473-8186

Rt 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Bill,

We have moved, the chaos is unimaginable, and we'll probably be camping midst the stack accumulation of two lifetimes for months. but the place is more pleasant, even if/ all the needless trouble with non-performing craftsmen (what a prostitution of an honorable word and calling!). It is beautiful. The few moments I take my eyes from the typewriter and look out the enormous windows, I see beautiful birds of countless hues, all busily engaged in what keeps birds busy, and through and above the turning leaves whose proclamation of the changing season is riotous and just beginning to get gaudy, there swells tree-hidden South Mountain. Ahead is nothing but my own long-needled pines, dogwood, mimosa, and a few trash trees to which I'll attend this winter so that this time next year the prospect will be more attractive still.

It has been frustrating to have a beautiful swimming pool and not be able to use it. I prepared it for use and invited a couple of neighbors who I had known earlier to use it. One who we met before we consummated the deal, a vet who is also a bird-watcher, has a wonderful 16-year old boy. I gave him the use of the cabin that is an odd part of the property, subject to his parents approval as each use, with entertainment rights there and at the pool under the same conditions. He responded magnificiently. He is a wonderful boy and will make the kind of man of whom society never has enough. He has kept the extensive grounds all summer. Several times I asked him what I owed him and he always deferred in one way or another. When I had finished the first paragraph I could hear him and his mower coming. I again asked him for his bill. He has none, saying it was adequate compensation to be able to use the place. I agree, but I like the boy and I expected to pay him. When I asked him if he could mow the grass, it was with the stipulation that I would pay him periodically. Imagine a teen-aged today, with all the desires they have, even if from a well-off family, who on his own (I assume) behaves in this mature, responsible way -and is such a good neighbor. I am delighted, as he will learn in ways other than having the use of the place. I have countless cartons of books packed in 1948 to go over. Many I'll not have room for. I hope he is the kind of young man who is interested in books.

My den is too small, but it is the first one I have ever had. We're having problems getting the right kind of electrical outlets installed at the right places, that is, heavy enough to supply the copy machines. There is inadequate artifical lighting. These are problems time and money can solved. We have half of it. Lil has a beautiful working area, with the same assets and liabilities. And glory of glories, when he go to bed it is like camping out. The windows go almost to the ceiling and to a foot and a half from the floor. The outside wall is almost completely window (Thermopane). The sky is a twinkling high blanket, and we get the feeling of calm and peace that the nightsky in the country gives. This asset is diminished somewhat by the surmountable problem of having no wall space for chests of drawers. A minor and in some respects ridiculous problem is the absence of drapes. They are beautiful and we have them-but not installed. Were it not for the setting of the house in this beautiful grove, we could not live in it, that public would our lives be! Lil and her mother and aunts removed the drapery linings because they needed replacing. The drapery shop had them for two months and, while promising us the best and the very fastest service, did nothing at all! The week before we moved in, when my visits elicited no action and my calls no responses, I went there and physically removed them. This was no problem, for they were hanging exactly where I had least seen them, two months earlier! Another dapperer, if that is what you call them, will have them done in two weeks. Fortunately, the only ones that didn't need relining were in the bedroom we use (and we haven't used them except to keep the sytime sun out). So, on balance, it is very nice, save for the owrry of paying for it.

We were delighted to hear from you, so much so that although Lil does not read while she is driving, when we picked the letter up in Hyattstown this morning she read it aloud as we drove home. I respond paragraph by paragraph

