Paul to Sam August 10, 1941

Paul Sargent

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P to S  August 10, 1941  
Dear Sam,  

We are in the midst of the dog days right now. The cicadas, the crickets, and katydids fill the air and there is a blanket of hot still air over the land—and no air at night. This is getting to be a dry season but not yet as bad as other years. The corn crop won’t be too much. Since summer season began we have had here at home just two rains of consequence, eight weeks of mostly hot weather. There has been more rain other places, at Greenup and north of Charleston.

The teaching came to an end Friday. The extremely hot unchangeable weather gets ones nerves after about that long. The temperature hasn’t been above 100 degrees but a few times but the humidity on the days of near rain has been terrible. 90 degrees with humidity is as bad as 105 degree with dryness.

The road moved along. The slab is down from Salisbury to somewhere between John Millage’s and the Saul Cox place, nearer the latter I would think. They are increasing the pace as the shorter distance to reach supplies and also new hands get training. Lester L. and Lowell Ingram are working with them. They get $6.65 per day that would seem a fortune to a worker in Hutton, but it took $25 to join the union and 2 cents an hour from each goes to the union boss. More than half the slab to be done is down. 700 ft. per day was the speed the first few days but that is increasing. At the steam shovel does the ditch digging. They began at Salisbury and are working back north with this last section. The next section begins at John Millage’s and that is done by another firm and is partly done. A deep grade will be made in the Ingram hollow. That is being graded now and is partly done. At their present speed Sept. 1st should see the paving done. This way of packing the grades they don't need to wait for settling as in the old days, before laying cement. When things are working well 1/8 to ¼ miles of cement can be done in one day. With the cement and gravel farther away at Charleston they may not go as fast as last fall. Anyhow, a paved double road to Salisbury seems to be a pleasant fact for the winter.
Other roads in prospect for Coles is the 5th st. road north out of Charleston to the pavement from Arcola. Also the Oakland-Ashmore road.

Coolest weather today in weeks.
Best corn is knee high or more.

Tomorrow I begin the eight weeks teaching, I got a raise of $200 over the other years, making $400 for this time. That amount is o.k. but picture sales have been nothing almost for more than a year so most of this money is already promised, as I had to borrow. A month ago I sold a $50 picture at Nashville, which was the first (except a few small ones) since a year ago in March. My class played out early in the spring so I did not have that. I am wondering if this (Page 3 seems to be missing)

Am thinking of going more that way before long.

About the trip to Utah. Morris said that Sept. would be the best time to paint there.

I am uncertain as yet whether I can go but think I can. I need more money than will be left after repairs that need to be done. The foundations of the dining room have to be replaced and I fear that when one goes into it the work needed will be more than appears at present. The ??????? are working. But I thought $100 would probably do that job. I am hopeful of a few pictures sales but nothing for certain.

There is no necessity of deciding now about the trip. Three weeks from now is soon enough to know so far as I am concerned.

I haven't any girl----Texas now. The one who was in Denton got married. Later the marriage was evidently a dud so she wrote to me again after she moved to Tempe, Ariz. Last winter she was teaching in Iowa but I got as careless with writing to her as she had been with me, so I haven't heard from her since a card at Christmas.

The only person I know in Ft. Worth is a brother of Faith Rider I met this summer when he was back. But I could while away some time there I think if money was not too short and there was something to paint round about.
I will write to Morris Davis and find out about the weather in Oct. That would be a good trip from St. George, Utah down through Lee’s Ferry and Flagstaff and explore a country I have wanted to see.

Guess this is enough. Am out of paper.

Sincerely,
Paul

Another page from another letter perhaps
--a tube, including white. The white I like best.

I don’t think of anything else at present.

Sincerely,
Paul

p.s. Address of the company selling the colors, if you are interested.

Millet Colors
Martinsville, Ind.

The place in Utah where Morris is St. George. It is 30 miles from Boulder Dam. You may have been through it. Morris said he as a young man herded cattle in the section of Utah and Arizona north of the Grand Canyon. Morris is the husband of a teacher here at college. He has taught geology in Utah but lost his job, he said, because he wasn’t a good Mormon. He has a mine, a gold mine that he has hopes for. Last letter he said it had caved in and all the work so far had to be done over. He said there were paying mines in the neighborhood. He is a good sort of fellow, and paints. He is 56 yrs old.

St. George is nearer to you than here. About one day drive for you. Three for me. Morris has sketches of red mountains against blue ones that should be good material.