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Oct. 1, 1998

Dear Harold:

After a hectic month, I finally get a few minutes alone with my typewriter. I hope you and Lil are doing well, and maybe after the first of the year I can come up there.

Things have halfway returned to normal since Dad's death. It has been a hard month. Dad was convinced that JFK was killed in a conspiracy, he found the documentary Reasonable Doubt very convincing. He knew the FBI is an odd organization. He was involved in a sting operation with them, when they convinced him that one of our employees was involved in stolen tractors. Turns out that the FBI was totally wrong. One night, the FBI called dad and told him that 2 D-3 bulldozers were being stolen at that moment. Dad called the branch manager in Bowling Green and told him to inventory all machines first thing in the morning. Turns out the tractors were being stolen at the John Deere dealer! Then, the FBI lost the semitruck on the I65! About that time, dad started to have doubts about the FBI.

I have not read one word about the King investigation since the initial announcement. Guess the press is more interested in what kind of underwear Monica Lewinsky is wearing. John Conyers and Barney Frank seem to be the only two on Capitol Hill that have a brain.

I think it would set a bad precedent if the Prez should resign. It would prove that pressure groups can get anybody they want. I doubt the House is actually going to impeach Clinton. But it is hard to underestimate this group. What about Whitewater? No report.

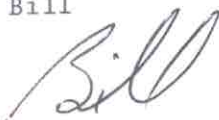
I see what you are saying about my letter to Reno. I'll take it under advisement.

I understand that Dave Wrone was on National Public Radio recently. Missed him, but a buddy heard him. Glad one of us is getting some PR. I wrote a letter to Berea College recently, no reply. I tell you, this trying to get a speaking engagement is harder than I thought!

Don't have much else to say. Hang in there. I guess you all are having a drought, we are. Need rain.

TAke care.

Bill



He plans reunions for fun and profit

You may meet Larry Neichter at your next high school reunion and wonder, "Which kid was he?"

"I'll probably average going to about 20 reunions a year," said Neichter, 42, who is president of a suburban Louisville company called Class Reunions Plus. A 1974 graduate of Jefferson



BYRON CRAWFORD

County's Ballard High School, Neichter has earned his living since 1987 by organizing high school reunions. He got the idea from an item in Money magazine.

"I had been working as a journalist, and I guess I had probably chased one firetruck too many," said Neichter, who has a journalism degree from Ohio University. He found a man in Detroit who taught him how reunions are done.

For 11 years, Neichter has been walking 25 feet to work each morning — from his bedroom in eastern Jefferson County to his office down the hall. His wife, Betsy, a teacher, often helps out.

Neichter is a private detective, reporter, program planner, psychologist, waiter, disc jockey, chaperon and bouncer.

His company handles all the details: research, mailings, facilities, food, entertainment and clean-up. Fees vary with each event.

"I've met individuals who did a tremendous job on their own reunions, but the down side is that they are usually so tired of it by the time it comes around that they don't even enjoy themselves," Neichter said. "I only do high school reunions. I get approached all the time about military and family reunions, but they are a different genre."

Among the many things Neichter has observed about class reunions:

■ Almost everyone is nervous until seeing that first familiar face.

■ All anyone really wants to do at a class reunion is talk to classmates, with maybe a little music for background and dancing.

■ There is more pretentiousness at a 10-year reunion than at later reunions. "By the 25th-year reunion, they don't care if you're fat, thin, have your hair or not, or whether you show up in your underwear; they're just glad to see you."

■ A person who lives far away is a little more likely to come back than someone who still lives just across the street from the school.

■ Everybody remembers things differently. "I always say that we see people that we have forgotten that we forgot. I know at my own reunions — which I do go to — there'll be a really cute girl run up and give me a hug, and I won't have a clue who she is. Then I'll try to say 'Hi' to somebody that I remember as a great friend and they won't have a clue who I am."

■ Class officers often don't go to reunions. "I think it's because they believe people expect more of them . . . and if they don't end up achieving every goal they set out to achieve, I think they're afraid people will think badly of them."

■ Class members from small schools are much more likely to attend reunions than those from larger schools. "The national average attendance . . . is 1 out of every 3 people that you find. Smaller classes may get 2 out of 3."

Neichter once found a young man who had changed his name and was an opera singer living in Italy; he came back for a Pleasure Ridge Park High School reunion. In another instance, Neichter located a Navy SEAL who was able to get leave from submarine duty in the Pacific for his reunion.

"Occasionally I'll call someone and they'll say: 'I don't know how you found me. Please don't tell anyone where I am,'" Neichter said.

Byron Crawford's column appears on the Metro page Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. To contact him, call 582-4791.