

Auckland, 25/09/93

Dear Harold

The photos of you and Lil from Hood College arrived two days ago. I am very happy to have them. You both look very good, it must have been a happy and special day for you both. Again I proffer my congratulations!

I have not yet heard from Jim Lesar or Gary Mack nor have I received any photos. I will write to both men myself to explain why I need photos, for illustrations to help get articles published.

By now you will have received the long article on CASE CLOSED published in the Courier Mail (Brisbane) and the issue of the FRASER COAST CHRONICLE that had the items relating to Oswald and the new release of documents and the story that covered Posners's book. The editor of the CHRONICLE, Nancy Bates, told me these two items she took just came in over the wires on an AAP (Australian Associated Press) release. She knows nothing of the origin of the story in the Courier Mail, though she said it was unusual to print a story that was so one-sided as this one was without naming the writer. You would not see in this story what we all saw when we read it, it was not written by an Australian (or for that matter by a NZer or an Briton), the spelling in a few cases was definitely North American and these words were not picked up and changed by whoever presumably edited it (which may of course mean it was not edited at all, just taken and printed word for word exactly as it was in its original state).

The story I wrote for the CHRONICLE will be in their Saturday 2nd October edition together with a reprint of the article published in the AUCKLAND STAR, with corrections -Charles Carrico and the missing line near the end about the other bullet fragments. What I wrote for the Chronicle is going under one of their reporter's names and was a rebuttal by me of the main points in that anonymous 'review' in the COURIER MAIL (I used comments by you lifted from the phone conversation when I rang you from Maryborough). There will also be a background story on my interest in the Kennedy assassination and my correspondence with you. This last is a story with definite 'local flavour', about the old home town boy, which is what I am. Maryborough is where I grew up and spent a large part of my life.

The delay in getting the stories into the CHRONICLE is to do with getting it syndicated I think. Nancy said the CHRONICLE is part of a group made up of fourteen Australian provincial papers, and they often feed material with a general news interest through the group. I have arranged for Nancy to send you airmail six copies of the FRASER COAST CHRONICLE with my JFK stories. Please let me know when you have been contacted by the CHRONICLE.

It is late on a Saturday night, and I am tired. I will be soon off to bed. My wife Chris and daughter Emma (12 years) and I went to a Vietnamese festival tonight, it was their traditional children's celebration of the (northern) mid-autumn. Chris has part-time work at a High School teaching English to migrant children and she went to the festival tonight to support some of her Vietnamese students who were performing. There were well over a

thousand, maybe two thousand, Vietnamese people in the hall where the festival was staged. It was very enjoyable, traditional music and dancing alongside modern Western songs and dance. During the evening a Vietnamese meal of rice and tea was served. At the beginning of the night there was a special collection for money to send back to Vietnam to help the wounded and maimed from the war still in hospitals there. I thought of how these people had come to NZ, usually by boat after sacrificing their family assets to buy a place on the boat. If they were lucky enough to avoid pirates on the sea they ended up in camps in Hong Kong or Malaysia or in the Phillipines where they often languished for years before they had a country to take them. I know from the few Vietnamese I have talked to here of the terrible losses many families suffered in the war. This war, this incalculable suffering, may not have happened if Kennedy had not been assassinated. I kept thinking that thought tonight as I looked at the faces of the Vietnamese children with their lanterns crossing the stage before me.

Goodnight to you both. I trust you and you are well and happy.

with love and best wishes,

Paul

POSTSCRIPT

I have been in phone contact with the paper in Maryborough since I returned from Australia and I think the articles should be okay. I will phone again on Monday and ask that a copy of the articles as they are now be faxed across to me. I wish to be reassured that they have not mixed up any of my references- I have not seen what they may have done to the stories I left with them in Maryborough. At the time I wrote the stories Nancy Bates was going to take them over herself, but on the day I left she told me she was too busy and she was handing it over to a young reporter, David Lacey. Then I had to spend more time filling him in and going over the material I had left for Nancy. I wrote the two stories (critique of the Posner review and the homeboy's interest in the JFK assassination) just as if I was being interviewed. That way at least they will get the direct quotes right because they have my words exactly as I wrote them.

The main Auckland daily, THE NZ HERALD, printed something while I was away in Australia that a friend kept for me, taken from Newsweek. I will photocopy it and send it along with this letter.

Have you heard whether anything interesting has come out of the documents released recently? It seems to me whoever has been sitting on these papers has had a lot of time to sift through them carefully and to weed out anything that may mean too much.

*in haste*

*Pat*