

Dear Paul,

12/24/97

As you can see, I've been waiting to hear that you were back in FL.

We both thank you for the jolly that I'm sure Lil will open for supper in a little while.

And for the fine story on Mary. I'm so glad it was in the major paper down there. It is more than justified and there are so many who will see it, right where she lives.

You say you "can't figure out how Debra Conway got to be the JFK expert." The reason you can't figure it out is because she isn't. If any of them had any real knowledge of the subject they'd never have gotten that self-important Phony Evica involved.

Your visits with that little Mexican girl must mean much to her. Good for you!

I have heard some from Hal and he says there will be more when he has the time. I look forward to that. He is always informative and level-headed, as I think you've been able to see.

Good luck with your house! What will get you the lot and build the house is what a lot would cost where we are!

I've been busy with Hersh lately. I've more than 30,000 words of Faking Kennedy: The Dark Side of Sy Hersh in rough draft.

I can't remember a book that was as intendedly dishonest.

He had a formula for getting rich and it works. He is getting rich. Those he libels are dead and the hate-Kennedy crowd is big and can afford to buy a book.

TIME was honorable. It chewed the book and Hersh up and it owns the publisher of the book, Little, Brown.

If it is no big deal, when you get to your fine librarian if you can get for me the standing of the book in the NYTimes ^{weekly} best-seller lists I'll appreciate it. Started at #2. In Washington it started at #5 and slipped a bit when I thought to check. Angela's Ashed was ahead of it in Angela's 54th week on the Post's best-seller list.

While you were galavanting I did a book-length manuscript on Mortal Error and one on the KGB Mexico City spook's, Nechiporenko's. But I've nobody to retype them so they exist in what qualifies as a very rough draft.

Hersh is carefless when interviewed. If you see anything down there I'll appreciate it. He says what he thinks will help him without regard for anything else. Hope you have a good holiday and a fine year ahead! Sincerely,

Harold

December 17, 1997

Dear Harold and Lil;

Please find enclosed some of the Mary Ferrell jelly (grapefruit/cherry) which she seems to cherish so much. I took her a small crate of Florida samples, like I sent to you, and she fell for the grapefruit/cherry. Hope you enjoy it even partly as much as she does. I included a supply along with the Century Award I made for her. Says she sends out for special muffins when she and Buck have breakfast!!

My annual trek is over - lasted from October 24 until December 2!!! I've had to fake the flu to avoid having bad meals with some of the folks here - they are lousy cooks!!!! The best news of all was having Mary at the conference. And as an added bonus, Beverly Oliver's little girl (now 13) was there too, after a liver/kidney operation at the University of Minnesota hospital where Beverly had given the infant girl a lupised kidney to keep her alive a dozen years ago!!! George Evica hung onto Mary like he owned her - must make her ill!! Anyway, seeing and visiting with Mary and Pebbles was worth the trip. Also hobnobbed with Hal Verb and he will detail you on the Johnson/Benson affair. He promised!! Not that it makes any difference. A University of Minnesota female graduate wrote to me and said how much fun she had and is looking forward to next year. I wrote her and told her these meetings are not meant to be fun events - there's much more to it all. Well, Lancer was just another stirring of the kettle and I can't figure how Debra Conway got to be the JFK expert, the final word. She does kind of approve and disapprove what is going on. I do see a great transition happening. The older conferences were chaired and panned by eye- and ear-witnesses and now those positions are being taken by students, scholars and researchers. Which is not all bad. The former people hang around the bars, etc., anxious to tell their stuff to the bug-eyed newcomers. Some oldies have actually incorporated - I imagine to make financial bookkeeping easier like write-offs. The newer people have segregated the case into pieces, e.g., some concentrate on Tippett, Ruby, Oswald instead of trying to gather in the whole thing. One of them said, "if we can determine Oswald's part, we can solve it!!" I got to know, on a one-to-one basis, Bill Drenas who is interested in the TIPPIT affair. He seems to be an advocate of A to B to C facts instead of the usual A to z hookups. In private he said his research shows that Oswald could not have been involved - not humanly possible. Then there's John Armstrong who pits his whole pitch on there having been two Oswalds, Lee and Harvey. It seems crazy that the intelligence people would start "setting up" someone who was only 12 at the start!!!! As Jack Webb said: there are a million stories!!! Plenty to learn in the bull sessions like how pineheaded some are in their opinions inspite of facts and eventually the informal meetings come down to "what if JFK had lived?????" But, the same people cannot handle the same question when asked as "what if Nixon had been declared winner in 1960?????" Maybe the conferences should be just for fun!!!!!!

- more -

Stirring the kettle or a romp about the Maypole is not progress. I am committed to the "fact" that the bullet magic NEVER happened!!!
REGardless of Specter's manupulations. My nephew is a chiropractor who makes his most money in court at \$500 a trip and cannot survive in court stating that his preliminary drawings, sketches, X-rays and photos were not meant to be accurate. He says the laughter would be heard for miles and he could never ~~cash~~ ^{cash} a \$500 check!!!!!!!'

The visit with my little Mexican girl in San Antonio was sensational. She is big into Cinderella so I took her to the San Antonio Disney store and told her she could have anything she wanted and not necessarily Cinderella. After 1½ hours and all the clerks scurrying about, she settled on a \$17 Barbie doll.....and left the store very happy!! I have next year pre-arranged. The area is filled with horses, drivers and buggies ready to take tourists around to the sites and sights. I have arranged for a closed carriage with at least 4 spirited horses which will pick us up ~~at~~ ^{at} the hotel (Menger) and take us to a restaurant. When we come out it will all be gone and when we check with the bell captain he will have only a pumpkin with wheels and the steeds turned into rats. A glass (plastic) slipper will be in the pumpkin and I (the prince) will have the other in my pocket and, of course they will fit!!!!

