

Oct. 29, 1970

Dear Marge:

I hasten to answer your good letter so that there will be no delay in renting the apartment. It would have been perfect last year - and kept us out of England - but this winter we must stay home and watch the store. So Ruth and I thank you very much - for thinking and for offering and for offering us so much so generously - and hope that we may take a rain check on the offer this winter.

That watching the store crack actually is misleading because as I may have told you we don't intend to have a walk in shop; more a postal affair; but what I meant by the remark was that having started the store and putting out certain indications of same, ads, etc. we did feel that this first year we should stick around to see if the chick hatched or not. In any case we don't intend to be imprisoned, as our plans for this winter might suggest. It's partly that we have done a bit of playing the last two winters and owe ourselves whatever you call the antonym of a vacation. No hum.

Glad you felt better after getting back from Petoskey. Still you know I love that land; I suppose I love northern Michigan better really than New Hampshire. I suppose part of it is that man, but it's also something else about the country and the trees and the general feel of the place, the lakes and the ruggedness and the people this land has spawned. Thanks for the memo on the doings of the Mich. Historical Society. It was much appreciated. I know old Harriet Kilborn, you know, and I was surprised to see one of the talks next year skedded to be given by Jennie Arnold, an old friend of mine from Traverse City. She runs a book store and has found me many old books, including many on the Hemingway front. She is about 77 and could probably beat me in a fair fight...Incidentally, I was impressed at the seeming vitality of the Society. On top of that I am more interested in this sort of thing now than before because these state historical societies are so big on Americana. The Hemingway slide talk you checked by Merton Carter - I know him quite well. Met him in 65 or 66 when I was first on the trail, and he told me about seeing old Hem in the Arcadia. It was he who put old Paleolithic onto his trail and to this day he is chagrined that this man, (Pailthorp) doesnot remember it

Did I tell you that I made my first big purchase. I was two hours from home, in Rutland Vt. I bid \$1,000 for the book estate of this late historic gentleman, feeling sure it would go for \$2,000 and was stunned to hear the hammer go down in my favor. I had to hire a U-Haul-It panel truck to get the two tons of stuff back to

Franconia, but it is rich in returns. Already sold a stamp album for \$225. All love to you