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Letter, 1954 June 23, from Elim [?] to Eva Jessye

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225 Bennett Avenue c/o A. J.
New York City 40, N. Y.
June 23, 1954

Dear Eva,

S'PRIZE! I'm sure you hardly expected to be hearing from me from New York, though I knew earlier in the summer that we'd be coming this way for at least six weeks. What we didn't know is that I'd be so swamped with work that the originally planned visit would extend itself in to a two month affair. And this is exactly what has happened.

Grace and I drove up, arriving on April 15th. Ginny's keeping house and attending her classes at the University in Morelia, and as soon as I finish this most recent assignment we'll be getting on back south of the border. We'll have at least six weeks more here.

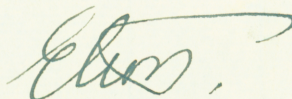
At the moment I'm working on illustrations for a biography (for young readers) of Louis Armstrong. William Morrow is the publisher and Jeannette Eaton, a seasoned author of teen age stories, is the writer. Much of Miss Eaton's material is taken from Robert Goffin's HORN OF PLENTY, and though Miss Eaton is by no means as "hepped" as Goffin she has come up with an exciting yarn. For years I've collected Armstrong records and have read everything available on him and it would seem that getting this assignment to do is one of fate's happier caprices.

In addition to this I've completed illustrations for GENGHIS KHAN & THE MONGOL HORDE, a Random House World Landmark book, ALMENA'S DOGS a Farrar Straus & Young book, and I'm illustrating a pamphlet for the Christian Education Press in Phila. This latter publication is the brainchild of my good friend Rev. James H. Robinson of the Morningside Church and it will be distributed in Asia, India and Africa early next year. And in the August 14th issue of the PITTSBURGH COURIER (magazine section) my own article titled "We Love Mexico- BUT" (accompanied by illustrations) will appear. So you can see how much ground I've covered since we've been here and why it is so necessary for me to put in an appearance even tho I keep in constant touch with my publishers by mail. Wonder why it is that living in a foreign country always lends glamor to an artist regardless of his field? And how I wish I could plan to drive up to Lawrence while we're here! I'd be good indeed to see you and Alex and to tell you what's going on down Mexico way. Moreover it would be good to hear you tell of your own plans and of the progress you've made thus far in perfecting them.

Do you get to New York or do you avoid fighting your way through this jungle? Wotta ratrace! I do wonder how we stood it all the years we did, and I'll be happy indeed to get back to Mexico and rest for a spell. Still, as I point out in my forthcoming article, I realize that our future is here in the U. S. A.

How about another letter from you and if you should get here to N. Y. within the next few weeks do give us a call. Our number here is Lorraine 9-7607. Grace and Anne join me in wishing you both the utmost in happiness and success.

As always,



P. S. Ginny's life this summer should be exciting what with the Univ. of Mississippi holding it's summer school session there in Morelia at the University of Michoacan. Ginny's best friend, Senorita Antinia Torres is the director of the summer school and Ginny's going to be the interpreter for the American students who don't handle Spanish any better than I do!