

Alice Hegan Rice

11(2)

1444 ST. JAMES COURT

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Jan - 15 - 1933

Dearest Julie:

It is Sunday afternoon, golden
Sunshine out side, and Lee and
I sitting in the front hall, doors
wide open, listening to the radio,
York Philharmonic over the radio,
and I settled down for a good
chat with you.

We have been with you several
evenings, lately as we are read-
ing about "Ezra's Horizon", and in
discussing it often wish we could
do so with you. I, too, wonder
how Mary Austin got that way
about herself. She has plenty to
say, and the power of seeing it,
but the J-Mary element gets be-
tween every page and the reader
Just when I pick up hope and
think she is going to discuss
an event or person objectively, she
swings back to the ego. The book

is chiefly valuable in depicting
the Middle Western life of her
day, and a sensitive child's
reaction to it. But so far I
cannot see where she justifies
the claims that have been
made for her as one of
America's great intellectuals.

Care and I agree that your auto-
biography is the one we should
most like to read. If you would
write or you take it, it would
be a masterpiece, for you have
the marvellous gift of telling an
absorbing story of what you
have seen and been a part
of, and yet keeping your
blessed self out of it, except in
the involuntary revelation of your
own insight and understanding, and
discriminating conclusions.

What you wrote us of S.S.
troubled us greatly, especially as we
did not feel that we could
do our part in helping him.
Like every one else we have suffered

1444 ST. JAMES COURT

LOUISVILLE, KY.

relations who are almost wholly
dependant upon us, and it is
~~all we can do to keep them~~
~~clothed and housed, and free~~
~~from actual want.~~

By having a friend with us
this winter and practicing close
economy we have managed to
keep things going, and to keep
our faithful servants who have
been with us for so many years.
But we have resigned from all
our clubs except one, and are
cutting out all but necessities.
We thought last spring that we
would have to give up this big
house, where we have been so
happy for over eighteen years, but
now that I have placed my
serial at a good price and
things are at least no worse
in the financial world we hope
to go on as we are.
Our friend, Mrs. Becker, who is with

us last her husband last winter
and returned to Louisville where
she used to live. She is about
our age, very charming, and
pretty, and with many friends
and outside interests. I did not
know that anyone could slip
so unobtrusively into our home,
and become so great a
part of it. We really enjoy having
her here and hope she will
be with us next winter.

As to the McClevers, it seems in-
credible that things should have
broken so badly for them all.
My heart goes out to him es-
pecially, and I hope later on
we can do something to help.

I read the Pan + Brush bulletin
and pick up what crumbs I
can about its president. The
paper read on your birthday
was very tender & sincere, and
I am keeping it for the last two
lines.

The Hamiltons & I have asked us
to spend a month with them in
Winter Park, but we have about

1444 ST. JAMES COURT

LOUISVILLE, KY.

decided that we will not go, much
as we should like to. But we
want to get away next summer,
and ^{may} not be able to do both.

Louisville is very interesting
just now, however, so we look
for plenty of diversion. There are
good concerts and a few good
shows, and many parties and
club meetings etc. Dr. Cline
has been the guest of the
Singing Union, and we look
forward to her wife a
wedding, ending up with a
banquet of three hundred last
night.

Our Co-Operative Settlement has
gone into Relief for the Unemployed
and is also running a Bureau
Lary, and a Free Clinic. We
now have a sixty-thousand dollar

plant, with only nine thousand
dollars owing on it. I wish
that grand for a week that be-
gan without a penny and with
only five of us backing it?
I leave the Woman's Club, and
this year am encouraging an
utterly frivolous program to keep
up the morale of its members.
We have a party twice a month
where we play something they
call Bunnos, but which I call
"progressive craps". We play for
a prize, and there serve substan-
tial refreshments, are paid for out
of the .05 a month dues! Some
of the women work all night in
the tobacco factory, and are in
good bright and smiling for
the party. I sometimes preside with
a baby in my arms, and usually
have one or more to care for
while the game is in progress.
The concert is over so I must close
and go to a walk. We both
send dearest love, and many
thanks to the book -
Yours
Gene.