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Letter 1967, September 10, James Tate to Gene DeGruson

James Tate

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10 September 1967
1385 Greenwich
Apt. 11
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Gene--

Please forgive my not stopping by or notifying you to that effect. By the time my mother's wedding was over and the relatives had finally dispersed, I was exhausted and longing to work; so I rather spontaneously leapt into my car and headed for the great deserts. It was a very long, exciting and expensive drive. I saw two states I had not seen before (which leaves only two, one being Georgia) Utah and Nevada. Both are about as primitive and unpopulated as any place I have ever seen. (I slurged, I mean, splurged--what an ~~ungi-~~ ugly word, if that's how it's spelled--and gambled away \$6 in Reno. I was even more extravagant in going to beautiful Lake Tahoe for a night. There was the usual car trouble, of course, and I arrived in San Francisco with about \$400 less than what I started with. After three days of searching I finally found a place that I like: fairly small, but with French windows, a nice view, lots of light, in the North Beach area. It's a very beautiful city and I know I shall be happy exploring it this year. Working is foremost in my mind now, but I have already mellowed a little and know that it is not always possible and that the lack of work is not always fatal.

I wish I had had a chance to visit this trip. Mrs. Haldeman-Julius sounds fascinating, and so do the blue books. I wish you good luck with the project and urge you to keep me informed; in fact, I wish you would educate me somewhat on the subject as I only know of them, not many details.

The only person I contacted and met since my arrival is George Hitchcock, editor of Kayak. He's a huge Irish type who wears wool caps and old torn tweed coats. He is also in the theater and I am now on my way to see him in The Inspector General. (In fact, I should rush!)

Please write, and please forgive my bypassing Pittsburg this time. I am going to be giving some four readings around K.C. Sept. 24-28. I'm going to be very ~~busine~~ busy I suspect, so I won't have much time to spend with friends. However, I'll find more out about the details of the visit when I call the Jewish Community Center in a couple of days.

Yours in haste,

