

JDW -

9/11/78

Hasty thanks for your 9/5 and enclosed clippings in the few early-a.m. moment before a tape I'm making comes to an end and I get back to affidavits.

What you say about your older Hermes seems to fit the problem I've been having with this otherwise truly remarkable machine. I've used it heavily and there is not even a sign of wear on the keys. For a month the local repairman has been supposed to phone me when he'll have time to check it again while I wait.

Your Mongolian barbecue sounds like the social event of the season on your mountainside. Mike Maio's eyes lit up when Lil and I told him you were operating one and he smiled broadly. In appreciation, we took it, perhaps respect for a bignose who knew and could do.

Your clippings were valuable, although you appeared to think they'd not be. With the NYTimes on strike and operating their wire their stories inform or misinform, each being important to know. The Star did not carry what you sent. I like to know what the committee is leaking. The Jesse Jackson column is valuable in a separate way, as a reflection of the man in particular and his dedication to truth and justice and of course his departed friend. Wretch.

If you see any quote of Vincent P. Guinn of Irvine, who was their NAA specialist, that can be of significance because he lied, blabbed afterward and gave the most effective support to the official mythology by departing from the standards expected of expert witnesses. He is important in relation to a case we have in court, spectro/NAA and to the integrity of the records we have been given as well as of records not provided under the request and under discovery. Example: he could not identify a single sample he tested as the sample used by the FBI. Example, what may mean nothing to you, Specimen Q15 no longer exists after being in a test that consumes nothing. We have perjury on the results of the Q15 testing at the district court level. (Q15= KFK windshield specimen.)

I'm having to try to keep up with all of this by remote and through the snottoses who have their own hangups and lack understanding of what is really significant. I'm hoping to learn more. As of now this possibility cannot be ignored: the FBI phoned new 399 core specimens. I've been tracking this as best I can for years. It seems that the FBI's Frazier cut himself a hunk of it and did not testify to this until I primed Ozer in N.O. to ask him. We got confirmation when we deposed him in the suit. But we could get no weights and we have no idea what happened to the hunk he carved out. It can provide the new specimens Guinn tested. There are just too many questions about all of this testimony, particularly its omissions, to discard what may appear to be too Byzantine. His testimony on two comparisons is the one almost surprise I've had from the hearings to now, suggesting a link between the fragment from Connally's wrist (not authenticated) and the Mannlicher-Carcano ammo, ditto for the Walker bullet, which I'd always thought had been identified as of different caliber by the Dallas cops. Why he omitted the establishing the integrity of his specimens and then later blabbed about them I do not know but it requires suspicion.

He and other experts lied about significant details but no time for all of that now. The so-called critic experts, including the most expert, lack basic knowledge and basic understanding as well as being ignorant about how to use the TV and radio opportunities.

Thanks and best,

5 September 1978

Dear Harold and Lil:

Herewith what clippings have accumulated since I last wrote, and I hope they may have a crumb of two that you may not have seen. Also thanks to Lil for the large 3rd class packet of clippings which arrived today.

Regarding your ribbon traverse failure on your Hermes 3000, we've never had such trouble on the two machines we have, Jenifer's which is identical with elite type, and mine which has pica type. (I've kept mine around -- it's practically new -- as a backup machine for this SCM electric which I got shortly before I retired after the office got me hooked on electrics). However, I did have what seems to be the same trouble on my old Hermes 2000 which I bought in 1938 in China and which still works. I finally figured out that something went wrong with the ~~gear train~~ gear train when it stopped traversing without any discernible cause. It never got to the repairman stage because I found that by working the ribbon reverse key back and forth a few times I could get the gears engaged somewhere inside, whereupon it resumed traversing until it went wrong the next time. Could be that a shaft is worn or a bearing loose somewhere so that the teeth of two gears don't mesh properly, I don't know. If you can run ~~run~~ your repairman down you might ask him to check out the ~~gear train~~ gear train on the ribbon mechanism and see if something is loose that could account for it. The Hermes 3000, I'm convinced, is about the best portable manual ever built. Jenifer's got an enormous amount of use and never gave her the slightest trouble. I liked mine too, but its action was much stiffer than her's, and when this electric goes to the shop for cleaning or overhaul I find the Hermes -- any manual -- very hard to use.

I've continued subverting selected elements of the Bay Area population to Mongolian barbecue, with at least three batches fed since last I wrote. This in itself means quite a lot of work, as it takes most of the day to prepare everything, but of course once that's done it then becomes up to the guests to feed themselves. At any rate, it's a good way to repay accumulated social obligations with something that still is unique and new to nearly all of them. In one lot that was here was a couple who have travelled a lot in France and who do French cooking themselves. I was surprised to find that they were even louder in their praise of how good it tasted than were those with more plebian palates. Also in this lot was a young French girl, a teen-aged exchange student, and man, did she stow it away. This in spite of never having encountered chopsticks before.

Between eating occasions I've been doing more volunteer work for Hospice -- this time making a whole raft of bulletin boards of pressed cork framed in redwood for posting memos and notes with pushpins. Every nurse and executive is now so equipped. Also I have begun to paint the house outside, which is getting to need it. This will keep me busy for a while.

Last time I forgot to register your complaint about foot fungus. Tried Desenex? It always worked for us. Any drugstore. I suggest try the powder first. They have a cream, but it's gooey.

I saw very little of the House committee hearings, but may try again in the coming session. The one segment I saw featured Lane hamming everything up, and I had other things to do. They're not going anywhere, I feel. Best to you both,  
JDW