

S letter No envelope. Collis hand-wrote in pencil date on first page

(page 1 has letterhead, ditto all pages)

C.M.H.

March 31. (In pencil 20 years? later '1931')

Dear Dad:

Mother has written me saying that she is too vacillating to decide about my spring vacation, so I guess, since time is so short I should write directly to you. Concerning my going home and getting the car and having it here until the summer;

Your objections seem to be primarily that I shall become lazy and tend to study less with the car free at hand, secondly that I should have difficulty and expense in housing the Ford during that

ought to time, thirdly that I should^A stay here in Cambridge and study as I did last year, and lastly that should I get the car this spring, I should demand I have the car in fall because it had been given me this spring. What is more mother says that now Alice is to work

(To fourth side)

with the factory girls in Bryn Mawr until Aug. 10. The family might use Uncle Don's car occasionally and otherwise not need one, doing without.

First, if no car will be needed in Intervale, I may as well abandon my argument for there is no use for of my driving the car East to be used only a month, and at that against your wishes. But if Alice is to be at Intervale from Aug 10 til Sept. 20, which is half of the summer, and she will probably have friends there, she would like to have it, I am sure. There will also be Esty Lawry, and myself occasionally, to use T. Gretchen s now expects for a couple of weeks, and I believe sh could make use of it. I believe Grandpa will be there all summer, and mother does not wish to stay at home, leaving only at times when Uncle

[M says Drivers licences could be obtained at age 16 and were good in NH if gotten in MN.]

Don's car is there, or she rents a car, or uses the trains, whose schedules are not as convenient

[Rents? What a concept! Did G&G ever rent a car?]

[Ah, the arguments against trains!]

^now as they used to be. If the family made good use of a dilapidated Dodge when only Alice was really allowed to drive and I was the only other steady member who could, I should think that two licensed drivers (Esty and Lawry) steadily drive

[Do we have any evidence of convenience?]

[Did a Dodge precede the Ford?]

[Meaning Collis had license but not ok to drive?]

at home, Jan quite able to^, and Alice, Gret

(To first inside page-he is writing densely on the page)

Al's attending

and^ friends ^ during the latter part of the summer, could all put a year-old car, in good running condition, to extremely good use. Also I flatter myself that some will occasionally wish to see me, being a lonely son, (cousin or brother) on the and consequently

[We know from a June '31 letter I did in January that the car did arrive.]

mountain^ the ford should be in use in Intervale, this summer. If you believe otherwise just say so and I shall hush.

Now, the first objection is that I should not study enough with the car here. As it is now, I have not been over-working by any means, so far as grades are concerned. My hour exams have come and gone, and I have not glorified myself nor come near going on pro again. As I have said before I do much scurrying about for the Lampoon. You have not objected to my joinin it and if I am to do that I must work ~~for it~~. I believe it is worth it. For the past months I have been in town at least three times per week at about an average of 3 hours per trip. Also I have worked in the office, gone to 3 meetings there per week, and spent quite a bit of time collecting subscription money for

(To second inside page)

those who will not send their cheques. Besides this I have practiced 3 times a week at 2 hours per rehearsal for the glee club. That is now over; I sent clippings

of the Bach festival in which we performed
on 3 days

5 times[^], to Aunt Bessie. All this is merely
to show that I have not been wasting my
time in fiddling. Glee club is over and
I can now study a bit more. The Lampon
competition does not close until May 8.

To get back to the car: I spend about
30 or 40 cents on the street car and subway
and about 3 or 4 times as much time as
driving. So the car is so far as the work
on the Lampon is concerned would save me
time, and I must work on the Lampon
for over two weeks after the vacation. The
more time I have the more I shall study,
you can be sure of that. Here in Dunster
I am rooming with a most studious person.

in junior year

He just missed Phi Beta[^] and was Group I
(all A's) his freshman year. So the atmosphere
is good, which is entirely the opposite to
that of Holworthy where four of us kept each
other from being too studious. The very fact
of rooming with only one person, whose
friends are all careful not to disturb, is
a great help. The library here, which I
(Begin second four-pager)

use a great deal, is handy and has
most of the required books. In the Yard
I had to walk to Widene and study with
a thousand or so **C.M.H.** in the one big stuffy
room. Here there is ventilation and sunlight.

[^] + a few.

I have not lost my desire to make the Dean's
list, though the amount of studying I have
done since mid-years is dubious. I must
do all my studying after the Lampon is over.
I can hardly help it but study in
May.

If I were to use the car at leisure
it would be to go to the Hutchins or Uncle
Don's, I do not believe you have known
me to go visiting anywhere, debutants or
the like, in Minneapolis or K.C. without

[J.W.Jones died March 6 1931.]

