

Jan. 19, 1967

Dear Marjorie:

The big box received in splendid condition and of course it is idle to thank you adequately. You know I appreciate it and will return them in proper condition after mulling over them a reasonable length of time. I had no idea there were so many or that they covered so much of the Hemingway family background, not to mention the Dilworth's. I think that camping clothes pix of Ernest is new, as are many of the others. At least I haven't seen them before. Now I am in the process of trying to copy them satisfactorily myself, having about abandoned hope of getting a professional who is both reasonable and reliable. I have several good lenses and strobes, however and, while I can't do the developing or printing, think I can do a fairly adequate job of copying, using two lights, a reversed tripod, etc. I have found that by using a tube to increase the strength of my 35 mm wide angle lense I can blow up the head of a key subject in a small snap. Of course the quality coarsens somewhat if you go too far with this but it is amazing what a different effect you can get. Now, of course, with all the heavy emphasis on Carl Edgar, I would like to have more info on just how much he entered into the early picture. There are sources, such as Marcelline's book, which tells some of the Edgar facts, but not too much. Also there is something about Edgar in Fenton's book on Hemingway. I gather he is important particularly in the Kansas City phase of Hem's life, having been partly responsible, along with a Hem uncle, for Hem deciding to go to K.C. And I guess he was part of the bunch he went to Europe, but I must check that. Bill Smith told me one story about him, that he was somewhat soft on Kate Smith, and that once when the four of you were together, Hem lingered behind with Carl and Kate after you had gone in (to Dilworth's) and Carl told Hem to go on inside with Marge and leave Kate to him, or something like that. (I haven't actually checked my notes.) Anyway, it would be wonderful if you can conjure up a few scenes with Edgar in them. Which is the proper time to tell you how much I appreciate those scenes. They are about the most valuable thing a man can have if he is going to succeed in reconstructing the feeling of a period. I might as well confess to you know that I am busily at work preparing reams of questions or statements for you to go over. If, when these arrive, they seem onerous, may I sneak out of any opprobrious (sp?) position by simply saying they may serve to galvanize a memory spark of some kind even if they are not useful in themselves. And may I say, as they say on MEET THE PRESS, the questions they ask do not necessarily reflect their opinion; it is just their way of examining the facts. Please continue to "shower me" meanwhile. It is all grist for the mill - as I'm sure Hem said long ago. I loved the big picture of the house. Did you say you had a big picture of your grandma? I find myself liking her very much.

For the moment,

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For the moment,

The
Princess Issena
Hotel, Inn and Cottages
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32020

with album

Don St John

Pictures I meant to put in box
not important ~~but~~ you will
like to see them.