THIS review ought to come with scent strips for sampling an array of fresh aquatic fragrances. Swiss Lake. Old Salt. Seascape Spray. River Bouquet. Eau de l'Eau. Or just take this paper down to the river and imagine some of the architectural visions that could take shape there. "Architecture + Water," a new exhibition at the Van Alen Institute in Chelsea, presents five sparkling projects for sites related to water use. As New York lurches fitfully forward to a renewed waterfront, here are some alternatives to Chelsea Piers, retrograde esplanades and luxury housing by Richard Meier. These five visions are actually being built.

Infrastructure projects can be appreciated for the power of their engineering, as with the George Washington Bridge, or they can provide opportunities for artistic expression. The works on view here fall into the second category. They are presented within a crisp and informative installation designed by the show's curators, Paul Lewis, David Lewis and Marc Tsurumaki of Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis in Manhattan. Historical antecedents for these new works are depicted on a photographic frieze running through the galleries.

The Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant in Hamden, Conn., is perhaps the most poetically expressive project of the five. Designed by Steven Holl and Michael Van Valkenburgh, the plant was conceived as a destination attraction for schoolchildren and others who wish to contemplate our evolving relationship to nature.



Cloud of mist: Two images of the Blur Building, designed by Diller & Scofidio for next year's Swiss Expo.

manner of 18th-century architecture parlante. Ledoux's 1773-79 design for a riverkeeper's house comes to mind. Like that visionary project, Mr. Holl draws on classical precedent. He invariably derives proportions from the Golden Section. Yet his forms assume the Romantic suppleness of organic design.

Mr. Holl's design process has a natural affinity with the function of this project. We might call his studio a Watercolor Treatment Plant. His interiors especially are developed in painted sketches of perspectival space. Typically the space curves off toward the horizon line, where the curvature of ceiling and wall merge.

This personal method of working produces public spaces that are gentle but far from neutral, and I anticipate that this will be one of Mr. Holl's finest. He has suppressed the urge to adorn the structure with stylized representations of the Golden Section, a mannerism that was never needed to appreciate the rigor underlying his approach.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh is a splashy form maker but not a sophisticated thinker. Here he has made a few more of those outdoor rooms he has created in the past, most notably for the sculpture garden at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Six gardens represent different stages in the filtration process. The design is adequate for a "machine in the garden" approach, but I'm not confident that this approach is the right one for an era

Continued on Page 34

WEEKEND EXCURSION

For Love of Ivy, And Civility

By RICHARD RUDA

Perhaps the greatest pleasure Oxford University offers its many visitors is the hope, never disappointed, of unexpectedly coming upon an utterly disarming view or an exceptionally beautiful old building. While Yale University cannot match Oxford's antiquity, neither is it, at three centuries old this year, a parvenu.

Yale can also fairly compete with Oxford in architectural quality, its postwar buildings making it, in the estimation of the architectural historian G. E. Kidder Smith, "a mecca for architects from all over the world."

Yale's compact urban campus is also delightfully picturesque, thanks to its many superbly designed and meticulously detailed neo-Gothic buildings of the 1920's and 30's. Like Oxford, Yale has world-class libraries and museums, including the finest collection of British art outside Britain. Given its proximity to New York — a 90-minute train ride rather than a trans-Atlantic flight — Yale is an irresistible weekend destination.



C. M. Glover for The New York Times

Yale's tricentennial: A Branford College courtyard by James Gamble Rogers, class of 1889.

Town and gown: Yale highlights, Page 39.

Yale's hometown, New Haven, itself almost 400 years old, adds to the pleasures of a weekend visit. A spacious New England green graced by a row of three handsome early 19th-century churches, a historic cemetery with a majestic Egyptian Revival gateway and countless illustrious occupants, and the restaurants in which pizza and the hamburger sandwich are said to have been invented (both still great places to eat) are just a few of the city's attractions.

In 1638 the Rev. John Davenport and the merchant Theophilus Eaton founded the New Haven Colony to establish a Puritan "Bible State" in which, by its original covenant, "the word of God shall be the onely rule to be attended into in ordering the affayres of government." By 1660 the New Haven Colony extended as far

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INSIDE

INSIDE ART 32
An early housewarming gift: Ralph Esmerian is donating his notable collection to the Museum of American Folk Art.

ART REVIEW 34
A show at the Japan Society explores Frank Lloyd Wright's other passion, buying and selling Japanese prints.

ART REVIEW 35
"Moritz Daniel Oppenheim: Jewish Identity in 19th-Century Art," at the Yeshiva University Museum.

BOOKS OF THE TIMES 41
A mix of mundane and magical: Louise Erdrich's "Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse."

For Love of Ivy and Civility: True Blue Charm at Yale University

Continued From Weekend Page 31

west as Greenwich and even took in Southold on Long Island's North Fork. By 1665, however, after the collapse of Cromwell's Puritan regime and the restoration of King Charles II, the larger, worldlier Connecticut Colony had swallowed up the New Haven Colony.

Thirty-five years later, a dozen Puritan elders from throughout Connecticut (all but one of them Harvard graduates) established an institution to guarantee an adequate supply of reliably orthodox ministers, which the distant and dangerously heterodox Harvard could not provide. The first home of this "Collegiate School" was in Saybrook, 25 miles east of New Haven. The tiny school experienced 15 years of tenuous and peripatetic existence until it moved to New Haven, a thriving seaport and Connecticut's largest metropolis (population 1,500).

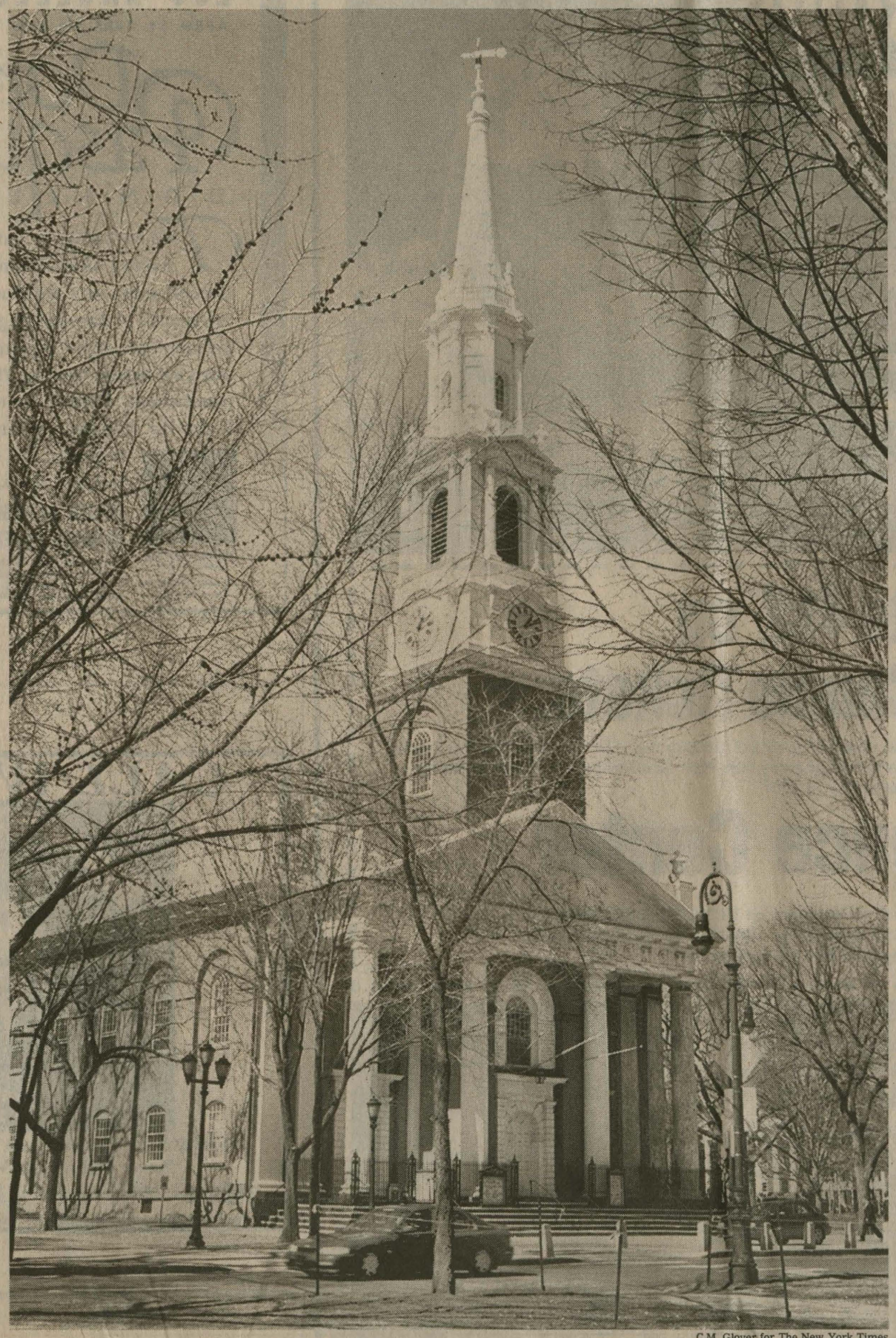
In 1718 the fledgling institution finally gained a secure fiscal footing thanks to Elihu Yale, a merchant who had made a fortune while governor of Madras and whose grandparents had been among New Haven's founders. Yale's gift included valuable books, several bales of East Indian goods (resold at a huge profit) and a Kneller portrait of King George I. Hence the name Yale College. (Sadly, Elihu Yale probably never saw New Haven or the college named after him.)

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries Yale remained a staunchly conservative institution with a distinctly Protestant orientation. But during the 1800's it also added an array of professional schools: medicine, divinity, law, music, art and the first graduate school in the United States to award a Ph.D. In the 20th century there followed schools of forestry, nursing, drama, architecture and management, culminating in today's renowned university.

The Central Core

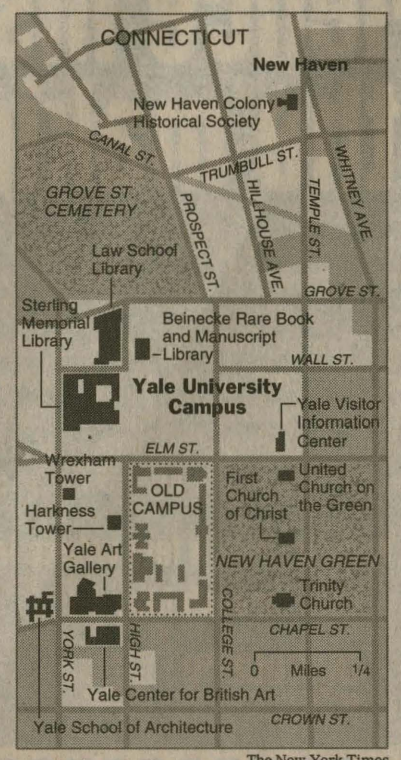
I began my visit on a bright Saturday morning on Yale's Old Campus, across from New Haven's Green. Here, at the corner of College and Chapel Streets, the Collegiate School opened in New Haven. The Old Campus remains an epicenter of the university, providing dormitory accommodation for most freshmen and a site for major ceremonies. It has Yale's two oldest buildings: Connecticut Hall (1753), a National Historic Landmark that is a deliberate copy of Massachusetts Hall at Harvard, and the former library (1842), the university's first foray into the Gothic Revival architectural style. (It is now Dwight Hall, the center for public service at Yale.)

In front of Connecticut Hall stands Bela Lyon Pratt's statue of Nathan



C.M. Glover for The New York Times

On the historic New Haven Green: The First Church of Christ, which is also known as Center Church.



The New York Times

Similar architectural attributes are evident in the centerpiece of Yale's campus, Sterling Memorial Library (1930); its initial design was by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, although Rogers took over the project after Goodhue's death. Highlights include the main entrance, with sculptures by Lee Laurie (whose statue of Atlas is in Rockefeller Center), and the vast Gothic "nave" (main hall) decorated with carved reliefs of Yale's early history. The nave culminates in an "altar" (the circulation desk) consisting of a kitschy mural of Alma Mater flanked by depictions of Truth, Music, Divinity and Literature, the creation of a Yale art professor whose name is best forgotten.

The Library's main reading room and cloistered inner courtyard are unusually beautiful places to study or converse (quietly). Rogers's Law School (1931) and Hall of Graduate Studies (1932) also have tranquil courtyards with charming neo-Gothic details like decorated Romanesque arches and oriel windows. And don't miss the amusing policeman, robber and judge carved at eye level along the Wall Street facade of the Law School.

Warmth in Poured Concrete

Just behind Mory's, a private eating club on York Street, are two of the four colleges *not* designed by Rogers. Built in the early 1960's, Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges are by Eero Saarinen (class of 1934), the Finnish-American architect who was as innovative and visionary as Rogers was conservative and traditional. Constructed of poured concrete, Morse and Stiles nonetheless manage to convey warmth and intimacy,

Crossing High Street from the Old Campus, one enters the world of Yale's 12 residential colleges. Al-

practical architect need not be stylistically innovative to define an institution's physical identity. His group of

Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, built from 1446 to 1515.

Rogers did not simply parrot some

Where the magic of a courtyard casts its spell.

wife, Barbara, and his infant son, George W. (born in New Haven on July 6, 1946), lived on the first floor. There were disadvantages to having Yale's president, Charles Seymour, as a neighbor: one day Mr. Seymour is said to have asked Mr. Bush to remove George W.'s diapers from the backyard clothesline because he was expecting an important guest.

Hillhouse Avenue ends at Sachem Street, at the foot of Philip Johnson's three-building science complex, constructed in 1963-65. One block west is another of Yale's groundbreaking modern buildings, Saarinen's Ingalls Hockey Rink (1958), a soaring structure that prefigures his T.W.A. Terminal at Kennedy Airport in New York.

Sunday morning is also an ideal time to visit three beautiful churches on the New Haven Green: the United Church on the Green (North Church), the First Church of Christ (Center Church) and Trinity Episcopal Church, all built from 1812-16. Together they make up the centerpiece of the New Haven Green Historic District, another National Historic Landmark.

