

Gundry, Moffet and I go to Natchez

Wednesday
October 1947

Dear Scott,

I have a lot of news but not much time to tell it in. I am leaving this afternoon for home to attend the Steeplechase Ball as Debbie Johnson's escort. It will be good to be home. I hope this news will not depress you. Last weekend on a very impromptu spur of the moment Jim Gundry, Billy Moffet, and Jeffry Allen (a south african-white) and I went up to natchez. The pictures that you have are a product of that trip. It was wonderful, Scott. I have found things in St Francisville and Woodville that will pop your eyes out when you come down. I can't wait till you get here. Please write me and tell me what time you will be here. I must know the exact time so that I can come out and meet you and also have a bed for you. Then we will go to Natchez. I can't tell you everything about our trip because it would take too long. If you want we could stay at cherry gove plantation a few miles outside of Natchez or we could stay at Stanton hall. Last weekend we stayed at the Eola hotel and it was quite pleasant.

I took the boys to King's Tavern and the talk we had with the old girl who runs the place was great. I have notes of it and will endeavor to put it to paper. It was the first time I asked somebody about Jenny Merrill. This old girl, Mrs Postelwaith is not her name, knew Dick Dana and Octavia Dockery well and swore up and down that Dick Dana was not crazy. She also said that the goats wandering around the house was largely a myth. She also said that Jenny Merrill was the meanest woman she ever knew and that she deserved what she got. Oh Scott, I have just too much to tell you and too little time to say it in. I also want to tell you about our second trip to Parlange and how well we were recieved and about the huge roach that ran across the floor and how Mrs Parlange reacted to it. It's too good just to write down here. I have to tell it. Oh, I can't wait till you are here. We'll have a great time of it!

The pictures - One of Dave O'Brien taken in the Garden district, Three of the boll weevil club in St. Francisville - the building that you always liked so much. Notice the the negro boy on the stairs in the back ground. What a great pose. The pictures of the old building are the old carriage house at Richmond plantation (good water color subjects if the one with the keep out sign is modified.). The others of course are Natchez below the hill.

(on back)

Scott, I found to my dismay that the town of Bayou Sara is no more, Like Natchez below the hill the town was taken away by the river. Still, the hill is there - that hill that Audubon walked up on that June morning. The feeling of the country is the same for it has changed little since then. It is quiet there and very beautiful and even a little sad. You will like it when I take you by there on our trip up to Natchez. There is also a church there in St Francisville that is perhaps the most peaceful looking church that I have ever seen. It will be nice to stop by there again.

Until then...

Stuart

