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Paul to Sam Sept. 30, 1938

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Dear Sam,

I started a letter to you Sunday but did not get it finished, so here goes another.

Tom is expected back, or is back maybe. I wondered that snow did not catch him in the mountains of Montana, Idaho where the road goes over the main backbone of the Rockies.

Loren and I are rebuilding the chimney on the main part of the house—just from the roof up. It was split apart and is in pretty bad shape. More repairs have been in process this fall here than for a long time. The garage now has a roof on and will soon have a large concrete riser for the door. Wood house has a new roll roof and concrete supports for its parts are in the making, also some for east end of the shop. South end of barn will be fixed soon, will take a new beam for support of mow and new boards. I hope to get all this and more before cold gets here. Concrete water drain for south end of cellar, been leaking through wall into cellar for some years. Have most of the compo. roofs covered with asphalt coating. Loren has been helping most of the time.

Have been spending odd times at the paint box. Got sheet aluminum 1/16 inch thick at Mattoon from the body of an old Lincoln car. It is just the stuff. Have the hinges partly made, one leg nearly completed and have not fault to find yet. Aluminum looks heavy but isn't and is strong enough I think to stand all strains upon it. I spent a lot of time thinking out the leg hinges. Before that are perfect two things to adjust, a thumb nut inside the box to hold leg rigid and the one on leg to adjust for height of box from ground. Friction holds leg from folding when in use. Aluminum palette is ahead of a wooden one. The only thing I am doubtful about is the space for paint, brushes, etc. Maybe it will need to be larger. If so the space between boxes at end can be used. Think I will plan to carry paint rag in that space anyhow.

Am trying to have the box ready for fall painting and use it, then any improvements I can incorporate into the one for you. The aluminum is faster working ???? ???? I could cut out the sheets with snips and saved much time. Have to be careful as the aluminum will not stand much hammering. I found a medium
rough wood rasp is ahead of a file for working the aluminum and it would not fill up like a file.

The war in Europe seems postponed for awhile. Hitler didn’t have any more right to the Sudeten Land than we have a right to the land Americans own in Canada, or that Canadians have here and ask to go back to Canada. The land never did belong to Germany. It seems that England was scared stiff by what Japanese would do in the East if England got engaged with Germany, so the Czechs were sold out by England and France.

Josh Well is here

John has let the bee business out on the stairs, himself.  The man is here today and said there was 5 or 6 hundred lbs. (of honey).  One hive had over 100 lbs.

England and France will see their mistake later.  Hitler will keep working toward the southeast for the oil and other supplies, then England, France will have a harder job to whip him.

Guess I better close.

You don’t owe me anything for the book of frame making. I had absorbed all in it that was new to me, so I thought I might as well give it to you.

Weather is clear and comfortable and has been for ten days. Had a light frost awhile back that hurt nothing. No rains for two weeks nearly. Some corn being shucked. No color of consequence in trees as yet, but is beginning. A few hickories turned and elms beginning.

So long,

Paul