Ithiel Town designed both the Georgian Center Church and the Gothic Revival Trinity Church. Center Church is noteworthy for the portrait of Town in its foyer and for its crypt (New Haven's first burying ground), with gravestones dating back to 1687. Trinity Church played a pivotal role in America's architectural history; in the words of William H. Pierson Jr., it is "one of the remarkable churches of the period," reflecting "a decisive turn" in the Gothic Revival movement just then reaching the United States.

Three other sights surround the Green. The New Haven Free Public Library, designed by Cass Gilbert and dedicated in 1911, is at the corner of Elm and Temple Streets. The city's stunningly restored High Victorian City Hall (1861), designed by Henry Austin, is on Church Street, between Elm and Chapel. In front of City Hall is the Amistad Memorial, erected on the site of the jail in which the Africans who won control of the Amistad slave ship in 1839 were imprisoned while awaiting trial.

Walking back to the Yale campus, I stumbled upon a vestige of the short-lived New Haven Colony — a large monument behind Center Church that marks the burial place of John Dixwell. He was one of three regicides (the 50-odd signatories of

Yale's two oldest buildings: Connecticut Hall (1753), a National Historic Landmark that is a deliberate copy of Massachusetts Hall at Harvard, and the former library (1842), the university's first foray into the Gothic Revival architectural style. (It is now Dwight Hall, the center for public service at Yale.)

In front of Connecticut Hall stands Bela Lyon Pratt's statue of Nathan Hale, Yale Class of 1773, a New London schoolmaster who fought in the Revolutionary Army and then served bravely but with a conspicuous lack of success as a spy. On Sept. 21, 1776, while returning from his first mission, to British-held Long Island, Hale was captured in Manhattan. He was hanged the next day, age 21, his last words said to have been "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Richard Ruda, who received two degrees in history from Yale, frequently writes about architecture.



C.M. Glover for The New York Times

On the historic New Haven Green: The First Church of Christ, which is also known as Center Church.

Crossing High Street from the Old Campus, one enters the world of Yale's 12 residential colleges. Although there are slightly more Yale graduate students (5,688 in last fall's enrollment) than undergraduates (5,278), the residential colleges define the university. Each freshman is randomly assigned to a college, though most do not take up residence there until sophomore year.

Eight of Yale's 10 original residential colleges and the principal older buildings at the heart of the campus are the work of James Gamble Rogers, class of 1889. Rogers's fashioning of Yale's architecture in the 1920's and 30's demonstrates that a technically skilled, meticulous and practical architect need not be stylistically innovative to define an institution's physical identity. His group of Collegiate Gothic and Georgian Revival buildings in Yale's compact central core indelibly established the university's character.

Many of Rogers's most conspicuous buildings are frankly derivative, but fortunately he had impeccable taste. Harkness Tower, Yale's neo-Gothic icon, was inspired by the staggeringly beautiful 15th-century tower of St. Botolph's Church in Boston, Lincolnshire. Wrexham Tower is modeled on the 16th-century tower of St. Giles Church in Wrexham, Wales (where Elihu Yale is buried). The Law School library is based on the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, built from 1446 to 1515.

Rogers did not simply parrot some of England's finest medieval structures. By placing within his larger buildings innumerable smaller spaces in an exquisitely (and often humorously) embellished neo-Gothic style, he created an academic setting in an urban locale that is simultaneously inviting, functional and secluded. Rogers's gifts are manifest throughout his eight colleges, as well as in his other Yale buildings. One of his finest works is Branford College, whose four courtyards are flanked by Harkness and Wrexham Towers and enriched throughout with neo-Gothic details.

ing club on York Street, are two of the four colleges *not* designed by Rogers. Built in the early 1960's, Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges are by Eero Saarinen (class of 1934), the Finnish-American architect who was as innovative and visionary as Rogers was conservative and traditional. Constructed of poured concrete, Morse and Stiles nonetheless manage to convey warmth and intimacy, and harmonize with Yale's other colleges.

(The two other colleges not designed by Rogers are Calhoun, the work of John Russell Pope, and Silliman, by Eggers & Higgins.)

Saturday ended at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (1963), another of Yale's landmarks of modern architecture. The work of Gordon Bunshaft, Beinecke's walls are octagonal panels of Vermont marble whose interior faces vary in amber hue in direct relation to the level of exterior sunlight.

Early Sunday morning I visited Grove Street Cemetery, just across from Yale Law School. Founded in 1796, it was the first of the landscaped cemeteries that proliferated in 19th-century America. The entrance is a monumental Egyptian Revival gateway (1845) designed by Henry Austin, buried nearby. The rare but fittingly lugubrious Egyptian style was chosen, according to the cemetery's history, because it was "in vogue at that time and sufficiently massive, but without offense to denominational sensibilities."

Buried in the cemetery are such eminent New Haven personages as Theophilus Eaton, co-founder of the New Haven Colony; Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation; Noah Webster (class of 1778) of lexicographical fame; Eli Whitney (class of 1792), inventor of the cotton gin; Charles Goodyear, who "invented" vulcanized rubber by accident; Ithiel Town, New Haven's finest architect; Walter Camp (class of 1880), the Yale coach known as the "father of American football"; and many Yale presidents. Last year the cemetery was designated a National Historic Landmark.

I walked from there to nearby Hillhouse Avenue, once called by Charles Dickens the most beautiful street in America. Its towering elm trees long gone, Hillhouse is less impressive today, although the university is now in the midst of a combined horticultural and architectural renovation along the avenue's main block. Many of its grand homes have been reincarnated as Yale offices and classrooms. Only two buildings caught my eye. No. 43, a Georgian Revival mansion, is the residence of Yale's president. To its right, 37 Hillhouse Avenue houses the economics department but has interesting associations with two recent American presidents, both named Bush.

After World War II Yale subdivided 37 Hillhouse into 13 tiny apartments for returning servicemen and their families. From 1946 to 1948 George H. W. Bush, a Yale undergraduate home from the war, his

the Africans who won control of the Amistad slave ship in 1839 were imprisoned while awaiting trial.

Walking back to the Yale campus, I stumbled upon a vestige of the short-lived New Haven Colony — a large monument behind Center Church that marks the burial place of John Dixwell. He was one of three regicides (the 50-odd signatories of the death warrant of King Charles I in January 1649) who cannily sought refuge in staunchly Puritan New Haven after the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Two other regicides, Edward Whalley and William Goffe, hid for a time in Judges Cave, in what is now West Rock Park, before moving to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Dixwell settled in New Haven, adopted the pseudonym James Davids, married twice and lived in perfect respectability until he died in 1689. The regicides are commemorated by three downtown New Haven thoroughfares, Dixwell, Whalley and Goffe.

Art and Panoramic Views

On Sunday afternoon I visited Yale's two outstanding art museums, both of which are free to the public. The Yale Art Gallery has an excellent, comprehensive collection, and its 1953 extension was the first major commission for the American architect Louis Kahn. Across the street is Kahn's Center for British Art (1977), completed after his death. His last work is light, spacious, airy and constructed of beautiful materials: burnished steel, white oak and travertine marble. It houses a notable assemblage of British paintings displayed along thematic lines.

My weekend visit ended at the neighboring Art and Architecture Building (1963), designed by the brilliant and uncompromising Paul Rudolph when he was dean of the Yale School of Architecture. This building is Brutalism (a short-lived midcentury school) at its most self-consciously brutal — an oversize, asymmetrical amalgam of rough-hewn beige concrete, colossal colliding members and large expanses of glass.

Since its completion it has been critically controversial, and reviled by art students because of its impractical studio spaces. Recently designated the exclusive domain of the architecture school, the building just received an alumni gift of $20 million to restore its shabby and much-altered interior.

But the Art and Architecture Building is indisputably superior to other Yale buildings in one respect: the panoramic views of old Yale from its seventh floor and the adjacent rooftop terrace.

As I gazed across Yale's neo-medieval skyline of towers and turrets, I fleetingly imagined, as Rogers had no doubt hoped, that I was in Oxford. But in the end I was perfectly happy to be in New Haven, an admiring bystander at the 300th birthday of a great university.

From Hallowed Halls to the Place Where Louis Dwells

Events for Yale's 300th birthday are listed in a Tercentennial Events Calendar, available at the Yale Visitor Information Center, 149 Elm Street, (203) 432-2300, and at www.yale.edu/yale300. The Yale Bulletin and Calendar appears each Friday of the academic year and lists the week's concerts, lectures, plays and sports events, almost all open to visitors; the Bulletin is also at www.yale.edu/opa/current/calendar.html. Information about New Haven is available from the Greater New Haven Convention and Visitors' Bureau, (800) 332-STAY or (203) 777-8550, and at the bureau's Web site, www.newhavencvb.org.

Yale Attractions

TOURS OF YALE, Yale Visitor Information Center, 149 Elm Street, (203) 432-2300. Open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free student-led guided tours, preceded by a 15-minute video, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART, 1080 Chapel Street, (203) 432-2800. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. A permanent collection, temporary exhibitions, lectures, readings, films and other events related to British culture. Architectural tours of the museum, designed by Louis Kahn, are scheduled at 11 a.m. the third Saturday of each month.

YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, 1111 Chapel Street, (203) 432-0600. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 6 p.m. An extensive permanent collection and frequent temporary exhibitions. The reinstallation of the Garvan Collection of American paintings and decorative arts has opened. "Printed Portraits From the Time of Elihu Yale" and "Ancients and Moderns: Tradition and Transformation in the Art of Asia" run through Sunday.

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 120 High Street, (203) 432-1775. Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to midnight; Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m. to midnight.

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, 121 Wall Street, (203) 432-2977. Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Permanent exhibits include Yale's copy of the Gutenberg Bible and Audubon's "Birds of North America." Many temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

New Haven Attactions

GROVE STREET CEMETERY, 227 Grove Street, (203) 787-1443. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; office open weekdays, 9 a.m. to noon. A self-guided walking tour and brochure is available at the office or by calling Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, (203) 230-9858. The Friends offer free one-hour walking tours on Saturdays at 11 a.m. from June 7 through early October.

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN (North Church), corner of Temple and Elm Streets on New Haven Green, (203) 787-4195. Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.; visits at other times by appointment.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NEW HAVEN, (Center Church), mid-block on Temple Street on New Haven Green, (203) 787-0121. Services on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.; visits at other times by appointment. Crypt with remains of original New Haven burying ground is open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during winter months; from April to November, crypt tours are available on Thursdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, corner of Temple and Chapel Streets on New Haven Green, (203) 624-3101. Services on Sundays at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.; visits at other times by appointment.

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 114 Whitney Avenue, (203) 562-4183. Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Permanent exhibits on New Haven's history and the Amistad affair of 1839-41. The excellent Walking Tour of Historic New Haven brochure is available here.

What to Read

"NEW HAVEN: A GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN," by Elizabeth Mills Brown, Yale University Press, $15. Although not updated since its publication in 1976, this is an exemplary, comprehensive guide to the buildings of Yale and New Haven.

"GREEN GUIDE TO YALE UNIVERSITY AND NEW HAVEN," Michelin Travel Publications, $14.95. Good though brief overview of Yale and downtown New Haven. Fine for a quick visit, with descriptive and historical information and practical details.

"THE YALE: A GUIDE TO YALE AND NEW HAVEN," $4.50 at Yale Visitor Information Center and the Yale Bookstore, 77 Broadway. Yale's detailed guide to every aspect of student life, with information about places to eat and things to do.

"STOVER AT YALE," by Owen Johnson (Class of 1900) with period illustrations by Frederick R. Gruger and a new introduction by Judith Ann Schiff, $14.95 at the Yale Bookstore only. Dink Stover has become a Yale stereotype, but the Stover of Johnson's novel (originally serialized in 1911-12) is a complex and sympathetic character despite his herculean achievements on the gridiron. Johnson paints a critical insider's portrait of the highly stratified and surprisingly anti-intellectual Yale of a century ago.

Where to Stay

OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL AT YALE, 155 Temple Street, (800) 843-6664 or (203) 772-6664. A 305-room hotel on Temple Street, a half-block south of the New Haven Green. Double rooms: $119 weekends; $169 weekdays.

HOLIDAY INN, 30 Whalley Avenue, adjacent to the Yale campus, (800) 465-4329 or (203) 777-6221. A 160-room hotel with courteous service. Double rooms start at $95.

THE COLONY, 1157 Chapel Street, (800) 458-8810 or (203) 776-1234. An 86-room hotel near the Yale Art Gallery and the Center for British Art. Double rooms: $95.

Where to Eat

FRANK PEPE'S PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 157 Wooster Street, (203) 865-5762. New Havenites swear that pizza was invented in 1925 by Frank Pepe in this old Italian-American neighborhood six blocks east of the New Haven Green. Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Patience is essential at peak times on weekends.

SALLY'S APIZZA, 237 Wooster Street, (203) 624-5271. A good nearby alternative, said to have been Bill Clinton's favorite when he was at Yale Law School. Hours: Tuesdays through Thursdays, 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

LIBBY'S ITALIAN PASTRY SHOP, 139-41 Wooster Street, (203) 772-0380. Serves gelato, spumoni, ices and pastries. Mondays through Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to midnight; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

UNION LEAGUE CAFE, 1032 Chapel Street, near College Street, (203) 562-4299. A beautifully appointed restaurant with excellent food and understated service in an 1860 building that was first the town house of a wealthy industrialist, then the private Union League Club. Lunch, Mondays through Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner, Mondays through Thursdays, 5 to 9:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 5 to 10 p.m.

LOUIS' LUNCH, 261-263 Crown Street, (203) 562-5507. Yale's famous "Whiffenpoof Song" praises "the tables down at Mory's" and "the place where Louis dwells." Mory's remains a private eating club, but Louis' Lunch, where the hamburger sandwich is said to have been invented in 1895, still serves great burgers cooked on unusual vertical gas broilers. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays through Saturdays, noon to 2 a.m. Hamburgers are $3.50 with or without cheese; ketchup is prohibited.

