



Box 1173 • Santa Fe, New Mexico

June 5, 66

Dear Mitch:-

I don't know if you have heard anything about the trials and tribulations of one book by L.G. It was shipped from here on April 11th addressed to Mr. Wardlaw via Railway Express special handling. After more than two weeks, having heard nothing of its receipt, I phoned Mr. Wardlaw and found that it had not yet been received; so he started inquiries from his end and I did the same from here. A whole week went by, more infact, and the local agent had tracked it to El Paso and they were working on it from there. Then Mr. Wardlaw called to know if I had heard anything and said that their receiving dept had just told him that it had not yet been heard from. You can imagine my state of mind at this point. An hour and a half later Mr. W.'s sec'y called to say that it was found and that it had been in their receiving dept. all the time! This was a month ago and that was the last I have heard. I did look for a letter from Mr. Wardlaw but so far not a word. There is doubtless some explanation, he may be a way or some other reason, but I feel as far away from that book as Gemini ♊ is at this moment.

I have a duplicate dummy for you, though there are four quick prints I must make before I can send it. And here comes another tale. Since I saw you last, my hip has gotten increasingly worse and I am now on crutches. A (what they call) degenerating arthritic joint, meaning a deteriorating surface to the joint, probably gout. I have not been able to tolerate the medicine that usually holds gout at bay so that it is not at all good. However one hope is a new medicine, not yet released which in tests has done wonders for such a condition. My doctor is trying to get some in advance for it will not be on the market for two months. Now there is a very urgent prayer that this medicine I can take. Sorry to inflict you with such a tale of woe, but I am concerned about being able to get the

show to-gether that you want. There will be a lot of printing to do. I have a stool on casters but even so it means a lot of standing and that is very limited.

I am, ofcourse, wondering if you have had any communication with Mr. Wardlaw and if you know what the situation is. I have not expected to hear a quick decision about it, but if I must seek another publisher, I will have to be finding a New York agent to handle it, for I doubt that I could manage a trip to New York.

One thing is very clear and that is that I must sell the highboy. I have done a little work but not enough. A local antique dealer has put a very high figure on it, telling me that I could retire on it. He mentioned forty thousand to my astonishment. Nat Owings told me it should bring at least that or more. The history of the mahogany and the certified statements about it (which are fastened into the bottom of one of the top drawers) of course give it added value. I will feel like a heel selling it but it looks as though there is no choice. I am going to make a good color shot of it this coming week to have something to send away, and of course I shall write to Wolcott Stewart who told me when he sent it down, "no strings attached". Do you know anyone in Fort Worth who might be interested in such a purchase? Any advice you can give me will be most welcome.

I am, I hope, taking all this in my stride. After all I have had 75 very good years and one doesn't have to look very far to see many who are very much worse off.

My very best to you and Sally and I hope for news about the book before long.