

Dec. 7, 1968

Dear Marge:

Thanks for the nth time for something:

The two additional pictures, which are great. I will have them copied and send back the originals. Just for the fun of it I am sending you copies of the previous two, thinking they might be of some use. It happens that in this tiny town we now have a rich young man who runs a profitless photo studio and so even here in the boondocks I am able to get some pretty good service. I think I will try having him copy the other pictures of yours that I still have and see whether he can obtain better results than I did, which I am sure he can. Somewhere along the line I hope to beat you out of at least one of the originals to keep for my very own. But of course I am only kidding.

Thanks No. 2 for your faithfulness in carrying on my Hemingway research for me through Pudge. It is all grand stuff and I am so surprised and delighted to have this additional news all of a sudden in the midst of a bleak New England winter. Of course I am hoping you WILL find some more pictures and perhaps snag another anecdote or two from Pudge. Incidentally, I'm surprised Ernest didn't reserve that Useless nickname for his sister, your friend, Ursula, because of the sound that is; he was such a sound corrupter in his nicknaming it seems. I wonder what else he may have called you besides Marge and Lucia.

Getting back to your last letter, you said, I think, that the winter of 1919-1920 was your last at the bay, or Petoskey, but it seems to me both Les and Marcelline quoted a letter of Dr. Hemingway's in which he remarked that Ursula was visiting you, or the Bumps, in the summer of 1920. I tend to get these two years mixed up. Of course Hem was at Walloon and the Bay in the summer of 1919 and then stayed on that winter in Petoskey before going to Toronto in January. However he did come back to the area in the summer of 1920 and it was during this time, I take it that he would go around sometimes shooting out electric insulators and it was during this time that the Hemingways, and presumably others of their kind, like the Charles, I suppose, and the Bumps began to disapprove of Ernest's irregular behavior. It is my impression that by this time, however, in 1920 you were not seeing him at all, although I have not checked this diligently in my notes and letters. Personally I tend to see you with him in the snow the last time, although I guess you did go to a movie later. 1919 winter is the time the daughter of Ernie's rooming house keeper tells everybody that Hem was simply crazy about Marjorie Bump. I suppose Quinlan went with Hem sometimes in 1920 and I have a feeling Irene Goldstein (now Gordon) played tennis with him in the summer of 1920. Well enough of that.

And here I am at the bottom of the page. Will write you again soonest since owe you. We are well and I spend part of each day calking up the house a little more against the coming 30 and 40 below and the unkind winds that will blow. I feel like the little piggie who built himself a brick house against the wolf.