YANKEE DOODLE, 258 Elm Street, (203) 865-1074. A tiny place that has fed generations of students its burgers, shakes and, above all, the pig in a blanket (a hot dog with cheese and bacon). Mondays through Saturdays, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Getting There

BY TRAIN Trains run frequently between Manhattan and New Haven's Union Station, designed by Cass Gilbert: from Penn Station on Amtrak, (800) USA-RAIL or (212) 582-6875 or www.amtrak.com; and from Grand Central Terminal on the Metro-North Railroad, (800) METRO-INFO or (212) 532-4900 or www.mta.nyc.ny.us. Amtrak trains, which leave hourly from 5:30 a.m. to as late as 9 p.m., are $35 one way. On Metro-North, trains run hourly from 5:57 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. The fare is $15.25 one way during peak hours, which are 4 to 8 p.m., and $11.50 during off-peak hours.

BY CAR Driving from west or east of New Haven, use I-95, Exits 47 or 48. From the north, I-91 terminates in downtown New Haven.

A few more notes about picture possibilities for the Taylor Gordon article:

-- Among the photocopies Yale sent was the attached letter from the Helena Public Library in 1935. Is it possible they might still have the photo at the Library?

-- (Mrs.) Anne Whelpley, Library Assistant, The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut 06520 wrote me that Yale has photos of Taylor Gordon taken by Carl Van Vechten. She said permission to have copies would have to be secured from Mrs. Carl Van Vechten. I wrote Mrs. Van Vechten and got the enclosed letter from her lawyer. Would you prefer to reply, or should I? Seems to me it might be simpler if you handled correspondence with the Van Vechten lawyer and Yale so the copies of the photos would come directly to you, but I'm willing to do it either way.

300 Am.
4-10-1928

New York City.

"To Carlo. King of the white horsemen"

I cracked, Counter Cullen's sudden last night, at 6:42 Pm. they made the hitch,

Nearly two thousand people looked on, Some of most every Kind. All the big Smokes, were there but Jess,

Such Pasmp., you have never seen before. And Poor Counter, My, You should of seen his face-

lada- Rare Art, I shall have
ub.
ny flaxed with. Jess and scotch.
I trop ever. get married.
Counter was Agent as a
Chest. Nurse. But the gumlady
ludicled thi of sin like, like she knows
lesson. caught her while in the to
school:-
when she threw the bouquet
"Bikey"
to girls caught it: the kept man.
ill be lucky. Love we miss Jess
Yours
Taylor
Tommy

were on their knees. Mel. played the theme, "I have risked to rest" just then, half the. He. fell off the sign, "He Has Risen", made it Read. "He Has Risen!"

I felt so relieved, because. I was so worried. about the young lady. if she knew just what to do at that moment. We couldn't see her, by all else was standing.

"Well, we all went down stairs. where they had our plenty of Chicken. cake. Icecream and punch. the punch broke pecularmed

I really believed all I have heard about him, and family tree were making their. usual, annual, match for the room. out.

Mel. Moulton, played the, Organ. of course you know, He's good. at it, I have heard women and men say. that Really. know what they them selves, are talking about.

The church was decorated, with the Easter. flowers and birds still, and just over the pulpit they had a Sign. "He, Has Risen", and while the Band and groom

Taylor Gordon
Manhattan State Hosp.,
Wards Island, N.Y. 12th
Dec. 11th 1952.

Dear Carlo;
I am sorry I must bother you, but I'd like to know if you got my letter, I wrote you a few months ago? I can't imagine that you'd let off the "Grapevine" or lost your "sense of humor" Ha Ha Ha! I hope my bad "spelling" did give you a laugh, but maybe not!

I should have been out of here long ago, all things being even; but here I am, 7 months nearly 2 years in all, take imprisonment for what we call "Spiritual" in this land. This should interest Walter White very much. The one person, along my line, that got a "pardon" was Nellie Bunn, and quick, too!

At this time of year you may be seeing a lot of folks who know me, please see that they are put on the right kind of mind. You know I was never much for "maundering" and when I tell you few people in history have ever performed such "Autobiographical Cross" as those given me this "dirty deal."

(Over)

I am sure I will be able to straighten out the real difference between "discovery, invention and stealing," so no one reading it will ever misunderstand which is which.

I know I do not need to emphasis to you how important it is that I know you got my letter. For I don't want too many lies to get to "Europe." And if I am able to find a place to write, like I want, I will not use a "glossary" of local words; but try and make the ones most used clear for one's use in life; the life the young people must follow in, that they may find peace and "summit of happiness," better than was left to me, by our great civilization.

3. If you attend any parties and meet folks I know, give them my best.

I have not forgotten my debts.
I hope this finds you and Fauna well.

Sincerely
Taylor Gordon

Today is my forty month
& a returned the second time
in my case with John Steinbeck
working 28 months in all so far.
a new record in a form of
justice they have taught me
when I went to school.

But, why I think of you today
is; I see in the Daily News:
By Ed Sullivan, that Somerset
Maugham is 78 years of age,
and it seems like a few summers
since you introduced him to me and
he introduced Raymond and I to
Royalty in England. - I remember
the evening that you and the
Johnnie brothers were dancing
your ages. Just children; Ha Ha!
I am interested that Mr.
Maugham is interested in
fiction stuff, I am sure
I could tell him a true story

I know you will become into Mr Monaghan, and when you do, tell him I said Hello,'

I haven't seen him since 1942 when I was picketing upstairs 7 18 East 48 St.

I tell Peggy and Bess is going big in Europe. I hope Edna is with it.

I must say I have missed some good shows since I have been out here.

I often give long hard thought of Broadway and artistic people, and wonder why such emphasis is placed on 'cash' in business deals to run this such decent on an honest opinion; why they fear an honest minute - time? -... I hope this finds you all fairing well. Give all my best.

P.S. Taylor.

that would put-stop any fiction he has ever read, and it will be a pitty if I never find recklessness when I can put it on paper, and it is read with no sweet polishing.

I am afraid as Americans, we are growing weak, because so many people don't want to see or hear the truth! You will never know how comforting it is to know the truth about things, especially, life in the raw, and people as they really are. I am sure it is false esteem we have for officials that brings so much disappointments to people. When we learn that no official can have any better character than the integrity of the people that occupy it, living is much easier to understand.

Taylor Gordon
Manhattan Dist Sloyd.
Wards Island. NY 12th
Sept. 16th 1952

Dear Carl:
Since I have written you from as many points in the world, I do not think it would be right not to drop you a few lines from a "Mad-house". Ha Ha! I think you should have this to add to your Jack Collection. I am quite sure people in the future will be surprised to learn that in 1952. psychiatry think a person is a little mad, that is those, to make up a word such as "Dada" or Born to Be, Ha Ha. Even tho you put it in your glossy of your manuscripts. with your intending meaning.

Apt. No. 66

TAYLOR GORDON
545 West 158th St.
New York 32, N.Y.

April 15 & 19
1949

May 10 & 19
1949

Mr. Carl Vanvechten
101 Central Park West

Personal

My dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I know you have been approached in many ways to give aid to various causes, which have been deemed humane and essential.

We know that one expects to receive letters from well-advertised institutions, and give them consideration according to their merits, but to receive one from an individual, it is usually passed by lightly. I hope you will not treat this as such, but give me some thought.

No doubt most of you have heard a little of me during the past 25 or 30 years; either as a singer or an author. However, one tries to do good can not hope to be remembered by a generation, as one who does a great evil; therefore, my name might not be vivid in your memory.

As a singer, I sang in Vaudeville, and later, on radio; in Concert with J. Rosamond Johnson; and in 1929, published my autobiography "Born To Be", by Covici and Friede.

It was not until 1932-33, that I first received a set-back in my desire to be self-sustaining, supporting good society. I wrote a manuscript which I tried to sell, "Ziga Boo Dream", but later showed up in Paramount Pictures Screen, as "The International House", and through a double-crossing lawyer, I got nothing but my money which I paid as supposed filing fees, and no case was filed; and a release to Paramount for the use of the story.

Later, I rewrote the story, and tried to sell it through an agent. She turned it over to a man who went to Hollywood, California, and had the "Richest Girl In The World" made from it, by R.K.O. I made a slight effort to fight them.

So, in 1935, I went to Montana, and wrote during the winter of 35-36 a manuscript which I called "Daonda", and tried to sell that, but instead it was stolen by John Stienbeck, through Pascal Covici, to write "The Grapes of Wrath".

In 1940, I brought suit through another lawyer who sold me out, and during the past nine years I have approached small and big lawyers---the Bar Association of New York, and the National Bar Association at Columbus, Ohio; the Congress of the United States Of America, and many influential organizations in an effort to gain an honest, legal trial, and the money which is rightfully mine.

In presenting my contentions, I have had to use all of the avenues a poor man might have at his disposal, and while doing so, only God knows how I have been exploited, without any pay at all. I carried on this fight for "Civil Rights", in an "Economic Way" all by myself, and it is possible during my "moral-pressure campaign", I stepped upon some tender toes. While we are all told that a man may have his own "spiritual guidance", I am not too sure that a personal knowledge cannot create a great jealousy, greed and envy. However, no one can truthfully say, that I mounted a soap-box in any square to seek adverts of my way of life.

The purpose of this letter is to try and raise money, that I might leave this section; not as "a man without a country", but so I might feel free---->To "go west", where I might find something of real interest and use my talents to my best advantage.

I write this letter with no humility, for God knows the physical agony and mental torture I have experienced in trying to bring my case before the "Laws" made by men. Laws, that are not under the jurisdiction of the act of God! But laws that are supposed to be the organic functioning of this great government.

These laws which are supposed to give men and women insurance in their rights as citizens of which I am one, therefore, you cannot call my misfortune "an act of God", or even "hard luck", but pure knavery and treason to this government and God!

Monatana is a couple of thousand miles from here, and I have accummulated a number of things I would like to take with me. I have stuck by them, and although they are inanimated, they have supported me as living friends could do during the long war, and I know they will give me consolation in peace.

Many thing can be done with some success, but reading peoples' minds is not a profession I can boast of.

I assure you that I have tried in vain to find work for my talents here.

So, will you please mail me as much cash as you can spare, and consider it as a donation to a worthy cause, well fought, even though it appears I have lost.

Yours sincerely,

Taylor Gordon

Taylor Gordon

Manhattan State Hospital

Wards Island. N-10 #

Oct 9th 1948

Dear Carlo:

Yesterday, I passed my 15th Month out

Lee, and that is some time to spend in

jail with out just cause. I think of

you and many folks colored are in prison

then freedom. All colored lives from day to

day in this State or country and colored

interest in humans is current. May

Mary know just what color is waiting for them.

If something goes wrong in their activities

I am sorry I came here under the

circumstances, but I can't say I regret

the knowledge it has afforded me. But,

like College; one wants to leave after learning

their lessons; and I'm

to leave here for sometime, and still the doors are locked against me.

The cause, I have many theories, but nothing I can say is sure. I feel I could well keeping my equilibrium, under the condition I am forced to live.

First, I want you to know I have committed no crime, and the Federal attorney, Hogan of Fair can testify that, so why must I live behind the Iron Curtain, without the privilege of telephone and contact as a loyal citizen?

You all know of my efforts to collect Money or monies I knew to be due me, by all regards to truth; as most of us have been taught. I never could have believed so much muddy water could have been mixed in our clear springs, during so few years. Pollution the streams of Law this Nation professes to have.

I could tell you how I did labor to reunite

out invitations to a party instead of this long letter, but I guess the kind of parties I use to give would be out of line now, for most of us. I could change the line a little and sell "Butter Milk and Bis o Dol and let every one bring their own "buffer-pads" to sit upon. Ha Ha! I hope all the folks I have in mind have not quiet reached that stage, yet.

But, when I recall the conversations of your parties and those by Brum and Draper, and Chandler, and others, I remember how the topics were off the latter track

toward, and the new peoples' of Europe, even from their, and never did I dream I'd run into and of their brain childs, to use me as a target. And what I can tell you I prefer not to put on paper at present. That why I wonder if any of these folks I have in mind have given me a fair deal, on the "foreign flosses."

Most of these people are successful and free, and I am in prison and in debt.

But not one among them knew of my struggles to pay and pay my debts and live a free life. I know many of these people know a part and it would be interesting to get them all together. How I could suggest, even at not for the cost of things these days. But you might meet a few of these people sometimes and ask them "How is Taylor Gordon?" just to get their reaction, and then maybe sometime I can tell you my side, and see if we get 'light' two currents usually work best, on short calls.

If you see Dr. C B Powell, Dr Wyle Wilson Geraldine Major, Mr & Mrs. Joy Clifford, Elmer A Carter, Walter Cobb, J Rosamond Johnson, Judge Toney, Judge Wyle Page, E E Cummings, Mr & Mrs Charles Cullen, Muriel Draper, Mr & Mrs Bruce Mc[illegible]

L.C. Honor & Edna, Olivia, Alex & Pat Mac,
John Lodge Jr. & wife, Belinda Jelliffe,
Mr & Mrs. F. Ben Tuttle of Brooklyn, (633-2 ave & St)
Mr & Mrs Hazel Ellis, Mr & Mr Alan Douglas,
Nancy Moon, & wife Hazel Jackson & Sister,
Leotard Hebert, Buck Owens, Alan & Faye,
Lucian Delany, Mr & Mr Chas Whitcomb, 405 49
(commercial artist), Mr Mrs. Frank Nichols,
Mr & Mrs Spurgeon, Cheryl Crawford, Blair Nels,
and Kathy Parker, Laverne Langner, Mr & Mrs
Knopf. Mr & Mr. Burton Landy. Dr & Mrs Louis Wright
& Son. and Major William O Geyer, as well;
remind the theatre and Concert world that
I perfer "Devil" white living to what
can be done with the body. Hatta!

all of these people I speak of and
write because, I know it lays with
in their power to bring pressure to bear
upon those who are retaining me here to
allow reason why before a open Court
Court of Settling. over

There is no reason why the American people should pay taxes to incarcerate themselves, and that is what I have done and who knows how many others?

Maybe, it is possible a number of the People could participate in a movement to investigate my condition, and learn just and just what is what?! If I am not worthy of such labor, some of their own dear children are, I surely and if this racket is not stopped, some of them are sure to fall victims, as I did. Especially if they have the slightest desire to be honest, in an economic way.

