

Share a Car

P4 year at Voissson Oct. 3,
1963

Dear Scott,

If you knew how I had been waiting for word from you concerning my last batch of pictures you would have written back immediately. Anyway here is another batch of them, not however as good as the last batch. The little old lady was sweeping in the doorway but I could not catch her in the pose that I thought would make a good picture, so what do I do? I settle for a straight on shot that don't get it. Also I just out of desperation snapped the old gail as she was walking out of her room to empty the food off the plate into the garbage can. I'm sorry I screwed. The colors are good, perhaps you can do something with them. You might be interested in the house that the woman is in. It is called Voissson House, a plantation house up river road that was built before seventeen eighty (an old house for this area.) If you remember the book of plantation homes of the mississippi, remember in particular the picture of the little girl with the picture of the plantation home superimposed over it - well this old woman is that little girl. She has lived in that house for eighty-four years and her family for a hundred and twenty-five years.

Those other pictures of the old house come from the Trudeau House. Perhaps you remember it from that book. It is the house with the two octagonal garconieres behind it, attached to the house by the porch. Well, don't chastise me for taking too many pictures here. I was absolutely flabbergasted by all the " modern composition " subjects and the colors of the walls, the ferns, the old timbers. I think there are some great subjects for watercolors. On the back of two of these photographs I have put the numbers, one and two, so that you can put these two pictures together to give you a more clear idea of what the entire wall looked like. I was sorry that I did not have any sun for these pictures. It was heavily overcast and there were one or two billion mosquitoes, some actually an inch long buzzing around my head in a swarm. They looked like crane flies but they weren't. I was hidden under my raincoat, trying to focus and trying to keep them bugs off my hands. It was to no avail. I was almost eaten alive. I still got some good shots and I think you will admit that they are good subjects in some of these pictures.

(on back)

You may be wondering where did I go go to get these pictures. Well, last week Jim and I and another boy, Billy Moffet who a good guy and also a fiend on old houses went for a ride up river road one after noon. I didn't know then that we would end up in Natchez to pent the next day there but that's where we wound up, but not until we had seen many of the plantation houses in La. that I had always wanted to see. We saw (going up) Ashland or Bell Helene, the great hoÿse with the square pillars, Houmas house (oh what a house) The Hermitage which is partially restored and is still beautiful. The man who owns it is not going to repaint it or re-stuco the columns which is good becaouse you ought to see the luminosity of those columns. (I have pictures of many of these houses. I will send them to you some day) I saw Bocage, Ormand, Destrehand, Tezcuco, Trudeau house and many others. The boys loved Natchez. I took them to Longwood. Scott, did you know that there really are overalls left on the saw horses back in 1861. I thought I was just bullshitting until I saw it for myself. We went all the way up into the top of the house which scared hell out of me. I took a couple of pictures of the place from up there. I ~~also~~ also took a picture of Longwood from the ground but that was because there was good compostion to it. I have gotten pretty good with compostion. You should have seen some of the good pictures I passed up, ones with beautiful colors but very little pictorial quality. I did take some shitty shots of the plantation houses mainly because I just wanted a pictorial record of them.

Went down to Natches below the hill but did not take my camera which I was soon to regret because I saw the best shot of a little negro boy standing behind a ripped screen door, his head or rather a portion of his head from above the eyes down to below the nose was visible from behind the hole in the screen. It was a great shot, but I did not have my camera. After nactchez we came back down through Saint Francisville, saw the ruins of Greenwood (a row of white columns) which was very moving, went to Oakley which looked as comfortable and as like home as everytime we have seen it. We had a great time.

Scott, I have got to run now. Please keep writing me and sending things if you can. I gave that drawing of Wyeth's home to Gundry and he is wild over it. Please keep sending things. Jim and I will frame them and put them up on our walls. See you soon, will keep that shutter clicking.

Stu