

Welch on Welch

To Gary Snyder in Japan, from Reno Nevada, 27 April 1960

You are getting to the young. Beautiful story (one of many): A boy named Dan Welch (no relation), 17 years old, in Stockton, Calif. Read *Dharma Bums* and some of your poems. He had never read much, never written, just went around with James Dean upper lip and watchful eyes – not bugged yet, just wise and wary. Gave the book to two friends. Then said: “let’s go to the mountains and meditate.” They did. He returned with 2 beautiful long poems written in yr. manner with a little Rexroth thrown in, in his own speech – poems which completely avoided all the major mistakes and which were *solid*. He then discovered an ordained Soto priest (named something like MacDonald) in Stockton and now takes what he calls Zen “lessons” from him – paying for the teaching by building a fishpond for the priest. His 15 year old sister is even more hip (and looks about 19). They are beautiful and cool and are doing it just right.

can't remember who
sent me this - D C