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7-22-1925

### Letter, Sinclair Lewis to Edwin Lewis [July 22, 1925]

Sinclair Lewis

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Katonah 950  
July 22.

1925

Dear Dad:

After a quiet week of work last week, we skipped off -- Wells and Grace and I -- for a week-end last Saturday -- the rather unusual experience of being the guests of our landlord, Dr. Lewis Conner, who owns the farm here. He is, by the way, a rather distinguished figure in medicine -- professor of medicine in Cornell Medical College, and a well-known consultant besides. With his family he is spending the summer at Black Point, Conn., near New London -- a most agreeable and rather large house, right on the shore of a sheltered cove fine for swimming and boating. We drove, part of the way, by unfamiliar side roads through Connecticut and so saw a lot of fine old farmhouses hidden among big elms and maples. We had lunch at an old farmhouse turned into a restaurant.

I had not met Dr. Conner before. He is a grave, very courteous, reticent man of about fifty. His (second) wife, who is much younger, and very pretty, ~~was~~ is also a M.D., and met Conner on a consultation, but has apparently given up practise since her marriage.

For dinner they had with us a N.Y. judge, a retired navy captain, and a miniature painter, and of course the conversation raged over the various aspects of the asinine Scopes-Dayton case.

We had some swimming, some golf-croquet, and some walking while we were there, and Sunday afternoon went back toward home as far as Fenwick, near Saybrook and the mouth of the Connecticut, where we spent the night with our friends the Hepburns -- Tom Hepburn is a surgeon in Hartford, and while I was there I used to write you of our Sunday tramps with them. They have a lot of children, and we left Wells there to spend a week with them -- Grace will go down to collect him next Monday. His eighth birthday comes next Saturday, but we'll postpone the celebration till his return -- at which time Mrs. Hegger will come to us from Forest Hills for a week or two. Grace and I got back Sunday afternoon, after diversifying the route by going north and west from New Haven thru Seymour, Danbury, and Brewster, crossing the lovely Housatonic River.

Well, I've managed to make some money since settling down to work -- aside from the small, hundred-or-two-dollar check which I'll get for the article I wrote for the American Mercury. The Famous Players-Paramount Company has accepted the scenario which they asked me to do for a moving picture in connection with the three-hundredth anniversary of New York City, next year, and they are paying me ten thousand dollars for it. This is by far the easiest money I have ever earned. It took me a week to write the first draft, including planning it; since then I have had two conferences of a few hours with the directors; and there will be two or three more brief conferences, three or four more days of writing, and that's all!

The next news is that I may go out to Japan next November -- for the material for certain chapters of a book I am planning. If I do go -- since it will be less a pleasure than a work trip -- I'll leave Grace and Wells behind; they'll probably take a flat in Washington or New York City. If I go, it will be via Vancouver or Seattle or San Fran-



cisco, and I'll stop over for a few hours in St. Cloud and a day in Sauk Centre on my way. I should probably not be gone for more than five months including crossing the Pacific.

I am now busy on the serial I'm writing for the magazines -- I'm going to give Cosmopolitan, Red Book, and Designer (which published Arrow-smith) a chance to bid against each other for it, so I don't know which will get it -- apparently, from what they say, they're all keen to bid. I call it, at least temporarily, "Mantrap Lake," and it deals with Northern Canada. I may or may not publish it as a book after its magazine appearance -- depends on how well we all like it.

Wells has quite recovered from his poison ivy, and to judge by the fun he had during the hours we were with him at Fenwick, he will enjoy staying this weeks with the Hepburns. He will have a lot of swimming in a particularly safe shallow, and there are about a dozen kids of from five to twelve in the immediate neighborhood who all play together.

I'm sending some more crossword puzzles.

I haven't bought any bonds this year, but I did put twenty-two thousand dollars into stocks as safe as any bonds -- particularly Baldwin Locomotive, a firm which has never passed a dividend in 45 years, and which has real estate in the center of Philadelphia worth almost its full capitalization -- this in answer to your question. I should think your American Tel and Tel buy as safe as any could possibly be.

What we'll do with the collie when we next move is a problem. Possibly, if they do take a flat, G and W will be able to keep him with them.

Love,

h



If I could make money  
as quick as that I would  
go to Japan & Timbucto  
myself. It is certainly  
marvelous how such a  
bundle of nerves can pull  
in the money.

Foreman right when he came  
to us for dinner when he  
was up. We had plenty for  
all. We made about 60  
miles between showers on  
Sunday afternoon but no  
long trips.  
Love to all  
Dad.