

Ayna Ashrama,
May 24, 1942,

Sherifa my dearest;

We are now pretty well established in camp and have had to meet fewer difficulties than usually. The trip up was uneventful except that I had one front tire go flat. Lone Pine is the same as ever and one does seem to be away from the war here. Olivas had the donkeys at his place and delivered them at 8:30 the morning after we arrived. The road up was in good condition and showed the benefit of last year's packing. However, our car was the only one that made the end of the road. Both John's and Gene's cars were over hot. Gene had a near accident when backing down for a second run at the hump. His brakes are not designed for holding a car going backward with the result that he partially left the road at a bad place. Later we had to use the tractor to get him back on the road. - We packed necessary bedding, bread, etc. up for the first night. - The trail was in better shape than I expected. Rocks had rolled into it, of course, but not as many as heretofore. None of the outer wall had given way. There was one big dead-fall across the trail which had to be removed before the donkeys could get through. At present we have regraded the trail twice and have it back in practically the

same shape it was when we left last year. Two trips
 have already been made on it with the tractor. Nothing
 was disturbed at the Ashrama or the camp since that
 evidently the wind had blown the old trailer
 top over the Ashrama wall. Never, heretofore,
 have we found everything in such good shape.
 Wednesday we set up the big tent, put up stove, table
 etc., got the store-room sufficiently cleared for me to sleep
 there. We ate by six o'clock instead of eight o'clock
 as last year. - The first few nights were in the
 warm side. Now it is normal. There is not as
 much snow as last year, but the season is no more
 advanced. The leaves are just in the process
 of shooting. - At present our camp is complete.
 The small tent is up as well as the big one. The
 kitchen cap is complete. Part of the supplies have
 been brought up - three donkey trips and two trips
 of tractor, taking what we could use the scrapers,
 attached. There is quite a large amount of supplies.
 There will be, altogether, about 35 cases of goods,
 and nearly three sacks of sugar; About 100 lbs of
 beans. We have more on hand than ever before.
 as to the dynamite, from what the hardware man

tells me there should be no difficulty. A license from the county clerk is required, and that I shall get to-day.

When I left San Fernando I over-looked an important item. I left the gaskets. Fortunately Gene saved the important one from the old tractor he tore down so we can go ahead with the repairs. But would you ask Joe if he would pack the gaskets and ship them?

Last night we had reading and discussion from my last manuscript. We had quite an evening of it.

We are all in good shape to date and further along on the job than I had expected. There is so much to do that it is always necessary to concentrate on the most important item and leave the rest until later.

I do miss you and wish that you would be here now, if only you could enjoy it. My love is with you always and I do appreciate all your effort and heroic struggle. We will win yet.

I love you,

Franklin

Ayna Ashrama,
June 1, 1942.

My Dearest; -

Another busy week has rolled around with its share of accomplishment. First of all, Gene has been successful with the tractor. I drove it up the hill last Friday for the first time since the overhaul. I started up in second gear, instead of low as heretofore, and forgot to change until I passed the S turn. It climbed all of the hardest grades easily. I think it has about twice the power it had before. It is really a different machine. - Last Monday I went to Independence to arrange for the dynamite license. The application paper was filled out, but I had to have the notarized signatures of two voters who knew me, and for this I had to take the paper back to Lone Pine. I suppose I could have gotten a dozen signers. The druggist and his assistant signed and it was notarized by the banker we know. The paper was mailed back to Independence and I now have the license. - I saw the Mangenar camp on the way. As the day was very windy it was quite bleak there. There are long straight lines of tar-paper cabins, just like a temporary army cantonment. There is no interference with public travel.

The problem of organization here is getting more complex each year, since there is more and more material to care for. At times there are so many different things that need doing that I hardly know what to do. However we are getting order established as it is becoming better. Yesterday the boys washed while I organized the store-room, which is more filled with supplies than ever before. - Saturday John and I worked on organization around the Ashrama while Gene went to town to attend to pressing government business. - Today I shall secure powder and arrange for the delivery of the lumber.

About every other evening we have readings in the manuscript on "Introceptionism". Last evening Gene remarked that while it would take a lot of study to understand it intellectually, yet hearing it was like listening to a kind of music which was not hard to receive, and which he would enjoy listening to much longer than we read.

In contrast to last week, this week has been on the cold side. Friday morning there were icicles near the bridge on the South fork. However, it is beginning to warm again.

Gene brought back word last Saturday that all army passes were cancelled on the coast and that there was a general expectation of something impending. I surely wish that you were here instead of down near the coast. Except when we read the news, it is as though there were no war at all.

