

Big Sur,
Sunday

Dear Laura,

You have been in my thoughts a good long time, ever since your letter arrived and ever since we went out to New Mexico and phoned you...but found you in Kansas City. And, I might add, you'll be surprised to hear that we followed you to Kansas City and saw your pictures in the Show at the Nelson Gallery.....but always we missed you.

Nat and I were out at the Ranch (living in the studio.....a one burner electric stove on which we cooked and even invited guests to dine with us) We had a little party and invited you SPECIALLY....the whole party began with the thought that we wanted you to come out....and then you were away. But, you will be amused to hear that once out there (after so long an absence) (and not having sold any of the Ranch) we decided that what we needed most of all was another unit built on courtyard style behind the studio...so that we could go out there and live a bit more comfortably than we did in the little studio. (Of course, we NEED this addition the way we need a hole in our head) but you know Nat, loving to build, and me, loving to find old wood and old windows, etc. and old furniture to put together...so we spent most of our time out there hauling down old timbers from Truchas and Trampasan old roof we took off ourselves in Trampas and hauled down in our truck (we gave delivered...a tin roof for the man's barn in its stead...and everyone was happy though obviously perplexed by the deal)

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House Beautiful is running an article on our house in February and using some of your pictures. I have sent them all your pictures to choose from and I urged them to reimburse you for those they used even though we had bought them from you. Ezra Stoller came out and took some more pictures and they will probably use most of his....but I pray that you will one fine day go to your mailbox and find a check from H.B. for our house photos.

Nat and I are next going to Jamaica (tomorrow) to a partner's meeting of the Firm. It will be exciting seeing the turquoise waters, etc. but I admit that I think of it as an imposition that I must leave home. Nat just scotch taped a little line from Thoreau onto my closet door. It says: "Beware of enterprizes which require new clothes".....for he knows my feelings.....

the end of the paper - So must close -
Affectionately - Marsand