

Wed Oct 5, 1971

Darling Auntie Nanny:-

We had the 1931 photo of my father copied and I enclose a couple.

With Mama's arrival nearly upon us, we are trying hard to get ourselves in order. Phil and I have decided to rent this house during the time of our absence in Quat. I've never done this before and now see why people scream and complain about having to empty every drawer and so forth.

On Betty and Shirley we are trying to put order in our thoughts. I finally got ahold of Morgie Bruyn on the phone. He says Yes, indeed, Betty is an alcoholic. He's seen her several times lately (within the past 2 weeks), either on the street or at other people's houses, and she has all the earmarks. He promised to get in touch with Dr. Colmore (if that's his name) and then have a talk with Betty.

Shirley and Betty had lunch here 10 days ago and both were drinking -- not much, but still a martini is a martini no matter how you look at it. In one telephone conversation with Auntie Do I made some remark to which she replied "but that way Hope won't be able to have a long private talk with BetX. They get along so well and she could help so much". I insisted that no long private talk was going to help Betty; this is a problem she herself must cope with and the less said by other members of the family the better. If you see Ma would you please "appuyer" the importance of her staying out of it all? Before we left the River I wrote her a long detailed letter, telling her what it's like to be an alcoholic and facing the decision to step out of danger. I told her again and again that it's a very private affair and you want to be left alone, with help only from friends in AA. Apparently XXX I didn't manage to get the point across.

Marjorie Swope, a friend of ours and also an AA, can ~~XXX~~ give assistance or else tell Betty and/or Morgie just who can. Marjorie knows Morgie and also knows Shirley and Betty and did, I think, take a course at Shirley's school in Bedford. She could be very valuable to us all.

Much love to you.