Dear [Name],

Instead of writing in my notebook, I decided to write to you so as to bring you up to date since leaving Vienna. Please keep this letter, as you usually do, as a record.

Tony Fitzgerald and I left Vienna at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, December 21. I was very happy to leave everything behind there. Vienna certainly is no place to film in winter. It is very gray and depressing. We drove out of the city to the autobahn (equivalent to our interstate highways) which we took as far as Kolín. From there we went north to the highway that follows the Danel river. There are several places of interest along here and should make a fantastic trip in spring or summer. Also I think a boat trip on the Danel would be great. I’m continually making notes on what we should do when you are here.

There are numerous more remarks in this area. At the little town of Děčín, we visited the ruins of a fortress where Richard II of England was imprisoned by the Duke of Austria around 1192. In 1193 it was here where he received Blondel, played, and sang Richard’s favorite songs until they attracted him enabling Blondel to locate the king.
She left the Danube taking Highway 23 south towards Amstetten, and got back on the autoroute south of Amstetten and continued west out of the city of Enns where we changed to Highway 115 south which took us to Steyr. Naturally I was all eyes on the entire trip since this was my first venture into the Austrian countryside. When we would get into higher elevations the field would be covered with frost which was beautiful. Unfortunately the sky was not blue so decent pictures were not possible.

Steyr has a beautiful old style downtown area which we should visit when you come. Just a very short distance out of Steyr is the village of Christkindl, our first destination. There was a little snow on the trees and ground trees, so with the right choice of camera position I could make it look like Christmas. Unfortunately it was still dark and cloudy. It is here I photographed the post office. They put up each year to handle over 50,000 letters prior to Christmas! They now I hope I have got those I sent to him. This is a very big thing for the children because it is here where they receive their Christmas list. The Austrian children do not get gifts from Santa. They believe they come from the
Christmas. So this is where they send their Christmas list. And a few little letters are returned to them by the post office. Also when possible the list is returned to the parents. They may get letters from all over the world. The people working here were very friendly and helpful. One man in particular was great. He just couldn’t do enough for us. He asked me for Glenn’s address so he could send him a letter. Hope he does it. Also he gave me this book marked done in red paint (I think) which are a picture of this year’s Austrian Christmas stamps. I mentioned that Dad retired from the post office and that they would be coming to Austria next year so he gave me his name and address. He wants me to bring him to the St. Gregor post office to show him around.

The church was quite, with little room inside for people. The altar was most unusual. I have a picture of it. Also there is a large, hand carved crib scene with more than 100 animated figures carved by a man in his seventies in the early 1900s.

We left Kloster on our way to St. Wolfgang where we planned to spend the night. Ended up taking the wrong road, and found ourselves on a country backroad.
Instead of taking Route 122 west we found ourselves heading south toward Grantsburg. We intended to go west until we again met the autobahn near Pattlek, and take it to the lake region where St. Henry is located. This road is on the plain. The roads were not good and we decided to try the higher elevations. Tony decided that we would just keep going this way and spend the night in St. Henry. We continued south until we reached highway 138 that would take us into St. Henry. It was dark by the time we found the way, and it turned out to be a beautiful driving night. The moon was out and more than half as we could always see the outline of the mountain and the snow. Being close made it colder as we did have big gusts on the road, but it wasn't bad. Tony felt this was better than driving on the plain as originally planned since it was very foggy there.

We arrived in St. Henry around 9:30 pm, got gas, and looked for a place to stay. Gas is very expensive here.

We inquired at the station about a place to stay and several suggestions were made. These stations aren't much different than ours except for the price.
Try show us around to look at the various suggestions