

Many thanks for address + 'phone no.!

BRENDA PUTNAM, 19 Sharp Hill Road, Wilton, Connecticut

December 10th '55

O Laurie Dear!

What a damned shame about that poor leg + back - I feel just sick about it. You've always seemed such a Rock of Gibraltar in health and cheerfulness. I can't bear to think of you all crippled up with horrid pain in that right leg. Not to mention the humiliation + expense of having to hire ~~someone~~ to drive you home! That was a blow. I only hope he, or she, was a decent sort and a good driver. Can just imagine your tensions if the driving wasn't as smooth + deft as your own!

Glad you resisted the idea of an operation - what would it have concentrated on? A slipped disc, (so fashionable nowadays), or an attack on the nerve itself?

I do hope that a few weeks of quiet at home will make all

the difference. There's no question but that excessive driving (plus a weighty box jamming you in the back) takes its toll from the human machine. Hope you'll never, never try such an Odyssey again. Even Ulysses would have succumbed long before you did.

Hope you and weary Betsy have been able to get someone in to do marketing & cooking, so you can both lie by for a while, and give your unhappy nerves a chance to recuperate. How is that nasty nerve of Betsy's that they threatened to excise? Much better, I do hope.

Hard to be cheerful under the circumstances, but you must have at least some comfort in reviewing your triumphal tour of the East — "making friends & influencing them", especially on behalf of the Navajos, every where you went. My friends still reverberate to those slides

of yours! And the handsome prospects for the Book must make you feel even the game leg was worth it all.

Have you heard anything further from Studio-Crowell, or are they waiting to plunge until they get the complete MSS.? Well, that's one thing that you can work at with your leg on a cushion, or whatever's most comfortable. And I bet, now that there's been this hiatus, you'll return to your text with a lot of refreshing new ideas.

And listen, Honey — do-don't plunge in & wear yourself out with rush Xmas orders, just 'cause that extra driver ate up most of your lecture-profits.

That check I gave you was not so specifically earmarked as all that! Do use it to get a genuine rest right now, — that

will please me best - and it's all in the same cause, anyway.

field & woods, so it doesn't seem much longer.
The days are quite humdrum, but I do so relish

Wilton is gradually recovering from the flood: the railroad & trestles have at last been rebuilt, though trains are not yet on full schedule. People are rebuilding washed-away garages on higher ground; a bulldozer spent a day swimming up & down Norwalk river, digging a channel, & shoving masses of toppled trees up on the banks to reinforce them & make anchorages for new fills of soil over the stony rubble that was exposed.

But alas, we pedestrians can't get our old bridge back. So I prefer to walk a longer way to village than tackle the exposed & perilous Danbury Road. It means a three-mile roundtrip instead of two, but at least one walks in quiet footpaths, beside the river and through

the peace of them; & the birds are wonderful company -
love to you, & I hope your next P.C. will tell of recovery -