

10/20/70

Dear Gary, copy Jerry,

Feeling good/tired from a little outside work this afternoon, like felling a few small trees thoroughly overgrown with honeysuckle, real unattractive trash growth by whatness, and having started this year's compost there, then removing about 20% of the coping of the pool, which requires a new liner and that requires 60-degree-plus temperatures!, in the short while before supper I'll catch up on something.

You may remember that some while back I told you of the best copy of one of the films I've ever seen and that we have it. It is better than the A print, I really believe. It is 16mm. And you know my Labor Day weekend visitor was to get me a good Nix so that a new associate of ours could use his considerable skills on it. He can make certain improvement, I believe better than Patsy promised.

Apropos of your recent conversation, I suggest it inadvisable to borrow a copy at this time for several reasons:

You will always have access and will, eventually, have a copy of your own. You are not in a position to study it now, because of your other work and because to really use it requires special equipment, not just a cheap projector. There is no reason for anyone to run unnecessary risks. You seem to be in an especially sensitive area, as you will recall from your late, lamented colleague, what happened to my luggage, etc.

Intermittently it is being studied by one not really familiar with the evidence. I think this is a big advantage, for it means there is less he can, subconsciously, deceive himself into believing he sees. I think this person ought complete what he can do unadvised.

There is a special kind of possibility of danger and retribution I do believe ought not be risked needlessly. If a really useful purpose were to be served, then it would be different. Eventually you'll understand more than this ellipsis can indicate. On the other hand, I am certain you can borrow a print anytime at all (but not for showing, not for anyone knowing exists). I just think you really have no need for it at this juncture. If you feel otherwise, please so indicate.

And this is only one of the things there will be.

While I was working outside, which frees the mind, I was thinking how nice it would be if you had the bread to be here for Xmas, which is closer than it seems to be. If you could, I could also invite others, and you'd need no special equipment, for one benefit.

Mary has not sent the film. She indicated hers came from the same source as the one you got that was then copied. I do think it is important, given her present problems, that we get the best possible copy for that kind of expert work that now is sometimes available. The time of availability is not predictable. Can you do this, that is, get a good print? I think we should have the best we can expect before someone goes to a lot of trouble, etc. If you can, I think two would be preferable. Size is not the primary consideration, clarity is. That is, the quality of the print, whether it be 8 or 16, etc. When we have this, there is someone I will consult to see if I can get a third generation, which is not impossible, before the work is done....Supper time. Best,