The connecting Amtrak train from CA to San Antone was 5 hours late and we never made up the time. Amtrak gave us one free lunch (big deal) but, the lateness fitted my son's work schedule and I was picked up and right to a shower and bed!!! My son is doing well, buying computer components and making up systems. I helped him prep and ship a system to Peru and he had just received an order from the Pittsburgh Pirates. They ordered a CD Media system - most probably to make their own tapes of plays and players to show the team what was being done right or wrong!! He was to set up an office for some guys he was working for in Ireland a few years ago, but, found out he could do it for himself!! I had planned to locate in Ireland with him, but, will now move to Branden near Tampa where he lives. I can't find all the elements in one package: building, location, acreage and price - so probably will pick a lot and build. A lot with land (and sometimes water) costs about \$18,000 and a contract- or putting up a building ~~fr~~ ^{fr} \$69-, \$79- or \$89,000 with each \$10,000 adding a few more amenities. It seems like the way to go since I want some land for a citrus orchard and a chance to raise veggies!!!

Well, it's been quite a century so far so who knows????????

Happy holidays and best of everything,

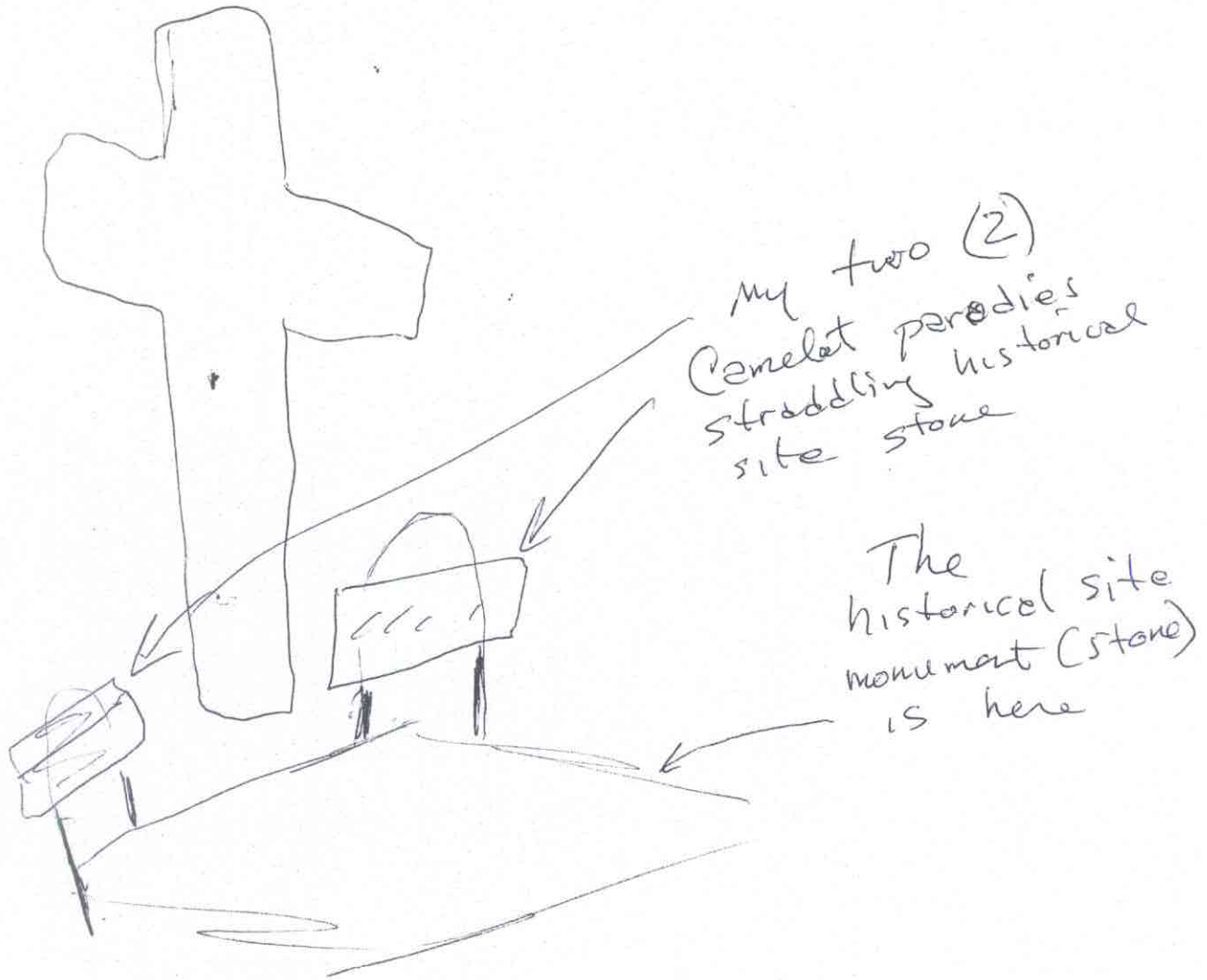
Paul Haller



P.S. Mt Lancer97 notes are rife with the beginning of speakers or chairpersons saying, "I didn't know I was to speak so I am unprepared."

And one saying he knew he was to speak but was still unprepared but 'gabbbed something as he went out the door.'

There are some who say Debra is government!!



For the third year in a row, my Camelot parodies disappeared. This year I made 2, to reduce the chance of coincidence. My signs were on stout wire stands pressed into the ground straddling the corners of the historical stone. I put them there at 9:00 a.m. on the 22nd and they were still there at noon and gone at 3:00 p.m. Perhaps someone maintaining and housekeeping the site removed them?????