

Dear Bill,

3/7/94

From your letter you had a good vacation. Too bad you could not put all those fish in your freezer! Except, of course, that barracuda. It would have scared me.

I fear an envelope did not reach you because I have a pretty clear recollection of writing and thanking you for those fine Honey Bells before I ate one. If this is in my mind but I did not do it, I apologize. Of all the citrus we've had in recent years I like them best, next navels. And the size you picked is best for me. I do appreciate it very much and I was glad to be able to give a couple to the neighbor who cleared the snow from our lane and would not take any money. He had, his wife had never even heard of them. First thing each morning I think of you and Besty when I have one with the metamucil I was told to start each day with. Every one in this box has been fine, too. They are so juicy I eat them over the sink! Because I eat them- Lil prefers juice - I'm so happy that there are now varieties unknown in my youth that section so easily.

When we were first married I squeezed the oranges each morning. That and ground the coffee and made the coffee. In ~~those~~ those days the best squeezer was one that pressed the orange. A lever provided the force. And in those days every decent-size city had a form or more than one that roasted the coffee beans. Oddly, I remember two clearly from my Wilmington boyhood but only one in the much larger Washington. And the aroma in those neighborhoods was just wonderful. Lil selected the beans at the Swing company in downtown Washington. People often blended their own coffee then. And I ground the beans with an old grinder that must have been made before the civil war. But still worked well. Its handle moved in a circle horizontal with the ground. It was an antique when I found it in an old country store. I can't now find it. Lil says I gave it away. I do not remember that.

It is a very thoughtful gift and we do appreciate it. That variety is not often available in the stores here and they are not nearly as nice. When the fruit is allowed to ripen on the tree longer it is ever so much better. I've never seen them in the store in which I walk most mornings. And I think they are less acidic when they ripen more, too.

Yesterday I finished going over the page proofs of Case Open. While it remains a powerful book I doubt that more than a fourth of it, that much, remains. And it needs simple editing very much. I'll be returning them today. Most of the copy editing I did was ignored and that means there will be either a very sloppy print job or delay in its appearance. There was really no editing at all. Only cutting. And with only one exception that I can remember, the cutting was by entire chapters. What is now Chapter VII, the last one, was originally Chapter XXIII. A later one in the original is earlier now! But as a practical matter there is nothing I can do about it.

My recollection of a second Cooper oral history must have been wrong and the only one is from the Russell archive. Because of my problem with the stairs Jerry bought me his Cooper file and no oral history is in it. If it could be done, I think it would

be good for your Cooper archive to have oral histories about him. I did finish the rough draft of that article and I think I'll be able to get it retyped. I sent it to ^Gallen to see if he thinks he can place it as a promotion for the books. I'll be lucky if he responds at all. This is a real situation for which I have no explanation at all! I also told him that it can be expanded into a short book.

Thanks for the good word to your bookstore on Selections. I know of no promotional effort on it at all.

Fast is not a friend. We know his writing from before World War I and liked it. I think he has done more to popularize American history than any other writer. Most of his books are historical and the odd thing is that he wrote more frequently and more eloquently about our history when he was a Communist and friendly with them before joining.

I packaged the books and they'll be in the mail this morning. Thanks.

You can go farthur on Fyarakhan. He does what he does knowing it is false, for his own purposes, which do include racism. And ever so many more blacks were involved in the slave trade than Jews.

On your story of the black doctor dying in a car wreck, there was the same story about Billie Holiday. It was not true with her, either. I knew that from a number of sources, including the executor of her estate.

On the Oswald pictures I used in WWII, I was limited and used those I thought made a better case. The one without the head is a psyod FBI picture. Their explanation of eliminating the head, to avoid identifying a special agent. makes little sense.

All in all we've made out OK for all the snow and ice. We've been snowed and iced in but without that ever being a real problem. After my blood testing and physical therapy this morning I have a dental appointment that was cancelled because of the snow. And now that there is less probability of snow cancellations, I have a few other medical appointments to arrange. It is below freezing almost every night but the roads are clear save for frozen runoffs. True of our lane, too. Broke a wheel cover on a bank of frozen snow when forced into it ^{but} by no other problems. Reminds me, a cousin found ^{that} the mice had made a nest in the air filter compartment! It was loaded with sunflower seeds that mouse had gathered. I have to call the garage when I'm free today to have that cleaned without any seed falling into the carb. and to replace an air hose. That mouse must have done that when I could not drive the car and then vamoosed when I started the motor.

Again thanks and best to you both,

Harold