

John Howard Griffin

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May 1, 1969

Beloved Nell,

Returned here yesterday noon and had to go into oral surgery all afternoon, so am sedated. They have to operate again - probably the week-end -- some of that gold and platinum came unanchored. Your letter was here. How lovely to hear from you this way - to know that the photos arrived all right and that they give you some pleasure as they do me.

Nell, the big and great thing is that the Merton Legacy Trust unanimously decided I was the only one to do the official Merton Biography, and asked me last week please to undertake this. Piedy and I decided that a study of this extraordinary man in this day and time of such fragmentation, was not only the most joyful thing I could do, but probably the most important - so I accepted this tremendous job, and am now overwhelmed with happiness to have done it. It will mean a year of travel and research at least, and then another of writing the book. I will hope to have all the unfinished things done by the end of June (the other books, etc) and be able to begin in July. So I am holding open the time to give full time to this marvelous project.

Must tell you that I had a magnificent morning with Roland Hayes (last Saturday) and though I have not processed my films yet, feel that I may have got some good things. If so, will send you one to give to Bennie. Remind me if I forget.

Thank you for the clip about Father Dumond. I am glad to hear of this. Will you please thank dear Bertha, too, for her gracious note, and for all her kindness to me when I was there.

Love,
John