

3 November 1971

Dear Mary,

We have great postal service in this country. Now that a stamp is 8¢ instead of six, it takes only 5 days from Dallas to New York, and the same time from Pittsburgh...or from Cape Kennedy to the Moon. Good old new-technology! What it lacks in the realm of the telephone, the mails, and the subways, it more than makes up for in the art of slaughter and maiming of human beings. (Even our electronic voting equipment at the UN gives an incorrect tally from time to time.)

Anyhow, I received your letter of the 29th of October today, and thank you for taking "Cecil Upshaw" as serious business. I knew you would find an Upshaw, or approximation thereof, if one existed in this case--and, voila! Jancheri Upcheshaw, aka George Rieg! An interesting man on his own merit, for the reasons you elucidate, even if he did not ring my Cecil Upshaw bell. (By what process does a "Rieg" turn into an "Upcheshaw"?)

My friend Isabel (who did come to Fire Island for a few days, and I only wish you had been there too for the three of us could have done some serious talking about UFOs, ESP, JFK, LHO and such subjects of common fascination) says that Cecil Upshaw may be someone to be encountered only in the future, that episodes of this kind have often turned out to be precognitive. It was surely a strange experience, my first one of this kind.

I am without any news to transmit where the case is concerned. I assume that you saw the Givens article and the Belin reply in the Texas Observer. If you need more copies, just say the word--I have plenty of spares. Belin and I exchanged letters about three times after the article but he steadfastly refused to address himself to the Givens evidence and was merely hysterically and bombastically self-righteous. In his final letter, he did concede that the WC was not infallible, that the WR contained some "minutia errors", but insisted that of course its conclusions (lone assassin and all that) were sacrosanct and inviolate and that I was deceiving world opinion. Yes indeed, they're talking about nothing but Givens from Addis Ababa to Halifax to Santiago...I haven't noticed.

Sometimes I feel sorrowful about the extent to which the case has receded from my day-to-day life and thoughts. Then I get a packet of letters from Harold Weisberg, and I stop feeling quite so sorrowful. Honestly, Harold is a volcano in permanent eruption, and can create more consternation and confusion for less reason than any 20 paranoids put together. He is still complaining about incidents that happened in 1966 (Maggie Field with her millions gave him only a sandwich, etc.) and spewing fury hither and yon, with or without provocation.

I am so glad to hear that Buck is well and working. You have had enough trouble for the next 20 years, and I just hope that things stay serene and pleasant now. How is Arch doing? Please give him my very best, and of course my love to you and all the Ferrells.

As ever,