12-13-1937

Paul to Sam Dec. 13, 1937

Paul Sargent
P to S  Dec. 13, 1937

Dear Sam,

I have been thinking of writing for a good while, but am rushed so these days I don’t have much time.

Picture sales have been picking up. Maybe I’ll be able to cut down a bit my national debt. Have been doing it. Sold a $20 picture when I got back from Ind. And two $50 ones a few days back, a $75 one, three $25 ones, and a $10. But they are not all delivered, and are not all paid for, as yet. But it is encouraging. Best sales for me since spring since 1931. Last summer I borrowed $75 at the bank to pay for having the Plymouth overhauled, and want to get that paid for.

The fall season was not good for painting—worst in a long while. Color was poor and stayed on a short while—went in one night of wind and rain. So the pictures I got are not very flush with color, mostly gray ones with the leaves gone.

Had as week of very cool weather, down to 5 degrees or 6 degrees above zero several nights. Tonight there is sleet, a mist that is covering things, but not yet very heavy. The roads are rather slick. I went over to the Burg tonight. Coming back light rain had become worse and the ice covered the windshield so I had to drive looking out of side window. In making turn into woods could not see very well to right, got into ditch and thought I was stuck, but backed down hill onto road again. Only way to get up hill was to take a run at it. This time I scraped a clear place in windshield and made it in. It will be worse by morning. Is not very cold now, about 22 degrees.

Tell Opal I sent in subscription to Herald-Examiner. It was a couple days late according to the date on the paper (Nov. 8) but I noticed they did not change the date. Hope it does not cancel the insurance.

I have discovered can get raw sugar in Indianapolis, and I have on hand five lbs.

Have been leafing some frames. It is rather slow work and must be done right to get a good one. I have a lot of new frames to make and old ones to re-leaf. Guess I told you I have a one-man exhibit next March at Lieber’s store in Indianapolis. Will keep me busy getting ready for it.
I have been thinking about that picture of mine I left at Flax's store out there. Have been thinking he might move or go out of business and I might lose it. Hope you keep tab on it. Might be a good plan to get it.

I belong to the Isaac Walton League here. We met last time at the Boy Scout cabin at the Waterworks. The piece de resistance was Buffalo meat. You wonder how come at this late day. One of the teachers at college is Donald Rothschild. He is from North Dakota. In the Black Hills there are some Buffalo on government land and a certain number are killed each fall. Rothschild’s father killed it and sent us fifteen lbs. You could not taste or recognize any difference between it and beef. We did not founder as it was boiled with vegetables, and there were 27 of us.

I got one paint box put together but the legs are not yet on it. It is 16X20. The legs are a problem. I sent away for sheet brass to use for the clamps but they sent brass was thicker than I ordered, so Frommel said they would use that sheet (or part) in store and get some more for me. I have done a lot of figuring on those legs and will have to do a lot more. They will have to stand at one angle to brace properly, so thought could adjust them by thumb nuts inside the box. They also have to be parallel when folded on bottom of box, so they must be free to change from a slant (in use) to parallel when folded. Also have to lock in place when being set up that required some thinking. I won’t have much time for awhile now to work on them.

It may be that next summer I will teach a painting class (outdoor) as a part of the college work. The Pres. said he was considering making it a part of the art course next summer. He said there would be money available to pay for it. A year ago last spring when a new “shift” came on in the art dept. I wrote a letter to the Pres. suggesting that I teach some drawing or painting one or two days a week for a salary in proportion. I never heard from him. Awhile back I told Gay Anderson what I had done and had received no reply. I have an idea she spoke to the Pres. (Mr. Buzzard) who lives just across the street. She is a good democrat the same as him, and Gov. Horner is a dem.
Maybe I told you of Mr. Root (of Shelbyville) who died last August. Gov. Horner was there and had a little conversation with him. He is considerably interested in art and had visited Root’s widow. He asked me questions as if he might call around here some day.

Mrs. Cockrell is not very well, having heart attacks, but last I heard was somewhat better. Mrs. Threlkeld died a few days ago.

Dan's now live at the Threlkeld place. Will be there until Spring, and maybe longer. That house there is old, probably built by Blakeman. It has a basement in it where the cooking is supposed to be done like the southern houses. The old Harrison house at Vincennes is this way.

Things look very promising for the start of a world war. Of course things have been that way quite some time. But lately things have become such that it is hard to see how it can be sidetracked. Hearst paper today had a long article showing how England is bracing against the chance that the Japs will try to take Hong Kong, and India also. And also today the Japs are deliberately bombing English ships, and killed an officer. How England can be satisfied just by protesting is hard to see. It shows clearly what is in the Jap mind, they intend to work down the coast and finally take over India. That will array both England and France against them. Of course the Japs expect Italy and Germany to keep those countries interested in Europe. How much longer England will back up we don’t know, but the lack of their accustomed sand must be explained by their unpreparedness.

I have been reading about goings on in S. America. Japan, Italy and Germany are doing their best down there to wrest the trade with those S. American countries from England and the U.S. who now have the bulk of it. Italy has a strong hold down there, and practically controls Peru. In Peru is Caproria (Italian) air plane factory and the significant thing about the planes turned out is they are of the big bomber type, not passenger planes. Japan wants fishing concessions and is trying for a base in the Galapagos Islands. They are in striking distance of our canal. It is all boiling up all over.
It is about 1:30 A.M. so I better desist.

Yours sincerely,

Paul

I got your letter. Thurs. Sleet is about gone and raining steadily.