

February 15, 1971

Dearest Nell,

Bless your heart. Did I already send these. They are Mandy's first efforts in color (made from transparencies she took). She did all in this, selecting her shutter and focusing, etc. Though the camera was nearly too heavy for her frail arms, she managed, and I think quite well.

Well, anyway, she is terribly proud of them and as her poppa I am too, of course, idiotically so, and she wants these "gorgeous pictures" to go to you! So they are her valentine because she said she couldn't find any "nice ~~xxxxxx~~ cards."

I'm in that animal stage of creation on the book. Cannot do anything but work on it. Have cancelled everything. I have to come "North" in April and May both, so we will just do our trip then, but will let you know well in advance.

Weather her in upper 70's.

Am groggy from the concentration on this book. Stopped long enough last night to watch Serkin do the Mozart Concerto #21 in C with the Vienna Philharmonic. What a gloriously exciting experience.

Have not had an answer to my letter to him, but Ormandy says Serkin never, never answers a letter, and did not even answer Vienna's letter requesting appearances there, and Ormandy had to ~~be~~ call and make the request for the Vienna Philharmonic personally on the telephone.

And last night I got called away from the desk to hear Cavett's interview with Lilian Gish. I wonder if you saw and heard it. She handled herself with marvelous coolness when Dali came in and threw an ant-eater in her lap, and rather reproached him, saying "This poor animal is frightened." Bravo for her. Fortunately Dali's really crude remarks were lost in his bad English and were understood only by LG and myself (Cavette did not catch them) and Miss G. ~~xxxx~~ remained very aloof.

All for the moment. Great love to you, Nell. All those marvelous meats you sent arrived, while I was at Gethsemani last time, and I forgot to tell you. Thanks a million.

Love,
Joe