

GEORGE McMILLAN
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PHONE 617-547-6260

Sept 14, 1973

Dear Jack:

That was a good letter you wrote about the blackberries, etc. Peacock is now living in Lewiston, not far from Ewing. I heard that his wife is an alcoholic and that he isn't doing much of anything himself.

My lawsuit to see you goes on, in fact my lawyers expect some kind of decision from the federal judge here in Boston within next two weeks. But, even if he acts in my favor, the government has recourses which will still delay my seeing you. I am now well along with my book and am working against a hard deadline of March 15, 1973. It is the absolute last date on which I can do anything with my manuscript. That means it will be published in the Fall of 1974, about a year from now. Book publishing is a very slow affair.

The thing I want to talk with you about now is ~~xxxxxxx~~ about what went on between you and Jimmy and Jerry and Jimmy in that year between the time he escaped from Jeff City and was arrested in London. I especially want to know about the time between Jeff City and Memphis. What I most want to do is check with you the story Jerry told me in Chicago in the summer of 1972 when I went out there two times to interview him. He told me one hell of a lot stuff. Then he sent me a tape on which he said he had conned me. I put all the stuff I got from him aside, telling myself it was probably all a lot of shit. Then the other day I looked at it again, read it all over carefully. I changed my mind about it. I decided that Jerry had told me the truth, that all the stuff was pretty much true, that maybe he had lied to me about some names, invented something here or there, but that the general story he told me was true. That's what I believe now, and I mean to use the stuff.

But I want to check it as much as I can. I've already checked a couple of things & they've turned out to be true. Sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know, some of the things in that ~~xxxx~~ file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Huie.

(More)

PS I thought a man named Cason ran the pool hall? ~~xxxx~~ And barber shop. Did he come before or after Fat Brown? Or did Cason own it and Fat run it?

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What I would like ~~is~~ more than anything is to check Jerry's story with you. What do you think about doing it by mail? I've just been taking for granted that this is something you wouldn't want to write me about. Am I wrong? Let me know. If it's OK with you, it's OK with me.

And I will ~~xxx~~ pay you something for your help. Not a big sum. And I won't pay in advance. I've been had too often for that. But I will pay as we go along.

And if we don't do it now, I don't know when we will ever do it. Time is running out for me. And I'm going to use something so it might as well be the straight story.

I would like to talk with Jimmy. The Tennessee officials have given me permission. But Jimmy won't see me, just as he hasn't seen any writer. Jerry says that if Jimmy's current appeal is turned down in Cincinnati that Jimmy is going to talk, hold a press conference. Well, I doubt that there would be much for me in that press conference. Both Stoner and Foreman have urged Jimmy to talk with me but Fensterwald does not want him to.

I think he should. Mine is the East book that's going to be done in the foreseeable future. And he can't sell another "story" like he sold to Hue. Nobody is going to pay him anymore unless they check the story in advance. Oh, maybe some TV network might pay him a relatively small sum for an on-camera interview. But that wouldn't help anybody.

One more question. Do you have any pictures of your family? Your mother? Any old pictures of any kind of member of the family?

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
9/24

Mr. John Larry Ray #86798
Marion
Illinois

am
PS I'm moving South Octobr 1st so answer this letter to me at Coffin Point Frogmore, South Carolina 29920