

8/27/94

Dear Gerry,

gnocchia

Thanks for taking the time for an account of the Vietnamese wedding.

I found it interesting and it reminded me of the traditional wedding of my heritage which I remember and enjoy from my youth.

If we go to Hana's tomorrow I'll ask Everett how it feels to be a TV star.

Dave gave his Freedom Road to a black student with the stipulation he give it to another. Dave got a good reaction.

If I did not send you ^{last's} Being Red, Hamilton is still remaindering it.

It has taken a little time to respond to what I heard from Doubleday. It and what I said in response will speak for themselves.

As you may have heard me say, I'm a devil who loves scripture.

Our bes to you all,

Heidi

Dear Harold,

Aug. 22, 1994

I thought your letter to the President of Doubleday was great. Thanks for sending a copy to me. If that does not get a response, I wonder what could.

We just got back from Los Angeles this past week and have been busy getting Claire and Nicholas ready for school. Hanh-Trang's brother's wedding was very nice, although perhaps a bit ostentatious. For example, during the reception, the bride not only changed dresses three times (which is a Vietnamese custom), but she also had her hair style changed with each dress change. The groom spent a fair amount of the reception waiting for his bride to reappear after each change. The reception was held at the Marriot Hotel in Irvine, CA, and they had the "Ronald Reagan" suite which went for \$1000/night. Certainly nice, but definitely inflated which seems characteristic of Reagan and indeed of Southern California itself. We enjoyed getting together with many of Hanh-Trang's relatives, some of whom I had not seen in years. The wedding ceremony involves the whole family; vows are exchanged not only between the couple but in a sense between the two families.

The Vietnamese continue to prosper out there. The section of Orange, Co. officially recognized as "Little Saigon" has grown considerably. There are no less than four supermarkets catering to Vietnamese which are as big as any supermarket. We also went dancing at a Vietnamese nightclub called the "Ritz".

I will send a picture or two when we get some from California.

In my free moments I read Fast's Freedom Road. It was great. He captures that period so well, the tragic failure of Reconstruction. But despite the deaths at the end and the collapse of the black/white experiment in cooperative living, I found it a hopeful book. The Pledge is next on my list.

Currently, I am up to my ears in preparation for a new school year. After the dust settles a bit, I will sit down and begin to plan my January project on Posner.

I hope your health is holding up and the complications from your car accident prove not to be too serious. Our regards to Lillian.

Best Wishes,



P.S. An interesting little footnote to our trip. We flew American Airlines and on our trip out and back we saw a familiar face on a Citibank ad which aired before the in flight movie. Everett of Hana's was shown applying for a loan at a Citibank office. Small world.