

December 17, 1998

Dear Harold and Lillian,

and 1/21

I do hope the holidays find you both doing better and I wish the best for you!! At 3:00 p.m. on November 30, I returned to my condo here in Margate, FL and my trek beginning October 22 came to an end!!! It was a good trip and by driving to Brandon and leaving my car at my son's, I got to visit with my new grandson twice!!!!

In Minnesota, my sister had an early Thanksgiving Day for all the relatives and we also seem to have got the probate settled. The city fought a developer taking over for 5 years since they wanted the farm for a park. Seems the feds gave them a bundle to set aside "open Space" for futures. The glitch was that the city got \$30,000 an acre from the feds and wanted to pay about \$10,000 and pocket the difference. Once we said "no," they got downright ugly and snotty. The taxes jumped from \$800 as a farm to \$5000 as residential and they thought they could grab it for back taxes. WE appeared at the council meetings and asked for a waiver so we could pay the taxes in advance. Even though they refused, this all went into the public record. The final blow to the council came when we informed them that the city fire department gave us a date to "clear out all our personal stuff" as they were going to burn down all the buildings. Once the fire people stood up at a council meeting and admitted same, the show was over and the developer got his approval. My late dad, who struggled to buy the farm at \$3000 and worked hard to keep it, would be proud to stand at the corner of Haller Lane and Haller Court. It is the last of the highlands around the Twin Cities and stares down into the Mississippi and 4 miles into downtown St. Paul. One can see the highrise buildings in downtown Minneapolis. Anyway, that seems to be settled and I've been told I will receive  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the settlement once bills and taxes are honored. There were four children each of whom received  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

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Then on to Dallas which was a mixed bag!! For a long time, I was on the "Go/No Go" cusp, but I thought this was the 35th year and I should attend. The 35th drew nothing out!! Of course it was good seeing old friends like Mary Ferrell and Hal Verb. One of your friends took audio and video shots of Hal and me and said you would see them the next day. Hal is the tall one!! Mary seems to be great - she would be the last to admit it, but, she seems relieved to be rid of her long burden - she is doing super!!! I probably won't attend Lancer99 - the Lancer people pretty well decided that for me!!! They hogged the

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awards program by patting their own backs and giving each other awards and displaying surprise over the "event" of being "honored" Let me tell you, Evica is second to no one in flopping about the stage, feigning surprise, astonishment and disbelief at being singled out by his cohorts as a dedicated, long-time leader and researcher in attempting to solve this crime!!! C'mon now - I am not spending my money for this kind of charade!!!! What was especially galling is that Mary Ferrell sat at the head table with these clowns and while each cited her influence on them (Debra in particular and very sickening!!), no one gave her so much as a cookie!!! I can spend my money better than that ugly display!!

I must say, I did learn at least 3 "new" things!!!

1.) Some attendees, including Mary and Gary Janes, told me Parkland had turned over many records to the Sixth Floor Museum which were, among other things, the depositions of the patients in the emergency ward at the moment JFK was shot. While this is not exactly what I want, it is closer than I've been and allows me to nibble at the edges of what I seek. I did not have time in Dallas to seek these data out, but, will write to Gary Mack again to get it!!

2.) Certain speakers and panelists like David Lifton related that ~~Oswald's~~ Oswald's wallet was "left" at the Tippit murder scene. This implies one of two things: Oswald took his wallet from his pocket to identify himself to the cop OR the wallet was a police "drop." I know drops exist because policemen I knew in Minnesota volunteered that info to me along the way. The "drop" is usually a switch blade used when the crime scene gets violent and the suspect must be tagged as being armed. The cop merely "drops" the switch blade and the suspect is supposed to have had the weapon!!! In the case of the wallet, if true, it was to implicate LHO. There is reason to believe it was a "drop." First, the wallet showed up in two different colors!! And second, there is some question as to when and where LHO's personal items were removed from his person after he was arrested!!

3.) I have always believed that JFK's throat shot was from the front but could not reconcile how a 2000fps-plus slug capable of penetrating 47 feet of pine board could be stopped by human skin, flesh and tissue. All I could conclude was that it was a "short round" - one that was not discharged with a complete explosive in the shell. This could result from an old bullet like a WWII one. A guy named John Weldon spoke on the disappearance of the limo as evidence and the windshield in particular. His theory is that the throat shot first penetrated the windshield which means the glass would have sucked up the shot's energy and the slug's slowed speed would be

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sufficient to break human skin, flesh and tissue. Of course, the wound could not be probed, tracked, analyzed since it would have, <sup>etc -</sup> under these conditions, showed glass particles and <sup>^</sup>proved a shot from the front and, hence, two gunmen and a conspiracy!!! Weldon said a shot through the windshield would tend to hit its intended target within a radius of 3 inches. This implies that the plotters conducted some dry runs, testing the action to make sure it worked. A 2000fps slug would leave an exit wound as big as a fist IF it only hit flesh!!!

I have not had time to check these items out, but, certainly will. Since my return, I have been very tired, but, NOT sleepy tired. Exhausted, I believe, from running to trains, depots, hotels, etc.

My journey on to San Antonio (a lovely city) was a delight to see my little Mexican girl. With Thanksgiving ~~is~~ still coming up she said she was thankful that I could visit her from all that distance!! When we parted, her mother hugged me and the little girl jumped up and down shouting, "My turn! My turn! That makes it all worth it!! I do have to stay 2 days to spend one afternoon with her. The Cinderella carriage idea fell through. Seems the horse people can't grasp it!! My observation of the operation is that the horses know the tour route and the "drivers" just recite the sights along the way. Any deviation is too much for the <sup>drivers</sup> drivers!!" I talked to the owner's daughter and got the owner's name and private phone number for the future. The idea will still be good for another trip and the little girl does want me to attend her first communion which will be in the Spring of '99. So nothing was really lost.

The trip back to Tampa was its usual 7 hours late. The excuse is always the same - a derailed freight train ahead, but, I think I figured out the problem: when we got to New Orleans, drug-sniffing dogs came aboard all the trains and, after all, NO is an international port! The 7-hour delay works out well for my son since he works for ATT/IBM nights and misses no work to pick me up. I stay at his place in Brandon (near Tampa) until I feel like driving on to Margate which takes about 5 hours. Now I have unpacked and unwound and am feeling rested and ready to decipher what I have been through. Seems like November 30 was a long time ago, but, after coming back, I am hit with pending Christmas and New Years. Plenty to do!!!!

The very best to you both!!!!

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