

3816 West Biddison
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

October 12, 1966

Dear Nell,

I am just up in the wheel chair again from surgery on Monday. A lot of tissue formed, to our great delight, but it turned out to be bad tissue and they had to remove it; so we are hoping now for the formation of some good tissue.

But that is dwarfed by the great events of the preceding 10 days. Our beloved Jacques Maritain came to stay with us; and then last Thursday we went together with Penn Jones to Gethsemani for the meeting with Thomas Merton. We had three unbelievable days in those Kentucky hills. They had to carry me everywhere, but it worked out wonderfully well. Penn brought me back here Sunday and I had surgery Monday. Penn and I wished that you could have been there to photograph this great reunion in the Trappist monastery. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

I took some 500 frames, but since I was anchored to one spot, I had to shoot whatever came in focus and could not move about or choose the views as I would have wished.

The November issue of Ramparts (not yet out) carries a very full story on Penn Hones and his work. As soon as my extra copies come I will mail one to you.

Now, I must keep this brief. I am too sedated to stay up for long at a time. I am trying to do a retrospective piece on Lillian Smith, whose loss we feel so keenly.

My family joins me in sending you our great love,

John