

Howard Tocaben
Box 185
Albertson, N. Y.

Dear Kan;

Just received your card and see that you are still on the move. You must have some Beduin or Gypsy blood in you. I guess I have the same sickness. I just got back from a hunting trip in the Adarondacks. Charley went up with me. We lived in a tent amid ice and snow for five weeks. Some fun eh! We were deer hunting, and such lousy hunters phoo!! In all that time, although we saw plenty of deer we didn't get any. Did we get the royal bird when we got back.

I don't know if I told you, but a couple of months previous to this trip Ben, Charley and myself took a trip in Ben's model A Ford to Norris Dam (Near Knoxville Tenn. you might have read something about the Tennessee Valley in the papers). That was a fine trip, punctuated with plenty of flats, a leaky roof, and rain all the way back. We were only gone three days. Grand total of 17,000 miles. Not bad for a junk what? On our hunting trip this fall we took my old junk with us. It got us there and back without much trouble believe it or not.

You asked what I was doing after I left the World's Fair in your last letter. Well! They gave me Tony Cedren's maintenance crew and I did his places for a while. Tony was supposed to contact customers and keep the steady customers pacified and stuff, also to find jobs. He kinda' ran out of work now and then and there was a little friction between us. Of course we never spoke about it but it was under the surface just the same. I spoke to Shogo and Miss Cook,, and told them that there were too many maintenance men and that I preferred Landscaping. Shogo didn't like to change but Miss Cook said that I had more experience in landscaping than Randall who was also on maintenance and that Tony was no good at that work, also that they needed another landscape forman. So they gave me a crew and kept me busy at landscaping. I am also the new rock man and have put in a few small rock gardens, ably assisted by that great artist and your former assistant, Fatstuff.

Right now I am a Gentleman of leisure. Things have slacked down at Shogo's and I haven't done anything since I got back from the mountains. It's getting damn monotonous. If I had the dough I'd take you up on that job in California. I wish to hell I was going to Arizonia. It's cold as the devil on the Island.

Well! I'm kinda' running out of words, and I'd like to hear from you. During the summer I'm too lazy to write much, so please excuse the scarcity of letters from me. However now I have plenty of time on my hands so I'll try to be more prompt in answering.

Dear Sam:

Hope to hear from you soon.

Just received your card and see that you are still on the move. You must have some Ben or Gypsy blood in you. I guess I have the same sickness. I just got back from a hunting trip in the Adirondacks. Charley went up with me. We lived in a tent amid ice and snow for five weeks. P.S. Sorry. Please excuse the mud typeing, and spelling. In all that time, although we saw plenty of deer we didn't get any. Did we get the royal bird when we got back.

I don't know if I told you, but a couple of months previous to this trip Ben, Charley and myself took a trip in Ben's model A Ford to Norris Dam (Near Knoxville Tenn. You might have read something about the Tennessee Valley in the papers). That was a fine trip, punctuated with plenty of flats, a leaky roof, and rain all the way back. We were only gone three days. Grand total of 17,000 miles. Not bad for a junk wharf. Guess hunting trip this fall we took a little more than a week or any thing but a week and back without much trouble. I don't know if I told you, but a couple of months previous to this trip Ben, Charley and myself took a trip in Ben's model A Ford to Norris Dam (Near Knoxville Tenn. You might have read something about the Tennessee Valley in the papers). That was a fine trip, punctuated with plenty of flats, a leaky roof, and rain all the way back. We were only gone three days. Grand total of 17,000 miles. Not bad for a junk wharf. Guess hunting trip this fall we took a little more than a week or any thing but a week and back without much trouble.

You said when I was doing after I left the world's fair in your last letter. Well! They gave me Tony Cohen's maintenance crew and I did his places for a while. Tony was supposed to contact customers and keep the steady customers pacified and stuff, also to find jobs. He kinda' ran out of work now and then and there was a little friction between us. Of course we never spoke about it but it was under the surface that the same. I spoke to Shogo and said Miss Cook, and told them that there were too many maintenance men and that I preferred landscaping. Shogo didn't like to change but Miss Cook said that I had more experience in landscaping than Randall who was also on maintenance and that Tony was no good at that work, also that they needed another landscaping foreman. So they gave me a crew and kept me busy at landscaping. I am also the new rock man and have put in a few small rock gardens, only assisted by that great artist and your former assistant, Randall.

Right now I am a gentleman of leisure. Things have slackened down at Shogo's and I haven't done anything since I got back from the mountains. It's getting damn monotonous. If I had the dough I'd take you up on that job in California. I wish to hell I was going to Arizona. It's cold as the devil on the island.

Howard Tocaben
Box 185
Netz place
Albertson, N.Y.

Dear Kan:

Was glad to hear from you. I thought for a while that you got lost in the wilds of wooly Arizona, or captured by the Indians or something. But better late than never. As you say, "Patience is a virtue of the Gods." But it is also said, "Don't put off 'till tomorrow, what you can do today." So I decided to answer you right away. Proving that I am indeed a gentlemen. Or am I?

So! you got a new Ford V8? I'll bet its a lot different from the old model A. I hope to get a better car this season. I can't make up my mind between a Plymouth or a Willies. The Plymouth is much stronger and roomier. while the Willies is more economical to run. My old junk is begining to fall apart. I am expecting to find myself sitting in the road some day. Maybe after busting that block on the model A you will remember to drain it at night after this. I busted a radiator two winters ago on my reck, and cracked the block last winter. This winter I used alcahol. The radiator leaked so much; that I used about three gallons of alky in about two weeks. I began to delute it with water. One night as it was getting pretty cold I drained the alky. The next day it was frozen stiff in a pail. It was the only thing that saved me from buying a new radiator or block.

I don't know how things are going to be at the Garden Clinic this spring, as I am not Clarvoiant. But am hoping for the best. Japans coming back to the Fair this season so it should give us some work. Shogo has a few customers lined up. The rest is left to luck.

What would the California Chamber of Commerce say if they found out that you admitted that it rained in Cal? Maybe they could get some consolation in the fact that Visitors in Floridia are freezing to death. Hereeon Long Island it has been steadily below freezing since November. Plenty of snow. Today it is raining, and melting the snow. Maybe spring is comeing.

We're all itching to get back to work. Its pretty damn monotonous sitting around home collecting State unemployment insurance. I wish to hell landscaping was a year around job.

I havn't seen Fat Stuff much lately, so I can't tell you how his Photography is getting along. I tried to build an inlarger from my camara, and blew up pictures to about 10 diameters. I only used one condencer lens so that there is uneven distribution of light. However I intend to get another lense, as two are needed. If I make any good enlargements I will send you some. When I have a chance I'LL send you some picture of Rubles place, and some of my jobs.

When you spelled or misspelled the honorable common name of Wapiti Virginiaia, where you infering that we were hunting the two-legged variety? Tsk! Tsk! unthinkable. Anyway there weren't any up in the woods. Was surprised to hear you were hitting the high spots in Juarez. How are those Mexican Senoritas? Not that I'm interested or anything. Any way I hope you enjoyed yourself. Apparently you can't settle down right away after all your travels. It has been said, "An itching foot can be scratched but not completely cured." By Wing Ding Foo. Tocaben? Not so well known Chinese phylosopher. **

Well it's about time to sign off, so hope to hear from you soon; and don't forget to send those pitchers.

Your Landscaping Friend

Howard

P.S. I had all good intentions to answer your letter immediately but it took me ~~two~~ three days to write it.

** Stinky spelling. What?

* Boy! am I an optimist.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Howard Tocaben

Box 185 Albertson, N.Y.



Kenji Domoto

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Hayward California.