

360 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul 2, Minnesota
May 17, 1946

Mr. Sophus Stockholm
Piedmont, California

Dear Sophus -

On arrival in this country I made a bee-line for Sugar Bowl and was able in the five days I had there to go over the house in detail and make notes on the things that should be done. Whether they can be done this summer or not depends on availability of material and labor. I will be there personally during July and so will Emil, and there is quite a lot of material in the house - nails, lumber, etc, although the lumber is now reduced to flooring and 2 x 4's, I think. Let me quote you a list of things in case you think it wise to put in orders in advance. I will contact you personally before going up there -

Copper gauge for the oil tank was delivered to the house in the interim and was stored in the fire-proof storage room. It looks to me as if it has been under water and I hope is not damaged. It should be installed.

Over the sink in the two guest rooms there were to have been mirrors. However, they were never ordered. I believe the mirrors should be as wide as possible, four feet, (my memory is that they were only going to be as wide as the sink). The linoleum for these two wash-stand tops has never been installed (I am sure I have plenty linoleum in the house).

The back porch and steps will have to be rebuilt if not re-designed. The large comfortable horizontal railing on the front terrace took a terrible beating and will have to be removed if not replaced. (It should be removable anyway). No steps have ever been made up to the platform that leads into the basement room (the winter entrance). I am sure there is enough lumber for this.

I plan to design and have made by Emil a large cabinet to hold records in the living room. Also some corner cupboards in the alcove. Also some shelves in my bathroom. The original idea of plastering the end stone wall of the living room has come up so many times that I believe I shall give in to it. Again, I think there is everything necessary for that in the wine room, although it may have been spoiled. Maybe we can locate the same Dago that did the hand-made looking job on the alcove.

As to the roof, I consider that it has held up very well. My brother, who spent six weeks there in December and January, reports that the thick ice formation on the over-hang created a pocket of water which had time to seep back upwards through the metal roof. This water ran down the inside of the ceiling to the stone wall and windows and this inside surface was always wet. No water dropped into the room

but he was afraid that it might freeze and crack the cement. The roof is not in any way ripped or torn or open except possibly in the joint around the chimney. It would seem to me possible to water-proof the seams of the metal covering, or possibly tar and sand the whole roof. Have you any ideas on this? The kitchen roof should be sanded anyway. It keeps sliding and the snow guards on the north wall of the basement guest room have been pulled over together with part of the exterior window-sill. Another solution to the roof problem would be to create another air space to prevent melting by boarding the beams up completely. This, however, I believe requires too much clear lumber and should only be a last resort.

While I was there, there was plenty of water but the pressure naturally varied. The Sugar Bowl is dickering about putting in its own water supply, but I certainly would prefer to be independent and see no reason why this should be over-complicated. There is plenty of room in the house itself to have a large reserve water tank high enough to give pressure to the whole house. One place would be the lost upper space in the back guest room, which does nothing but rob the heat from the room as it is and admits no light, as that little window is always snowed in. Another place would be the peak of the roof over my bedroom. Some simple arrangement could be made to pump water slowly from the creek, which everyone assures me never freezes.

Please give some thought to all these little details, and take it from me that the house has stood up beautifully under the elements. Now lets see how it will take human treatment. Don't forget it was never really finished.

I will be in Saint Paul for a few more weeks, and in New York at the Mayfair House, 610 Park Avenue, for the month of June. I would like very much to hear from you.

My best regards to you and your family,

Sincerely,



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