

Dear Gerry and Hanh Tranh,

11/2/95

Many thanks for your kindness in sending this batch of Ensure ^{padding!} Lid is taking it faithfully and I'm sure it is doing her good. We do appreciate it very much.

And the trouble and cost you went to with the package. ^{which} While I'll use it is a very strong box and when I can get to xeroxing more of Inside to send to Nancy and Dennis I can use that box. With the bubbled plastic to fill the empty space in it and protect it. I've already put both aside for that.

I was just sitting at the typewriter/desk wondering what I could do with the time before supper when a bit tired when the UPS man came.

If I did not tell you, a Californian who has his own private and successful security firm became an unseen friend. He saw my typewriter problem and, having an electronic portable for which he no longer has no use in his business, sent me that. I could not use it so it is in the basement for anyone who may work there and can use it. Then ~~he~~ he got me a regular, old-fashioned regular portable from a friend of his who overhauls them and sells them to missionaries where there is no electricity. Looks like new, even has a new platen and best of all, I can use it. I can make better time on this do it is now my protection against something happening to this. I'd gotten an old Remington upright for that contingency and it, too, is in the basement.

This new friend, Bill Mills, visited us with a friend of his a week ago. The portable was delivered when he was here and he saw that I can use it. He also saw me save the foam pieces that were used to protect it. I explained to him that with me it is as used to be said about the Chicago meatpackers years ago, they used everything except the pig squeals. I had saved the first box to cut up for backing books when I ship them. I decided to cut it up today and that was a bit much, a bit tiring, the reason I was just sitting and wondering what to do. The box was large and a bit awkward to handle for me now.

What I'd just finished ^{was} writing about 5,000 words of a new chapter for Waketh. I presume you've not read that rough draft. But you have probably noticed the stories about the CIA's giving the White House, the Pentagon and others what it had every reason to believe was misinformation and disinformation fed it by the KGB. I will not now go into it but I saw in that what has not been mentioned in any stories or TV news coverage of it. I'll read and correct it in the morning, when I may not confabulate as much and may not miss as much. If I remember I'll then send xeroxes of it to those to whom I sent diskettes.

Nothing new except that I've just turned down the second at least invitation to join the Society of Professional Journalists and I got some Wilmington newspaper stories that include my dear friend Joe, friend of my youth some of my letters to whom

I may have sent you when ⁺ was reminiscing. He was an immigrant from the Ukraine at 12, did not speak a word of English, graduated in the proper class from high school, got his advance education through the duPonts for whom he worked and for whom he was one of the developers of nylon. He then managed plants and was used as an international nylon-plant trouble-shooter. The Society of Chemical Engineers designated as of historical importance the first nylon plant at Seaford, Delaware. He was two of the originals honored there. The other was a plant workman.

Wonderful, remarkable, thoughtful ^{kind} and very decent man who lost his wife just when he was taking it easy trouble-shooting around the world for the duPonts when abroad they were treated like royalty. ~~SD~~ In recent years he has been spending all the time he can with the suffering and the bereaved.

He is ^well off. Years ago he wanted me to write an autobiography. He said he would pay all the costs. I would not but I've a rather pedestrian account of some of my experiences I think were the learning experiences I took to this work at the Beginning of Inside.

Of which I hope the remaining diskette I sent to Dennis is OK. The first one, the one ⁺ hope was the duplicate, ~~xxx~~ printed out some chapters as a single page.

Some of the clippings I've been sending you were not so much what I thought might interest you as much as perhaps some of your students may have found them interesting.

We are about as well as we can expect to be, thanks. If ^{til} has been thinking about the hip replacement the ortho. surgeon says she needs she has not indicated it. I think it is very much on her mind but because she seems not to want to talk about it I accept that. I've had a bathroom ^{grab} rail installed on the ^wall near the kitchen door for her and when she wants to go for the mail I take her ^{walker} ant and bring it it. When she is outside I try to spot her return so ⁺ can be at the door to give her the hand she needs for that one step up.

I've heard nothing more about the reasons Mailer ^{gave} for not showing up at the COPA convention but I hope to get confirmation of what Andy Winiarszyk of The Last Hurrah told me. I imagine ^{the} others I know who were at COPA, Like Hal verb and ^{Dr.} Doug DeSalles are busy catching up. I am reluctant to ask ^{judge} because I have found him to be not dependable.

George Lardner gave me the last ARRB ~~re~~ releases, Still again nothing on the assassination, nothing of any real value of any kind, and they did get the FBI to disclose what it should not have disclosed, what defames and could get a woman snitch killed if she is still alive.

Again many thanks to you all and our best,
Lardner, who won a Pulitzer for his story on the killing of his daughter by a former boyfriend who was able to do it because of institutional failure, ^{has} a book on it about to appear. All the institutions are failing.

Lardner