

Dear Paul,

12/30/97

This time four days a week I've just left for my early-morning walking at a nearby supermarket but today I'll await daylight. At least. We are on the edge of the heavy snowstorm you probably saw on TV last night. I hope the snow has finished falling. But I want to see how much traffic there is on the road I cannot see from the house because I must now avoid even the slightest bruise. I hemorrhage on slight contact. Lil left a list of one item and I can take a half hour getting that and there will be no complaint. Good people,

I don't doubt that Mary understands very well that Lancer is for Lancer and for money but I'm also sure she had her own good reasons for being there. One was to be out, another to see people she knew, etc.

Marrs knows nothing about the assassination and on those so-called theories, he can't even get them straight. Pathetic! Those who know him say he is a nice guy but he still misinforms many.

You and those pork sandwiches! I did have a bit of pork the other day. In Vietnamese dumplings that were great. Not the same as fried chops, tho.

But the mere mention makes me think of when we had our own and all we did not get to use one way or another was the squeal.

Unless in her office Lil has some stamps she has not found this will be delayed by our not having stamps. We sent a check in for 200 before Xmas and phone the PO twice about not having it and once spoke to the carrier- and still do not have them. Unusual Service here usually good.

I'm most of the way through a manuscript Faking Kennedy: The Dark Side of Sy Hersh. He knew what he was doing. He did it for \$\$\$ that, alas, he is getting!

We like that jelly. I've never tasted one exactly like it, thanks.

If Lil did not tell you, when we farmed she had a sideline of jellies, Jams and preserves that I sold for her when I delivered. They were great. Some of our customers used them, by the box, as Xmas presents.

Have a good year!

Harold

December 26, 1997

Dear Harold;

Well, my annual Amtrak is over, but, I still could not relax!! What with Christmas descending like Victoria Falls, and me with 19 Minnesota relatives (most under 13!!) and picking up more in Dallas and my little Mexican girl in San Antonio, I had plenty to accomplish with scurrying, buying, wrapping and sending. There was no rest between getting back to my apartment and meeting the holiday deadlines!! I seem to have done it and now can sit back a bit and catch up on the letters due!! The building captain here, as usual, killed most of my plants and I have had to fake the flu to keep from invitations to meals which are downright AWFUL!!! I had to revert to fakery even for Christmas Eve!!! Neither do people understand what it is to be a writer!!

Seeing Mary was worth the trip, but, I don't understand how she can be bamboozled by Lancer which is a money machine!! A bonus, as I wrote you before, was seeing little Pebbles, too, who underwent a Kidney/Liver transplant at the U of Minnesota last year. The programs and panels were mainly student and scholar papers and a restirring of the kettle. Nothing new as expected. The oldtimers hung around the periphery, some hoping to entroll the "kids" and maybe cash in on a deal of some sort.

Since both sides in this transition are looking for profit, I call the relationships "Kissy-Bucks!!" My notes show that too amny new "leaders" were unprepared by admission or just off on a strange

tangent that contributed nothing to the fact that a man had been murdered!!

An "A" for a term paper should not qualify the individual for a slot at Lancer or perhaps that says something. Neither do I see how Debra Conway has become the resident expert of that Jim Marr

has become the convention curmudgeon who snickers, chortles, laughs, etc., etc., everytime the Warren Report is mentioned - as though the Commission was a collection of old fools who were automatically

wrong!! I drove to Tamp-area and took an Amtrak bus (yes, BUS) to Orlando where I boarded a real train and via D.C. and other East seaboard cities got to Penn Station where I was careful this trip to get the Lakeshore Limited across northern NY. (Last Spring, Amtrak got me to Penn but then sent me back to Philly and then to Chicago). I wanted to see the colors in northern NY, BUT it was dark all the way!! Got to Chicago on tin and had my boneless pork rib sandwich with my own pickle. Of course, I thought of you. I had a good visit with my family for about 3 weeks and my sister had a special early Thanksgiving for me (as usual) and we still could not settle the farm issue with the city. The commission wants the federal money set aside for "Open Space." It is an automatic for them to pluck about \$20,000 per acre for their pockets. Too good to pass up. They've gotten away with \$4½ million already and can't get it through their heads that the end has come!!! Then onto Chicago and Carle another sandwich with pickle and then the Amtrak Texas W30K to Dallas.

This year the train was left in the schedule; last year it was knocked out and I hooked a ride with Jim Heller who was driving from Decatur, IN; I hooked up with him in Indianapolis. Although I bought gas and meals, I felt I still owed him, so got a double room at the Paramount where COPA meets, and he stayed with me and I paid for the room. I now feel my debts and obligations are paid!! I have expressed my Lancer feelings and caught the train to San Antonio where I spent a day visiting my little Mexican friend which was a delight. She demands all my time so I could not see my old prom date who lives there, too!!! That was okay since I needed time to set up arrange the Cinderella coach, horses and pumpkin!

- more -

For next year -



WEISBERG 2-2-2-2

The Amtrak hookup in SAN Antonio from CA was 5 hours late, a schedule they held the rest of the way. We got one free lunch, but, that does not make up time!! <sup>Next year</sup> ~~Next year~~ will be the basis for much fun and something a 7-year-old will never forget. I will tip off the local press which should delight her even more and provide some great moments!!!! I called her Christmas Day after she had opened my gifts to her and she was delighted. Also, for the fact that I got her gift on the 24th. She sent me a nice letter opener with a base-relief handle and a blade that swings out of the handle for cutting tape, string and cords on packages. It was an apropos present and showed that the little girl was listening during our visit; I had mentioned that I get a lot of mail each day - much of which needs such a tool!

My tardiness suited my son's work schedule well, so I was quickly picked up and right to a great shower and bed. I spent a week with him which included a real estate search and as usual, could not find all the desired elements in a single package. While I was on my trip, he drove my car once in a while ~~to~~ keep it "up" and, since they were roofing at his complex, he drove over a nail. It was in one of the two "old" tires and went into the first tread never coming out on the inside and right up the sidewall which made it unrepairable by tire standards. I bought 2 new tires which I eventually meant to do anyway, I had given the car to my grandnephew (the one who got me going on a manuscript when he asked, "Why doesn't somebody write a JFK book for kids?") for his 16th birthday and it is waiting for him to come and get it - now with 4 new tires which makes me feel much better!!!

The 240-mile drive home was a snap (use less than 1/2-tank of gas) and the house sitters killed only the tomatoes, peppers and strawberries - all the decorative vines were okay. Of course, with Christmas descending, I've felt I've been on the defensive since getting back especially with the invitations to dine out where the chefs are bad, the food lousy and the occasions unpleaseant!!!

Well, I certainly hope both of you are doing as well as can be expected and that the holiday season was good to you two!!!!!!!

The very, very best to you,  
Paul Haller

*Paul*

P.S. The weather was mostly cool all the way especially MN where it snowed and the temp hung around 10° with wind chill at no temperature at all (0°)!! The cold helped my fire-ant bite in that all the layers of affected skin peeled off. It seems the ant has a proboscis long enough to penetrate all the dermic layers and deliver its toxin into the flesh (muscle) and nerves. The cold got right down to meat which seems to help the healing process. All the "etch-a-sketch" is gone!! So some good came of the 10° weather, Maybe JAMA would like to know IF you promise not to countermand it with a book!!!

Thanks in advance for putting up with my ~~rotten~~ rotten typing!! It's worse since I got back; my fingers refuse to try to keep up with my brain!!!!!!