

Wednesday , Sept. 5 1983

Dear Rosa and Murray:

Curious, I have just looked out Llangollen Canal in Wales, in my Britannica Atlas. You see, we were on the canal, at Ruthin to the north and at Llangynog and Llanfyllin to the south. Indeed, we spent a night at a farmer's B and B, and the canal flowed just beyond their back yard. The woman, after supper, took us along when she delivered a fresh cut-up lamb to a neighbor and showed us the University of Wales. Lael took many pictures, including one of that fantastic hand rising out of the earth on the univ. campus, with me holding onto the thumb.

I hadn't known about the canal until we stopped to picnic on the banks of the River Dee. Lael had started back to the car for something, and shouted to me, "Hazel, I see a boat crossing a bridge!" I said stupidly, "Is it on a trailer?" She said, "No! It's under its own power!" So we hastened around to the canal that did, indeed, cross a long stone bridge over the Dee Valley, and saw the boats passing, loaded with tourists and heard the story from a woman in a booth there. Lael will be most interested to hear you are bargaining on the canal. I wish we could go along.

Thanks much for your letter. I gave it to Rick to read, as well as to Lael, because of the bit about the Bering Sea trip. She spent this past week-end with me, had her physical yesterday and starts her 2½ week training today. She is quite excited about this job and is looking forward. She seems very competent, to me, and I am sure she will do well, as she is also very conscientious. When we get together, next spring, at the latest I hope, we can look at my British album together. Lael made me two as a surprise at Christmas time, covering the books with cloth and decorating them with a leaf pattern. She had prints in color of all the pictures except for the several she took of pipe organs, to give to Roger.

Watch for him in Seattle Times. A girl & photographer are coming over today to interview him and see his harpsichords, calliope, and the big church organ he has set up in his chicken house. I'll venture to guess it is the only church organ in a chicken house in the United States. He was a little nervous about an interview. He was afraid they would ask him personal questions. "If they ask me whether I have any children," he told me yesterday, "I will just say, 'Not that I know of.'"

Thanks for returning the page from "Blackjack Country." If the powers at U-Dub turn it down I think I will inquire whether Univ. of Kansas Press is interested.

I have my Iowa stories off, but don't have much hope after reading the three award books. They were all Joyce Carol Oatsy and Joan Didiony things.

Thanks much for the Welty clipping. Only she would have allowed that photo in profile of her blowing out a candle.

I am still loving you both for sending me "South On the Sound" with the loving autograph, and still loving the text. Good reading, that!

Have a great trip. Bon voyage!

Hazel

Dear Rose and Murray:

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