

ASTIRAMA

Headquarters
June 3rd, 1937

The Members of the Local Groups
Greeting in Love:

The following is the copy of a letter I wrote you all while we were at the Camp at Mt Whitney:

Dear Ones All:

We are working at the Site of our Great Retreat.

Yesterday Yogi wheeled 20 loads of sand and stones to the Eastern Wall. With a crowbar he worked out of the small hill at the southern end of the of the Altar Room several tons of rocks and sand. The very largest rocks will be dynamited, the smaller ones and that means very large ones at that, are being rolled into place on the Eastern Wall. There is a double wall rising here, one about 30 feet below the first ~~xxxx~~ higher one. This outer wall will protect the higher wall and the gardens and pool for bathing will be located there. A great waterfall at the southern end of the canyon makes a beautiful picture and the rushing stream into which it flows will become the source of our water supply. A ditch is already marked out and will, we plan, be finished this summer, plus the walls of the Initiation Room.

The building of Our Retreat will now be carried to a conclusion. We know you all, that is all who really understand what this means, are actively interested. There will be many needs. This summer the CALL is for WORKERS,-- Foundation Builders! Who will respond? Camp will open in two weeks for continued work. Convention Sunday will be the Second Sunday in August, There will be no plans, except for that one day, for your entertainment or further inner instruction. It is NOW time for YOU to help us with the heavy work of building. WHO will respond?

The National Secretary wheeled and dumped 20 loads of sand and stone yesterday into the yawning hole this side of the Great Wall. Sherifa raked them into place and fitted the smaller ones into the chinks between

the rocks to make the wall strong. It is hard work, but it is great fun.

Surya and Dhyana raked over a mile of trail clearing it of fallen rocks and debris and found tent sites as well. It has been five years since we were at the Camp site and everything was just as we left it. The storage building undented even and not a thing had gotten in except a spider or two!

Yesterday we stood before the Altar and A Great One appeared. He sounded a Call for Builders to the four corners of the earth; then He sounded the ----- and asked Humanity for Recognition of this work and especially for Yogi. It was soul-inspiring and most encouraging to the four of us who stood beside Him, for we have worked so hard and seemed to have accomplished but little for the great efforts expended.

We watched a snow storm in the Western expanse two days ago and as we stood there in the soft warm sunshine we felt the beauty of the scene with unusual intensity. That night the blizzard struck us and our tents trembled and shook under its blasts, but an inner assurance that we were protected proved true, the tent somehow miraculously withstood the blizzard's blasts and we arose to a very cold day. But it passed and we survived by working hard to keep warm and then having blazing fires in the evening around which we told stories and sang songs.

I wish you all could be with us and find the enjoyment we found in doing the work for the Great Cause. Some of you will respond to His Call I know, but who will it be? I am guessing.

With love to each and all from all of us.

Sherifa, H. S.

P.S. I now add this. We were surprised Saturday by the arrival of five L.A. students who pitched in and moved all the great stones out two and finished the Eastern Wall! It was inspiring. One of the students is in Federal Agriculture work and knew just how to handle them, and did the work! If a few more would keep dropping in we would be built before we knew it.

We are buying the necessary tools, etc., to continue.

Sherifa

Ashrama
Mt. Whitney, Calif.,
June 30, 1937.

To the Local Groups of
The Assembly of Man.

In Love we Greet you:

The last letter we wrote just preceded our Easter Sun-rise Service, which was held in the gardens at headquarters. A stone Altar stood at the East and as the sun rose the group stood in silent adoration. A service followed. The Devotional hymn was sung and Yogi gave an inspiring address, interpreting the significance of Easter. Then a breakfast was served to all present. We had potato cups filled with coddled eggs, casseroles of baked corn, beef hash, hot cross buns, made by Miss Crozier of the Los Angeles group, and doughnut and coffee. We had such a nice sociable time at this breakfast, every one seemed happy and to enjoy it all.

Now we are at the site of The Assembly Retreat and from the clear heights of these glorious mountains we send you our greetings. What a joy to be at our mountain home once more! Five summers have gone by since last we were here and in those five summers many changes have taken place for all of us. Yet upon our arrival we found everything just as we left it. The store room was untouched. The camp sights very slightly disturbed by fallen branches, the schoolroom under the trees were awaiting our coming. On the Ashrama sight a few sage bushes grew, a tree had fallen from the Southern bank, symbolizing the fall of an Initiated Neophyte. The Northern pillar also had fallen, symbolizing the fall of one who stood beside it at the last service here. The Eastern pillar stood straight and firm in its place, unmarked just as it had been left that five years ago, as the one who stood beside it has "stood". The Altar stands unmarked and perfect, symbolic of the loyal Official staff. Now after five years

silence

on our Retreat progresses. Sherifa, Yogi, John Schutte and myself drove up from San Fernando the twenty-sixth of May. We have no donkeys this year, so we did all the packing. Several trips were made from the cars to camp during the three days John was here. When his work in Los Angeles recalled him, we remained, and did we work on the Ashrama site! You should have seen us! The way we lifted big stones and built walls, picked, shovelled and wheeled wheelbarrow loads of stone and dirt. Yogi moved immense rocks with the crowbar all by himself. Mother lifted stones and built the wall, raked dirt, and picked out embedded rocks from the bank in such a way that we were ~~her~~ astonished and so delighted that she was strong enough to do it. And so did I. We worked like troupers; it really did seem amazing the amount we accomplished in so short a time, unused to the work as we were.

The Saturday following our arrival we had a surprise party:-- Joseph Goldspring, John Schutte, Fay Orr and Kathryn Turner arrived just in time for supper. Not knowing they were coming we had to hustle to get food for so many, but they brought a large supply of provisions. How they ever carried so much up the steep trail seemed a mystery, but they survived and were ready for bed at an early hour. Sunday morning we all went up to the Ashrama site and pitched in and worked. The girls, Fay, and Kathryn, both very slender girls, picked, shovelled and wheeled dirt and stones like everything.

Monday morning we all left for home again. Yogi was to speak at a Walt Whitman banquet that evening and the ~~xxxx~~ others had jobs awaiting them the next day.

After being in the high invigorating atmosphere of the mountains, we found the lower valley altitude depressing and only stayed home a couple of ~~day~~ weeks, when we came back to remain until after Convention,

which arrived Saturday loaded down with extra provisions and is staying two weeks to help Yogi. He will return for two weeks at Convention.

There are several big rocks to be dynamited, Mother and I have drilled one hole six inches deep in a great granite boulder, and are now on another one which will be much deeper. The work is heavy but we love it. We certainly do need helpers. The Ashrama site is two hundred and fifty feet higher than camp. Oh! yes, we also made a new trail which makes the climb much easier.

Any worker coming will need to bring his own blankets. We are short of bedding. We need army blankets, a half dozen or more. Wont some of you send them?

This year Convention is for the Workers only. We cannot take visiting students to care for, Men are needed! The foundation work is too heavy for women.

Yours faithfully in the Masters' Work,
Lillian Q. Reed
National Secretary, O of A., A of H.,
U.S.A.

Note: Mother asked me to say that as soon as she gets over the excitement and fun of working on the foundation, she will try to attend to letter writing again. So please be patient for she is getting such a kick out of her new strength and job.