I know I have been no angle, but when among the men of this nation can say it's unlucky to live with all the headaches straight, or is lucky enough to have, as long as no one claims a felon against the person?. If anyone has any charge to make against me let them make it in court, if they have the money. Had I had

Many I could not have carried my fight
on upon a 'Moral basis', and Convict Steffens
Lansburg, and 20th Century Inf. Tried to have the
District Attorney office score me. But instead they
were the one that got scored! and that is
why this frame-up, to my mind. Unless
the people whom I feel have the right to
support, any fight based and driven with
'Moral effect' have some of to find. And
if they have, why don't they come out and 'Say
so??. I am prepared to meet any topic
in which 'tention' or 'Misunderstanding'.
among honest people, concerning my case
May arise.

Its funny how a special talent to
one person to success and happiness, and
another to a life containing so many p
of hunger and agony.

I hope this find you & family well, and
to Meet some of the people. I Succeed

N.Y.C

Home at 4.30 Am. May. 13. 26

Dear friend. Oh what a evening and I could kick you for not being at the theatre last night. For the Hoffman midnight Gambol; Oh but they had a corking good show; and just think I was lucky enough to have a seat beside of, "Baby Alice Whitman, who came to the show by herself, her self is perfectly beautiful, to read from her actions, you can imagine how I enjoyed the affair talking to this spirited creature; you know I never met her before, but I just butted in to a conversation with her, at first she was rather cold and shy, funny for such a type of actress, or rather in her circuit,

Well the acts were announced by a
flack faced comician in a sailor suit,
rather drool fellow. nothing like Abbott Brooks
but good for the part. Act I. penual f. whilt
two koffin. Very bad, but short. "Baby Alice"
seemed bored: and moved much in seat,
But remained silent, I began to scold my
self for spending Money for such a Rotten show.
But befor I could get well on the way. Act II.
was m. c "Baby Berger" a Kid about 10 ten
Yearsold. a dancing and sing fool. Brookup
the house "You would of been killed with glee;
thats when I first learned Baby Alice.
could make a long high squeel when pleased;
It thrilled me thought, altho I remained
quit,

Act. III was a hit. one, and it remained so along this line. until: Tisdale the society lion came out. and he was a living fire;

two women got to fighting in a box on the right hand side, on a man, one broke a full bottle of pop on the other's head; that knocked her out, and delayed the show. until they removed the casualty, rather unusual for a show of this kind. we all stood up to see it, But Baby Alice, who sleeps as still as a mouse until all was over. then she hummed a high sweet note like a canary, my God how I longed for you. you are as a rule to all good things, but believe me you have missed. I miss my wonderful bottle of beer tickled pink;

there is too much to write about, it would make a small book so I will tell you all about it when I see you; its getting day light and I must have plenty of pep. By 5 pm today so I will close for sleep. Baby A. doesn't know just when she will be here again,

But if I had my way she could always be in my arms for she is as many as much pleasure, I hope you see her some time to see what you think of her.

Love
T.G.

Taylor Gordon—Fo

Socially Elite Make Whoopee For T. G.'s Rent

By GERALDYN DISMOND

EVER since Mr. Ziegfeld made glorifying the great American pastime you have heard of glorified this and glorified that, but it took Taylor "Born To Be" Gordon to glorify a rent party.

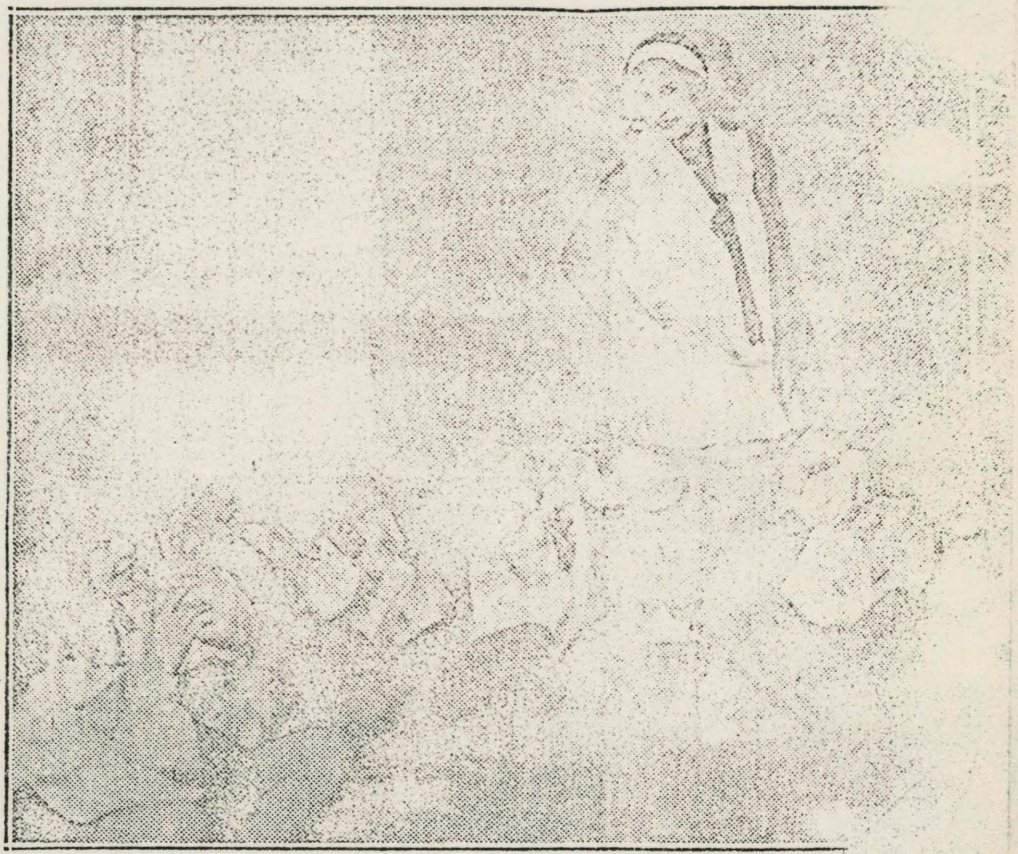
A Soup and Fish Party

It all happened Tuesday night at the Witoka when the Taylor in his soup and fish greeted the guests, also in their soup and fish, who had come to help the "poor boy" meet the rent. To crash the gate you had to have an autographed admission card, a reserved table, and your own you-know-what. But once inside it was swell. Nappy and his crooners put on the dance tunes, and instead of the conventional as-if-you-didn't-know, the bar was set up with a buffet luncheon.

With Black and Tan Background

Celebs a-puh-lenty were out from both sides of the Park, and by three the going was grand. Everything went including the rhumba, Lindy hop, stomp, and drag. The sophisticates broke down and confessed to a good time in spite of race, creed, color, or eccentricities, but all parties must eventually end, and end this one did in a blaze of glory when a w. k. lawyer found himself cornered by a lady of color; when a buxon blonde got a sepia matron told about a Jersey medico; when a fascinating bachelor made the grade with a downtown lady of means in spite of the able interference of a popular man about town; when Harlem's favorite playgirl missed a chair; when two famous incompatibles were caught putting on a jealous play; when the white haired lover of "Our Heaven" turned hincty; and when the host discovered that it had been the season's most successful party for everybody except the rent man.

At Last: The Show You Have Bee



GRACE GILES and a group of her famous dancing dolls who will give ning, June 5. If you want to see a show that will surpris you a GRACE GILES' FAMO

ST. THOM

DANCES for the most part are pretty much the same, but the St. Thomas Tennis Club managed to strike an unusual note Wednesday night when it entertained at the

To begin w optional. came w incli cia

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

The readers of the Tattler are invited in social notes for th

A word from my girls
Miss Adair Elliott

The New York Amsterdam News

RECIPES -:- HOUS

The Feminist Viewpoint

— An Old Racket in a New Way —

ONE of Harlem's celebrities gave a party at the Witoka Club last night. His was not a dancing, birthday anniversary, or bridge party in honor of somebody else; it was a "rent" party.

The invitation to the party was cleverly worded. You knew before you went there that the host was offering you plenty of White Rock, ginger ale and snappy music by Nappy —for $1.50! The stronger beverages you had to bring, if you wanted them. Oh, yes, an autographed ticket was included—and to those who value autographs, this feature may have meant something.

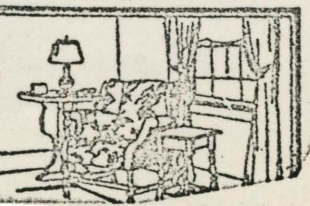
How many persons attended the party, I don't know. If I am to cite this party as an example, I do know that "rent" parties are changing in form and in etiquette.

Once they were given in apartments and private homes, the neighbors being disturbed all night long by the music and noise. Red rice (mulatto rice in the South) and pigs' feet were the chief collation menu which brought 50 cents a plate. Drinks? Well, 25 cents would buy as strong a portion of "fire water" as you could drink.

The givers of the old-fashioned "rent" parties and their relatives distributed printed cards which told of the coming party. This celebrity, however, mailed his invitations to a special group, but he would send you as many tickets as your check or money order called for. Anybody's $1.50, you know, looks good to the landlord.

This celebrity has been an auto mechanic, silk designer, chef, deportation attendant, vaudeville performer, concert singer and writer. Does this latest move on his part mean that the depression has hit all of the fields which once afforded him a livelihood to such an extent that he had to give a "rent" party to keep from being evicted, or is he just trying "to take Harlem by storm" and show what he can do and not be censured for doing it?—T. E. B.

Brightening up the home



By Dorothy Snow

T. Gonalon
Ward's Island
N.Y. 10th New York
Jan 27th 1948.

Dear Carlo:

I am sorry I did not have advance to send you an X mas card and let you know I had not forgotten you and Jamie.

But I was locked up July 3rd about 2 Pm at Bellevue by a misunderstanding on my landlord's part, and I made the Mistake of trying to tell a Psycho. doctor" why I was there. Ha Ha Ha! think of how Louise [illegible] name is connected with the M.a.a.c.R. and Freedom House now I get a kick out of it. I hope we can meet sometime soon. I read where Muriel was declaring with a round table singer in Long Island, and Baldwin was there. I have not seen him since the days of "Bonabo", and I was on the platform with him at one of Mrs Webb's Morning Musicales at the

6 month and 25 days imprisonment for said work is no joke! Of course you know this is the results of my fight with Stanfield. Conrad and Swinehart!

When I was singing to people at parties when Conrad and Swinehart were present and "Land the Thunderbird of Glaus, I could never believe two of the crowd could turn out to be such slimy ellis" as they are, and when I

Sherry Rutherford. You remember that Classic I told you, ha ha ha! about that. I know how bad my letters are, and I don't want you to feel blue, by singing them. But I don't mind telling you that this is a 'tight shit' life for me. I will sure be behind upon current vitals, of Harlem and Brooklyn life.

I hope you have found a letter for this cool days. P.S. Sweet
Ch Taylor

Taylor Gordon
204 West 119th St.,
New YorkCity, (26) N.Y.
June 19th , 1 9 4 6

Mr. Carl Van Vetchen
101 Confral Park West,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Carlo:

I am sorry to have to ask you to help me out in this case But Mr. Guinzberg insist that it is possible to read people's minds. You probably have heard of my fight during the past 6 years to get some money from my work. I have proof that I sent Covici the Manuscript' Daonda' in 1936, and that he turned it down, and later turned up with the same material in the so colled''Grapes of Wrath'.

I have tried every honorable way I can think of to make these people pay me something, and they still remain stubborn,and are trying to prove to the public that I am a damned lier.I don't think there have been any more brutal tricks played in Europe during the past six years than these people are trying, or have been subjecting me to.

I don't want to cause you too much trouble, nor anyone else, so I have written about 40 pages from the books, showing how Stienbeck jumped the lines around in an effort to hid his thieft. If you and two other people whom are not obligated to the Moviss, books and theatre will pass judgement on these pages and tell if it is a mind reading act or not?

I would like to get this done as quick as I can;altho I haven't all the pages cleaned up, but I will in a few days. But please tell me now if you will do this. It not only means alot to me but also to the American people. I have worked hard trying to live a deacent life, and if I can't be payed for this work, I might as well call it a day, for who can see anything in the light of the truth, if others can read your mind? I don't think it can be done.

Inclosed is a copy of the letter Guinzberg sent me when he welched on our first proposistion, and acouple acopies of what you can expect to judge... Please send the coppy of the letter back, and I'll submit everything to you and any other honest people.

Yours Truly

Taylor Gordon

Ps. Mr. Adams 6f the Corn Exchange Bank,
311 Lenor Ave, will serve if you want
an honest business man to join you.

(A) Daonda:

That one by the ladie's shop.. I ate most of my meals there."
" Paul;.are you sure it wasn't the only " WAITRESS" you could stand?" Earl sarcastically remarked and roused a bellow laugh from the rest of the family. It caught Daonda unaware. He had to swallow or choke, before he could chuckle.

May, giggling asked her ingaged sister.....

" Don't be laughting at Mah and Me, being adressed as Emperor and Emperess!. Daonda has a palace and a Golden Throne fore all farmers. Says, ' We're the most important people on earth' " His statement brough the most boisterious laugh of the morning. Daonda laught to. But at the the family, not with them.As the jollyfication ebbed, more funn was poked at the idea. New enthusisam ~~was added~~. was added.

(B) G.O.Wrath:

The ragged man stared while Pa spoke, and then he laughted, and his laughter turned to a a high whinnying giggle. The circle of faces turned to him. The giggling got out of control and turned into coughting. His eyes were red and watering when he finally controlled the spasms." You goin' out there-

oh, Christ!" The giggling started again." You goin' out an' get-good wages-oh Christ;"

.... " Yeah, an' after while I won't have no decency lef'."
" Easy," she said. " You got to have patience. Why, Tom-us people will go on livin' when all them people is gone. Why, Tom, we're the people that live. They ain't gonna wipe us out. Why, we're the people-we go on. We take a beatin' all the time."
" I know." Ma chuckled.

(A)-Daonda:
" That's a fine team!,,,,...Come on; A man' lot isn't much better than their's.

G.O.Wrath:

Fella had a team of horses,... Them's horses-we're men.

