6-15-1941

Paul to Sam June 15, 1941 (missing page(s))

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Recommended Citation
Sargent, Paul, "Paul to Sam June 15, 1941 (missing page(s))" (1941). Letters and Correspondence. 32.
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June 15, 1941

Dear Sam,

We had a dry winter and spring that broke records. Lately we have had a rain or two nearly every day. For ten days or so the rain has been coming, and also the weeds in the corn and gardens. We had a shower yesterday but none today so far. Tomorrow the ground will be dry enough to work. Some have said five inches of rain since it began. Anyhow in digging post holes I found the ground well soaked.

Our pavement is coming along fast. The street of Salisbury is now all rooted up. Garner place is on a hill five feet above the street now but I guess the finished pavement won’t be any deeper. The deep fill at first creek is about finished except for smoothing down a bit, the creek was straightened, also the 2nd creek. Now the main grading is being down at the 2nd creek. Guess you have seen the machinery at work out there. There is a plow that shoots out the dirt and elevates it to trucks as they all move along; the trucks dump it on the grade in a row of loads and a caterpillar with a broad metal face called a “bulldozer” smoothes it down, or pushed it off the sides of the grade. The dirt sure does move when all are working.

Dearth of picture sales is a permanent thing. I have looked forward to such a time so maybe it has arrived.

This spring I have very little painting out doors but have been pretty busy indoors. I worked over a good many of my old pictures with good results in color. One was the blue mountain picture from Moro Rock in Sequoia Park. It is much better in color now, nearer as I felt it when there—a harmony in purple and blue. Awhile back I painted some peonies large sized pictures, 28X34 and 25X30, which turned out fairly well. I am trying to find something that will sell better than landscapes. A boy from Charleston I know is now in England to fly planes, after they land there from the U.S. to their separate destinations. He had been for nearly two years at a school for flyers in Peru. His father runs an ice cream place. Another fellow I know is at a flying school at Corpus Christi, Texas, the largest place of its kind in the world.

It is going to get more interesting to the Germans from now on. Their peace feelers were not just rumors. Hitler would like
peace right now, of his own kind, for he has reached ?????? or he can now without risk of being beaten. Things are ??????, the most likely it seems to be his next step will be is to take what he wants of Russia to get the wheat and oil.

Japan will not fare so well that American planes and ???? are getting there. They cannot face a first class fighting man in the air; the Japs or their planes are not good enough. It is a great mix up.

The sinking of the Exmoor is likely to bring relations of U.S. and Japan to a head but probably not to war yet. I think Roosevelt will pussyfoot awhile until we get more ready. Germany was just trying us out no doubt by that sinking to see how far he could go without war.

As to next fall I hardly know what I can, or will do. I have wanted to go to Utah on a painting trip but now unless there are picture sales ahead that I know nothing about now I fear I can’t get that far away from home. The man Morris I know out there tells me I could go out on bus for ????? I could drive and I could use his car while there. It might be I could do that and meet you there, paint awhile, and then come back with you.

If you are thinking of painting the fall color here you will have to hitch forward your schedule to about Oct. 1st, as the first two weeks in Oct. are almost always the best of the season. I like Sept. about as well for painting as Oct.

I have found a new white to paint with. It is titanium white made at Martinsville, Indiana. It is ground by hand, also other colors, and has the advantage of being cheaper than others, cheaper than Permanent Pigments—Nine dollars worth I got awhile back averaged less than $.30.