CBS: keep it. All I want is your comment for either addition of correction so I can get this done. There is a woman in New Jersey who has thrice written me saying she'd like to help and can by typing at home. I do intend to do something with it. I hope you and others understand the personal quality it has. I consider that is essential to doing something. Jonn Christian, a new and unmet friend in San Francisco, has consulted a firm of prominent attorneys with whom he has a relationship. They think my plagiarism case (aside from a contract case, for I proposed a show with this format to them in early 1966) is quite sound, so much so that they think a competent, informal presentation to CBS will accomplish remedy. Especially that frame 190 bit! Use it in any way you like. However, if you have suggestions, please, do, make them, by page number. I can them make them on the copy I have kept. On tape, perhaps I can make you a tape and send it, if you'd like that. I have a Wollensak stereo that runs at three speeds, including 7½. Much as I would like to plug my published works, for they really need the help with what has been happening, I have in mind something particularly appropriate for that day, which is also publication date of the newest cheapening of the entire affair, "Lee" signed by Robert and billed as his book. The ad(I haven't seen it) in the current Publishers' Weekly, says he just had to do this to set the record straight and bills him as the man who tied so hard to keep Marina from the greasy, grabbing hands of the exploiters. He saved her from the promoters, it says. Well, I happen to have a once-secret document on that. I believe I mentioned it earlier. Robert got 10% off the top of Marina! She was milked like a cow, a total of 35% (exactly the Ruby percentage). Can you imagine what Robert, that brick-yard expert, could contribute to merchandizing her worth anything, leave alone the accepted total cost of agentry. And he is the one who sheltered her from unseemly exploitation, this man who, knowing nothing about it, has decided to commercialize on the accusation of guilt against his brother. If you would like this (I keep wanting to talk about the new things, not those most people have had a chance to hear before), let me know. I'll identify the document, the file, the author, and read the exact words. If I cannot arrange for any prior publicity on it, as I shall try, you'll have something that might, on airing, make the papers.

I wondered whether my visit was too much for your grandmother. She certainly does what few of her age would consider trying. She is absolutely marvelous, and I very much enjoyed her. If she had the slighest concept of the manner in which we have lived in the subterranean garret that has been our home for so long, she'd have had no misgivings about her hospitality. That, in any event, was wonderful, by far the most relaxing I had on that entire trip.

What you say about the researchers is unfortunately true. I do not know what can be done about it. I am distressed by Sylvia intransiegance, which she considers is something else. She mentioned the row between her and Maggie and I responded rather sharply. She took it rather well, but not without protest, and retreated some, but not basically. We had been through this before, unproductively. I believe there are too many things Sylvia tries to seperate from reality and their context, too many that she she assumes without fact or reason, and that she failts to distinguish between an ex parte proceeding and and adversary one. Our relations are still good. I do not consider Epstein one of us. My feelings about Lane are even stronger as he is more dishonest and corrupt. These things I never mention in public and I do defend him on those grounds on which I can. You may recall WHITEWASH. I have more in POST MORTEM. Were his present one a serious, constructive interest, he'd have dug up what I have. If there are other fights, I am not aware of them.

I had a nice note from Lillian. In answering it in the constant haste I forgot tot tell her that, now that Ramparts has mentioned her name, I presume she has no continuing reluctance and I went out of my way in POST MORTEM to credit her, among other things (like Jean Valjean), with calling the Clint Hill Shoulder orientation to my atten-

I am concerned by Maggie's attitude toward her book, but my own experiences make it understandable to me and certainly more than justify it. However, she has not even responded to my request for the name of her book, so I can make reference to it, thus calling it to the attention of others. Regardless of the immediate outcome, this is a subject that will interest people for years. Now and in the future, I think it is desireable to have reference to other work, where appropriate. I shall not press her, however. On my few recent appearances, however, I havegone out of my way to single her and Sylvia out for mention and to endorse their books, without having read either.

From Sylvia's mention of her trip to New York, and yours, I hope I can take it that she has a publisher and the book will soon be out. I offered to Random House to do anything I could to help with it, and I asked Maggie if I could have my printer, who is a very large one and faces many problems, address the technical problem she then faced. Having a publisher, today, is not enough, as I tried to indicate to her some time back. I got notice today that my west-coast distributor, without a by your lieve and in violation of our agreement has returned almost 100% of his order on PW, at my expense -and to the wrong address. He made no effort to sell them-could not from the size of his return. This is entirely too soon after publication for it to be normal. I spent about $300.00 for the wholesalers, preparing a flyer for them to send to the bookstores. I have yet to year from a single bookstore that he had received one. The effort to suppress is greater than it has even been, partly because powerful people now have an idea of the other side, of the consequences of what they face. I hope that she has a publisher and that he will do what is required to make a success of it.

