

1/31/76

Dear Sylvia,

For almost two weeks we wandered about Florida, then fled to sanctuary in Mexico City which, however, was disappointing. The smog makes breathing unpleasant and fast food shops bespeak over-commercialization of the famous Zona Rosa. But the Carmel Restaurant survives and three nights running I regaled myself with mahon-ball soup and baked apples; we by-passed Delmonico's and Violines de Fontana. We went again to the Anthropological Museum, nowhere else, and on the way to Cuernavaca stopped off at the N.H. University to inquire about an old comrade and anthropologist, Dr. Paul Kirchhoff, whom we had not seen since he went on a field trip in 1935. It was a blow to learn he had died five or six years ago. The past vanishes painfully.

We are now at Casero de la Selva, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, where we have a marvelous suite at the rate of \$400 month in an indescribable place, surrounded by wonderful trees, flowers, shrubs, statuary, murals, sunshine, and quiet for five days of the week. Week ends & middle class families come out from Mexico City, 50 miles away, and almost fill the hotel's rooms, suites, and

bungalows. On return, I'll attempt a fuller description.

I'm trying to gain strength for an expedition to Guatemala while May coincides with friends she made last year. Today she and two other women are off to Mexico City.

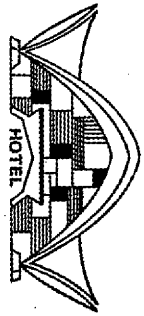
Thus far I've read Traven's *The Bridge In the Jungle* which, I believe, eclipses *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Wilder, and has both narrative skill and tragic force. And I've begun *Cover Shift* by Sale which I will try to analyze when done. Already, I can see it is indispensable for establishing the historic context and significance of the JFK assassination which Sale seems to understand, to what degree I do not yet know.

From Mexico City News, an English-language tabloid, I learned that the American government which is celebrating the nation's 200th anniversary as a republic hastened to prop up the monarchy in Spain. A remorseless fate twists Kissinger's train-

writing has become difficult and I do not attempt more than a few post cards and a letter a day. Very shortly I hope to cable to Linton whose letter I discussed with you before leaving N.Y.

CUERNAVACA,

Samm



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