We have maintained on the whole good health, though John had some trouble in adjustment last week. One eye swelled shut, and he says this happens each year at first.

How are you doing? I have not received a letter though Gene brought an official card from the P.O. saying there was a letter in L. A. addressed to Dr. F. Merrill-Wolff and one cent postage due. Do take good care of yourself. My love abides with you always, and I am always with you and you will find me if you look aught. - Remember me to Kathryn and the other students.

With Love,

Franklin

Ajia Ashrama,
June 20, 1942

My Dearest One;

It ~~always~~ seems that here one ever has to break down a series of problems. You make one change and then there is a series of adjustments that must be worked out. We have now abundance of power in the tractor but we have more difficulty with braking. So much is this the case that we fixed up the scraper with a platform for carrying lumber, so that we could use the scraper-blade for braking down certain portions of the trail. We can successfully carry long lumber now and have less difficulty loading and no trouble with shifting on loads but we have troubles making turns with loads on steep grades. So far as power goes we could carry up a ton at a trip but there would be inadequate traction and it would not be possible to make turns while climbing. We find these turns force one to a load of 1000 or 1100 lbs., and we have had to straighten some of the worst in order to negotiate them. However

we seem to have solved ² this problem.

Most of the lumber was delivered last week at the Y so that hurdle has been crossed. We have our supply of dynamite and are getting a surplus of gasoline each trip to town. As we are coming out alright on the three problems that could have crippled us.

We have had to work very hard right along, - there is so much to do that one is often embarrassed to know what was most important and let the rest go for the present. However, we are gradually getting the different departments caught up and organized. We definitely do need more help to be effective.

The weather has now turned to the warm side, and is normal, though in May we had one of the worst windy days ever known in Lone Pine.

The boys are doing their parts very well. They are giving all they have. Gene caught a cold which became laryngitis so that he can scarcely talk. John had a little trouble with his heart,

and it is difficult to get him to guard himself.³
He seems unable to relax. However, he reports
himself feeling pretty good this morning. As for
myself, I am holding my own and have not
let myself become too tired to function.

Sunday evenings we have readings in "Introcephaloidin"
and on other nights we have read from the parts on
the other philosophies, except when too tired, which
has been the rule of late.

We could use Peter for a few days any the more,
for the making of the remaining window frames and
establishing the lines for the chimney and fire-place.
There was no use asking for his mortal coil since
we would have the lumber here. But now we have
it and are bringing it up.

I do wish you could be here as heretofore. The
camp does seem rather lonely without you. Yet it
is better that all the preliminary problems should be
worked out before you come. Later there will be more
time for comfort when things move smoothly.

As ever at home you, and ever always with you
in my real self whether seen or unseen.

Remember me to Kathryn and the other good students (that's
all of them) (Over) .. Frank

P.S. Until now I had received no letter from you, owing to short postage on the first one, but today I secured 4 letters at once which made up for the earlier lack. I am delighted that at last you are really feeling better. This is a relief to me. It does seem that when we work to fulfill the Divine Purpose, even though the problems seem too difficult, yet, if one persists, a way through is found, and things get better. We have had our problems also, though far from being as severe as last year, but now we seem to have mastered them substantially. — Yes Carmen's coming does fill a need. Again, the Law provides what is necessary if you trust it and act as best you can. — We do need help here, and if Marie cares to tackle the problem of cooking it would be a real help. But she must remember we are on the job all day except at noon, and camp may prove a rather lonely place when no one else is there. I think I will have to postpone coming down until you are ready to come up. I must do all that is possible. — My blessing upon the students who have helped you so well.

My LIGHT and LOVE be with you always

Yogi

Ayra Ashrama,
June 20, 1942

Deerifa my Dearest;

It is now a month since I left you in San Francisco. It seems that you have been away for a long time. Yet we are so busy that the hours and the days pass very rapidly; still a month ago seems a long time. Away back in the past I remember living in a war-mad world, but all that seems very unreal here. When we get the news from town the war is back with us for a day or so, and then it is forgotten. This sane world up here refuses to remain contaminated.