[We never read how he got to Dunster...]

beforehand

a bit of urging^, and I have not changed radically. The only way a car could take me from my studies would be, to go for a ride in the country, or an easier way to go to shows, or some playland or the like. I attend the University Theatre whenever I go to shows because it is not a block away from Holworthy, is cheap and has a change of show twice a week. It is as easy if not easier to go to a show in town on the subway than in a car. You know

[He must refer to film, not plays]

(To back page)

that I don't go to fairyland places as a practice. In fact I dislike them. As to driving in the country and making trips to places, I can promise you such

[What is a fairyland place? M & C think amusement park.]

not to take any ^ drives, if you wish. I hope you don't mind my going to Weston or Newton, and if there is any danger of my doing that too much I shall limit my calls according to your wishes. As it is I usually go to one place or the other at least 3 out of 4 week-ends, that is just for Sunday or Sat. night to Sunday, seldom any more frequently. I might go there (Hutchins) for tennis occasionally but I'd just as soon row here (as I just began o for exercise

do today)^ and need not do that except to

Sat. + Sunday. Also since I go^ the (the means)

Hutchins regardless of how^, having my own car will be a convenience.

You would save the Hutchins a good many trips to Cambridge. I seldom take the trouble and expense to use a Drive Yourself, for it is just as easy and less bother + money to ~~drive~~ ride for 3/4 going

[Drive Yourself?]

hour on the street car^ out there, if the

(To inside 3rd page)

try to

Hutchins are indisposed. Whenever I ^ pay back all their hospitality by taking Gretchen to a play, it is by using their Ford, which is perfectly all right but it does not make me feel that I myself am really repaying them much.

I hope you can trust me if I say that I shall not let the car influence the amount of studying I shall do after vacation. As to your statement, that if I got the car now I would say "Of course the car is mine now, you let me have it in May, why not now?" at the beginning of college next year, I think it is unjust. Let me have the car now and September will take care of itself. I promise to not mention then your giving me the car now. You may do as you see fit next fall. Let me show how reliable I am now, before condemning me in the fall.

[Off topic, but how did Gramps get the idea to go to MIT? Why not the U of M? Harvard?]

If the car must be driven east, have done this an easy way to do it. I do not in the least mind the prospect of driving by myself. I shall not hurry, you need not fear for my safety if I

(Fourth page, inside)

drive alone. The fact is I like driving alone and would much look forward to such a trip. Perhaps George Benson or someone would like to go + see Minn. Ad come back with me. Anyway, I find that I am through Friday 10th, at noon, for tricky does not lecture that Saturday.

[Not sure of spelling. Did we meet him already?]

[trashy? Frishy?]

and school opens Tuesday at 9 Monday, 20th is a holiday. So I return to Minn. Sunday morning at 8. If I leave Wednesday morning at 8:00 after three days with you I shall have two days to get to Chicago, 2 more to Buffalo, two

more to Boston. That is taking 6 days where Jan + I come in 4, which is very easy time.

As to garage that is a minor detail. There are many small private ones around here and there are many people I know using them satisfactorily. We can settle on the amount you would give me for maintenance, if you are willing to give me any. Please notice

[I have not used Rog's car as an argument. Love Cog]

[Written up side of page.]

(Written on first side over the letterhead)

PS

Thus I could see you for three days, spend the spring vacation profitably and enjoyably, get the car here and have the car here for myself I hope this letter does not seem obsequious, accusing, or insincere.

[Note from Maisie 6 June 2009:

I find the tone of the letter to Dad about vacations and cars very dreary indeed. Drivers licences could be obtained at age 16 and were good in NH if gotten in MN. There was always a lot of problem about transportation in Intervale. Trains were used happily in early years - to and fro to North Con. for shopping, wheel barreling from station up to house, to Crawford for climbing or south to do other mountains., for MBN to visit Avis using many train connections , and in the 30s by MBNH to get prizes for kids. It's true the schedules were less helpful in the 30s than earlier, but there never were "arguments against trains" really.

Transportation in early days was provided by horse carriages from the Bellevue owner or similar sources. Later with cars Ted Drew or Saunders drove for HPN. Many people provided cars especially the Hutchins who loaned a 1923 Buick to Don (used one year for infamous 1929 Sandwich Notch trip). Yes people rented cars: Clarence or Don borrowed or rented cars to get them to

Concordia. Gogo, Ben Washburn, others helped with cars.

James Willis Jones died March 6, 1931 age 65 years. They lived half a block from us in Mpls. Note Collis is sending clippings about Bach festival singing right after Willis' death, to cheer her. Collis was very thoughtful about things like that, nice to Benny Nichols when others just spurned him.

When Al(Alee) was 16 Clarence encouraged her to drive and gave her a \$98 Dodge to drive people around in New Hampshire. Mrs. Emerson was trying to teach MBNH to drive! A fairyland place would be like an amusement park we think.

George Benson is George Charles Sunner Benson (see ltr.#8 of 11/11/30 about his bicycling through Europe with Cog summer before big 80th birthday doings out west and in Mpls.

Gramps always wanted to study engineering. MIT was the place for that (not newish U of M or Harvard and its classics - Pres.Eliot and his volumes of Classics at Concordia). He was pursuing engineering before he had to shift gears to help his father at home.]

[Followup note 21.Jun.09:

I thought Cog's letter about cars and vacation dreary because Collis seemed to be so fauning, well, that's not the word, but having to justify all his moves or ideas or motives ahead. I'll be glad to move on to Ltr. #14.