

W. EUGENE SMITH

CROTON 1-4890

134 Old Post Road North
Croton-on-Hudson
New York

June 1, 1953

Nurse Maude Callen
Box 24
Pineville, S. C.

Dear Maude:

Oh gee! Oh Gosh! From there the news is good, very good--from here I am afraid the news must be a little on the sad side. I am probably going to have to leave on an assignment in about a week, and I see no way for me to get down there. Berni is no longer working with me and is on his own, and so will probably not be able to make it either--I know for one thing he is certainly broke. However I shall send your letter on to him, and then get in touch with him to see if he can, for I know he will want to badly.

I too, want very badly to be there, for the clinic resulting from one of my stories is a treasured experience in my life, as is knowing and having worked with you. My heart says yes, somehow get there, but in my mind I just don't know how to arrange it. Let me put it this way, go ahead and set your date to your own convenience, and then drop a note to me telling me the date and the time. Then, if there is any way that it is possible for me to be there, I will.

I am terribly sorry I can't be more definite.

I also have a very bad confession to make. The ham and the other package arrived in good shape, and I had several quick samples from it before I left town. Carmen was in the hospital for an operation at the time, and since I was then out of town, I did not get any of it down to the Schoenfield's, and my kids and the person who took care of them ate all of the rest. I felt so mean that I haven't had the courage to tell Berni yet. But my, it was delicious. I kept praising your cooking when I got back from the last trip to South Carolina and they threatened to stop cooking for me. Especially when I refused to eat breakfast here, and they found out that I did eat breakfast at your place. I can't help it, you are just a better cook than they are.

So, wonderful Maude, please let me know the exact date, but then don't count on me, although I shall try very hard. Love to Eugenia, and Dick, and a hello to the rest.

Sincerely,
W. Eugene Smith
W. Eugene Smith

DID THE LAST STORY BRING IN ANY MORE
MONEY?