

Dear Paul,

1/17/98

Hurried thanks for your 1/14 and the Enclosures. Good to see that the stinker's stinkingly dishonest book is slipping in the best-seller listings.

I'm getting toward the end of that manuscript. I think. Hope, too! Hard to understand a man who has earned his respect can turn out to be so totally without principle ~~an~~ or personal or professional self-respect. I have from time to time found myself wondering if he is all there.

Thanks re: Hal. I'd asked him and he filled me in. Under control.

I decided this afternoon that I'd take a nap and stay up for one of the great movies I'd seen only ~~once~~, decades ago, Casablanca. Then we started getting visitors. I decided to take a nap so that tomorrow can be my normal, convoluted schedule when, yup, another visitor. One I was glad to see but not at that moment.

We got a break on the weather if you saw the forecasts on TV. The ~~ice~~ ice and snow were just to the west and to the north of us. I was a bit worried about slipping and sliding in the car on the way to the lab for blood testing, which was needed that morning. A friend took me in a ~~two~~ wheel drive and in the afternoon I could safely drive to a different medical appointment. With the cardiologist who gave me some samples with instructions and it turned out when I got home that it is something he has had me on for a year or more! So now that starts all over again.

Hope you can find the spot you'd like in the Tampa area and that you can build what you'd like to have there. Except for the hurricanes you will not have weather problems. And it will never get as cold as you grew up with.

As I remember my boyhood, it was much, much colder then. And we had more and much deeper snow. And walked to school in it.

Thanks and best,

Harold

January 14, 1998

Dear Harold;

The month is already half gone and the year is well on its way as is the century!! And so it goes! I thought I better get this in the mail as the Hersh-crap might be important to you!! I've been holding off to find Hal Verb's letter in which he describes his physical ailments. I want to get you data from the horse's mouth. I do not have a Verb file, but, then I do not have a noun or adjective file either (a little pun there!). I must have filed it with the year of the convention. I have too many files, but, can't seem to part with anything. I reduced my 10 boxes to 11½ boxes, thereof!!!

Enclosed are 2 NY Times ratings of the Camelot stuff and my history book club has the book available for \$1!! It is a shame to call that stuff history.

It is good to be back, but, I am anxious to "escape" to the Tampa-area as soon as possible. Some people here are like having doggie-doo stuck to your heel!!!! Writing to them is a joke. I do not need people sitting around figuring what I should do with my time.

My Amtrek went well and much of it was deja vu since I seemed to have it all well planned. I needed to stay over 2 extra days in San Antonio to visit with my little Mexican girl which was well worth it. She represents, I believe, the little girl I never had (just one son). There is nothing like walking through River Center on a sidewalk in San Antonio and having a little 6-year-old slipping her hand into yours!!!! I hope the local horse-and-buggy people will provide the coach and spirited horses this Fall!!! At Halloween certain craft shops have a plastic pumpkin with wheels and the horses have turned into rats or mice. I have a scenario worked out and it will be something she will never forget.

I wanted to get the Hersh-crap on to you and will address some of the items in your letters in the future. Hal did write me from CA that he had a terrible fly case prior to coming to TX, but, that's not what has him looking badly!!!

Best regards and all else,

Paul Haller



P.S. I'm checking on the Haller meeting in Boonesboro!!

Your mention of "pudding" after each butchering reminds me of stuff we always made, ~~soo~~, and it did not find its way into the dictionary!!!