

8/29/67

Dear John:

Just a noteto accompany Harold's of this morning.

The new house is west of Frederick, about 15 miles from our present location, and very close to Route 40. It is a "suburb" or a small community called Shockstown, an old settlement which has some old houses and some new in it. It's a county road, not very wide, winding around and twisting and turning through picturesque countryside. On one of the trips up there I spotted a couple of weeping willows in a meadow where cows are pastured; they are the only only willams of that species I have ever seen which do not weep, having been the recipients of a dutch bob by the bovine inhabitants. The evenness of the trimming is unbelievable.

The road we are on is Old Receiver, which Harold at first thought was "Old Deceiver" and was quite disappointed when he learned of his error. The house sets well back from the road, being practically invisible unless you know just where and how fast to look. The swimming pool is right outside the back door, is 45 feet long, and I understand is 12 feet deep at the deep end. It also has three toads in it.

In addition, we have a fish pond, now inhabited by bluegills, two goldfish and turtles. We hope to get some bass in it, but it will probably have to be cleaned out first since the inlet seems to be not inletting very much. Other than hhat, we have approximately five acres of trees, bushes and undergrowth, set off by a large one-room cabin furnished with a bed with a hole in it, a working refrigerator and hot plate, an electric skillet, a combination radio and record player and an inoperative television. An abandoned car, wheelless, sits in front of the cabin, and houses within its walls a kitchen sink, a ~~mix~~ cast-iron stove and a toiletbowl. How anyone ever managed to get all of that in the car is beyond my comprehension, but there it is! Also, all of that particular area is bejeweled with broken glass.

When you visit, be sure to bring your swimming trunks!

I'm glad to hear about your progress on your book. And I hope you get a good editor in England.

The press reports here on the Israeli-Arab situation are not particularly encouraging, I'd like to think that some of the world problems are subject to settlement. And it certainly does not seem as tho the one in which we're most immediately involved will be very soon.

I am quite happy that you will try to get some pictures. I'm looking forward to seeing them. As you know, I am interested in the orphanage there.

I hope your weekend excusion came off as scheduled. Once you get back home, I hope you will have time to describe the area for me. Since I won't travel by air, that is undoubtedly the closest I will get to that part of the world.

Sincerely,