This has strung out all afternoon, between other things. One thing I'd like to add. There are some of us I do not trust, some whose use of materials I do not trust. I will wind up with considerable documentation I will not be able to publish. I'd like to be able to arrange for its availbility to those I do trust, but cannot figure out exactly how this can be done. Maybe you'll get an idea.

If you get an idea of when the TV sequences you filmed will be aired, please let us know. We are about 50 miles from the closest TV station, but for the first time we can get a picture with rabbit ears. Perhaps by then our antenna will have been installed. We now do not get ABC. I take it your back trouble is now permanently over. That is good news!

Had a letter from Steve today. As soon as I hear from Parallax, I'll let you know. I am, more and more, looking forward to seeing you all again.

Best wishes,

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kpfk-fm 90.7

October 3, 1967

Dear Harold:

I want to thank you for your letter with its enclosures; it arrived yesterday and I thought it best to answer it straight away.

What good news to hear that you and Lil are making the move into more comfortable surroundings! I think its just great and hope you'll both get the tranquility and quiet you have earned.

The material that you sent me on the CBS Documentary(sic) is really tremendous and the reason I've been reluctant to part with it is because I wanted to quote from it, if that is permissable, as your contribution to my own summary report which will now air for two consecutive hours, first locally, on Nov 22nd for KPFK. I have Sylvia, Maggie, Ray and others on tape and your arrival date here depending largely on the availability of the book might well be too late to tape a personal interview. Please let me know if this is acceptable to you, or failing that if I may paraphrase some of it as your view on this or that piece of evidence.

Naturally, we are all looking forward to the new book, and seeing you again in the flesh. Steve Burton gave me the word on this last week and the only reason I have delayed in writing (and I've not forgotten you spoke generally some time ago about a trip to the coast) is that I had hoped I might extend our personal invitation to stay here with my grandmother and with me. But she really isn't up to it (she still has no live-in help) and even though I assured here that we could take all our principal meals out and fend for ourselves otherwise, she felt that was not the proper way to entertain a guest. (She can be a bit Victorian about these things). So other arrangements are being made and I am deferring to Steve on the matter. I did tell him, however,that I would keep my self available whenever possible to drive you here and there as per your needs. And then I want to give a luncheon and invite all the researchers who are still speaking to one another to attend.

As I was leaving Maggie's the other day Lillian was arriving. I thought she had returned to being her old ebullient self and I am glad if this is so. Maggie is quite tired after her most recent trip to New York and as she doesn't volunteer much information about her book I do not press for any details .

The back is almost totally normal and I've filmed in "Mannix" and "Star Trek" for television airing sometime during October and November. The movie "Ice Station Zebra" wont be out until next year as will "Sweet Ride". My scenes in these last two amounted to next to nothing, but paid well.

Best wishes,

Bill

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7/18/67

Dear Bill,

The most exciting things come from people reading my books. You know about Mrs. Lovelady and Phil Willis calling me. Now I have a letter from 150 miles from you from a man who knows Hall personally, has a lot of dope and evidence and wants me to have it. Possibly before you get this you will have heard from Miguel Ococa of LIFE, sent there by Dick Billings, with whom I have been working. He may also speak to you about Dean. While I presume you would help, I also wanted you to know that whether or not I should I do trust Billings and am making available to him whatever I have that he wants, on a basis of trust. Garrison is using my unpublished stuff like mad and I do not like it a bit, but I do not think Billings will. Rightly or wrongly - and I think rightly - we have the most poerfully ally we have yet had.

I encourage you to say nothing about this to anyone because I want to get what is said to be available very, very much and I want the man who has it to live. I've phoned a half dozen times this a.m. and there is no answer. So, already I'm worried.

He is a friend of one of my friends who was also known to Dean, of the talker. He has what he describes as documentary evidence of greatest significance. The description is mine, based on his specific description of what he has. What he has others do not know. It is important they do not, else he may not survive and it may not, either.

For the moment I have to be cryptic. I know nothing about Ococa except that Billings trusts him, and Billings is no fool, and that he is a Cuban who knows the Cuban situation. I do have apprehensions about a Cuban making an appearence there, but there is nothing I can now do about it.

The possibility of all this is tremenducus. It makes my thinking of anything else difficult, but I keep working, and I am on the track of other exciting things.

Hope your recovery is complete.

Best,