(A) Daonda:
Suddently the congertation all became raveing maniacs, and the church a mad-house. They stomped the floor, beat themselves, shouted at the tops of their voices, spoke of things that had happened in their lives. Some became so violent, that it was necessary fore-two or three people to hold them, from engry. " Yes, the spirit of GOD is here. He's touching your heart! He's laying his hand on you". The preacher shouted. Another person answered, " Yes Jesus! Yes, I feel you now!"as she dangled on the firm arms of two tall men.

(B)-G.O.Wrath:

For a moment the woman backed away and then suddently she threw back her head and howled. Her eyes rolled up, her shoulders and arms flopped loosely. Her fists at her side, and a string of thich ropy saliva ran from the corner of her mouth. She howled again and again, long deep animal howels. Men and women ran up from the other tents, and they stood near-frightened and quiet. Slowly the woman sank to her knees and the howels sank to a shuddering, bubbling moan. She fell sideways and her arms and legs twisted.The white eye balls showed under the open eyelids. A man said softly, " The spirit. She got the sperit."

(Excerpts -- Page 32) A34

(A)-Daonda:

Mr.Anthony had started the motor in his car.There was a sputting and a poping that echoed through the mountians. It sounded like there was a war going on over the otherside.Daonda didn't lose anytime in climbing to the seat of the old buss, for fear that it once got going, no telling when it would stop.

As soon as he hit the seat the clutch grabbed and gave the car a jurking start. Anthony shouted, " Good bye!" in a maner that reflected he was sure that he was getting away.And that he held the salutation until he was.

Up the winding rocky road they snorted. It was at least three minutes before either Daonda or Mr. Anthony spoke a word.It was then when they had reached the foot of the steep hill going over the divide. The mortor was pulling fine, and Mr. Anthony bragged, " These old cars can't be beat, for this rough country;once you get 'em hot. A New car can't stand this rough going!.. They don't give enough. I can pull this old boat out like a piece of rubber;then she'll snap back into shape, and snort along up the hills, and hop the biggest boulder in the road. Why a new Car would crack tp pieces on this kind of a road.

(B) G.O.Warth:

Tom and Ma and Pa got into the front seat. Tom let the truc roll and started on compression And the heavy truck moved,snorti ing and jerking and popping down the hill. The sun was behind them, and the valley golden and green before them. Ma shook her head slowly from side to side....

They popped down the mountian, twisting and looping, losing the valley sometimes, and then finding it again. And the hot breath of the valley came up to them, with hot green smells on i and with resinous sage and tarwe smells. The crickets cracked along the road. A rattlesnake crawled across the road and Tom hit it and broke it and left it, squirming....

And the truck rolled down the mountain into the great valley.

==========

(A)-Daonda:

The front of the Watson farm and Mail Station,is of the old English type of cottages....All of this faces a steep mountian on the east, the back of the house is nearly up against another high hill. The little station is sort of like a pea-nut in a big crack, in a walk.

(B) G.O.Wrath :

They spoke of the future: Wonder what it's like out there?

Well, the pitchers sure do look nice. I seen one where it's hot an' fine, an' walnut trees an' berries;an' right behind, close as a mule's ass to his withers, they's a tall up mountain covered with snow. That was a pretty thing to see.

==========

Taylor Gordon
204 West 119th St.,
New York City, N.Y.
July 9th, 1 9 4 2

Mr. Carlo Van Vechten
101 Central Park West,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Carlo:

Having tried all the possible positions I might get in this man's twon, I find myself still with out a job, and the summer is well on the way out.

I was down to the auditions, of " Carmen" and they liked my voice very much, so much so they ashed me to get a copy of the " Flower Song" andlearn it. That I have done as well as could be done by me in so short a time, and I hope to sing it for them early next week. But if I can't then, I want to go up to Bridgeport, where a friend of mine says he can get a job in a " Shell Factory", and that is where you

come in. I know you have told me time an time again you are as tough pressed as Uncle Sam, but I must make this try, and if you can't do it, no hard feelings, I'll understand if any one will.

I'll Nedd 15 dollars to make the trip and get set for the first week, and from then on we're on our own.

It would be might nice for me to be singing again, but this training with your belly gratting against your back bone is no sweet sensation. If I can make a bank roll up there and in the fall come down here and get a line of songs I'd like to sing. Or else, if the Hammerstiens will pay me to learn the opera, I'd be glad to do so.

As for my case I'm getting slowly ahead, on the same account. But I will wind that too before I'm through.

I'm sorry to be bothering you and I hope this will find you and your feeling the best.

Yours sincerely.

Taylor Gordon

Taylor Gordon
204 West 119th St., C/O Apt', 10
May 7th 1 9 4 2

Mr. Carl Van Vechten:
101 Central Park West,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Carlo:

Again,your eyes shall convey to your mind another song,from me,which you can classify as you see fit. I do hope you don't consider it a " Blues" for what I have in-mind is really important;not only to us, but to all Americans who try to accomplish anything.

As you know my case with the " 20th Century Fox, Covici, and Stienbeck,which has been slowly grinding. I don't think I have told you I had to change lawyers,from the would be famious" Vernal Williams" of the old case" Mammie White verses Walker", to the Delany and Lewiss offices.Williams turned out to be inefficent in such matter, but the latter offices are equipped to handle the records as they should be.

Now Williams allowed the 20th Century to get a dismissel against me because of his triflings, and while

his action has set me back,he has not jeopardized my chances of winning this case.

So far the new offices has straightened out the records and they are ready to proceed as soon as I can raise the $28.50 court charhes and the filing fees, which have been reduced to $143.50 in all, by the classifaations and doubling up the charges.

Now, since I owe you so much, and this is one of my best chances to pay off all my debts, I wonder if you are willing to take this gamble with me.

I would not approach you if I did not feel we shall surely win the case, if we can get into court.The records show they haven't the slightest advahtage, even with all the tricks they might try to pull.Most of the material we need to win with, is in print and can not be cahnged.

In these days when people are crying so much about Democracy and clean Government, I can't see why we should not start in to clean house at the top, and work down, which is the right way. If this is done the American People will be on

Over.

the road to something worth fighting for. The experiences I have had proves, that many people here would rather lose this war, than see Stienbeck, Covici and the ring of thieves convicted.

If you have any doubts as to the merits of my case, you can call up Mr. Delany at 1 West 125th St., and inquire.

I would like to get this matter straighten out so that I might try to be of some assistance in setteling the war.

Please give this your most sincer considsation.

I hope these lines find you and the Mrs., in the finest of health.

Yours sincerely.

B.G. Taylor Gordon

Taylor Gordon
204 West 119th St.,
New York City, N.Y. C/O Sidney
APT, 3.

May 14th, 1941

Mr. Carl Van Vechten
101 Central Park West,
New York City.N.Y.

Dear Carlo:

I have been longing for the day when I could write you a cheering letter, but fate seemes to hold such pleasue from me todate. So again I must try to see If I can bear on your good graciousness to help me out a little bit.

It has been over a month since they had put me off the singing progect, because of time limets, and was in hopes I could find more valuble work for my talents, but so far my efforts have been in vain.And today I'll have to try the long ordeal of getting back on the W.P.A. again,and I have only $1.50,in my pocket. My rent is due and I want to see if you will let me add $20.00 to the already $286.00 I am in debted to you. I feel sure I'll be able to pay you soon as My case on the "Grapes Of Wrath" is being transfered to a big office down town from my little Harlem lawyer.

It is allmost unbelievable that a man like Covici and Stienbeck Could live and eat, after dowing whatv they have done to me. And you can imagin how I feel having to write you this letter in this year, while knowing the movies have robbed me out of over $ 7.000.000. worth of pictures. But all-i

such people as they are must have their unhappy endings.

If there is any law left in America we will win this case, even inspite of their money.

I have offten wonder at Covici's mind and it's action, when he refuses to help me get paided, knowning well they have stolen my works and I am broke. It is hard to think up the proper punishment for such people;but when we have decided I'm sure they will recieve it.

You know me well enough by now as to know I would not write you for any more loans unless it wasn't on of my finnal efforts, and I hope you forgive,me,but it should be others, as I can't remembmber the day I haven't made an honest effort to support myself.

I hope this will find you and Fannia well,and bussy in what you like best to do.

Yours Sincerely.

Taylor Gordon

PS.

Excuse this bad typing now, but I'll have a good machine one of these days. This one misses worse than I do, and that's some missing;Ha!

Jan. 25-22
8.20 pm.

242 West 131st.

Dear Carlo.

It gives me a sad ache to think I have to call upon you for aid again. But I have tried every honest thing I know and no money or work is for me to have at present.

Clarence Williams thinks he can get me on in a few weeks. I am also trying to get Ed Wilson to let me have a night or 20 a week up at his club on percentage. That is held up on account of a hitch in his business.

I can't furnish or concentrate on my working because of the land lady walking past my door. Please send me $5000 if you can stand it. I'm sure going to pay all my few debts before I die. I must insist for $10000. I wonder what percentage of $10000 my Huckie paper is worth?

Yours Sincerely
Taylor Gordon.

242 W 131st St.

P.S. Please

June 4. 31

Myl.

Dear Carlo.

I'm sorry to tell you that I didn't make any money. We plaid Kad 75 ac from ~~Lis~~ Port But even you had a good time. You were never a cruel to me. I was sorry I cried. Take you home. In all my life. I've never seen you so happy as you were when you left Mitchell. I'll be in Lisbon one two or two days. So folks may send my show off. I am mighty to

a Roman Bath on Burrell's
Farmland. 1890. I have
got A. S. B. - But I could
for Cong because I have
the news this morning that
Uncle Sam, will allow me
my patent on these pants,
"Lo columbus knew the world
was round. Eh!" All persons
pay Sam and Riley Jan $2500
the first time I can at anything.
Jan Sincerely
Taylor Dim

New York City. March 25-31

Dear Carlo:

The news you gave me
a night or two ago. stating that
"I was certain ~~that the Doctor~~
could have to cut off one of
your ~~appendectus~~ ..... My Gawd!
naturally. I thought of the most
important ~~appendent~~! And I
said; how could that be true?
Surely. Carlo, we couldn't have, or
use that one, either. There could
be any chance of it becoming infected;

as soon as you punish
vision. Surely you must
have stuffed that toe on
the nights of the niagara Ball.
You were looking Simply Grand
that night & every one said
so. --- please give this
clipping to the charming Fanny
and tell Her I said: a picture of
her often She has given the world
two Babies. Sincerely
Taylor Gordon

then. my mind gave me a
wicked fright when I saw it.
called my attention to the cavity
in the wisdom tooth - the dentist
couldn't fill. - - - I must get
started before 24 years my voice!
Why Mother nature is always laboring
so hard with her acids and poisons
to destroy. Poisonous life is a mighty
to me. --- this for you keep us on the
hop stepping up one of her holes often
a week! I do want to.
come down on all fair

3. P.M.

11-30.30

"from home in Harlem, to Carlo in the raving future"

Dear Carl,

I have tried to get in touch with you by phone, for a few parties, you probly would have enjoyed. But fate has had you traveling elsewhere. Also a couple of times, I was near your flat hoping and I was going to stop in, but your phone didn't answer. I wanted to show you these two 'Reports' from Covici & Friede. on Born to Be, which have been a great disappointment to me. And after reading them, I thought of the night you loudly proclaimed to me over the phone "Don't say that about a 'book' it's bad luck!"

when I called you to tell you 'Born to Be,' had been accepted. And I will soon be able to meet all my obligations. These reports would not be so disconserting if I had not recieved the letter inclosed from the Broadcast station, because they say they must cut expenses. Not that I got so much from them, but it does cut me half. And if I had'nt of had five months of tough sickness I would now be set for what ever battle opposed me. I was not well to learn the concert program I had intented to prepare for this season. But I did manage to invent a 'toy,' which my patent attorney says is the best thing of its kind he has had in his office. He has thought enough of it to start the

process of getting me a design patent. which I have only payed $1000 on so far of the $3500 due.

This patent will give me some prot

But a Mechanical patent is the thing that is nec to give it full protection. The price of a Mechanic patent. is $1500 Government fees all.

The invention is a toy for the old folks. A two in one Contraption.

children and a Gambling game for the old

I was down to the American Toy Manufacturer. before I made it. Having the ~~sold~~ sale in mind. The manager there told me that often I had a patent on it they could sell it. But that. 'They' didn't want to see anything until it was Patented.

I am going to see Lawrence Langn about foreign patents sometime this week. But that is not essential now, altho Germany and

England. are the two countries. one should be protected from.

I was quiet surprised, when you told me at Queens the other evening. that I had spent money on comics, or rather where would I get it from? of the first account on Born to Be. I had to pay $6000 for the Editing and $6,40 for Mitchin alteration as you can see for yourself. this report has made me very bothful because any one there I have made money. The most cost I got a one time. was $2300 in the beginning the rest, can be seen as debts. 50 and 60. at a time until the cost che of $1.60 some time ago. which was sorely needed. at the time. The lady you saw me with at the Claremont the other night. is a married woman who is typing my books

one a novel. Called. A Donkey's Dream. The other.
'Catchin' Some Air' A book of short stories from t
Mouths of the people in the streets, Clubs,
And. Lanes of Harlem. The Latter, I'm
writing Duncan, Kentucky. to see if she will
Illustrate it! They are all Caught. under a
hundred pages. I know how you dislike
Manuscripts, that why I have it Typed
'book' to you. I also know I'm still indi
to you. at the extent of $1000 which I'm
sorry I've run along. But. I still have faith
in having great success. If I can me get
on Rock foundation. Is it possible that
you can advance me enough to pay for a
Mechanical Patent. And my rent for a Coup
of Months, which will be due Dec 15th I

I am sure enough money will be derived from one of the said articles to reimburse you for the material value.

The spiritual value, I am sure you will be payed for in countless fold.

$1500 for Mechanical Patent
100.00 for two months rent beging Dec 15th
And $1000 to assure me living of known during the time, $3500 in all,

I will sign any attorney papers under your direction to assure you that I am loyal in this proposition. You shall please keep all these papers for me. And don't show the picture of the design patent to any one who might cause me trouble.

