

"MINNELEA"
84060 PIOPPI (SA) ITALY

7 June 1975

Dr. Henry Blackburn
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*fill AK -
concep*

*Margaret
PC HLT
Carrie
Marta
Henry Keys
admits H B*

Dear Henry:

Strange how busy we can be in spite of no major job responsibilities. We are not even working on a new book -- yet! It is hard to find time to write letters. (Incidentally, thanks for the plug for the last book in the Bulletin of the School of Public Health.)

We wish we could have joined the "Paddlewheel Jubilee Boat-ride," undoubtedly another successful promotion of the team spirit of L.P.H. We had several adventures that Sunday. The water from the aquaduct, which had been off for two days, came on at lunch time so we gobbled and rushed out to catch up on watering the garden. No rain for two weeks and it takes several hours to water our several vegetable and flower gardens, hedges, shrubs, etc. So we were watching the clock to change to go to a "ricevimento" (reception) at 3 to 4 pm when, at 2:30, came a hail from the highway above: "Professor Keys, I am Iacono!" (the gent of U.S.D.A. who, together with a colleague at NHLI, wants to do a study on diet and platelets, etc.) He had wired me from Firenze about coming to talk on Monday, June 2, but had flown to Naples, rented a car and driven down in the hope of finding me on Sunday and thereby saving a day. Well, it seems that the project is being approved and most of the talk was to tell me why the delay. I still am unsure what I am to do as "consultant" besides trying to keep them out of statistical stupidities.

Anyway, Iacono took off at 3:30 and we still were able to make the "ricevimento" of our gardener who was celebrating the announcement of the forthcoming marriage of his younger daughter, Carmelina. The ricevimento proved to be extremely informal with only a dozen or so guests remaining when we turned up. A new bottle of sparkling (sweet) muscat wine was opened, another cake decorated with the inscription, "Auguri!", was brought out and Margaret had to cut it while a photograph was made of the event.

Back home at five there was time for work in the gardens before dinner at 8:30 and so to bed at ten. Thus Sunday, which had started early with a trip to the weekly market at Vallo.

The day before, Nelly's mother left after a 6 day visit. She seemed to enjoy our local scene, rhapsodized over the gardens and the view and struck up a lively conversations with every one she encountered. And the week before Mme. Trocme arrived we stayed over night at Naples on the invitation of Mario Mancini as guests of the new Medical School to give a lecture. Mario is now the Professor of Semiotica and his name adorns the entry to the fine new building that houses his department. ("Semiotica" is simply internal medicine with emphasis on diagnosis and laboratory work.)

Rodolfo Paoletti was the other guest speaker to a good-sized audience of white coats plus 13 British journalists who had been sponsored by the FLORA margarine company.

Later the journalists came to Pioppi and stayed overnight at the Hotel Vela. I guided them at Paestum on the way down and at the ruins of Elea the next morning. We gave them a fancy buffet lunch on our terrace and, fortified by eight bottles of wine they had drunk, they went happily off to the Naples airport in their minibus.

Workmen have been here, too, building some stone walls, paving our basement with terrazzo and replacing our kitchen floor tiles. The previous tiling had been badly done with third-class material; now it is splendid! And, of course, there is much to do in the gardens.

Back in early May we went to Spain to lecture at the International Congress sponsored by the Olive Oil Council and sit through several days of mostly trivial talk by Spaniards. But the Stamlers, Karvonens, Grandes and Aravanis' were there and the social part was very pleasant.

So the time slips by. Martha arrives on the 14th and we leave for Minnesota on the 29th.

All the best to you and Nelly,



P. S. There is nothing private in this letter so Xerox copies can be made for anyone interested, including HLT, Carrie, Henry Keys and Martha.



AK