

July 14, 1999

Dear Harold,

Attached is a Xerox copy of a photo blurb about Wilder's book. Ironically, he wrote "The Bridge....." the same year I was born!!

Ironic, too, is that he was a performer at one of JFK's White House tributes!! When my nephew was about 9, he asked me why someone did not write a JFK book that kids could understand???? I was looking for a literary vehicle for my thoughts and notes and settled on "The Bridge....." as a good way to answer his query; Certainly there were many persons on the Dealey Plaza "bridge" when JFK was shot. Why and How seemed to be the questions to be answered. I should send you a copy of my manuscript (as far as I have gotten) except that I don't trust the mails. Where I lived, my local PO would deliver a letter in 1 1/2 days when it was posted there. Test letters I sent took 8 days!! When I returned to Florida after care-taking for my late brother, I sent an envelope, 9x12, to my son containing a copy of my manuscript and pertinent notes. I felt it was better to have 2 copies (I carried one with me) than none. The envelope was mailed well in advance of my trip. It arrived 10 days after my arrival and had no stamps or other postal markings!!!! I watched as the mail clerk in Minnesota stamped the envelope and "grape juiced" the postal class all over the front and back. The envelope I got weeks late was clean as a new one off a merchant's shelf!!!! Mary Ferrell heard my conclusions, etc. at our one-on-one meeting in 1995 (there was no ASK that year) and told me to keep turning over similar stones!!! At that time I was looking for someone to tell me to quit wasting my time, but, she told me after hearing me out that I should continue what I was doing. I feel that I am one document away from obtaining the linchpin that bullet magic never happened in Dealey!!!! As much as I would like you to review what I have done to this point, I cannot put that material in the mail and feel good about it. I know you understand that!!! I think from my letters you know how I feel about the whole thing and what my basic beliefs are??? The whole thing is cocked-eyed!!!! History was sure jerked out of its normal path that day!! The parade of presidents became very abnormal!! Anyway, "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" seems to be an intelligent way to proceed. Some persons had no choice but to be on the Dealey "bridge" - like newsmen, reporters, cops, SS, driver, etc. (plotters??). Others were there by chance. Someone, wittingly or unwittingly, has a key to further knowledge or ~~fiat~~ knowledge of this sad affair!!! Sneed's book, "No More Silence," is sort of a "Bridge" idea, but gives no analysis or covers enough bases to contribute any thing!!!!

Best of luck and all else to you and Lil,

Paul Haller



NOVELIST-PLAYWRIGHT Thornton Wilder combined ingenious plotting with a polished style and won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, in 1928. Plays such as his 1938 Pulitzer award-winning *Our Town* were marked by intriguing touches of fantasy.