Paul to Sam Oct. 10, 1941

Paul Sargent
P to S Oct. 10, 1941

Dear Sam,

The fall color up to date is two weeks behind schedule. A few days ago the heat broke all records for Oct. Was about 80 degrees here. The trees are mostly green, some hickories, sassafras, and sumac have color but it is middle and late Sept. color the 10th of Oct. Tonight is chilly and weather report and temperature indicate that tonight we will have our first frost to hurt any vegetables. Once or twice before we have had light frost, so people say, but hurt nothing I have seen.

So if you come in Nov. early you may get to paint some fall color yet as the season is late. But of course if frost comes the color will be here in a hurry and soon gone sometimes, depending on rain and wind, and sunny weather. I remember a fall close to 40 years ago or so, when the fall color was at it very best the middle of Nov.

Loren and I got the house about 1 1/2 times painted. It looks different but not yet done. Nearly run over last year. Paint and work make it expensive. I have some lumber now and am nailing on a board or two on the shop at time. I suppose you got my letter with money order for $180 sent you awhile back for work done for my by Elmer Kimball who lives on the Malcom place and uses your woods for pastures.

I was down in your woods awhile back to get some good persimmons that grow there. There are five or six medium sized trees that have extra quality fruit, large and already ripe. While there I found something I never before saw in my many rambles out of doors here or elsewhere. It was a swarm of bees living on a bush with the combs attached but without a hive or covering of any kind. The bush was pulled over bent down and combs were about three feet from the ground. Your woods and the country roundabout has no large trees with holes where bees could hide, so I figure the swarm after spending the night on the bush decided to stay there as the scouts sent out probably did not find a hole to get into. I have read of such swarms hanging on trees in Indiana, and think they might be fairly common in a dry country and warm, such as California. A teacher of geology at school is coming down to get a photograph of it.
I will be going to Indiana to paint about week after next unless the color comes sooner. I am thinking of taking a quick trip to the Mississippi river in Ill. to see what I can see there and paint some perhaps.

Guess I better ring off. Have a cold and don’t feel very foxy.
Sincerely,
Paul