

THE FIRST TWO PAGES ARE NOT PART OF THE TRANSCRIPTION

Notes: (There will be numbers in brackets throughout the transcription, which are of course not part of the transcription, that connect with each of these)

General:

- Ellipses (...) are indicators of line breaks
 - “As I told_x you, he wrote me that she was the most wonderf” and “THE END OF SOMETHING .” and “in Florida” and “When I became ‘Barge the Mump’, I felt I had arrived.” are all smaller than the font size of 15 to maintain the integrity of line breaks after writing in bracketed numbers
 - The font size of 15, as well as putting two spaces between words, is used to main the integrity of line breaks
 - The rectangle with text at the end is a recreation of the envelope in the letter document
1. **primer** - the bolded “i” is an indicator of an original letter having been written over in blue ink with a large, lowercase “i” in the actual, paper letter
 2. **told_x you,** - the bolded x is an indicator of the typed comma being crossed out by an x written in black ink and the bolded comma is an indicator of a new comma having been written in black ink in the actual letter (with the intent of replacing the old one and putting the comma in the correct place)
 3. **wonderf ... ful** - The “f” at the end of “wonderf” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “f” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “wonderful” is written at the start of the next line (ful)
 4. **Hortons B ... Bay** - The “B ” after “Hortons” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “B ” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the name “Hortons Bay” is written at the start of the next line (Bay)
 5. **Bay** - the bolded “B” is an indicator of an original letter having been written over in black ink with a regular sized, uppcase “b” in the actual, paper letter
 6. **H EMINGWAY IN MICHIGAN** - This uppcase phrase is meant to indicate these words being uppcase in the actual letter; they are uppcase in order to substitute using italics to write a title of a place

7. **THE END OF SOMETHING** - This uppercase phrase is meant to indicate these words being uppercase in the actual letter; they are uppercase in order to substitute using italics to write a title of a story
8. **days, each** - The bolded comma is an indicator of a comma having been written in black ink in the actual letter (with the intent of putting a comma where there needs to be one)
9. ~~Er~~ ... Ernest - The “Er” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “Er” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the name “Ernest” is written at the start of the next line (Ernest)
10. ~~p~~ ... problems - The “p” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “p” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “problems” is written at the start of the next line (problems)
11. ~~h~~ ... have - The “h” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “h” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “have” is written at the start of the next line (have)
12. ~~eve~~ ... events - The “eve” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “eve” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “events” is written at the start of the next line (events)
13. **Ernest** - the bolded “E” is an indicator of an original letter having been written over in black ink with a regular sized, uppercase “E” in the actual, paper letter
14. **unanswered,** - The bolded comma is an indicator of a comma having been written in black ink in the actual letter (with the intent of putting a comma where there needs to be one)
15. ~~frien~~ ... friend - The “rie” between the letters “f” and “n” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “rie” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “friend” is written at the start of the next line (friend)
16. **Margie M .** - This bolded text represents Marjorie’s written, cursive signature in the actual letter
17. ~~t~~ ... the - The “t” is strikethroughed as an indicator of the typed “t” being crossed out in the actual letter; the rest of the word “the” is written at the start of the next line (the)
18. **became"Barge the Mump"** - Just as there is no space between Barge, “, and became in this transcription, it is the same in the actual letter

Jan. 6th, 1967.

Dear Mr StJohn, (I feel I should call you Don, since you know so much about me.)

If your book is as interesting as your letters, you should have a best seller. Your letters act as a [1] primer, reaching for things in my memory, long below the surface. I am so glad to hear about Bill. He sounds exactly as I might have imagined.

I do trust you about the pictures, but they are in an old kodak book with many things of no interest to you. Perhaps I can take out pages. Sid still hasn't sent the book, but he will. I also have a fairly large picture of grandmother's house as it used to look. I thought of having a glossy print made for you, but if you prefer I will send the picture.

Grandmother was a larger influence in Ernest's life than meets the eye. As I [2] told you, he wrote me that she was the most [3] wonderful woman he ever met. He would visit with her while I did school work. I was the type to do my school work no matter who was there. I think he brought Hadley to call on her after I had left for college. She was the one who had the picture painted of the church at [4] Hortons B [5] Bay, as a wedding gift. I think that was the picture copied in [6] H EMINGWAY IN MICHIGAN.

I feel that you are still making the error of trying to find some element of true fact in the story [7] THE END OF SOMETHING . You still see in it a romance that developed. In life it was a potential romance that didn't. In those [8] days, each day seemed to me a new clean page and the unknown things ahead more exciting to think about than any known person or reality. When I reached the time for realities, [9] Ernest was no longer near. I believe it was the same for him, for the remembered conversations were about a future when he would be a famous writer and I someone on the sidelines admiring. I never

pictured myself as a part of his future, but we were to always be

friends. I had much more exciting things pictured for myself.

In real life there was never a brush off, as you call it. We parted as friends in Petoskey. When Ernest walked down the hill from grandmother's house, whistling- that last time I saw him there, we didn't know it was to be a last time. In those days there were [10] problems of transportation. I will never know exactly why Ernest wrote that story, just as I will never know whether the friendship would [11] have grown into a deeper relationship with a different sequence of [12] events. There was no element of brush off when I saw [13] Ernest in Florida. We exchanged a few friendly, understanding letters. I always intended writing again. I left his last letter [14] unanswered, as was the pattern I knew he liked. I wanted to write when I heard he was sick, but Mary didn't know me, so I feared she wouldn't understand. Just as our [15] friendship had no special point of beginning, it had no ending. Our friendship was truly that, probably because the Marjorie of those days was without knowledge or interest in sex. Perhaps Ernest saw in me the potential of the person I had become when he saw me in Florida, but I have no way of knowing.

I will always be glad to answer your questions or talk with you, even another eight hour stretch. I have always wanted to get across to someone a picture of the Ernest of those days. It must have continued to live someplace under the protective shell of masquerade.

As you can see, my typing leaves much to be desired, but it is better than my messy writing.

Cordially ,

[16] Margie M .

Notes;

The inclosed clipping is my favorite review about Ernest. You may keep it if you don't have one like it.

The fact that I was not in on the nicknaming shows that I was not one of the gang. I was an admiring by-stander. I do remember all [17] the name changes. When I [18] became "Barge the Mump", I felt I had arrived. I later became "Red".

Main
Box 5434
Daytona Beach.

Black, circular
stamp
containing the
text "Daytona
Beach FLA",
"1967 7 4067"

Red, rectangular stamp
containing an
airplane, the U.S.
capitol building, an 8
with the cents symbol
to its right and the text

Mr D.M. St John
Franconia
New Hampshire