

Thursday
December? 1963

Dear Stu,

My trip back was smooth and fast - the fastest I've ever flown. The Captain even remarked over the loudspeaker that we were traveling at 690 mph at 37 thousand feet. We made it from Montgomery, Alabama to Atlanta, Georgia in 12 minutes! Some statistics! All was pretty much the way I left it even weather wise except for today when it was cold and rainy all day which didn't help my cold.

Ronald is doing fine and his family too. He's staying at school the rest of this year. John McCay wrote him a letter asking him not to go and was instrumental in Ronald's receiving a full scholarship to the academy. Besides his tempera that he started is coming beautifully so beautifully that I'm inspired to do one myself. Ronald, if he doesn't have to work ~~for~~ Saturday is going to help me make the panel. It will be at least a month before I can start painting on it. It requires a long time to dry.

Today I worked up a drawing of "Mosely's Rain" and transferred it to copper. I improved on the little drawing I did and it has the makings of a real beauty. But some how I don't feel I have the old "gism". It's there I know and perhaps this etching will arouse it again. I hope so. The blue devils are at me a little bit, maybe because I don't not home and also your problems are constantly with me. I don't know what I would do if you should fail with your novel. You have so little confidence in yourself that I don't think you're going to give it the effort it requires, and if it flaps you'll be very unhappy. I don't know what to do or say. It's up to you. I've had to put up with so many sad experiences that that would be a death blow I think. It's very late

and these moods always plague me at late hours
so I'll continue this in the morning.

Friday.

Well, I started on my Mordey's Rain and made
an excellent start on it and in fact if all continues
like this it just might be my best. The detail
is amazing to me even. I worked five hours on the
barn which is probably only an inch square and
I did every single detail including about half
a million shingles on the roof. And then I worked
on all the grass. What work. You see I'm trying
to get reflections and sparkles of rain on the grass.
I know that when I run the plate through the
acid that it probably will be too light, but then
is where the artist's eye comes in and the real work
begins. This print will probably be the most complex
one that I have done because of the difference in values
that I'm trying for. Complex it will be, but not too
difficult unless I over bite with the acid (which I
always seem to do) Anyway I don't want to count
my chickens before they're hatched and I don't want
to hurry on it just to send you one. So you'll probably
have to wait a week, — no more if all goes well.

Ronald told me that today the school faculty voted
down his scholarship — a foul blow. Fate isn't with
Ronald and I was also with some friends today who
were talking about how impossible it is to make
a living in art and I thoroughly believe them. Ron-
ald is better than 90% of the people in that school
and his tough luck never seems to let up. Just
when he thought all was lost a letter came
from the school office saying his scholarship had
been paid for by an anonymous person. And you
know the only person it could have been? John McCoy.

Just when you get convinced that the world is peopled
with shit some good person comes along and saves the image.
I can truly say that John McCoy is one of the finest, most humble
people I've ever met. A good man and I don't bestow that title
on many of my fellow-creatures

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