

Feb. 3, 1967

Dear Barge:

I thought you would be interested or have a comment on something I learned about Hemingway from Toronto yesterday. The book editor of the Toronto Star Limited (where Hem once worked of course) wrote me that back in the early days, probably in the winter of 1919-1920, Hemingway, Earnest Smith (A Connable friend and employe of the Woolworth chain) and young Ralph Connable (Dorothy's brother) used to dress up in old clothes and go around pan handling "so they could see how the well-to-do neighbors would react." It struck me as odd that Hem should so often do this. You sent me pictures of him in blackface and tatters with Bill Smith "accosting" Ursula and Marcelline, in Petoskey, I think. (On the back of this very small picture there seems to be a sentence like "___ guards stopping tourists -- the border." "d" is the last letter, seemingly of a two or three letter word at the beginning just before guards.). Just a few days ago, after getting your pictures, I received a letter from a Mrs. C.C. Friend of Boyne City, whose husband I had been assured had run the Horton Bay Store after the Foxes and had occasionally fitted Hem out with supplies for his trips to the Pigeon River. Mrs. Friend, writing for her husband, wrote about one occasion when Hem and Bill Smith had trouble "entertaining themselves in our little quiet place. Of course there was fishing but being a time when the first cars came out, most everyone walked or drove horses. I remember one day Bill Smith and Ernest came out one day with patches, large ones, sewed on their overalls. It was intended to be a joke or something; they put on large patches of brightly colored calico." You can see how it stuck in the mind. I remember too, your saying Hem and the boys were dressed as bandits when they shot out the Boyne City lights. Or maybe dressing like a "bum" was somewhat easy to do for boys who were roughing it. In any case, I was struck by Hem having done this dressing-down on several occasions and wondered what it was that seemed to fascinate Hem about this particular kind of thing. Of course people had to be more imaginative, I suppose, in those pre-tv days. Oh - did you know Hem was called "Hemmy" in Canada. I thought that was interesting and also reflective of his more humble nature in those early days.

For the moment,

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