

[1948 - 1949]

321 Second St. S.E.

Washington, D.C.

New Milford
Friday

7B ✓
CB ✓

Dear Ben!

When I tried to reach you earlier this week I had not received your letter of May 18 to Washington. This reached me here only today. Lennie and I were with away from Washington for over two weeks. She was here for a while and then went to N.Y. to receive her award from the Institute. It was at the reception there that I met Malcolm Cowley, who told me that you were still trying to reach me so that when I got back here I called you.

I had hoped that the house would be rented but was disappointed. In that case I might have been free to go to Bennington the middle of this month. Believe me that I should like to have done so, for a number of reasons, not the least of which would have been the pleasure of seeing you all again. And I think that I could have handled the situation without too much trouble.

Besides the house there were other considerations that made me drop the suggestion almost as soon as I made it. I should have had to upset all my examinations from the New School during my stay at Bennington.

This would have been possible but a great strain. Also I have two missing front teeth, which I am really having a hard time getting and a nervous strain due to my last lectures at the School, which were widely attended.

I'm sorry that it has worked out this way for all concerned and can only hope that you will ask me another time.

Leone is back in Washington and I shall join her there early next week for the rest of the summer. I'm planning to work at the Folger Shakespeare Library in preparation for a course on the Bard which I am offering for the first time next semester.

Please give my kindest remembrances to Wallace, Kit, Paul and the others, and tell them how much I regret the way things have turned out.

Where do you expect to spend your vacation? If you are around Washington, do pay us a visit.

As always,

Bill Tray