

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THE PULITZER PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Dear Pa --

Thanks very much for the Christmas check. It's really very generous, you know. I'll do with it what I always do, which isn't very imaginative and that is to distribute it equally among the boys.

I'm delighted the Amon Carter show book has been, so well and so extensively reviewed, though I haven't seen all of them. There's a nice one in the Post-Dispatch which I'll send you. It was written by the book editor here, Clarence Olsen, who is interested in photography and has reviewed several of your books in the past.

A book store proprietor whom I know told me the other day that the book is selling very well and, in fact, that he has had to reorder, though he hasn't much hope of getting the order filled before Christmas.

It'll be nice to get the book with the Mexican pictures. They were always among Jane's favorites, and mine, too. I've been trying to find one around here to send to her. Can you tell me the name of the publisher?

I'm very glad to learn of the ~~new~~ ^{and the} forthcoming book, ~~especially~~ ^{the bird portfolio.} If you are having trouble writing and would like ~~me~~ help, please just let me know. It would be very easy for me to take some time off and come out to Santa Fe and have you dictate what you want to say. In fact, I'd welcome it. You could, as I say, dictate and I could type it up, in draft form, and then you could make whatever amendments you need to make.

Aline told me when I called yesterday that mornings are very uncomfortable for you which made me wonder if there wasn't some sort of additional medication that could make ~~it~~ them ~~more~~ less unpleasant. I wish you'd ask your doctor about it.

I plan to be in Portsmouth, with Jane, her mother, the boys and Bella over Christmas with a stop on the way back in Washington to do an article on the National Geographic Society which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1988. It's a curious institution -- very conservative and conventional though perhaps getting a bit less so. I hope to find out. It's also been an astonishing commercial success which is sort of a mystery to me. Someone recently wrote a book about it, but it left a lot to be explained. I don't especially recommend it -- the book that is. Nor the magazine, either, for that matter.

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I haven't much news about the family, not having heard from anyone, except those who gathered in Fort Worth, since last summer. Bella, as you know, is going to have a baby in April, I think it is, and we're all quite excited about that. She is very skinny, as you may have noticed, and her doctor has told her to eat more. The obstacle seems to be that she subscribes to the currently fashionable notion that one should avoid things like meat and butter.

I hope to see Nancy in Washington.

Hope you have a good Christmas. Love to Aline.

Love,

b