

720 Riverside Drive, New York 31, N. Y.
April 8, 1949.

Dear Laura:

Your telegram came Wednesday and your airmail special, Thursday - which I here record to point out how speedy airmail is. It takes longer to get a letter to Yonkers than that.

You did not and do not "let me down" either twice or once.

I am glad to have your corrections on my screed. Of the first of these, I shall perhaps run a footnote in the Bulletin, stating simply that that was a phony, and that you have now confessed to the fact. I only wrote what I believed to be the literal and stupid truth. Or, perhaps I shall argue: If LG got into a B-29 in the hangar, and a crane raised it to an elevation of twenty-five feet, and held it there and would go no farther, that was as high as that B-29 would take her that time, wasn't it? I didn't say in my paragraph "as high as a B-29 could carry her", did I? And even if I had, that is as high as it could carry her, isn't it, if that is as high as it went? Well.

As to the other: Of course The Pueblos was published in 1941. I am sure of that too. That statement in my screed just goes to show that I am getting old. And not gracefully. And I shall correct that one by the announcement of the forthcoming Rio Grande. Or rather, Follow the Rio Grande. I approve the latter title. The association with Burton Holmes is, it is true, a miserable connection; I see now that you should have chosen a different river in the first place. Besides, I know a disgraceful story of many years ago, when, it is said, B. H., in a party which found itself running short of water in the Southwestern Desert, was caught, getting up early and washing his face in some of the limited water supply. Whereupon the Driver, calling the whole party together, in their presence, poured the water B. H. had been using, back into the keg; thus obviating any further precautions about going easy on the water supply. . . Yes, I should call it "Follow the Rio Grande !" even to the exclamation point. (That puts something in it that B. H. never got into his tales of travel.) Most people have forgotten B. H. anyway - some never heard of him.

I am in a penitent mood about corrections, for I have just admitted an error in one of my definitions in Webster's Dictionary, and now have another to make. To wit; when I said the 26th of May for the Tea, I should have said 25th. The date I gave is perfectly possible, BUT: These teas (I almost wrote "tease") are almost always on Wednesdays. So there is a "groove" established. We had the last tea, the one for Barse Miller, on a Tuesday because he is tied hand-and-foot on Wednesdays. And the attendance was not as good as it should have been. (The 25th is a Wednesday.) We could announce your tea for the following Wednesday, June 1, if you wished. But we think the exhibition gets more benefit from the publicity if the tea comes earlier. You are entitled to have ten guests on the Club - guests of your own, at the tea. Unless I hear from you by one of your prompt wires or airmail letters, (MY expense) we will go ahead and assume that Wednesday May 25 is the day for LG's tea.

You are entitled to a hundred or so copies of the Club Bulletin, announcing your show; (example enclosed). And if you care to, in addition, the Club will have printed for you - at exhibitor's expense - announcement cards (sample enclosed). While the exhibition is on, you will have a guest membership in the Club, entitling you to all privileges. If you would like to have a dozen copies of your book on the table, Mrs. Ellis tells me we can have a girl there to take care of any sales. (That's not limited to a dozen, of course!) This, I believe is an innovation. The Club charges no commission if an artist's work is sold. We pay the shipping expenses on your exhibition, of course.

I think you have been at the Club. It has no living quarters, but does have a fair restaurant and a bar, as well as a really pleasant Lounge where we make dates for visits with our friends, if it is not convenient for them to come way out where we live. The Executive Secretary of the Club is Mrs. Rena Ellis, Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street, New York 18, N. Y. And she and I are in constant touch with each other. She really has all the strings in her hands, and is very nice. Any of these things - your copies of the Bulletin, Announcements, if you want to have some printed, etc., are arranged by her office. I've just been elected a member of the Board of Directors - which has set me up no end, as I had supposed that I was on the shelf by this time.

Everything you say in your letter about the forthcoming events, your exhibition and tea, etc., is, I think, on the beam. We look forward.

It is good to have such good news about Betsy. We have a saying in our house, which we use on occasion, "Consider yourself kissed on both cheeks." It is, need I explain, an esoteric reference to a custom prevalent in the French Army in connection with the conferring of military honors (I said esoteric - not erotic; which I am always confusing with the other word). Well, tell Betsy to consider herself kissed on both cheeks, for her vitality and valor, and, if the proprieties permit, may I extend the same greeting to yourself, in recognition of all the trouble I am causing you with my importunities about the exhibit! (Well, kind of "erotic" too, come to think on't!)

As ever,

Bob

P S (As if this letter were not long enough already) It was nice to have your Colorado Springs exhibition leaflet. We had received one - or three quarters of one - in a very indirect way. A good lady in Washington State had been sent one; apparently some personal notes had gotten themselves written on it, and she tore that part off and sent us the rest. The lady was Mrs. Reppy, who, you may remember, was in charge at Chappell House in my time. She is now living in Washington, is about seventy-five, and has taken up painting!

Was I clear about the Bulletins, announcements, etc., above? That : -

- (1) You can have ten people of your own choosing, as guests of the Club at the Tea, and as many more guests as you wish;
- (2) You can have printed for you at cost an announcement of the exhibition;
- (3) You will receive, upon request, as many copies of the Club Bulletin, up to a hundred or so, as you like.

And I am glad if anything I ever said or did helped you to become one of those who "get-mad-as-the-dickens-about-printing."

Bob

*That's a beautiful, beautiful one of the Rio Grande yielding
its Surplus to the Sea!*

Bob

And the text of that leaflet is very satisfying too - and more.

Bob