

Feb. 20 '95

Dear Rick and Ken,

Maybe it's more fun to discover the hidden treasures of the Ranch without help but I had hoped to be along. Now that you've found Hank's Hammock I can tell you what we found in 1960 when we first saw the place.

Dug bought the ranch over the telephone. The Van Arman knew it and the owners - Bruce and Miss Cory. Bruce was an invalid in a wheel chair and Miss Cory had to hustle to make a living. We never met them. The ramp and those short concrete walks were for the chair. (wheel)

Miss Cory had scrub cattle, two fierce watch dogs, two guns and a tough reputation. She ran a nursery, a laundry, kept the pecan trees producing as well as the fig trees and a huge grape arbor in the front yard. In addition, she ran a cafe at the nearby truck stop. There was nothing poetic about the place to her. It was a business. She did create a little prairie in my hammock.

At the end of the front lane on back of Bessie and Daisy's house is a beautiful little pond. It drained across to BJ's field and on to my hammock and to the pond past the Camellias that we called Little Walden. That's just below the oak that you cleared by the mulberry tree and on down to the other oak and the great trees where Faye B spent a summer in the tree seats reading Walden. Miss Cory had cypress all over the hill side and her fine Camellias in the low area. Water from Bessie's pond drained all of the way across the pasture to make a beautiful little creek that ran to Little Walden. Miss Cory ~~had~~ built a rustic bridge over the creek and put wooden benches around. Also she kept the trail to it cleared. That's why Dug said it was my special retreat. We gave Miss Cory many of the plants but still had 200 and more left. However, a flood came our second year and many plants were killed. When Freddie leased the field for melons we asked him not to plow the creek bed. Since we

We've made a tape for you but need to re-do it. Our playing is fair but our equipment not.

needed the drainage but his Pedro plowed it and no matter what we did, it never drained right again and our little creek was ruined and our front pasture flooded - we were not at the ranch much at that time.

Miss Cory's sister owned part of the ranch - according to Florence. She and Mrs Cory fell out ~~in~~ and in a fit Miss Cory wanted to sell and pay her off - So for cash she practically gave it to us who did not need acreage - I wanted a few acres for horses! Guy had no notion what to do with it. It became a way of life for us and now happily, I see what others can do.

In this awakening spring in East Tennessee, Faye B. calls daily with exciting news - "77, look under the snow for red galaxy leaves and sparkle berries and a world waking - and the 7 ft icicle and smouldering clouds over Le Conte". I'm tempted to say that I know - I've been here before. But it's her turn now to discover - Yes, and mine to re-discover - as Louis Agassiz said when asked what was the most important thing he had learned in his long years of working in science, he said, "I have learned to observe".

and when your parents wake to '38 in Maury's room, I hope someone has the kitchen cozy and full of bacon and coffee smells and bird song fills the air.

Faye called again to remind us of the wild strawberry blooms, the red raspberry cane and bursting dogwood buds -  
and Rick, please tell me about the tossing Eric you know.  
and Ken, the glass door could be anywhere. When I first looked at the piano house I saw a hunk of little rooms. The piano area was a closed room, the dining area was a closed one door room, the wood surrounding the fire place was horrible varnished stuff - Everything was impossible, not even room for one piano - I said to the University staff of design, architecture and building - "Jean every possible wall out, use one color throughout, throw away all doors and then I'll look at this again." The department made a project of it and then I'll look at this again." on campus - So that door you found could have been anywhere. The house was lonely and could have had 3 pianos when they finished - Keep looking!