

Dear Jim,

11/10/79

This is to explain how interesting we found your 11/6, in which you relate your Hospice experiences and its enclosures.

Because for the first time this fall the ground was not excessively wet and because there was a forecast for rain this weekend, accurate it turns out, I laid out an ambitious program for yesterday - getting wood out of a real jungle of briars and other growth, like honeysuckle, that I've never cut since I've been here, if indeed it was ever cut from the time the pond was put in. It is all on the low side of the 2x pond. (I'm recapturing all from the repressive influences of parasitic vines.) This means getting the wood up a steep incline, too.

It also happens that yesterday I had to call the doctor for the results of this week's blood test. I'd not been able to get through the day before. So, because it takes so long to find a phone not busy and then to get first the nurse and to await her getting to the doctor, I decided to wait for the mail, which might provide something to read while I waited.

When I got to the house, having started to read your letter returning from the mailbox, I was so engrossed in it that I completely forgot to call. I read it and then the enclosures before I realized that I was to call the doctor. As usual the line was bust so I was a male chauvinist pig and asked "Will if she'd do it so I could get the planned work done."

You are fortunate to have had HOH and to have it now for the opportunity for doing real good and providing a wonderful retirement life and those people are very fortunate to have you!

We both found your letter and the enclosures quite interesting. Comparison with the local effort came to mind as I read. I don't know if I told you but by accident I discovered that the head of the psych. dept. at Hood College is a mover in the local movement. (We presume you had no response from the one to whom you wrote.)

And old friend asked me to speak at a Kiwanis luncheon meeting. After it was over I asked him about one questioner. He then told me that this was the dept. head. When I asked a faculty member about him I learned of his side interest and I think teaching a course in dying. I sent him a message about you and your experiences but I've heard nothing from him.

Some years ago Gary Schoener had an interest in similar but not identical work being done in Minneapolis. I introduced him to Paul Valentine on the Post, who was quite taken by it. He tried to interest the Post, without success. I'm taking the liberty of sending your letter and the enclosures to Gary on the chance they may be of interest to him, although I believe the focus of his clinic is on other problems.

Thanks for the directions on ~~xxxx~~ converting newspaper into firewood. I'd thought a machine and ~~it~~ wetting it was required. The problem it makes here is that I'll have to cut the pages in half because otherwise the log won't fit into our fireplace stove. My friend Russell, the vet whose arthritis forced his retirement, may also be interested. ~~gdx~~ He has a stove which will take that length.

Re Orest Pena and his current (or perhaps by now past) troubles with the law: your question is well put. There are a number who flipped out in the ~~xxx~~ past - assassination muddle or who became muddled themselves.

Wish I'd thought to ask Lesar how they were going to Singapore. I didn't because their prior trip was via Brague because May's father has an arrangement with the Czech airline. This time I learned they were going via the west coast only when I got from Jim his itinerary only after he'd left. He went via Arisco. I'm sorry but I'll let him know for the future.

Our best,