We are making headway. The battle with the transportation problem has been won. I turned the problem over to Gene and he has so far mastered it that I have largely dropped it off my mind. Nearly all the lumber delivered at the Y and all the cement as been brought to the Ashrama, though there is more lumber yet to come, that they did not have at Lone Pine but had an order. - Before John left we had prepared for the next run on the wall. Monday and Tuesday we brought the East - at this moment I heard some on calling from the

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Ashrama, and it sounds like Carmen, but there
are two persons and the second one is too slight to
be Gene. Further, I hear a call from the
dining tent, so I am wondering what it is all about.
Presently, it dawns upon me that it may be Peter
and Joe, though I am not expecting them, having
not yet received your letter. The surmise
proves to be correct, with the result that there is
a change of plans. I sent Gene to town to do
the necessary shopping, so that I can take up the
problems with Peter. It was high time as he
helped me around some difficult points I was just
facing. We have now worked out everything that is
apt to arise on the structural end for some time.
Peter and Joe set up a frame to guide me on the
fire-place and chimney so that we can carry through
to even-levels. That was the problem that bothered
me most. He cut out gable rafters for the end
walls and sharpened my saws which were in
very bad shape. Also he showed me how to place
the plates more easily than I had planned.
It was all a real help.

Now to continue where I broke off — Monday and Tuesday

we ran the East ^{wing} wall up to the top of the windows and doors, and is thus the same height as the north wing. Next, we placed the forms for a new run, continuing on up. This work is not yet completed and the scaffold has to be raised higher. Meanwhile we had used up all our sand and practically all rocks of usable sizes. So we made a sand run, on part of which Joe helped yesterday, and so we have enough for the next run. Meanwhile Carmen has been drilling rocks, while Gene is finishing the hauling. We expect to complete the next run this week, though we have to build some sort of derrick to raise the rocks and cement to the higher level.

This morning I was surprised to find that it was Father's day, and there was a most welcome set of gifts at my plate. Your book is a very valuable selection and I do most certainly thank you, my dear one. I have known that I must become familiar with the subject of Romanticism for some time as I must guard or mold my own philosophy with respect to it. I am aware that it is antagonistic to the stand I take, and so I must adapt myself to what it has that is useful, and guard against that which would imply that

Intoxication is a delusion. - There was a pen from Kathryn, and a very good one too. A very real need here as I found no pen and have had to write in pencil. Please thank Kathryn for me, and tell her the gift is really valued. - Also thank Marie for the pocket-book, which came at the time when my old one is nearly gone. - There was a bottle of Cherry cigarettes, a \$5.00 bill, and a number of letters in the mail. To date I have received \$51.00, which I have listed. I was astonished to receive an enclosure of \$25.00 from Charles Miller.

I am worried about that rifle shot. Joe told me before Gene brought your letter, but he did not tell me you were sitting in your chair at the time. I do not like the rather indifferent attitude of the policeman, and I think the Chief should be told about it. I like the Chief and understand he is exceptionally conscientious.

I am awfully sorry about the fly that got wind-torn. I have tried here to get materials for repair. I was in town that day and had no idea we would have the worst blow the old-timers had ever known. Gene

was working on the trail way down and said the sand came so hard he could not face it. The big tent was a little torn. So we lowered it and placed the boys in John's tent, until the wind-thrust passed. It has now been normal for some time. The kitchen fly was quite undrained and sealed in case of our cold John's tent. The kitchen fly is heavier while ours is more the weight of the long white canvas that tore up a few years ago.

We have been giving everything we could to the building after working out the much more difficult transportation problem. Peter was surprised to see that we had the 20-foot pieces up. For the camp life we have done only what was absolutely necessary, reserving strength for the permanent job. We are winning.

Give Jim my condolences for having drawn the job where he must absorb trouble. It is tough but it is a tribute to him. The real heroes of the army, as well as of business and social life in general, are the ones who succeed in such tasks, though it ~~is~~ is the spectacular heroes who ~~become~~ ^{lose} the fame.

I am looking forward to when you come. It has
been a long time. But I am indeed glad to hear
from you, Joe and Carmen that you are getting
better. My love abides with you always, my darling.

Franklin & Gigi.

Ayina Ashrama,
June 27, 1942.

My Dearest:

It has certainly been an exceptionally busy week.

The preparation for the run above the windows and doors on the East Wing was even more than I expected. There had to be forms for the arches, a plate had to be made for the rafters and ceiling joists, scaffolding has been built up to a point that is beginning to be reaching high, a derrick had to be devised for raising stones, metal laid for reinforcing, etc. Well all this has been done and we ran the east side of the south wing up to window top so that we can run the south-east diagonal over the top. Then we ran the south side of the east wing plate level (as high as it goes) and finally we nearly have half of the east end of the east wing going up 4 feet above the window tops. It was done up to yesterday. I had hoped to make the full round to the front door this week, but the work was simply too much. We have now exhausted the new material, rock and sand, which we had made, and next will have to make more. Gene