Yours. Little Round Walls

Taylor Gordon
159 W 118th
Mu 3788

12-56 pm
Sept 5-29

New York City

"To Carlo, King of the horsemen"

I was talking to
my publisher and he
told me, you had sent me a
great preface. I can't find words
in which I can thank you
enough, for your kindness.
I wanted to come down

you are the envy
of the best of health
I'd send.

"Eager to see you
soon."

Taylor Gordon.

are see you. But I
often I thought about
your date returning from
Europe. Something told me
the Charming Fairy Godmother had
time to arrange things to
fit her marvelous Last.
Since she returned and
I'm holding my wish out.
Hoping she will find

These Hot days, the block gals are glorifying 7th Ave.

Why oh why! can't I midnight in fell love with out money; what a curse was put on me.

Tell Bonnie, "I hope she can only use it to draw a little water with, and fool wheeler," A boiling pot must rattle its cover." for me please.

Hoping you are enjoying the best of health.

I close yours Sunday, and would, maybe,

Jayne Gordon.

New York City
June 30 29

To that one and only Carl Van Vechten.

"Well Vinn-nig and vigor. I suppose everything that was raring to go, you have come in contact with, is a tame baby now.

Harlem has only had two unusual killings since you left, one because a lady wouldn't, and the other because a man couldn't. I feel sorry for the lady.

New York City.
July 18. 1928

To. Wm L. Laurence
14 W. 11 St.
City.

Dear Friend.

I'm dropping you a few lines tho you might forget me. You are real fortunate to be up in the Country this hot days. I haven't gotten all this prison pallor off of me yet; but I shall soon; now that I have finished the first two relays in writing my book. Say! I live with Edna Thomas who has just signed up for 'Porgy', for a long run. If there is a chance to put me in any of you shows please let me know. The smart business is OK. 'But' I haven't seen much 'guilt' from 24. and I'm sure it'll like something that runs more steady. I hope this will find you and yours well and you all will have a grand Summer.

Yours Sincerely
Taylor Gordon

12-36 Pm
4-18-28

New York City.

"To the King of the horsemen, Carlo"

Man, this sure is a funny world. When you prepare yourself to do something right, before you are ready, you get all kinds of opportunities, after you get your degree, they all disappear, like Nick. in a dark room, when you make a light.

"There's times when certain stars, are in controling power, People make great changes," they say.

I dont know just what stars govern me but, something's mighty wrong with my actions.

No matter how hard I try to be right. "It just runs that thing."

I'm told today, we cannot. Any engagements, until. "May." sometime. Can you please spare. $35 more. making

We owe you a hundred!

I'll pay the "Bonus" you might want, and if you can suggest, the thing, I could do, to get my financial condition out as it should be. Please tell me.

I can't quite understand, why you and Muriel, don't want me to Study. I must talk seriously with you about that.

If you can see something in my ruff. I could get the good out of. I must know it.

With apology I close.

Yours Sincerely.

Taylor

3.23 P.M.

London

July 19 27

To Scarlet, & The Lady.

Well I don't suppose
anything I can say now will make
any more the things certain sought
Alas. It has been a long time since the passing
of the Last Post was. I was in hopes that
your Brother would get well again.

But seeing his place is
ready for him. all then, he must stand fill it
and stand thing about it as if we were, we
can for our love them ever have in
memory. Rosamond I miss me in, dear Grief,

You well seeing the
Gossens Sons, from. They sail on July 21
from Paris I think. Betty is all then, and
I dedicate meet to her. Rebecca west and
May Ewing, May Gordon and Jane all
in London parts, near Red. And
I can't get them yet. we are playing
a couple of weeks in the Autumn.
And Still home

which is very lucky - for me.

I haven't seen Indy Coffey as yet She sent me a couple of letters but She isn't in the country.) Man last night we went to a party where we met Lew Lords and then I rec'd They are to Bad I could tell you about them when I return.

I walked home - from Dover Street through Piccadilly, and the women like to pick me up my hand. They are awful fun, I had to take a cab to save myself.

God Thingum always coming at the wrong time, for me. I'll tell you later.

God Anna my host and tell her she, was my friend to tell the charming Actress Such nice things about me.

Her friend. Miss Janer is under the weather,

The others are somewhere In Spain. I will tell you they real never later write me a long letter - I we will be here until late Aug. I think, at least the 20th regards to Eddie. remember me to Jay JS.

Toujours Gordon

why do frenchman
like tostoys as low.



Yours &
Regards to the family.
Taylor.

P.S. 10.47 am June 1-27

Dear Carl I allast I found out what the
tallie thing is for, this morning I looked
and accidently in a Room, and I saw
a lady setting in one of these things with
a Rubber hanging in the wall leading
to the lee bottom, I asked her
what was wrong she said she was sick
and was taking an elemention, I said
I wanit she said it could plug up
the drain, oh no she said.

old man coming. come for the natural bath. that it gave better. much it started over thing used in up an to a liquid. and I didn't relaxed it to look. I did. and the bowl was full of Chinese red root coins.

I thought of future America they have come here to take in and my poor poor Chinese could pay money for just one sip of what she was throwing away!

I might realize. sleep tonight!

J. S. T

2-36 am

Paris France.

May. 30. 27.

To the One and only Earl.

Oh boy I must tell you this place is the peace of the world So much beautiful Scenery to See, And the city and people, Iwas Sure. things of Interest was going to happen one, thought morning on the Boat after the night you and Eddie gave me such fine. sendoff

Well until all I thought when I got off at the Station but from the wrong Side. It was French new years.. and I was anxious to get out Side of the gate to See the what I should of been. mob of. half light up. Joy-makers

And to my Surprise.., there were only a gang of taries. hustling for passengers well., that set me Straight, that is, I said to my Self I am not going to know too much here from my. Imagination., I must. look and listen so after struggeling with them I was landed at a nice little Hotel, bags and clothes hung up. I felt that I must release my Self of some of the ships food as it had served me well. I started to sit down on a funny looking Kind of a Stool: and. being a virgen I never did care for cold. enamal. So I looked for the wood to cover it but none to be found.

I said to my Self. my trance

sure likes their beautiful trees
for they count out enough
to cover their land. called
stuff. Then I noticed two little
spots on the side I said hmm
funny kind of a flush, and
by chance I saw a shinner
in the bottom of the Bottle towel

then only did it strick me
it was not for what I
wanted to use it for,
being sunked I looked
she were when I saw. - U.C.
in white letters. I went there
that was what I wanted
while spending my time there

My mind ran fast I was trying to think just what that thing was for, after coming out I investigated. its in such a rewind place. I could see why a foot tub should be up in the corner... I saw no cloth racks and too what a funny hotel that could expect people to workout small bits of the underwear

So the Land Lady came in the Room to tell me about the Keys. I would of ask. her what it was for but. she looked. so. Innocent, if I with all my traveler didn't know. especialy from around the home of bath tubs, why be so Silley. and ask her,

so I thought of chef who was in a room just below me. I went down there sitting to find he was a long time getting me in and when I did get it. He seemed to be confused, and at some difficult task, trying to take some dreadfull smelling stuff out of one of those same kind of little tubs, he seemed so tried I did not bother him, about the question, and by the expression on his face I knew "He" had not used the thing for. Just the right thing.

VI

So I returned to my Room after Seeing Josephine Baker's Show and so many pretty nearly women, I ~~have~~ feel Kinda funny, it's hard to go to Sleep. some how. but the sight of the beautiful women is not whats got my mind all upset. Ha. I wonder. Just what that little tub is for.

I sure will find out before I leave Paris.

"Oh" maybe it's to wash your teeth with they have some that. Looks like that on the pullmans. but

Taylor Gordon material in Carl Van Vechten Correspondence, Collection of American Literature, Yale U. Library

Concert programs:

TG and J. Rosamond Johnson, Garrick Theatre, NY, Nov. 15, 1925

TG at send-off of delegates to World Congress Against War, Aug. 15, 1932 (New School for Social Research, NY; speakers inc. Harry Elmer Barnes, Roger N. Baldwin, Arthur G. Hays, Joseph Freeman, and Reed Harris)

TG at National Musical Benefit Society, 21 Gramercy Park, NY, Jan 21, 1934

TG with others at National Society of Music concert at Hotel Plaza, 5th Ave. and 59th St., NY, April 12, 1934

TG at Townsend auditorium, Aug. 31, 1935

TG at Emerson auditorium (apparently Bozeman; sponsored by Bozeman Woman's Club), Sept. 27, 1935?

TG at WSS IOOF Hall, Sept. 28, 1935

TG at Eagles Hall, Helena; undated, on same photocopy with above Townsend and Bozeman programs.

TG and Justin Sanbridge for League for Mutual Aid, Teutonia Hall, 158 Third Ave., NY, near 15th and 16th sts; Nov. 22, year not given

Theatre program from Sam S. Shubert Theatre for Gay Divorce, "beginning Monday evening, March 6, 1933". TG is Robert, 1st in cast listed by appearance. Others: Fred Astaire, Claire Luce, Luella Gear, Eric Blore; music and lyrics by Cole Porter

Clippings from Great Falls Daily Leader: May 19, 1936, Negro Music Is Scheduled Here Tonight; May 20, 1936, Negro Tenor Thrills Audience With Excellent Program Here; 'Spirituals' Beauty Moves Many.
(May 19 piece says TG appeared "in a number of Broadway productions, including 'Emperor Jones' and 'The Gay Divorce'...). May 20 piece begins "Hundreds of Falls residents missed a musical event of the first order last night when Taylor Gordon, negro tenor, sang to only a fair-sized audience at the Methodist auditorium..." Concludes: "Mr. Gordon, a native of White Sulphur Springs who has attained considerable note in concert appearances and has also done motion picture work and written a couple of books, proved that he merits greater fame for his voice, his deep musical feeling and still more his ability to transcribe in tone the swiftly-changing moods of his race. Many expressed eagerness for his return next year, when it is to be hoped that he may have an audience filling a larger hall.")

Miscellany: printed invitation to his rent party at The Witoka Club, 222 West 145th St. NY June 2, 1931, admission $1.50 per.; printed card for TG and JRJohnson, quoting review in Boston Globe, March 29, 1926, and saying 1926-27 season now booking, under management of Richard Copley, 10 East 43d St., NY; undated business card for Gordon Games, Inc., 1107 Broadway, New York City; Tel. CHelsea 3-3600; Esther W. Leeming (apprntly mangger of business?)

##

Sheep Creek,

Montana.

April, 25th 1936.

To That Carlo;

Hello, there, ol' topper;

Well at last I'm comein' out. And I'm bring it with me. Beleieve it or not.

I hope I'll have a line from you telling me of the news, of that bury. What are people doing thes days? I realy mean, doing:

And you have you finished your gig picture prot-foilio? I'm dieing to see it.

I know you all must have had a gay winter, even with the foll flood waters?

Please excuse my bad tryping, at this point, you know how you get at the end of a long road.

Hows that Fannia? I guess her eyes are sparkling as ever? And all the rest of the friends? Give then my best, and tell them I hope to be laughting with them again soon.

The snow is just breaking up, altho it snowed here both yesterday ahd today, however I can make the pass, on Tuesday.

I wished you could take the picture of my whiskers! If they were straight? They'd be a FOOT LONG'. I can pull then out, and let then snap back, and, knock my self out at will. It's a new idea:

Well Carlo, I'll not try to write and tell you about this country, I'll wait until I can see you. I hope to be doing that about the middle of the summer ,if not then surely, this winter,in New York City.

I'm ringing off now, until. Yours Sincerly.

Taylor Dordon.

White Sulphur Springs,Montana.

New York City,
Oct, 6th 1933

To the DOCTOR Carlo, of 150 west 55th St

I'm sure that you will think that I have a very unusal life, of ups and down, which you think that fat has piled them all on your shoulders... Even as hard as I have been trying to keep the far from you.

My dear Carl , I can swear with all the holyness that there, in in me, If any , That I am sorry to my heart that I must write you thise lines, as good as you have been to me in the past... But I can't turn to anyone else, that I know could help me... Last week I was locked out of the Dewy Square Hotel, at Three A.M. because I didn't have, the $4.00 for the rent, They had striped the bed of the Sheets, They called it a Greek Trick? Which works perfectly. The next night Edna said they I could sleep there while they were in the country. and during the day while I was down town trying to get some money, The young lady that was to be there went over to her cusin's house.. Thre she stayed all night.. So I had to sit up that night too.. Now thes things don't hurt me mentially to much because , MR. Sheldon said that MR. Kelsey was sending my invention of the Rauolett Ashtray to the Manufactures, today, and in a few weeks I could get some money from them.. In the mean time I'm ,learning some pupular numbers, that I can earn a few dollars at the Layfett and some of the colored houses..... Now If I didn't know my suroundings, I'd not ask you fro some money that I can pay Edna, for some rent, Her ROOMS are too EXPENSIVE for me in general, BUT SHE said that she'd led me stay there for a short time for $5.00 a week, I'm giving a rent Party November 17th at Edwilsons, He's doing the backings. We'll go, fifty if theres any money made.

(2)

If you can please send me $20 . 00 which will make me in debt to you, $180,00 I'll be every so much oblidged... You can call up MR. Sheldon and ask him about my invention, I'M sure I'll be rich very soon. The Paramount wouldn't settle with me out of court But I'll beat them in the long run, you'l see.... I'm sorry That I didn't earn enough money in the Gay Divorce to have payed you up in full, But I did pay all the poor people of that I owed, I only owe you and a few other rich people, And may the Gods par// spair me that I ~~#~~once , get you all payed up... Then I'll bemyself again...

I'll get that picture to put in your storage room as soom as they come intown with the car... You can get anything down ther that you want anyday, IF YOU HAVE THE LETTER FROM THE LAWYERS.

Please forgive me but I must try and get her some money. I'll besing in these theatres 1 menshiones in a week or so they don't pay much, But they'll keep me out of debt.. This is the first blow I have had since the show closed, and I don't want g to get deep in like I was before...

With the best of wishes I remain your sincerly

Taylor Gordon

1890, 7th Ave.
New York City
% L.C. Thomas.

New York City.
Oct. IIth 1933.

