

late Fall 1964

Preparing for March show
at Ozels

Dear Stu,

Thanks for the letter. I didn't know about our once-a-week writing part but I think it's a good idea and I will do my part. I also got a letter from Shirley today so it was a good day and a good letter too. Very funny. It seems that Mrs. Supton was coming back to Celovias ^{from a party} to spend the night since it was raining cats and dogs and it was late. Well the kids and the baby sitter didn't know she was coming and so thought there was a burglar trying to break in. Kit called Shirley and Shirley called the cops and Jimmy grabbed his trousers and a gun. Shirley when she called the cops said "I must have told such a good one that they sent 2 squad cars." In the mean time the baby sitter without telling friend or foe fired two blasts out the window with a 38 pistol Harry had left her thereby causing Mama to freeze to the ground. Anyway during all this Mrs Gordon heard the shots and woke Big Bill and told him to go over and see what it was, and he declared that they're shooting over there and that he wasn't moving an inch. Shirley went on to say that "Mother has now hidden the bullets."

Well, I thought, it's good to know things haven't changed much since I left.

But up here lots of things have changed and all for the better. I'm working 9 hours a day on that damn Bird Cage and it's about

two thirds finished. I should have it done by the end of this week. I can say also that it's a damn good painting so far and that the major problems are all worked out to my satisfaction. The composition is a fine one the tone of the painting is very good. And it abounds in detail. It's one of the tightest I've done in a long time and the discipline is excellent for me. The color is rich and the textures good. But most important of all - I like this painting which is good for a change. and I haven't spared my time nor labor nor patience. It's a big dry brush on a full sheet of Strathmore minus about an inch on a half on the left side. I'll be bringing it home, of course, when I come in about 2 weeks. I hope it will be finished then.

Stu, I'm going to work my head off every day this year if I'm able. I've gotten in the habit of good hard productive work and it's like seeing an old friend again. You can't get anywhere sitting on your butt waiting for something to happen. You've got to go out and make it happen. I'd forgotten how good it is to work hard and now I'm back in the swing of things again. I don't see why I can't paint 20 or even 25 good paintings before March. And just think of the practice I'll be getting - slowly working for that day you and I have been waiting for - when I go into the south and catch 'its' soul! (I'm listening to the Fireworks by Handel and I feel very noble.

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Your letter made me feel good that you are interested in school as well as art. I know now that you're serious about painting and I'm going to teach you fast. Within a year you'll be on your own painting wise. Your progress up to now has been phenomenal and if it continues it won't take long to get you going strong. The thing though that you must watch is that you develop your own style (I'm a fine one to be talking) but it's very important that people look at your work and say "That's Stuart Bentley's work" not Scott's brother. I don't want you to be a Fredrick Weymouth. So work hard on your own and learn to solve your problems in your own way because no matter how good you get the problems get harder and will always bug you.

I'm glad also to hear that your play has been receiving a little care and attention. I can't say much about it because every thing is up to you. I can't wait though to read what you've written.

I'll let you know when I'll be home and then we'll have some more good discussions about it. Well Stu, I'm played out and I have a lot to do so I'll sign off. I'll write again soon.

Scott