nice old house, and the entrance can be made right for customers etc at a small expense, and the location excellent for me. Hear nice (I hope) spanish neighbors who could be a help if I were away.

Now, as to the book. Studio-Crowell, is very interested. Mr. Bryan Holme, an Englishman, was most enthusiastic about it. Wants it just as I have it, foldouts and all. Says it can be done as is to see for \$10. but he would prefer to have sell at \$7.50 and find funds to start it off. Said he knew where to get it. Seemed all ready to go. I saw him at 11. A.M. one morning. at 1 P.M. saw the Museum of Natl Hist. who immediately booked my show for No. 1956 to Jan 4 1957. All down in writing. at 2 P.M. saw a highly recommended agent, McIntosh & Otis, a Mrs. Abbot in charge who was all keen about the book and after thinking it over for 24 hrs. I

turned everything over to her. Her report on Mr. Holme was very tops. He wanted to see the quality of my finished prints and these are with him now. He is to see the possible source of aid this week, so that I hope for a contract before too long and I know I will bet a better contract through Mrs. Abbot than I would have done for myself. I found interest in the Navaho very great. All the slide shows went over wonderfully and I got so I didnt mind talking to all sorts of groups. I am just praying that I will be timed right for once in my life. In Rochester I was also booked for the show of prints to follow the Amer. Museum. Then I did quite a lot of work besides. If it hadnt been for my back I would have come home with all bills paid and a good nest egg, but the latter has been nicked. Most of all, it did a lot for my morale. I could go east and earn a good living. Even if I went for two or three months a year that might free me for other work here. In addition to all else I saw a good agent for color transparencies who kept 18 of my best ones and know the kind of thing they can sell. So you see, it was a worth while trip. I got myself a suit and new coat and a gabrdine dress but had the strength of mind not to buy any new photo equip! How glad I am! Now I settle down to finish the book and then turn to to earn every penny I can. I can get lots of portrait work in Col. Springs and that is easy from here. Come January, Eastman will be out with a new direct print in color. Saw all the working of it in Rochester while I was there. I shall hit this hard for portraiture.

I write this hurriedly as I want to get it off to you air mail special. I was going to write you a steamer letter, and shall do that too for I have much to write. I do want your advice about the house. Phone me if you will, evening rates are not too high. 2-0032. Will be home any evening. Reverse the charge.

A. has just telephoned me again to tell me that she had found the little window in the studio open and you had come up to close it. Also she was sweet as cream trying to make up for this morning. ~~But Abby, that cap is no one~~ ~~about the things~~ Gladly but she says you didnt give it to her. Also we found no radio to take care of! Are you and at us?

We are most anxious for all your news. Be sure to send me your address. In the meantime I may be talking to you. It may be that things will blow over somewhat but I will have to sacrifice my dog. I dont want to do anything in too much of a hurry, at the same time this may be a good chance for it is a nice old house.

Our joint love to you both