Dear Arlene and Walter: March 24, 1982

My warmest thanks for your gift of "The Eighth Day of Creation." I have read every word of it, given the appendices and footnotes. This has been one of the most enjoyable reading experiences of my life. Throughout the book wandered a host of persons whom I knew personally or through their works, and as they each appeared my recollection of them is a vivid accompaniment of the author's narrative. Maurice Wilkins, for example, appeared to me as the scruffy Englishman who rode with me and the Vanderbilt as he made a trip into the White Mountains on a vacant Afternoon - from a Gordon Conference on Nucleic Acids. Maurice never once mentioned look up even to "The Old Man of the Mountain." Instead he kept boring me with a persistent monolog about his x-ray diffraction patterns from nucleic acids (this was many years before the famous DNA model). Of course Crick in the garage appeared with his familiar obsession with the tetrads. In this book Moses clear the point I indignantly made in a note to Crick at the time of the Nobel award that they never could have made the model without the underlying abundant proof that DNA was not the mysterious polymer postulated by P.H. Levene in the 1920's. He is a little man who sat at the breakfast table.
with Mrs. Pickles, Rose and others on the stage. I worked at Rockefeller with Alfred—so quiet. Was Avery that I'd had to see his picture in the "Creation" book to remember what he looked like. Of course, I was pleased to note that Mrs. Pickles mentioned only as the die-hard opponent of the view that DNA could be the gene. It had to be a protein. In an aside, note that the source of A., V. W.'s stand on this point was mostly Rockefeller politics; both he and Avery were struggling to attain the permanent status of a Member of the staff. Hence Alfred must dilute Avery's contribution. Even if the less enthralled section of Hemoglobin there are many people who've met a hearing failure. If you'd have a small notebook to enumerate my reactions to this marvellous volume, do you know anything about the Author? As judged a most remarkable Science writer—only one of ever read who seems to have been able to get inside the brain and brain the scientific personality.

If all goes well, we will be back in Pembroke (311 Broad, St. Helens, PA 19435; Tel. 215-256-9466) on 19th June 4983 and would welcome a visit.

Thanks again and warm regards,

Arthur Pollister