

Thanks for your card from Houston. Received it within 3 days. The gods must have been kind

13 Riverside Walk
Airton
North Yorks

20 Jan '92

Tales from an Itterant Jobber Letter 10

Dear Reader,

Let me say right away that I've missed you a great deal even though it's been three years since our disastrous "holiday" way back in '89 and there hasn't been a day since then that I haven't thought of you. You must know by now beyond all doubt that I care so much for you and about you. I suppose mid-January is still not too late for retrospection and I look back on all those wonderful occasions we spent in each other's company. Those hazy, lazy summer evenings spent with you in your Parkview flat – barbecue on the verandah and then to bed to complete the evening with love! Can we have some more of the same when we next meet? Do you recall our afternoon naps and making love and being late for our rendezvous with friends? The evening concerts / picnics at "Meadowbrook", were they not wonderful times? Weekends by Lake St Clair, hikes in Indian Springs, Stoney Creek and Kensington. Walks in Rochester – apple cider and doughnuts! The great meals we used to shop for, prepare and cook together. Art fairs in Birmingham and Ann Arbor. The restaurants you introduced me to, the canoe trips when we overturned and you lost your pumps. The day we cycled to "Cranbrook" and swam with "other" faculty members. We were so hot after cycling, we stashed our bikes and immersed ourselves in the water, such a daring thing to do. When times were good we were a great team so can you wonder why there is and always will be a special place in my heart for you. All the best times I've ever spent in the US were with you and my stay would never have been half as pleasant without you. On the other hand my worst times were when we broke up and after you moved from "Park View" it was never the same again. Park Place never held any fond memories for me and that is why I attach such importance to our first holiday together. It proved we could be together in a loving, caring way all over again. I'm glad I've recalled these events for the warmth it generated within me so I hope it will do the same for you too as you read this letter and you will take the risk of spending another holiday with me perhaps in the UK in August before I have to start my second year at college.

Since I shall be visiting Toronto and Vancouver in July I would like to take the opportunity of visiting friends in Detroit before returning to the UK. I would like to be in Detroit on or after 20th July and the friend I would most like to visit would be you. Perhaps we can discuss this when next you call?

Well dear reader, this time last year I didn't think I could make it through a complete year without wanting to go back to work, but I was determined to give it my best shot and here I am today too busy to worry about work.

Earlier in the year after I had left "Nissan" I busied myself painting – I completed a still life and an abstract which I exhibited at the Gargrave show and I've yet to complete two landscapes which I've started. I also worked on the completion of my loft but most of all I've enjoyed walking and re-discovering the beautiful and idyllic Yorkshire Dales. I've discovered so many new and marvellous walks I'm just itching to show you. I also took time off to visit my timeshare in "Puerto Banus" Costa del Sol with Julie and Pete and Kate and Danny (my niece and her boy friend). We enjoyed two weeks of glorious weather – I really love it there –

it's so relaxing lounging about the swimming pool and strolling into town which is full of picturesque restaurants and bars, sitting outside on a balmy evening sipping sangria and watching the rest of the world go by. I'm sure you'd enjoy it. We also visited Alhambra in Granada which is a beautiful antique city.

In August I submitted three coloured prints for the photography section of the Malhamdale show. I won first prize for my print in the "tranquillity" class and this print also won the best print in the whole show which awarded me the "Malham Tarn Cup". I also took a second prize for a print submitted for "people in action". This was taken in Frankenmuth by the way and shows the village blacksmith at work by his anvil, but my third print for "rocks" didn't get anywhere. Perhaps it was too risqué for the locals as it depicted some topless females sunbathing on rocks at "Naset" in Sweden – well I thought the rocks were pretty good, I guess you can't win them all. I also won a third prize for my apple pie but, guess what, they credited it to Mrs Waller, I think there's a little chauvinism there!

That same week I enrolled at Craven College Skipton for a two year diploma course in "Upland Resource Management". Sounds a mouthful, doesn't it? The course is designed to meet the needs of those wishing to pursue a career in countryside conservation, land management or upland farming. I'm a bit long in the tooth for that I'm afraid but I wouldn't mind doing a bit of voluntary work on nature conservation. No, it's purely out of interest on my part and so far I've not been disappointed. It's opened out a complete new vista for me. It's so interesting learning about ecology, the origin of soils and their nature, upland landscape, climate, trees, plants, grasses, ferns, mosses, reeds and rushes, wildlife and their habitats. I look forward to each day learning about agriculture, breeds of sheep and cattle, milk yields, wool, nutrition and reproduction etc. All the knowledge I've gained so far will come in useful for the land I bought adjoining the "mill" so now I own a little part of the Yorkshire Dales and as it lies by the river Aire I've also acquired the fishing rights. I think I've told you I've already fenced it off and now I'm making two rustic gates for it and these I'll do in class, hopefully next Wednesday. The waterfall I made at the point where Scotsthorp Beck runs into the Aire looks good but the other week we had a flood and all my land was submerged and I lost a lot of plants and bulbs I'd planted by the waterfall "c'est la vie". You should have seen it the river was a raging torrent and I saw huge trees floating downstream. I took some pictures next day when it had subsided somewhat and it still looked awesome.

Well dear reader, I guess I'm fresh out of news now so please write soon or give me a ring. I use the "Jansport" backpack you gave me every day when I go to college, well you've got to blend in with the rest of the students! I often wonder about the "Coach" bag (case) I gave you. It was meant in all sincerity with love – it's a pity it turned out the way it did. A bag like that deserves a foxy lady like you to take it out for a stroll occasionally so I hope it's not languishing all alone at the back of a cupboard somewhere.