and I am very well in keeping me
supplied with cement. I did not think they could
do it, since I used to have three or four to the
same work formerly when material did not have
to be raised so high. However, it does work ten
very hard. - Gene is a very good worker
and is conscientious. We are a
practically no waste. We are a
supply. - But we are a really, the true organization
we should have no more money. When we are
not running cement Gene is on the tractor back
lumber. We have made 2 cement runs -
cement and the first 50 sacks of cement and the
By the end of the coming week we will have
exhausted the first 50 sacks of cement and then we
need more. When all the handy is done then we
can make more headway in the preparation for cement
runs, since Gene will be available. - To do what
we have done we have cut every activity not connected
with actual building to the bone of sheer necessity. We
do laundry once in two weeks and thus save some time
and labor. Further we do the laundry Sunday morning, that
is the boys do it, while I spend the same time sharpening

Iyana Ashrama,
July 5, 1942

Sherifa My Dearest;

Gene brought Marie up yesterday evening, arriving at quarter to nine. On the basis of our last information we had expected Joe, John and possibly Murray as well and thought that they would all come as far as the "Y" in Joe's ^{or} and John's car. Accordingly we had an extra-early breakfast and Gene went down to the "Y" and waited most of the morning. (Being a holiday we did not shop and in any case figured we should know the new supplies brought by Marie first.) He returned with lumber at noon and then we figured that Marie, and possibly others, would be staying at the Dow Hotel because of the heat. (It was by all odds the hottest day we have had here.) Because of the heat, Gene planned not to return until the road was in shadow, since he has a bad boiling problem with his car, even under the most favorable conditions. As it was, he did not leave town until seven o'clock, and reached the Ashrama just before the natural light failed.

Marie seems to be resolved to handle her tasks to the best of her ability. She really tries and we have had two of the most luxurious meals we have

had since we have been here. We were really in need of a radical change. This new supply seems like positive luxury. - It is interesting to note Marie's effect upon the two boys. They have spruced up more and, while Carmen shows little change, it makes all the difference in the world with Gene. The characteristic brightness of Gene which is so entertained becomes but a shadow of itself in the rather serious and heavy life of masculine monks, but when the feminine gender appears on the scene, he sparkles. Really, he is quite a lady's man. It is Carmen who is the natural monk. - Incidentally, I wish to say that Gene is making good. I think I have found the secret of how to handle him. He does not learn from precept so well, but needs the instruction of hard experience, and likes to grapple a problem on his own. When I turned the whole transportation problem over to him, he really took hold and broke down the problems which were far from easy. He took a good deal of punishment along the way, but he "came through". Also, of late, he had taken over practically all the cooking, and on his own initiative, strives for excellence. To new suggestions his first reaction is distinctly negative, as you know so well, but I disregard this and he falls into line afterward, unless his idea impresses me as better, and then I give way.

Carmen is minding his own duty better, and not trying as much to take on the other fellow's duty. The result is, greater efficiency on his part, and general facilitating of the job. He supplies the wood for camp and does it well, services the lanterns, etc. - The boys had taken over practically all of the camp work, which left me free to concentrate my thought and physical strength upon the building - a job that takes everything I have got. You must think ahead of the job all the time or he will run into plenty of jams. - The boys have done their best and given all they had to give. They have done well.

Now, as to the showing to date. Twenty-four loads of ^{and cement} lumber have been brought up to date, with about five loads of lumber remaining. The cement (50 sacks) is all but exhausted and 75 more are due to arrive tomorrow. The east wing has now been raised to the plate level including the southeast door and diagonal and the front door. Altogether we have run five out of a total of 12 arches. Yesterday, we took down the forms, placed the ^{permanent} ceiling joist for the east wing, placed on it a temporary floor, raised the end rafter and largely completed the last form for the gable. We should run this last bit in about one day when all is ready, including material. The top stone will be about 23 feet

above the ground by the big tree where we used to eat lunch. The effect is growing to be impressive, and quite artistic with the two trees to set it off. I worked out a selected rock-design for over the front door which I think is effective. - We have now, a systematized weekly program. Monday is drilling day for rock material - Gene hauls on this day. Tuesday we wash - sand and clothes - Gene hauls again. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we lay rock, with Gene taking the brunt of the labor raising the rock - quite a job now, even though we improved a derrick. Carmen mixes and helps Gene, and somehow they manage to keep me supplied all the time, - a job which required 3 persons last year, even at a lower level. - Carmen waters the cement and does most of the scratching. I tend to all the carpenter work which becomes rather considerable when high scaffolds are necessary, and special frames and forms have to be set and braced. In some of this I require help. - Saturday is shopping day and Sunday day, when we pick-up odd jobs, like broken trail walls, etc. Sunday morning is laundry day and tool-sharpening day in the morning. The after-noon is off for rest or self-chosen activity. Most evenings we have read manuscript - have completed the 260 pages of "Introduction". Started Georgian Friday night. Much to my surprise the

grips Carmer's interest especially and he seems to follow it better than he did "Introceptionism". He has had the experience of being bored by a single-texter. To-night we will take up something on the more religious theme.

