

August 11, 1947

Dear Jim,

After fourteen months you'll have to dig back to recall me I imagine. So, in case you don't remember by the name on the envelope I'll mention the names "Snodgrass", "Smar-bony", "Yemelli" and "Johnny" - (Mary need not be mentioned). The later name is D. Remember?

When Christmas time came last I wanted to drop you a card, but all I knew was "Cincinnati", so I forgot it.

So now, at long last, Jim vacationing at Lake Tahoe (and at the same time helping a friend finish up a cabin) - that's what led up to this letter.

I was busily wiring a socket, stopped to remove a piece

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of newspaper in my way and who should I spot but James M. Snodgrass looking very whistful on a July 15th issue of the L.A. Times.

The picture brought back many a memory, of ships, planes, trips from L.A. to Diego, etc. (even occasional Yconelli vs. Johnson arguments).

So, I thought all this warranted a letter, just to say hello.

"I see by the papers -" that you are back in step as a first class civilian, chief engineer no less. Nice going Jim.

I was discharged July 6th '46 (this is a synopsis) and layed around until August 26th '46 when I was to start the Los Angeles Institute of Art in a Photographic course.

But, on Aug 25th, Ed Taylor (the guy who cut our picture) called

and asked if I'd like a contract as first cameraman for two months in Canada at \$500.00 per. plus expenses. I took it and shot a color travelog. from Regina to Nova Scotia. Returned to Hollywood only to find my inflated ego and pocket quickly deflated. The cameraman's union wanted me to submit two pictures I've shot before considering my application. Customs forbade my showing the Canadian films and, of course, Navy films are out. So, consequently, so was I. Should say, so am I, in that line, for now.

I've been kicking around ever since on my own hook, shooting stills, etc.

All the rest of our crew, every last one, are married.

So, now while I am temporarily dreaming up a new angle I'm also seeing Northern California.

As for Ycaelli, the last I heard was from his brother, Frank. Lou is married and working on some picture in Little Rock, Ark. His love life turned out okay. I'm glad to hear.

The office in the Taft Bldg. is still going under a St. Robert's. Marie, the secretary is the only employee. (Under the Clumbay writing). Our cameras, left over from bumps and lights are still locked up in the spare room. About once a month I go up and clean the cameras, set them up, run them and put them away. Just to keep familiar with the parts.

My regards to your wife
and family (altho' I don't
know them, you spoke of them
enough that I feel I do).

I am sending the newspaper
clipping to my parents, whom I'm
sure you remember, so they
can see where James M. is now.

I sincerely hope you'll find
time to drop me a few lines
letting me know you received
this all right.

Take it easy Jim.

Sincerely,

Johnny
[Signature]