

1/26/1977

David, Saludos! We are at Cynthia's in Carmel. The ride was very nice. We will move to Seaside soon, and try to make it on temporary jobs until summer. She runs this large household adjacent to Point Lobos as a sort of boarding house extended family.

A fine idea, that my parents in their older age and empty house could have used to greater wholesomeness. There is art and fine wines and stories of Europe. The male members of the household are encouraged to pee in the bushes. A woman does not need a husband to have children she says. There is a wild Jewish fellow named Don Doner, ^{a painter, a neighbor} chum of Henry Miller etc. etc. who wants Mary and I to dust his books, he liked our newspapers, he would like to hear my Air Force stories — but in writing, a subtler media. I want to write him a letter to tell it, and do a good job, but I have none of the original documents —

How are you? Do you still jog and do sit-ups? These are good things. Once in Del Mar I went to a party and for ill-defined reasons I didn't like it, so I left, but on the way home (Mary stayed) I got the idea to jog and swim on the beach. If you jog, the water no longer seems cold. This was 8:30 PM in December. Then I went back to the party and I enjoyed it. I have poison oak — a terrible case. I am

writing you this letter at a distance - my arm is so swollen I cannot bend it. We had a gardening job at the neighbors. It grows rampant in the park, Cynthia's brother, a famous civil libertarian from Chicago is retiring and coming home to the house next door soon. She says he led the attack on HUAC.

Before we left San Diego, it was reported to us that Robert was leaving the Learning Farm, but we did not see him before we left (~~the~~ Dec 29). The ride took 3 weeks.

I was faced with the ~~problem~~ choice of selecting a book to read, and I used my idea of "true books" as a principle, and I'm happy with it! I picked up St. Exupery's Wind, Sand, and Stars.

Mike

Hi David, There is a horrible drought up here. The reservoirs are ^{Jan 24, 1977} practically empty and it's very sunny. The water is rationed. People can water their garden on only certain days during certain hours. They don't water the golf courses but 60% normal.

By the way, what's the story ~~of~~ on Big Sur? All the houses have locked gates, double, triple locked gates. And signs to keep out and beware of dogs. Body guards we've heard and a lot of weapons. We've been told a lot of wild stories. Don Doner said "It's like the church. When you're ~~the~~ near it - you're far ~~away~~ from God, when you're in Big Sur - you're far from everything!" But it is curious, ~~first~~ there are dense cities like L.A. which are grim and then there are places like Big Sur. I don't know what it means. The area does seem strikingly medieval ~~with~~ with its wild boars and all.

Henry Miller described Don Doner as looking more and more like a biblical character everyday - you see, the guy is old and Polish and has amazing stage presence. The other night he was here for dinner and toasted "Aphrodite, the bitch".
ho hum mary