

January 15, 1987.

Dear Rline,

Thank you for writing, even though
your news is sad. The tougher things are,
the more one wants to be in touch. Eliot
must mind terribly being cut off from his
camera, even though as he looks back on
a lifetime of distinguished accomplishment
he must be able to derive tremendous
satisfaction from that alone. We got the
Maine Book and agree with him that it's
even better than Summer Island, and
of course for Francis and me terribly
nostalgic. Those years when we were all
comparatively young were so wonderful, and
we were so lucky in our health and our friends.

Francis hasn't been the same since his prostate cancer several years ago - nearly four, I think - depressed and inclined to sequester himself and brood and expect the worst. He does take depression medicine and try awfully hard not to give up. Since city walking is painful for me (country grass fortunately less so) he has responsibility for day-to-day shopping (aside from Sage's delivering bulky items every week) and doing as it is for him, it keeps him from running down, I feel, so I have no qualms about imposing on him. And I, of course, have the cooking, etc.

Apartment life isn't all that much easier except for the lack of stairs. We have a real dining-room and 3 bedrooms plus a tiny maid's room off the kitchen where

I have a washer-dryer, and 3 bathrooms.
So there are plenty of routine chores,
tiring, but I think important for self-
respect. Yes, I crave I wish you were
with me in an apartment next
door! But you would miss the outdoors, as
I do in the in-between seasons when we
aren't in Warcham.

Brother's little (?) boys are close
to Steve's in age ($12\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$) and
very bright and sweet - mad about traps
and especially fishing. We see them from
time to time, as they're in Durham, N. H.,
and I come visit us in the summer. Next
summer we are having 3 weeks of Jeppy's
children and grandchildren, but nothing Jack

and Grace Peirce's guest cottage for them, as I think four kids aged 2, 3, 4, & 5 would hardly be restless to hang around constantly, but of course we love having them on the beach.

Joppy is in Cambridge doing "temp" work at the moment. She is amicably separated from Harry and has her own home here. She is very much "into" silk-screen printing and I think very good at it. The girls, of course, are all in London, 2 married & with jobs, the youngest studying Hist. of Art. Tell Etier that Mary, who was so sick when she was last here, is in wonderful shape now. She volunteers daily in the linen room at MGH and also delivers flowers to patients.

We both send you with a great deal of love.

Barbara.



Mrs. Eliot Porter

Route 4, Box 33

Santa Fe, New Mexico

87501

987 MEMORIAL DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

Tues.
wed
Fri

Call Roxanne
Write Roxanne