

3270 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Friday.

6 Dearest Rufus. *Vancouver BC about #7*

It is somewhere between 5 & 6 in the morning but Morpheus seems to be off the job so I've had a cup of bedside coffee - very weak - and have had a look at the rose garden - all wet with dew - & then thought, by a natural sequence, of you. For you would enjoy this garden. It's not only that there are so many roses, but that they are such beautiful varieties and such superb blooms. Mr. Simpson is a member of the Royal Rose Society of England and out of the 12 best roses, selected by them, he has 11 in the garden. The Oscar

Selection is a lovely pink, called by  
the unromantic name of Mrs. Sam  
Mc Gredy. It has 50 petals + opens  
from a long deep bud to a full  
bloom that would just nicely fill  
a small bowl. In the reds they  
prefer "Etoile de Hollande" - Know it?  
Then there is "Lemon Pillar," a white  
climber with a tinge of greenish yellow  
and a faint lemonish suggestion  
in the perfume. It's a beauty. Some-  
thing like "Silver Moon," only more  
petalled and cup-like. Mr. Simpson  
has been showing us how to bud  
roses. He grows briars, or

Rugosas. Then he splits open a <sup>can</sup> stock  
& inserts a bud from a fine rose.  
ties it in & lo. The new rose grows  
out of the old. He fertilizes very  
richly early in the Spring & sprays  
as soon as the leaves appear, "early  
and often". And then he picks off  
about half the buds, very early,  
so that he will get large blooms.  
He says anyone can grow roses who  
can grow cabbages - no more  
trouble!! That's because he knows  
how. But he grew up in a garden  
of 100,000 bushes & as a boy  
used to sit up at night watching

Their prize blooms. for fear someone  
would steal them before Exhibition day.  
Sounds like race horses, doesn't it.

One - (Mrs H. & mine) 6 x 9 of  
Annuals is coming on apace. Del-  
phiniums almost out & pansies doing  
splendidly <sup>double</sup>. Clarkia, Nigella (love - in  
the mist) pimpernel, zinnias, asters  
& stocks, all doing well. Only the zinnias  
seem likely to disappoint. When  
everything is out it should be like a  
Dutch bouquet. One double pink  
and white cosmos (in another bed) should  
be nice for cutting & I've transplanted  
several hundreds of stocks - every  
shade. The green peas are almost



ready & the sweet peas are on the way up, with mums to come along at the tail of the procession. You can see we have lots to interest us and now that the young Hilchies have moved next door there is another garden to plan for. Kipper has gone in for vegetables. You should see him digging, stripped to a pair of short shorts. He looks very handsome.

All this about the gardens because they are the chief interest and will give you a sort of picture of our background. I wish I had a wee house of my own with a garden. Tho' I'd be starting about 20 yrs. too late - & you in it.

Do get back to your last letter. The  
Int'l. talk & visit sounded very inter-  
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repeating the kind of life I lived.  
I used to be running down to Montreal  
(not to speak) but to work with  
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building here + are urging the construction of a new one. Did I tell you about their "Friends of the Library" Assoc<sup>n</sup>. \$100 fee. Idea is to build up public interest + support behind the Library. One Univ. Club subscribed 25<sup>00</sup> to it + Labour organ<sup>s</sup> + men's Clubs did likewise. Suppose they spend the money in propaganda. The plan now is for a new Civic Centre uniting Library, Museum + Concert Hall.

As a war memorial.

I like the "patterns" (as the Eng. say) of your furniture covering. I think it

Shoned work out beautifully. Was a  
little in doubt about the navy blue  
at first, but think it's all right. You  
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bit of solidity - I suppose. That queer  
"pink". I like and can see it against  
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Couldn't consider putting it into a  
house coat. It will fade a little  
& become a sort of neutral very  
soon, I think. Go ahead & do  
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Have been studying my new John  
Park. Just got it back from the



frames + like <sup>(3)</sup> it very much. He ~~was~~<sup>is</sup>  
an Englishman - something of an artist  
himself & he recognized John's quality  
at once & took an interest. Natural  
wood with gold rubbed in or brushed  
lightly on, just enough to show wood  
thru'. It suits the Spring Colours.  
John's Chord is purplish pink -  
(The Cherry tree in foreground). Clear  
Spring greens, (fields) with purple  
line of hills in background. Also  
have a new water color by Isabel  
Bayne. Just a big mountain but  
I like it as well or better than  
Fran's "Leighton". Saw Lauren Harris  
at The Spring Show at The Art Gallery

the other night. He has a lovely head  
of grey hair, is tall & slim & looks  
both distinguished & very friendly.  
He had a lovely "abstract" one in  
the show. Mountain forms - purples  
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you planning? Only other item of news is my new Dip-top suit. 3-piece - black + white check. Hope it will be nice. Greenish blue felt hat (I hope). Nice for travel + trotting.

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don't accept 1 yr. subscrip<sup>n</sup> & thought  
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it as an enhant in my stuff & so  
sent it to storage (!) Sure to keep it  
(not the Cockroach but the furniture)  
& if Nan & Bill would like some  
it might keep them out. Then I could  
run down to Ottawa & see you &  
Mrs. Herbridge. I know just what you  
mean about her. She gets a bit lost  
intellectually. Wish she'd come & live  
out here. Wonder if Blanche will go  
to England. She always said she would.  
Think Lynn & Betty Lang might make  
a success of it. She'd be better than  
his mother for him.

Isn't this a long letter? Breakfast  
time and am I hungry? But I  
like to have a good talk with you.  
Last no. of Can. Art "very good, wasn't  
it?" Haven't mentioned books. Best love  
Tante

P.S.

Seem to have missed this sheet.  
Think Jacola ~~will~~<sup>may</sup> go up now.  
If it ever reaches what we paid for  
it, better sell. I think. Expect they've  
not done much on it. Arctur &  
Brazil have staged a splendid  
come-back. I'm clear with both  
of them but they're still climbing.  
No, you are wise not to touch  
stocks - too much like horse racing  
Saw "For Whom the Bell Tolls" +  
Song to Remember (Life of Chopin) Just  
very dreary, too much fighting, but  
Paul Hume & Marie O'Brien & the music  
good in second. In't Bergman lovely  
only flaw is her nose.

**MB Williams to her niece Ruth ("Rufus"), 1947**

**Transcription / Additional Information**

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