



Mrs. Hugh Seal,
50 E. 10th St.,
New York N. Y.

Lucenter, Ky.
April 15, 1936

Darling:

The weather has been so glorious this past week that I feel that Nature is doing atone-ment for the gray skies and the chill winds which greeted me at first. The Lombardy poplars which surround our house were just in bud when I got here, and are now half leaved. The red oaks are at their most interesting stage, a moving, transparent, lacy silhouette effect, but the white oaks are stark and leafless yet as in midwinter.

Brace yourself against an atoreistic land-hunger to which I have succumbed. The stock market boom will, the financial

editors say, be followed by a real estate boom of national proportions, and I can already see the beginning of it here. A good many pieces of land have been sold to outsiders, chiefly land-speculators, and the big insurance companies have raised prices sharply. There are still, however, a great many bargains to be had, chiefly from the great holdings of the Louisville Joint Stock Land Bank which is being liquidated. Arrangements have been made with another government agency to lend eighty percent of the purchase price under an arrangement whereby the borrower pays about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ^{per annum} on the total amount borrowed as amortization and in-

terest. This frees the land of debt in 33 years. Prepayment may be made at the option of the borrower. This land is selling at from 20% to 25% of what it was fifteen years ago, and, if the inflation boom really continues to grow as I expect, may go to ten times its present value in a few years. Jellner has picked up a few pieces and he and I have looked at a number of large farms which can be bought.

Sister, T. B. and the three kids arrived Friday night and stayed until Tuesday morning. The house resembled a boiler factory while they were here. The three children are all children to be proud of.

but I think that Sonny, the second boy, is both the healthiest and the most intelligent.

We drove over to see uncle Harvey last night. I can hardly talk to him with composure as he reminds me so much of Poppy. Uncle Did's death made a tremendous impression on him, and he repeated several times that this was the last of the thirteen children and that he couldn't last much longer.

What you tell me about Raymond is very distressing. The entire log jam seems to be caused by his parents. Do you think he might now be in-

terested in the \$2400 job which Malcolm discovered?

Mommy seems to be very much better indeed. In fact she is allowed to eat almost anything she wants in small quantities.

Zellner sends you the enclosed cartoon - with regrets.

I shall certainly be glad to see you.

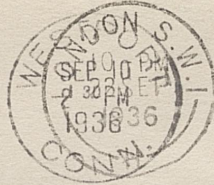
Love, Hugh

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., INC.,

11, Rue Scribe,

PARIS,

France.



Mrs. W. Hugh Seal
40 The American Express Co.,
~~London England.~~

~~THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., INC.,~~

~~11, Rue Scribe,~~

~~PARIS,~~

~~France.~~

Fastest Boat
Please

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Darling,

You must be getting close to England now. I do hope that the trip has been a pleasant one for both of you.

I arrived at Mrs. Forcher's Sunday about 12³⁰. The annual flowerbed is full of color, its chief glory being a giant, dark-centered sunflower. There are also three other sunflowers of different kinds of which the finest is a golden color with a center of the same color. There are also petunias, a fine stand of mignonette, ~~petunias~~, cosmos, marigolds and zinnias. There is also a quantity of a small plant with lovely, white, scented flowers which may be sweet alyssum or candy-tuft or some variety of gypsophilia.

I have hoed and weeded the iris beds and they seem extremely healthy. I have also located a fine, new spring, much larger than your friend-which is now dry anyway. It is close to the big maple tree on the bend of the road in the first field, over in the old road of course and very accessible to the lower iris beds. This gives me the idea of putting a large flower bed just in the turn of the road,

where it can be watered with the greatest of ease.

There were three other couples at Mrs. Fanchers when I arrived, one of whom, fortunately, left Monday night. The other two couples have proved interesting. Mr. Dreskell is an assistant professor of music at Teachers College and his wife is a singer. She reminds me of Carmen a little, but is both more intelligent and more presentable. The other couple are the Spielings who were at Mrs. Sherwoods last Labor Day. You will remember that they had a badminton set.

The sun has given me a bad time, sun glasses notwithstanding. Tuesday I had one of the worst headaches of my life and yesterday I was only a little better. Which will explain why I couldn't get a letter off on the Queen Mary. There seems to be no fast boats available now.

I miss you very much but hope that you are having a grand time. Give my sincerest regards to Crenna.