To thet Charming little humming BIRD. Carlo.
I can't tell you how pleased I was with the $$
generious surprise you sent me. And You Will
never know just how much it was neededd...
And do you know the very next day . Mr
Sheldon tlod me that he thinks a firm had takem
my other TOY The SKIP ROPE. I'll know for sure this
week... So now that I can live untel the I7th of next
month, when I'll sure earn some more money. if
I don't land a job in some of these theatres?
And I'm sure that I'll have returns on some
of my business, by then.....
I havd told LLoyd, and besides. I'll
see that you take his pictureif I have to bring him
down there in chaines....
They all send their regards to you..
I sign the Papers for the case against Paramount
tomarrow.. We're sueing for $50.000 ..
I'll beseing you soon By.
Yours Sincerely.
Taylor Gordon.

Taylor Gordon

New York City; July 14th 1932;

To; Mr. John Ringling;
Half Moon Hotel,
Coney Island.;
New York.
℅ Samuel W. Gumpertz..

Dear Mr. Ringling;

Altho it has been a long time since you have heard from me, don't think I have Borgotten you. I can't tell you how glad I am to read that you haven't lost your legs. Because of all the people I know who would be greatly persecuted, by such an affliction, I think you would suffer the most as I know how you love to walk...

I was very much disappointed , to learn, from Mr. Carl Van Vechten..That the last time I saw you at the dock that you did not sail to Europe with him. It was Mr. Van Vechten, that told me that he though that I was not gracious enough to you in my book'Born to Be' ..... Nothing ever struch me so forcfull, as I surely had no idea that I was being so.... Of course no one knows better than you do the life of people in America... Especially the economic struggle each individuàà class have.... With the same facilities to fight ,for their existence. And how me and my people are expected to have the supprnatural power, of living , white working white and acting black at all times.... To amarked degree we accomplish this feat. Then there's times /men/ when we slip out of the world above, or below as different people place us... It must have been when I was in either of the positions that , I wrote the lines that , he thoughtI ment

to be ungreatful... Altho I have found many actions on the road I have traveled in this world that have been disconserting .... I have never stopped to think of why the motive?

I told My Friend; Mr. Van Vechten that I would some day write a public artical, inwhich I will nullify all false allusions, that people may have after reading my book . That you are not a man with altrusim ground deep in your soul.

May these few lines find you gaining your health fast. With sincere hopes for you and your's I close.

Respectfully yours;

Taylor Gordon;
242 West 13ith St.
New York City;
New York.

Taylor Gordon

P.S.
DearCarlo; I made an extra copy of this letta[illegible] you can see that I will keep my word when I have the chance...

I have seen the pictures that you have done of Edna they're just fine. I hope that I have a chance to have my mug in your Road's Gallery some time.... Folks have seen you about but I haven't for months.. I'll soon be about something tells me. Just a hunch that all.

If you are going to Europe , do let me see you before you leave. And I'll do the same with you. Ha, ha, .. The papers have said everything in the world, about me, except what , kind of Huchy Papah I like.... Why don't you call them and say. Ducks?

Sincerely Taylor

White Sulphur Springs,

Montana.

June, 11th 1936.

To That one an; only Caro;ø

Well how are you these days? I hope that thes[e] pictures will give you a good laught. The ones with the team, are the ones that were taken just as I came out of the mountians, the first time in the spring. After I had finished my book. The others were taken in the town here.

I'm sorry that I was not there in New York City , so that you could havr[e] ta[k]en some of me, and my WHISKERS:

Well I'm sending my book to New York this week, and I hope I have some luck, with it. It's about the[ø] the peoples of the world, and you 'll be the first one to know it's name" DAONDA" , But as you[ø/ø/ø/ø/] know, it's not nice to tell people about the title, until the book comes out.

I'm going to try Doub[l]day Doran, this first time, if they don't take it, I'll try and get a good agent, and if you happen to know of one please send me the name and address. I have done a frontis piece, that will have to be done over by a good artist, but it, a fine piece of work, I think, and will command a lot of attetion.

Hows the Thomas', ? I haven't never heard from them since I have been out west, altho I have written them many times. Have they all broken up? There must be something wrong that they don't write me. Pleses tell me in one of your letters.

And that Draper woman, she to has not answered my letters. Give then a kick in the ribs for me. Perhaps, they feel that they don't come back. But that is not the case with me. I'm coming back!

Give the Fannia, my best and all the gang, that might like to know I'm still living. I hope I do get, achance to go out in Duane's district, I'll sure stop off to see her.

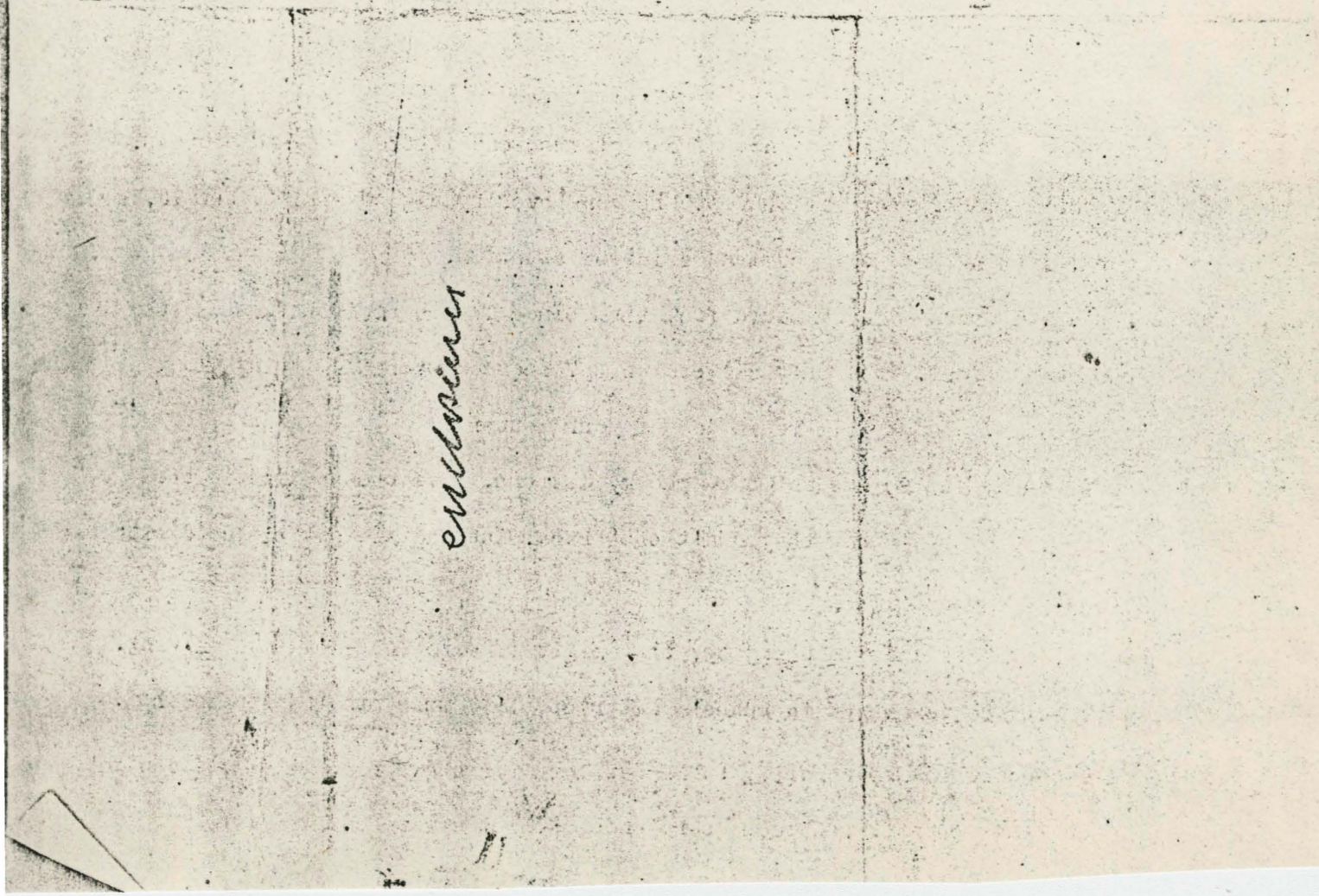
I had a little concert in Great Falls, but I was late for the spring season, I couldn't get out of the mountians in time. I hope to earn enough this fall to come east for the coming winter. Then I'll tell you of all the happings out in this glorious country.

I haven't typed for weeks, but I'm sure you can read this better than you can my hand writing. Your's Sincerely!

Taylor Gordon.

O PS. Please send me the name and adress of a good agent, incase I can't sell my book from out here, on the first couple of triles.

Also plese tell me what the HECKS the mattere with the thomas's! I haven't heard from them since I have been out here. tell me all the good dirt.



New York City.

Jan. 7. 27.

Dera Carl.

Just a few lines , telling how we missed you, New Years Eve.

The party ,at Knopfs, was fine, but I, was blue as I, could be, probely sounds funny to you, and on a new years too. How ever I'LL tell you why.

About the 27 or 28 of Dec. I, was to a party falling in to it about midnight, and it was well under way.

I I , mean under the influence of Old John .B.

As I, entered ,A, black venus, all locked up in A, collegiate's arms, doing the bump to a low down stomp, stuned me.

Straight to the rear, whereI, left my blanket and skypiece, returning to the frant room, just as the music a was fadeing out, In good position for a knock down to the ebony willow.

I, Ed

agan.

The party, went on at hight speed, for some time too much to write all; About 230 a few couples left I; with some more tom cats, hung around untill 359,

Trying to win this liveing death, for He thats wins her Shall not live long. At that hour, this creature put ous out with this remark.)

" Get out, You long horns, I'M the visiting Queen of the Leisbens, and I'am, choseinn m'h, den.

So , I, came home and thought of you first, then, I, thought, I, hadn't thanked , MissFannie Hurst, for her book, she gave me.

So I, told her the tail some-thing like this, and to my surprise, when I, meet her, at Knopf's, she cut me severely.

I, guess she thought I, was trying to vamp her, AA?

Or is that kind of languarge, obnoxious to lady writers?

So when you return, you must tell me the; da, DIVERSES..

Cause I, dont wont to lose any ones frindship.

Surely you are haveing a fine time out there in the

(3)

Opening, thats where I, came from, and I, guess I, Wd had better return.

Will be glad when you get back in old N.Y.C. agan.

Yours Sincerely.

Taylor Gordon

The part
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ous out

" Get out,

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So , I, c
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book, she
So I, tol
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me severe
I, guess sh
Or is that
So when yo
Cause I, do
Surely you

New York City
Feb. 6. 26

To. mr. & mrs. Van Nickton:

Dear. Friends it seems that I was just born wrong allaround. in the first. place. laid on top of the Rocky mountians. latitud out by the boiling sun. educated by the. grizzly bear. probly some of these early. Hamby acc-ount for my rough. actions:

But its a good thing that show. was so. inspiring. that any one. had a good time. If. only. I would of heard the open-fields calling me: for the rest of. my. days. but when there is life things can change. I hope to live a long time. "But. one more act by myself like to night. and I can see my days short." I must dabble a little in etiquitte to see how far off I was. the sound of mrs. mangs voice I never will forget. inclosed. I was the limit,

Two hat spoke shown have opened up. "Hat Chocolate at the Hudson. a Comic, newsm. and Bantic Hat Chocolate, will probly be the juicers the concert.

Covarrubias has finished most of the pictures for my book they are, right like that, and the one of you and Fannie and out of this world, Covie & Frieda are sending you the Eskeys in about ten days, and they are hoping you will not be too busy to read

them as they want to get the book out in the early fall.

I wished you could see the pictures, Covarrubias said he was saveing you some of the original ones He and Harry left for New Mexico last week. I guess they will see the charming Miss. if she is around for a small summer layout.

Miriil is fine and dandy she is leaving to go on a lecture tour in the west, Phil is summering at Atlantic City ng.

242-W131.

Jan 28th
9-35-pm

Dear Carlo.

I want a thank you a thousand times for this check and I am sure you will forgive me for being so unmindful. No one in the world knows better than I do the obligations of a debt. once I can free myself from them. I'll be the happiest person on earth... I find that my debts are completely unnerving me. Yet I can't see why I should have an fear... Perhaps it because I can see myself doing something. I detest most. Just to get a few dollars ahead I might [illegible] a. steady mind... ahh I needle

my creditors all. being pressed by many for debts
my estate of life is not really made for this modern
civilation. But dont think I'm not proposing myself
to be one real. Alright; if I must do. To keep up
on top of the water...

I really understand that my financial condition
is no ones fault but my own... I have created into
these things slowly. As many a time I have had to chase &
to fight. as I say many. Lawyer. But my pain
& pity. as I say many. Lawyer. But my pain
& idea of retribution in the flesh shall. perhaps. blind
my judgie... as. lived among people of today.

I want you to have a little more patients with me
please. I assure you. I'll return any mistakes and upset.
Favor you have showed upon me. Sincerely, Taylor Gold

THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Rutherford D. Rogers
University Librarian

1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Louis L. Martz
Director

6 July 1973

Mr. Ivan Doig
15004 Linton Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98133

Dear Mr. Doig:

Thank you very much for returning the xerox copies of the Gordon letters. You needn't have included the copies made for you of the printed material and if you'd like to have those back, just let me know and I'll see that they are returned.

We'll be glad to have a copy of the article when it appears.

All best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Donald Gallup

Donald Gallup
Curator
Collection of American Literature

1500½ Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98133
June 29, 1973

Phone 206-364-9408

Donald Gallup
Curator
Collection of American Literature
Yale University Library
1603A Yale Station
New Haven, Conn. 06520

Dear Mr. Gallup

I've just returned from several months in Britain and found your letter of May 3. I hope no serious inconvenience has been caused by this necessarily delayed response. The photocopies you provided me are herewith returned. I appreciate the help you have given me.

I'm sorry to say my article on Taylor Gordon is not yet in print, which is why I haven't returned the photocopies to you long since. Mr. Gordon's death a couple of years ago and the subsequent disposition of his effects apparently has caused the editor to delay publication. I will provide you a copy when it does appear.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Rutherford D. Rogers
University Librarian

1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Louis L. Martz
Director

3 May 1973

Ivan Doig, Esq.
15004 Linden Avenue N.
Seattle, Wash. 98133

Dear Mr. Doig:

When you wrote us last on 21 May 1971, you thought your article on Taylor Gordon would appear "later this year or early next." If it has appeared, please send us a copy for the Johnson Memorial Collection.

