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5-4-1943

### Letter, Sinclair Lewis to Joan McQuary [May 4, 1943]

Sinclair Lewis

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SINCLAIR LEWIS  
300 CENTRAL PARK WEST  
NEW YORK CITY

Tuesday May 4

Dearest Joan:

I thought of you when I broadcast on Information Please last evening. Yes, I said, there they all are, my little family in Mpls (pronounced, by all my students, Okay), faithfully listening to me, in the demure old gray Pillsbury Mansion: Joan and Mary Baxter, their arms intertwined like two, or more, Bronte's sisters; Jos Beach lying with his head in Fefa Wilson's lap; Dr. Anna and F. Peavey Heffelfinger and Sir Thomas Beecham sharing a love seat; all whistling in fond admiration, "Did that bastard miss on that Dumas question though!"

To be comparatively serious again, I expect -- I'm in fact fairly sure -- to leave for Mpls a week from today, arriving the next afternoon on the same train, the Milwaukee day train, that I took last time, only arriving in Mpls, not St. Paul. Later, I'll send you the exact time of arrival -- if you don't get it in time, figure it out at your end and I do hope you can meet me. I shall go to the Hotel Nicollet, and not let anybody know I'm there till latish that same evening, or maybe not till next day -- anybody save you. Plan for our evening together, if you possibly can. I'm writing the others just vaguely that I'll be there "in about ten days."

I suppose train transportation will prove to be terrible now; if I miss that Milwaukee daylight train, I'll wire you at home -- have your corps of secretaries ready to receive wires all that day.... I'm wiring the Nicollet today for reservation; I'm sure I'll get same but if I don't I'll let you know in accordance with our usual custom in this office I trust I have now made myself clear clear? good gods sir you have made yourself vacuous.

I want somehow this summer to see all of Minnesota. Last summer I did a lot of shambling around, but always I had to get back to my house and to the book, so that always about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the time was wasted in getting to and from the one surprised section that I wished to inspect. This summer I'd like to live in a lot of different parts and be right there, ready to pounce upon sunrises and Finnish tribal customs when they appear. Joseph will come out, and I'll hope to rent or buy a small car on the spot -- my cars are stored here -- and to get a C card, on the basis of "being inspector of the morals of WAACS.....My Good Housekeeping story is done and handed in; I stand,

Weds  
may  
12



or anyway sit, ready to learn the geology of Minnesota  
-- don't ask me Why, Carrie; I don't know Why.

Last Sunday this place looked like 1500 Mt. Curve; I had Beth Singer and Gabby Ueland, who's also here looking for a job, in for a drink; with them Marcella Powers, who is a kid editor on Good Housekeeping, Adella Rogers St. Johns, the perfect hack writer but a darling, Harrison Smith, the publisher, and Edith Haggard, my agent -- all these people you'll be meeting next fall. Gabby seems to have a choice of a couple of jobs, and I think Beth will get one. I believe Marcella told her about the agencies, and there are several in New York, that deal in the sort of jobs she would like -- editorial and the like....Minnesota seems to be in the air: a girl comes up to arrange my WQXR radio program next Monday -- she proves to come from Crosby, Minn, and says I saw her as a kid; the ~~copying~~ copyist doing my last MS informs me that she comes -- from Minnesota; last nite, after Info Please program, an NBC broadcaster comes up -- and he is Jack Costello born in SAUK CENTRE, MINNESOTA. I think that when you and I have had enough of Minnesota (no, you needn't point out to me how small ~~an~~ a portion of time that could be in your case) we shall escape not to New York but to Rome. I am told there is an inconsiderable trace of Minnesotans there. Yet some day, chatting to the Pope, His Holiness will probably murmur, "Oh, say, Joan, I forgot to ask you -- do you happen to know Robert Penn Warren? Well, is that a fact. Did you know that he is my illegitimate nephew, on the Chinese side?"

love

red



Rest after  
meritorious  
labor