Your own
Hugh

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., Inc.,
11, Rue Scribe,
PARIS,
France.



Mrs. Hugh Deal

to The American Express Co.

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.,

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., INC.

11, Rue Scribe,
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(Germany.)

PARIS, FRANCE.

France.

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., Inc.,

11, Rue Scribe,

PARIS,

France.

~~London~~

~~England~~

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Darling:

I enclose a letter from your mother. It seems to me to be a very good thing that she will be able to go. Inactivity has undoubtedly worried her much more than would have been the case for one of less active habits. I enclose a blank check for use in case you want to send her more money.

The work goes along slowly. I am now working on a border along the Taylor wall, just a little way from the tool-house. Into this are going helenium, syringa, farsythia and achillea. The achillea is used at the end of the bed as it won't be hurt so much by being torn up when the bed is extended. Also it is absolutely necessary to get the achillea and helenium moved out of the old bed as they are crowding the other plants too much. I am preparing these beds in ~~an~~ a way which would, I hope, meet the approval of Mr. Wright.

The white cosmos in the annual bed is one of the most

perfect flowers I have ever seen. And almost equally good is one of extremely delicate pink which looks white at a small distance. Dressell has made a camera study of the white ones. Several other cameras, however, have failed miserably. The next finest show is now the sweet alyssum, which covers the ground in a mantle of white. This mantle is ~~perched~~ here and there by an oriental ^{poppy}.

Last night I went with Rodgers and Nadler to Bridgeport to hear Nadler talk to the local chapter of the National Association of Cost Accountants. It was a good speech but the house was too warm and the cigars too plentiful. Fortunately, I have talked myself out of a dinner dance at the Greenwich Country Club. I'll as soon spend an evening in Hell.

I have had two driving lessons and hope to go up for my license on Tuesday. The actual driving comes very easily, but I haven't yet learned to shift gears on a hill.

I enjoy you and Crenna your trip through the English countryside. Give her my love. I can hardly wait the day of your return.

Yours,
Hugh

WESTPORT
SEP 30
4 30 PM
1936
CONN.



Mrs. Hugh Seal,
40 The American Express Co.,
Paris, France.

Fastest Boat, Please



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Darling:

I confess that I was much surprised at your change of plans, but, if you think that you will like the extended trip better, I would say that you should take it.

The flower beds are progressing very slowly, due chiefly to the great difficulty of getting them dug to the requisite depth. As I have worked on them my mind has more and more leaned towards a place where one could plough. This vacation has been like a university course in nature to me but I don't see how I can apply much of the knowledge gained when it takes me a working day to prepare a place large enough for two cosmos plants.

The newspapers are full of news of the devaluation of the franc, guilder and Swiss franc. I hope that you got some benefit from it. If you do get some cheap francs you might get me two fine French neckties. The shades I like best in French moire silks are dark red and light blue. Don't do any especial shopping for these,

however, as I still have several left from the Budd sale.

Although the sunlight has given my eyes so much work that I have got in very little reading, I have managed on rainy days to get along with "The Last Puritan." The author caricatures the puritan manner of life in a somewhat unfriendly and unjust manner, but his strictures are extremely interesting. One is always conscious that a Latin is writing the book as a counterattack and in revenge for the smarting caused by living among people for decades and feeling continually an object of despised indifference. Santoyana must have withered over the continual premise in all American thought of the superiority, morally and materially, of the Anglo Puritan manner of life.

You haven't mentioned getting my letters but I take it that silence is in this case equivalent to acknowledgment. Love to Corinna. only two more weeks now, Darling,
yours,
Hugh

NEW YORK, N.Y. STA
SEP 18
6:30 PM
1936 H



Mrs. Hugh Seal
of The American Express Co.
~~London, England.~~

Fast Boat Please

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., INC.,

11, Rue Scribe,

PARIS,

~~Paris~~



NEW YORK
SEP 29

LONDON S.W.
29 SEP
1938

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEW YORK
SEP 29

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Monday Sept 14, '36

Darling!

You've been gone only nine days but I am as lonely for you as though I had been alone for six months. The nights are so lovely here now that I wish you could share them.

You would be surprised at the number of weeds I have slain in my anger. The land at the turn in the first field, where I am constructing a flower bed, is surprisingly rich. This is in part due to the fact that the good soil from the hillside has been washing down to it for a long time. I have already planted several things which Raymond has given me and Mrs. Fancher has promised me some Forsythia and the syringa.