I am glad to know that Helen and the children are arriving, in fact have arrived now. I look forward to a report on the children, especially that ~~mischievous~~ rascal Bob. Much as I look forward to your coming here, it is manifest that you should wait until there is help, and if Grace is coming on the 15th then it seems that you should come then. Also, I can appreciate that you would want to see more of Helen and the children. Extend my kind remembrance to all of them.

I have written Mr. Bond to take over the irrigation and he said he would do so. I am anxious to do as much as possible here, for when we have a building with a roof then it is a possible retreat if things go bad in the war-filled world. I bear in mind the instruction you read last convention.

I am deeply glad that you are getting better. Marie bears out the fact, and so did Kathryn in a letter last week. I was wondering a little whether you were making the news especially bright to cause me worry. I hope to send this letter down by the man who

is supposed to bring cement Monday, provided Gene meets him at the "Y." I had expected to send it down with Joe or John if they had come.

Well, the best of everything for you. My love abides with you always.

Frankl.

Lone Pine, Calif.,

July 10, 1942

Sherifa My Dearest;

Came to town today, partly to determine what the facts were with respect to Grace and partly to some little item for Marie tomorrow. Before I left camp I had a commission of the same sort from both Gene + Carmen. Only possible selections here are candy and cigarettes, so that will have to do. The plan was that if Grace was coming Gene would come down tomorrow. Your letter made it definite, though Gene had received a telegram a week ago from Grace saying she was coming, but that was not the first communication nor the first date. - Well, I covered the items of shopping on a quick afternoon trip and was just winding up at Joseph's when, looking up from a fruit selection, there stood Grace! As usual, in some way, all planned organization was upset. Planned to write all up to date in the morning and send letter down by Gene. But now there seems no reason for him to come down, so I am writing just before return to camp. - By the way, I have written you every week, though it was not always mailed at the same time. Last week I expected Joe up and expected to send letter by him as I did 2 weeks earlier. But letter down by man who delivered cement Monday. Sent it to Bend address. You should have it before this. (5 pages)

I realized from your letter last week that you rather dreaded being up here too long and wanted to see as much as you could of Helen and the babies, so I agreed with your suggested date of 18th. But Grace showed me a letter just now, saying you would be up tomorrow! However, as I am going to get you, and you must have my letter by now I am figuring the 18th. I will come down on the 17th. We can drive largely at night arriving here in the dark or, better, starting about midnight and arriving here about dawn of 19th ~~some~~ so that we can make camp while it is still cool. I do not think that it has averaged as warm here as usual, except on the 4th of July when I understood it was 113° here in Lone Pine. It is always quite comfortable in the shade and some times too cool in the shade of the east wing. - I am sorry that you are not here on my birthday. - that I care about, not the present. -

Well, Mavis came as a lady beautiful. We certainly have eaten well this week and had more time for the building. It was interesting to study the effect of a personable young lady upon a group of acting monks. First thing I noticed through the glasses when Gene arrived at terminal flat was he running up hill to the tractor with all the grace and lightness of a deer. No one else in sight. My deduction, there must be something feminine around. Then, innumerable bundles were shifted to the trailer from car. But no one else around. Presently someone in a red garment and my deduction was verified. Next thing I noticed was the disappearance of two

embryo mustaches. Also there is more enthusiasm at the helping about the dishes, the Marie has taken on the kitchen and filled her part excellently. There is quite a bit of mutual teasing. It is really quite a study. I certainly have been on the alert, for this is indeed an experiment in monastic life. So far I believe it has worked out well. Marie, I believe, has progressed in maturity.

I must close, as it is rather late now. Grace says to send her love to you.

I am ever with you, and I do try not to forget the personal side, though I know that the Eternal lasts much longer.

I love you, dearest one - Chela.

Yogi

P. S. To G.P.

Often have I been thinking of you, and looking forward to the time when we will be together objectively again. We are never apart under. I am doing everything in my power to fulfill the purpose in building a retreat, but I have never forgotten you. Your special day comes before very long now.

Your Yogi.