

Dear Floyd,

12/27/75

If you recall who the young friends of whom I'll be writing are, do not mention any of this. They came up to help one weekend and in some way were in much help.

Today, to get a little more walking in and to get an idea of what has taken place on our property, I walked around it a bit. There was a cedar partly blown over by the windstorm of midsummer. I had gotten it upright with a block and tackle when the phlebitis hit. I left the block and tackle on to be able to hold the tree in place with other ropes and to a stout, healthy tree, which I'd protected by some flat plants so the bark would not be damaged. When they reported the cedar was not making it I asked them to take everything off. I found the stepladder there, exposed to the weather all this time and the (then) new rope and an older nylon rope still in place. And scoring the bark of the healthy tree. I could not remove them. Too much tension on the knots. A new rope being ruined, a beautiful tree being damaged and the tree that should fall over so the dirt from around its roots can wash back into the hole still standing.

It was disappointing because I know their intentions were good. But I'd have been able to do what is needed if the block and tackle only had not been removed. One tug on it and all the pressure would have been off of everything else. City boys!

The reason I write is to ask if, without ~~it~~ giving up the holiday's fun or other things you have to do you and another can come up to take care of this and a few other small things before school starts. As much as you can is you have the time.

There are two fairly decent white pines that have been pulled over but are well rooted and still alive. They can be pulled partly erect with the block and tackle and lashed, with bark protection, with heavy hollysuckle. I've done it. There are several trees that were broken and blown over. They are dead and now heavy. Before this hit me I trimmed most of them out, where vegetation did not prevent this. They can be trimmed out in very little time but I've forbidden the use of an axe or machete. The broken-off parts, after trimming, can be carried without difficulty to where during the summer I do not have to now. These are where I do. Next year I'll cut them up for firewood.

All of this is behind the house, on the down-hill side.

What I did do didn't tire me too much. I picked up pieces of dead wood that could be hidden by ~~xxx~~ vegetation when it starts to grow and carried it to a pile in the woods where there is no vegetation. (I knocked the ~~xxx~~ old riding mower out of synch last summer with a piece of this.)

If I don't get this done I know the time will come when I'll be tempted because it has to be done or it becomes a greater hazard. And problem.

Today I heard from the lecture bureau, with a check. They did get all but \$67 of your expenses on the trip repaid.

When you hear from your UCLA contacts please let me know whether they'll try for a debate between me and their faculty member, Slawson, with a speech by me if he declines. When I can I'll be making the proposal to Slawson, who recently wrote a Belin-like letter to a student who sent it to me.

Best,