I assume that by this time you have been initiated into the mysteries of English cooking, especially the coffee and the "veg."

The old spring, which I found completely dry, now stands in a foot of water which appears to be mounting as the water feeds in from the bottom. This is due to the fact that those two fine engineers, Messrs Druskell and Fielling, spent

two happy days covering themselves
with mud and glory excavating
it.

I have had a sudden relapse
into Barry-conners-place fever,
we inspected it thoroughly a day
or so ago and I decided that, by
ripping off the superstructure of
the porch and erecting a colonial
porch, the upper part an un-roofed,
railed deck, and painting the entire house
white, a fine colonial effect could
be had. We have also seen the
Howell house and climbed to
the top of the hill behind. The
same treatment would help the
Howell house, also. We have also
inspected the Fretuell place again and
I have steam up for a planting five
thousand evergreens. There's where you
can get your hemlock hedge - at 17 per
hemlock. Fretuell's pines have done
amazingly well. Many of them are ten
feet high already.

The two things I am behind
on are the car and my reading. It
was so warm last week that I
didn't want to fool with the car, but
I am starting this week. The light
on my eyes during the day has
tired them so much that I can't
read at night. Love to crew,
your own husband,

Henry



Mrs. Hugh Seal
The American Express Co.
Paris, France.

via S.S. Paris

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sept 23, 1936

Darling:

Well, I passed the test and got my license this afternoon. The inspector was more intimidated, I think, by my knowledge of the law, which was very good, than by my handling of the car, which was bad. He said that I had a few rough spots, which I had to work out. This is a relief to have out of the way, especially if I can manage to avoid forgetting all I know.

The letter you wrote on the boat on the Tenth arrived yesterday. It must have been returned on a freighter. It was a relief to find that you were having a good time. I had decided that you had been sick on the way.

I am going in to New York tomorrow to make the necessary arrangements about the moving. I do hope that Mr. Haigh knows

by this time the exact hour he
can give possession.

The work up here is
progressing very slowly, what with
equinoctial storms, auto-driving
lessons, rains and the like.
Then, I fear that I have been
moping a little because of
your absence. I'm afraid that
I'm the male counterpart of
those ladies who were described
in Victorian times as always
requiring "a man in their lives."

Bill, our estimable tutor, has
given a touch of local color to
every dangerous curve around
Westport and on the way to Green-
wich by describing acquaintances
of his who were killed at them,
usually with a few gory details and
a recital of the warnings of his,
Bill's, which the foolish victims
had ignored. I have no doubt
that he was truthful as he
has warned me of every possible
danger.

I am trying to avoid it, but
it is barely possible that I may
have to be in Chicago when you return.
Love to Crenna. A thousand kisses.
Hugh



Mrs. Hugh Deal
40 The American Express Co.
Paris,
France

W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



W. HUGH PEAL
50 E. TENTH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dear and Darling Wife;

I have put out two fine, strong forsythia plants which Mrs. Foucher has given us, and for them I dug a deep trench just up from the first hemlock along the Taylor line. The bed is large enough to allow for the spreading habits of the forsythia, and the extra space in the meantime can be used for tulips or hyacinths. I am now working on a large bed down by the entrance into the highest field, the uncleared one. There are already two rose-bushes there, but I have dug around them. The new bed is on the left-hand side. The bushes on the right hand side have been holl-out and their long trailers adjusted along the stone wall. I am in hopes that we may get some fine ^{blooms} plants there next year.

Did I tell you that Anne is going to Florida with Wood in

October? Foster is going to keep the house open and a youngster by the name of Redfield is going to stay with him.

On the whole I have liked staying at Mrs. Faneber's. She is really a good sort and I have worked hard enough so as not to mind the food and the beds.

Anne and Raymond have returned to the city in order to put June in school. Raymond's flowers are mostly finished, although the asters are still making a great showing and the anemones are interesting.

When I was at Foster's, he gave me some phlox and some sedum etc, all of which I went off and forgot when I left.

I did tell you, didn't I, that I got my driver's license? I am beginning to feel fairly free with the car now.

Malcolm and Clare - or at least Malcolm - like their new place very much.

only two-and-a-half more weeks, Darling.

Love to Creenna.

Kisses,
Hugh