

Dear Mrs. Stalling: I have gone through the material you sent me. I have noted on an accompanying sheet the corrections made on the "Indianapolis to France" period. Also somewhere in there you will find some "adjustments" of statement made by my wife on the matter of my "wading through garbage, rat infested garbage cans, etc., etc." She thought my recollections on these matters were a bit "extravagantly" expressed. On the second part, pages 36 onward, I found nothing to correct or mention. Nor have I found anything in the "Atlanta Year" I would take issue with. It is, on the contrary, a very moving and insightful appraisal of those most difficult years. Here I think you have done more than a terrific job! It is, to me, evidence of your tenacious research, a sense of thoroughness, accuracy, detail and above all scholarship. How you were able to do all this I do not know - nor can I imagine. But I salute you in all sincerity, adulation, admiration and, of course, genuine thanks and gratitude.

(note) (LATER) (2.) (Page 2.)

The Pettis gallery was not a wing of the John Horron Institute. As I recall, there was a Pettis store there in Indianapolis, something like Macys - Lord and Taylor (or like Rich's in Atlanta) that conducted a little art gallery along with its other offerings to the general public. Many artists showed there.

(note) I was surprised and gratified to learn that Aubrey had such nice things to say about me. He was always such a quiet fellow - talented yes but retiring. It is true that Robert Neal was my mainstay during the development of the Anstad Murals. He was tremendous! Vernon Winslow, a most brilliant person (look into his work at 'Dillard') came to Atlanta to work, in his own words, expressly with me. We were very close as friends and ideologically. I have great respect for him and the great work he is doing in New Orleans. He deserves more than just a casual recognition. He is a great innovator in art! I wish, Mrs. Stetting, that you could say something about my lovely wife. She has been a

(3.)

staunch person, and mother, supporting and sacrificing during those lean years of the depression - and even thereafter - up to now! We will observe our 44th wedding anniversary come June 14, 1978 - this year!

The "Atlanta years" were not just my years - they were indeed our years. It would be appropriate, I believe, if you could consider some mention(s) of our life together during those and subsequent years.

I think, Mrs. Stelling that you should know something of her role in all of this, no matter to what extent you do or do not use it in your development of the thesis. I'm sure she would appreciate a word from you! Most people who know her call her "Fed", for short. She was born "Theresa". The nick-name came soon thereafter, and lasts to today.

I'm returning to you the copies you sent to me. I'm sure you'll have need of them in your subsequent coverages of the "Saga", as I call it to myself! But I would certainly like to have copies of all the periods you are covering. Is this possible? I'm willing and able to pay for any expenses you may incur in this regard.

I'm now trying to wind up preparations for my show here in N.Y. on May 21 (one day only!) Move on this later. Meantime I go to Indianapolis

(4.)

May 10 to accept an honorary doctorate from Indiana University. Never a dull moment! Saw the Beauford Delaney show at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Very moving. Believe me, and although spotty, it must have been difficult to pull together a true retrospective show, circumstances being what they are. Delaney was indeed a veritable talent, in my opinion. More on this later.

Sincerely
Hal Woodruff

Corrections, notations, etc, in re: the
"From Indianapolis to France Period"

See the following pages on this period
w/ to numbered page:

Nos. of pages: 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 32, 33,
34, 35 for corrections as noted.

No other corrections and/or comments
are noted on the other "periods" sent.
These are being returned

H.W.



Mrs. Winifred Stetting
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