

April 13
1967

Dear Mitch:-

It was good indeed to hear from Mr. Wardlaw and to know that you both will be here next Wednesday. I am wondering how long you will be around etc. Will Sallie be coming with you? In any event will you both have dinner with us that evening? How about another steak? As I am at present on a 600 calorie a day diet (why in a moment) I'm not much on dining out, but I can give you a good steak, salad etc with enough to eat and contro, my self at the same time. But maybe you will both be through with me by supper time and will want to be "on the town". Dont hesitate to say so. A lame old lady isnt very exciting company. (an ominous birth day coming up).

Perhaps the delay on the book is a blessing in disguise for the following reason. On March 1, I went over to Phoenix to see a Dr. Eissenbeiss, a neurologist, about my back and hip. I liked hi very much indeed, but his diagnosis was that my siatic nerve was not involved, and that the hip was the chief offender. He called in an orthopedic surgeon and the both agreed that either a shot of cortizone on the hip joint operation was indicated and should be done nearer home if possible. I have recently been to see Dr. Lewis Overton at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque. I have long known that he had a big reputation. I saw him some eleven years ago about my back, but he did not want to operate on a back that was over 50 years old. This time however, it is different. He has been specializing in this hip socket peration and whinks it should be done. He wants me to take off ten pounds first, however. This will mean a month in the hospital for therapy and then gradual recovery with crutch, then cane, then no other help. I have quite made up my mind to do it. I'm no good as I am and I dont see my saâf

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on crutches for the rest of my life. Dr. Overton has just recently done this operation on a woman of seventy two, and the age problem seems to be O.K. with my general condition. My own doctor here is away and ofcourse I will go all over this with her as soon as she comes home. But I have no hesitation whatever as of now. By the time the book comes out I should be on my own two feet and ready to go. I think very highly of Dr. Overton. I do not know what you have been told about your back, but I do feel it would be a very good thing to get his opinion at least. Perhaps you could see him on this trip over. If you should phone for an appointment please dont hesitate to use my name and also that you knew Dr. Lovelace. Here's hoping for you.

In the meantime I am writing down all the questions I can think of as well as matters to discuss with both you and Mr. Wardlaw next week.

My best to all,