Even if it hasn't appeared, may I ask you please to return the copies of the Gordon letters to Mr. Van Vechten that I allowed you to have on the understanding that they would eventually be returned to Us? Another scholar wants to see the letters and I am unwilling to subject the originals to the wear-and-tear of being photographed twice.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Gallup

Donald Gallup
Curator

Yale University Library

New Haven Connecticut 06520

Rutherford David Rogers
University Librarian

28 May 1971

Mr. Ivan Doig
15004 Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, Wash. 98133

Dear Mr. Doig:

In accordance with your request of 21 May 1971, the Yale University Library hereby authorizes you to publish the manuscript material in its collections identified and described as:

Excerpts from letters written by Taylor Gordon to Carl Van Vechten as quoted in your letter to Mrs. Whelpley of 21 May 1971.

(It is understood that you had permission from Mr. Gordon before he died for the use of these quotations. Mr. Gallup gives permission so far as access to the Van Vechten papers is concerned.)

In authorizing the publication of this material Yale University does not surrender its own right to publish it, or to grant permission to others to do so. Nor does this authorization by Yale University remove the author's and publisher's responsibility to guard against the infringement of rights that may be held by others.

Sincerely yours,

RUTHERFORD D. ROGERS
University Librarian

by Donald Gallup
Donald Gallup
Curator
Collection of American Literature

15004 Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98133
May 21, 1971

Anne Whelpley
LIbrary Assistant
Beinecke Rare Book
and Manuscript Library
Yale University Library
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Mrs. Whelpley

In October, 1969, you arranged permission for me to quote from Taylor Gordon's letters in the Carl Van Vechten Papers. Mr. Gordon died recently, and the Montana Magazine of Western History, which has pending my article about Mr. Gordon, has asked for a bit of revision before publishing the piece. I'd like permission to use two more quotes, as used in the following contexts:

"By late 1935, however, he returned home to Montana, broke. After the first winter back in the mountains near White Sulphur Springs, he wrote to Van Vechten: "I wish you could take a picture of my whiskers! If they were straight they'd be a FOOT LONG! I can pull them out, and let them snap back, and knock myself out at will. It's a new idea.'" (Taylor Gordon to Carl Van Vechten, April 26, 1936)

"In the late 1930's, Gordon did manage to return to New York City. Nothing came of his abortive lawsuits there nor of his attempts to regain his concert career. He survived somehow, always in debt, always in hopes of big money coming soon. In 1947, his life took the most wrenching tilt yet. 'I was locked up July 3rd about 2 AM at Bellview by a misunderstanding on my landlord's part,' Gordon wrote to Van Vechten, 'and I made the mistake of trying to tell a "psycho doctor" why I was there.'" (Taylor Gordon to Carl Van Vechten, Jan. 27, 1948)

I appreciate your help once again. The article is wending its way toward print in the usual fashion of quarterly articles, and I shall send you a copy when it appears later this year or early next.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

ID/pm

Yale University Library

New Haven Connecticut 06520

In accordance with your request of August 18, 1969, the Yale University Library hereby authorizes you to publish all or any part of the manuscript material in its collections identified as:

Za
Van Vechten
Correspondence

Gordon, Taylor
Letters to Carl Van Vechten

Permission is granted to quote from letters dated as follows:
Feb. 6, 1926; May 13, 1926; July 19, 1927; May 30, 1927 and June 30;1929.
Program of a Rosamond Johnson-Taylor Gordon concert held on Nov. 15, 1925

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Sincerely yours,

RUTHERFORD D. ROGERS
University Librarian

by D. C. Gallup

Anne Whelpley
Library Asst. B.R.B.L.

The voice still has life, but Taylor Gordon's reputation is forty years and two thousand miles from White Sulphur Springs, Montana. In the late 1920s, he was one of the leading Negro tenors in New York City, ranking not so far from Paul Robeson and Roland Hayes.

"You ever been before a big audience?" Taylor Gordon asks now. "No? Well, I tell you, you gotta know what you're doin' and you gotta whip them, too, you know. When you come out, the first thing they challenge you right away, mentally, say: 'Well; what can you do?' And if you don't dominate 'em, they'll sure dominate you."[2]

In the Carl Van Vechten papers held by Yale University, there is an old concert program which cites the evening when dominating 'em on a big scale became vital to Gordon.

The Carrick Theatre in New York City, Sunday Evening, November 15, 1925, 8:40 P.M.

J. Rosamond Johnson, Arranger of the Book of American Negro Spirituals, and Taylor Gordon in a Program of Negro Spirituals.

On the border of the program is pencilled: "Dear Carl -- This was our starting point -- due to your efforts in persuading Mr. Laugher to give us the start -- Yours, Rosamond."

This start pitched Taylor Gordon into the 1920s of legend. Concert dates reviewed in the New York Times. The swirl of parties and nightclubbing. Appearances on network radio. Harlem in glory time. A book, written wild and free in the hours beyond midnight. The spree of success at last was smothered,

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Rutherford D. Rogers
University Librarian

THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Herman W. Liebert
Librarian

15 October 1969

Dear Mr. Doig:

This is most embarassing and I humbly ask you to forgive this late response to your letter requesting permission to quote the various items you underlined in your papers. I was under the impression that Mr. Gallup had answered your letter and only just discovered his note to me asking to write to you. I do hope this has not caused you great inconvenience.

Mr. Gallup grants you permission to use the quotes with one correction. The concert program which you cite as being in the Carl Van Vechten Papers is in the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters, Yale University Library founded by Carl Van Vechten. He suggests that I ask you to send us a copy of your article when it is published.

With sincerest apologies,

Anne Whelpley

Anne Whelpley (Mrs. H.)
Library Assistant BRBL

Mr. Ivan Doig
4712 33d. Avenue NE
Seattle, Washington 98105

15004 Linden Ave N.
Seattle, Washington 98133
August 18, 1969

Anne Whelpley
Library Assistant
The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Yale University Library
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Whelpley

A few months ago, you arranged for me to use photocopies of Taylor Gordon's letters to Carl Van Vechten, held in the Yale Collection of American Literature. The article I have been writing for MONTANA magazine of history is in the editor's hands now, and I'm enclosing the excerpts I would like to quote from the Gordon-Van Vechten letters.

I've underlined in red the quoted portions. The quote on page three is from J. Rosamond Johnson and is written on a program of a Rosamond Johnson-Taylor Gordon concert held on Nov. 15, 1925. The other quotes are from letters, dated Feb. 6, 1926; May 13, 1926; July 19, 1927; May 30, 1927; and June 30, 1929.

The material I've underlined on page 19 is not a quote, but is derived from the same concert program of Nov. 15, 1925.

I hope this is sufficient information for your library to grant me permission to use these quotes. Thanks so much for your help. I'll return the photocopies after I am assured the editor of MONTANA will not want substantial changes in the article.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

4712 33d Ave NE
Seattle, Wash. 98105
June 30, 1969

Anne Whelpley
Library Assistant
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Yale University Library
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Whelpley

Your June 26 response to my inquiry about material on Negro singer Taylor Gordon is immensely helpful. Thanks so much for taking the pains you evidently did.

I've studied the list of rules on using manuscript material and understand the stipulations. I'm enclosing the application to use copies of the Gordon-Van Vechten letters, and I hope my explanation for needing to see them is sufficient.

The Taylor Gordon material you located in the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters sounds like a bonanza for my article. Gordon was the singing partner of G. Rosamond Johnson, brother of James Weldon Johnson, for years. I very much would like to have copies of the printed material you mention; please let me know how to arrange whatever payment is involved.

I'm passing along to the editor of Montana magazine the information about the Van Vechten photos of Taylor Gordon; if she wants copies to illustrate the article, we will seek permission from Mrs. Van Vechten.

Thank you again, Mrs. Whelpley; the Beinecke staff is as wonderfully helpful by mail as they are in person.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

Ivan Doig

ID/am

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

New Haven, Connecticut 06520

James Tanis
University Librarian

THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Herman W. Liebert
Librarian

26 June 1969

Mr. Ivan Doig
4712 33rd Avenue NE
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Mr. Doig:

Mr. Gallup is on a leave of absence until the first of July. Your letter has been given to me for a reply.

Mr. Gordon Taylor's letters to Carl Van Vechten are here in the Yale Collection of American Literature. The period covered seems to be 1928-1955. I am enclosing a list of rules governing the use of manuscript material here in Beinecke Library and an application which you are to fill out and return to Mr. Gallup. If Mr. Gallup permits you to have copies of the letters, the copies must be returned to the Library when your work with them has been completed.

We have some photographs of Taylor Gordon all taken on the same day by Carl Van Vechten. Permission to have copies of these should be secured from Mrs. Van Vechten, 25 Central Park West, New York, New York.

In our James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters, I located a folder of clippings, pams, programs and fliers on Mr. Taylor. Copies of the printed material may be made for you.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to write.

Sincerely,

Anne Whelpley

Anne Whelpley (Mrs. H.)
Library Assistant

AW/no

Enclosures

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

New Haven Connecticut

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June 15, 1969

4712 33d Ave NE
Seattle, Wash. 98105
June 6, 1969

Donald C. Gallup
Curator, American Literature Collection
Yale University Library
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Gallup

I'm working on a long article about Taylor Gordon, a black tenor who made a considerable reputation in the 1920s as a singer of spirituals. Mr. Gordon became a close friend of Carl Van Vechten, and he tells me that Van Vechten's encouragement made him write his biography, Born to Be.

Mr. Gordon recalls that Van Vechten was enthusiastic about a series of letters Gordon wrote him while on a singing tour in Europe, and these letters provided the idea for the book. Does your Van Vechten Collection contain any letters between Van Vechten and Taylor Gordon? If so, I'd greatly appreciate knowing about them and about arrangements for securing copies.

Also, I'd appreciate knowing whether the Yale collection of Van Vechten photographs includes anything concerning Taylor Gordon. Perhaps this is not your area, but I imagine you can refer me to the proper person.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

ID/am

4712 33d Ave NE
Seattle, Wash. 98105
June 6, 1969

Robert W. Hill
Keeper of Manuscripts
New York Public Library
Fifth Avenue and 42d Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Hill

I'm working on a long article about Taylor Gordon, a black tenor who made a considerable reputation in New York in the 1920s as a singer of spirituals. Mr. Gordon was a close friend of Carl Van Vechten, and he tells me that Van Vechten's encouragement made him write his biography, Born to Be.

Mr. Gordon recalls that Van Vechten was enthusiastic about a series of letters Gordon wrote him while on a singing tour in Europe, and these letters provided the idea for the book. Does your library's material on Van Vechten include any letters between Van Vechten and Taylor Gordon? If so, I'd greatly appreciate knowing about them, and about arrangements for obtaining copies.

Also, I'm interested in any Van Vechten photographs of Taylor Gordon.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Cordially
Ivan Doig
Ivan Doig

ID/am

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10018

Manuscript Division

12 June, 1969

Ivan Doig
4712 33rd Ave., N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Mr. Doig:

Your letter of 6 June relating to Taylor Gordon material in our Carl Van Vechten Papers has been received.

We have searched the Carl Van Vechten Papers and have been able to locate five (5) letters from Taylor Gordon to Van Vechten dated between 1926 and 1930. Most of these letters relate to various of Van Vechten's books, are dated from New York and do not mention Gordon's European tour. Although our Van Vechten collection is large, we are aware that Mr. Van Vechten gave considerable material to Yale and Princeton Universities, as well as to other institutions and it may be that additional Gordon have survived elsewhere.

We will be happy to have our Photographic Service prepare an estimate of cost for reproducing the Taylor Gordon letters in either photostat or microfilm form, but in accordance with the policy of this Library concerning photographic reproduction of material less than fifty years old, permission to reproduce the items must be obtained from the holder of the literary rights. In this case, since your letter indicate personal contact with Mr. Gordon, the permission should be easy for you to obtain from Mr. Gordon.

We regret that no copy of Van Vechten's photograph of Mr. Gordon was found in the Van Vechten Papers.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Rugen

Paul R. Rugen,
First Assistant

787-3131 EXT. 2267

YALE UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

130 WALL STREET

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Helena Public Library

Warren Street and Seventh Avenue
HELENA, MONTANA

October 15, 1935

Mr. Carl Van Vechten,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Van Vechten:

Mr. Taylor Gordon has presented me with a photographic study that you did. It is umusually effectve and original, both in arrangement and background. I have watched for pieces of your work in the magazines and am always interested when I locate one of your studies. Do you intend to incorporate these in a book? I hope you do many more, for they are so distinctive. I experiment with a small kodak just enough to know how fascinating photography can be.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Erin Janzig

Am enjoying re-reading library copy of "Excavations"

LEHMAN, ROHRLICH, SOLOMON & HEFFNER

(COOK, NATHAN & LEHMAN)

30 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10004

I. HOWARD LEHMAN (1908-1969)
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TELEPHONE: 422-2255 AREA CODE 212

CABLE ADDRESS: "COOKNAMAN NEW YORK"

August 8, 1969

Mr. Ivan Doig
15004 Linden Ave. N.
Seattle,
Washington 98133

Dear Mr. Doig:

Mrs. Carl Van Vechten has received your letter of July 28th. It is not quite clear to her whether you just wish her consent to the use of the photographs of Taylor Gordon or copies of the ~~litho~~ photo graph and the consent to the use thereof.

Please let me know your wishes in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Solomon

JS:k

1500½ Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98133
July 28, 1969

Mrs. Carl Van Vechten
25 Central Park West
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Van Vechten:

I am writing an article for MONTANA, a history journal, about a Negro singer named Taylor Gordon. Mr. Van Vechten once took some photographs of Taylor Gordon, and the magazine would like to use these examples of your husband's artistry with the article.

The Yale University Library informs me that permission to have copies of these photographs for use with the article must be obtained from you. May MONTANA and I have such permission?

I've been looking over Bruce Kellner's biography of your husband; your life with Mr. Van Vechten must have been a very exciting one indeed.

Cordially

Ivan Doig

ID/am