

Reply by 8/10/71
hand
hoping for early
recovery, etc.

August 5, 1971

Dearest Sylvia:

Your letter arrived this morning just as I was leaving. I am at the office for a few minutes to open the mail and then I am driving Buck back to Memphis to the hospital... I don't remember how much I've told you about the situation, but they operated on Buck the morning of July 1st and he apparently did fine. Then he had a kidney infection and several other complications. He almost died. We got him home about ten days ago and had his records transferred down here but he is getting worse and I called the doctor in Memphis and he asked me to bring him back over there. We are leaving at noon today to drive him up there. I don't know whether or not they will keep him in the hospital or merely suggest some new treatment and let us bring him back. This has certainly been a long and tiring thing for all of us. They had planned to operate the middle of June and I flew up there, but his blood pressure was so high and his lungs were in bad shape so they postponed the surgery. I came on home and Bobbie, my daughter-in-law flew up there and stayed with him until the surgery, which was very sudden when they finally did it. Bobbie called me at work Thursday morning, July 1st, and said they had decided to operate that morning. As I said, he just got along fine until Saturday night when his temperature started up (finally reached almost 105° before they checked it). They let us bring him home the last of July and he seemed to make good progress until Monday morning when the swelling and fever started again. We took him to the hospital here, where the records had been transferred, but they do not agree at all with the treatment and medication he is on. I called the doctor in Memphis that night and he asked me to bring him back over there.

The very night we got Buck home from the hospital, Bill Boxley called and said he is going to be in New York in a couple of weeks and had something important to talk to you about. I do hope I did the right thing by giving him your phone number there on Fire Island. Just hang up on him if you feel inclined to. However, the possibility exists that Bill does have important information he just might give to you and to no one else.

Maybe after you are back in New York City I can fly up for a weekend at least...

Give my love to Mimi and keep plenty for yourself...

I am saving all the Stater Items with Jim's problems in them. Gov. McKeithen appointed Gene Murrett head of a commission to investigate the charges!!

Mary