

Thursday evening
March 3, 1949

Dear Peter,

Your wonderful letter postmarked the fifteenth of February deserved an immediate reply from me. With three exams this week, however, I felt that my time could better be put on my studies.

Your enthusiastic description of your trip made me wish I could be with you, even if places like Barstow, Mojave, and Los Angeles bring me only unpleasant memories. Perhaps in the company of your Dorco caravan I would see things in a different light, to say nothing of the absence of a uniform. I gather you are making your usual contacts. That is one art of which you are the unchallenged master and champion of the world.

Nance, her mother, and I went down to New York on the eighteenth of February, returning on the twenty-third. First stop was Westport. The West Branch never looked lovelier and Mrs. Potter was enchanted. She still hasn't recovered. We covered the Kungsholm from top to bottom, taking measurements and jotting down colors. Mr. Hapke was there and was most helpful. He certainly thinks the world of you, both as a person and as a landlord. Then I took Nance and mother on a walk around the place. There was just the faintest feel of spring in the air and both Nance and I felt that we wanted to move in right away without waiting till June. Words cannot express our gratitude to you for offering us the Kungsholm. There is no more ideal spot for us to live.

While at the West Branch I talked briefly with Anna. She still strikes me as a rather strange woman and does not exactly fill me with confidence. Probably I just don't know her

well enough. She is happy at present, but was quick to tell me that at present she has no intentions of remaining at the West Branch over the summer. John was tending the sheep and our time was short, so I did not see him. Likewise, I could not stop to see Jeff and our visit to the Mill consisted only of a drive by the outside. Easter vacation, April 2-11, will be less rushed and possibly we can wangle some time together at the West Branch.

My big reason for going down to New York was to check at the office about my application. Mr. Anable greeted me Monday morning and we had a good talk before I went over to Rockefeller Center to take my psychological exam with Dr. Martin. Rarely have I spent a more interesting morning. After the exam we talked on for about an hour, discussing various aspects of my case, particularly with regard to just where I would fit into the company. I would like to have you read his report on me before I tell you any of the things he said. Then we can have a good discussion about the whole business when I come down in four weeks.

The rest of our time in New York we spent in search of china and silver patterns. Finally we have made up our minds, so that is one big problem out of the way. Ma is doing a terrific job with the lists and plans generally seem to be moving along more than satisfactorily. Our theory of getting things done well ahead is working out well, so maybe we shall avoid the usual hectic weeks just before the wedding. We are also very fortunate in that our reservations for Bermuda are safely made, which is almost too good to be true. I had almost given up hope of getting back there.

I trust that you and Nell have both survived your trip in good health and spirits. Please give her my best love.

Sincerely,
Durr