

Dear John,

2/15/92

Gerald Posner and wife (his best known book is "Mengele,") are in town for my help on a book they are writing. Until he gets here this morning and having caught up on all the rest of yesterday's mail, this response to your 1/12.

There was a time when I did not save letters. But now I do for the historical records, which I avoid censoring, and because of a few personal reasons, like old and cherished friends. So I disagree on some with your grandmother's view that they mean reliving the past. In addition, there are some past's worth recalling. I think for you, your father. I'll and I will never forget them. (She hardly knew your mother.)

You forgot to enclose Katharine's fishing article. I'd like to read it and I'm glad you added a bit more about her family. What you say of her daughters is reminiscent of her as a bright and beautiful girl with a fine imagination and a talent for sketching. Remember her imagined family and its adventures and experiences? I do, but not the name.

I think it is a mistake to demean what you describe as "baked potato" writing. There are all kinds of writing and a wide variety of purposes and objectives. It is quite appropriate for some to be plain and straightforward. Besides, I like baked potatoes! (And if you've never tried a red one in the microwave I urge that you do.)

I'll will copy the damaged letter about your father and I'll return it.

Right now I'm for me snowed under with orders. I was not able to package those of the past two days because of the time I'm spending with the Posners and there will be some today. I'll try to get to some of the packaging today. When I'm caught up I'll send you a set. If you have any, please let me know so I can avoid duplication. If I hear nothing from you I'll assume you have none. If some time passes and you do not get them please remind me.

Your comments and observations about the JFK assassination based on what you saw in the Commission's publications were sharp, so much so for one as young as you your father actually suspected that I was pointing those things out to you. I remember that one of those conversations began in your bedroom.

I'm pleased that you recall I "never talked down to kids." I never believed in that and have always tried to avoid it. Besides, when I was rather young I was the beneficiary of the time older men took with me. Older people should talk comprehensibly to kids but also should not expect more of them than their years justified. It does not require any deprecation to use a more limited vocabulary and not to expect too much from kids.

All you heard about the "tramp" pictures that first of all are not of tramps but of irrelevant wins, is false. Reject it all, including Harrelson.

I'll be interested in seeing your reviews. Best to all,

DEAR HAROLD,
ON SECOND THOUGHT - I'M SENDING YOU THE
ORIGINAL - OF YOUR LETTER. MUCH AS IT MEANS
TO ME - I JUST DON'T SAVE LETTERS.

1/12/92

HAROLD,

JUST A NOTE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LAST
LETTER. YOU CERTAINLY KNEW SIDNEY AS
FEW DID. I FIND YOUR COMMENTS VERY
INTERESTING INDEED.

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND XEROX OF YOUR RECENT
LETTER AS LIL TOLD ME SHE DIDN'T MAKE A
COPY. MOST TIMES - I THROW OLD LETTERS OUT -
(SOMETHING MY GRANDMOTHER SAID A LONG TIME
AGO. SOMETHING ABOUT NOT LIVING IN THE PAST)
HOWEVER - WITH YOUR BUSINESS - I CAN
WELL SEE WHY YOU KEEP COPIES.

ALSO ENCLOSED - A XEROX OF KATHARINE (NO
LONGER "KATHY")'S PIECE ON FISHING. SHE
HAS THE TECHNIQUE AND PRECISE USE OF
LANGUAGE WHICH DELIGHTS THE INNER EAR.
HER WRITING IS LIKE A WELL PRESENTED
DINNER - EVERYTHING ARRANGED AND IN
ORDER TO BE BOTH APPETIZING AND ATTRACTIVE
TO THE EYE. MY WRITING IS LIKE ^A MCDONALD'S
MEAL. EASILY DIGESTIBLE - ACCESSIBLE -
PLAIN AS A BAKED POTATO.

KATHARINE'S CHILDREN, CHARLOTTE AND LUCY, ARE SHOWING TALENT. CHARLOTTE PLAYS PIANO NOT BECAUSE HER MOTHER WANTS HER TOO BUT BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO. SHE HAS ALREADY COMPOSED SOME LITTLE PIECES OF HER OWN. IS THIS HER GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S TALENT COMING THROUGH? LUCY - MEANWHILE - IS A DANCER, THEY BOTH PAINT. THEY READ A LOT. THEIRS IS A PERFECT CHILDHOOD IF ANYONE'S IS. AND THEY DESERVE IT. THEY ARE GREAT KIDS.

I AM - FINALLY - GOING TO SEE OLIVER STONE'S JFK FRIDAY. AM CURRENTLY WRITING A SERIES OF REVIEWS ATTEMPTING PUBLICATION IN A SMALL NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE. WILL SEND YOU THE JFK PIECE ~~WHEN I WRITE IT~~ WHEN I WRITE IT.

SPEAKING OF WRITING - I'D MUCH APPRECIATE GETTING COPIES OF YOUR BOOKS. THE LAST ONE I REMEMBER IS PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITE WASH. THOUGH I WAS PRETTY YOUNG BACK THEN, I RECALL SEVERAL LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU ON THE SUBJECT OF JFK'S MURDER. YOU NEVER TALKED DOWN TO KIDS. I REMEMBER

(3)

OUR CONVERSATIONS VIVIDLY.

I READ RECENTLY THAT ONE OF THE THREE TRAMPS - PRESENT IN DALLAS IN 11/63 - WAS THE CONVICTED FELON FATHER OF ACTOR WOODY HARRELSON WHO PLAYS THE BARTENDER ON TV'S CHEERS. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

AND I REALIZED - THE OTHER DAY - THAT FORMER PRESIDENT FORD IS THE LAST OF THE WARREN COMMISSION STILL ALIVE. HISTORY IS NOT A STUDY OF BYGONE TIMES. WE ARE LIVING IT EVERY DAY. IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST TIME PASSES. 29 YEARS SINCE 1963 AND I STILL REMEMBER IT LIKE YESTERDAY.

OH WELL - YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN READ THIS. ENJOY THE PIECE KATHARINE WROTE.

all Best
John