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Paul to Sam March 14, 1938

Paul Sargent
P to S  March 14, 1938

Dear Sam,

Just returned from Indianapolis today, and found your letter here.

I have been gone since last Thurs. I visited Beryl and Ora Malcom. They have three girls, one going to high school, one married and one running a beauty parlor. B. is now working with a firm that makes and sells rock wool and other things. His address is 5834 East Washington St., Indianapolis, if you want to write to him. He asked about you.

I went to get the pictures as this was (March 12) the last week of the exhibit the man in Chicago asked to keep it up another week, so I could not say no, even if it did mean another trip over there. He had had a nibble for a sale on one. He has sold numbers of pictures for other painters and I think he knows his business. He had me to lunch with him yesterday and we talked over several things. He said prices of pictures should be either rather low or very high. That is, should be about $50, or go up with several hundreds, $400, $500. Mine are priced between, which he said did not catch the cheap ones and was not high enough for the plungers. I will be making another trip over there last of next week.

Charles McMorris and wife stay at Beryler, California awhile back, scuffling broke his leg. He kept on working (automobile mechanic) with leg in cast. Drs. Took leg out of cast on Thurs. awhile back and Saturday afterward while working under car (on back) it fell on him pinning his neck against the rack below. As it was he was nearly decapitated before could get man to lift the car. Said there was a hole just back of car on rack large enough to hold a watch box. Showed me a cut on rack where bolt of car caught that prevented the car from coming lower, otherwise would have cut his head off.

That idea for a sketch box I think would work all right. I have another one I worked out awhile back. Will show a sketch of it on another page. The boxes I started last year are as they were, have had no time this winter. Will get busy on them. This new box idea I got from one of those sewing cabinets where
several boxes nesting on top of each other lift out. I would use two boxes, one for the paint and one for pencils nesting on top of each other, when in use they would be pulled out extended on the metal arms, so as to get the proper distance away for working. The lower box would be hinged to stool as the whole could be folded into one package for carrying.  

PICTURE OF FOLDING PAINT BOX

All the details haven’t been worked out. I think it a good idea for a stool and box when just the boards are used to paint on. For a canvas it might be too wiggly.

Do you get elected Pres. of the club. That club seems to have plenty of energy.

Tell Opal the weather has been very suggestive of Spring the last few days. Last night rain about all night. Today slightly cool and cloudy. Grass is greening fast, long enough now for stock to eat a bit. Lilac bushes and others have green leaves sprouting. Much colder predicted for tonight but has not arrived to date. No freezing temperature for a week or more. Yellow Easter flowers ready to bloom.

Saw news reel last night of the flood out there—man digging out an auto half buried in mud. I had it figured that you and Opal were not located, so you would be hit by the waters and of course Opal would not be.

Lastly I haven’t heard much about the oil boom. There is a rig on John Millage’s farm across the road from the Dave Cox place, and the one on Frank Turnberlies place south of centre. But these rigs are just located but no work in progress now that I know about. The rig below centre school is the largest I ever saw in this region. Drilling deep holes is a complicated affair.

Ora Malcom wondered if you had any information about the genealogy of the McMorris family.

Guess I have written all I know.

Paul

Over

You asked about miter boxes. The only miter box worth fooling with for frame making is the combined sawing arrangement and screw clam made by the L. Marsh Mfg, Co. of Rockford, Ill. I am not quite sure of the “L” in the firm’s name but
think it right. More than 20 years ago mine cost $11 but the price now is about $18 or $20 retail. Your best chance is to explore the second hand hardware stores and maybe find one at a reasonable price. Now the best outfit is like mine, sawing arrangement and clamps combined. You can get clamps separate and use an ordinary miter box for sawing but that isn’t satisfactory, better to spend your money on a good outfit.

Until you locate the outfit you might inquire the price of a frame of some of those frame makers, unfinished. That is the frames all put together, in the wood, no carving and you do the rest. Mock gets them that way cheaper he says than he can do the work and buy the molding. Basswood is best for carving, but I use what the lumber dealers call western white pine that does very well. Must be fairly straight grained.

The frames if any size should have a long screw across the corners. Bore hole slightly smaller than screw across the corner (or some shorter). With a wood reamer, or carving gauge, countersink hole so head is below surface. I use corrugated fasteners with “Casco” glue for corners, then the screw extra. The screw should be long and slender, but less than 2 ½ in. long up to 3 ½ in. according to size of frame. But if you buy the frames this will already be done.

When you want the complete dope on making a frame, let me know. I have a book on the subject now that cleared up points I did not know. My frames are much improved since I got this book. I could send you the book, but a half interest in it belongs to another person. But I can give you and I the dope necessary when you are ready for t.

I looked for name of the firm that makes the picture frame miter in a hardware catalog and on the second hand shelf but did not find it. My memory of it is that “L.C. Marsh, Rockford, Ill” is correct, all is correct except uncertain about the initials L.C.

p.s.

Now that Hitler has taken over Austria may be some interesting developments. If the majority of Austrians are willing one could not object much to the joining of forces with people who are about the same, but Hitler will not stop with absorbing Austria; he will proceed to take other nationalities, clearly. If he
absorbs the Balkans, he will acquire a batch of wild cats he can’t handle no doubt. I doubt if England and France seriously object until Hitler shows signs of acquiring other countries than Austria. Anyhow it is full of dynamite.

While in Indianapolis, I talked to a fellow who says Hitler propaganda in this country has reached serious proportions, also Russian communism. This fellow who is a powerful lawyer says something is going to be done about the matter. He is a German-American himself.