

Dear Both,

3.25.91

Separately, we've both been thinking of you lately. This being tax season, it means from both ends of the house.

Hope you can get a good deal on the station and recover some freedom -- and that it brings you east and here!

We'd had a relatively mild winter. Only three real snow storms and out of the blue, when I'm not able to use my snow blower and have nobody else to use it for me, a man who as a boy used to weekend in the cabin, on the other side of our property cleared the lane with a plow on his ^{pic} pickup and wouldn't take any money.

We are about as we were, thanks, gradually a little weaker but did worked until 11 last night on tires and I slept until my usual 3:30 this a.m. I'll be 78 in two weeks, too.

Since then, except for reading the papers then getting the biweekly blood test and walking when I could inside that building for an hour, mostly resting, I've been writing again!

A friend of the past brought his son down from New York about two months ago so I could help him with a book. On learning that I'd laid my second book on the King assassination aside because I am for practical purposes not able to have access to those basement files he told me to get a part-time assistant, for which he'd ~~pay~~ pay. I have a pleasant, ~~lx~~ bright and conscientious young woman from the local college and she has retrieved and copied about a quarter of a file drawer of records, mostly FBI, that I'll be using and she has quite a few yet to retrieve and copy. There is much more for her to do in addition. So, I'm lucky and I feel good about it. Not going as well as when I was a young man of 62 (which is when I had the first thrombosis) but I'm getting it on paper.

For which I'd laid aside reminiscences in lieu of the journal I never kept. With this typing they are close to filling the second stationery box. For history, not eg.

I hope the hot war is over in the Middle East but I fear that victory may mean an untimely defeat and new problems of great magnitude already visible.

I don't know what you refer to as the tribute to Arnett. If you mean his speech at the National Press Club, I heard that on public radio and it was fine. Especially his reminder to the bastard Simpson that CNN has him pictured on tape, with Cole, giving Arnett and other reporters hell for not recognizing that Saddam is a great friend of the US!

If the phone hadn't rung I'd have missed Andy Rooney's use of some of that footage on 60 Minutes last night. With fine and appropriate words.

Some of the new weaponry was magical but it is becoming apparent that it was used for more than merely limited purposes. Much as I detect Saddam and those like him I think that the unnecessary destruction was barbaric. I meant military purposes.

What we are beginning to see and hear is that Bush destroyed the country in the name of making military strikes only. Much of the rest of the world won't forgive or forget -- and shouldn't. And, I think, the war wasn't really necessary. It could have been done, in time, with the sanctions and the delayed Glaspi testimony does not explain away the words Saddam quoted and she does not deny making. She can't -- he taped her.

Going along with the "victory" in the area is greatly increased unemployment and concomitant crime increases.

It is and it will be as Yogi Berra said, over only when it is over.

Hope all goes well with and for you,

with our best,

Hal

03/21/91

Dear Hal & Lillian:

A quick note from the far west...trusting you are both well and in anticipation of better weather now that Spring is officially here!

As I sit at my word processor we are in the midst of our third day of continuous rain (aka snow in the surrounding mountains). In fact, true: this very morning I had to get out the ice scraper for the car. Condensation plus an overnight of 32 did it.

So glad the short-lived war is over. Obviously the region remains tense and on a short fuse, but better words than weapons. Hal, I couldn't help but recall the war in the gulf in parallel to the SLA shootout and the street riots of the 60's. Police/military love to try out their toys in the stress times. What a dresser full of exotic mayhem. Still, I found myself almost with a grudging sense of awe. I thought Peter Arnett did a superlative job of reportage from the enemy camp. But these being the times they are, I was not surprised at the amount of flack he took from our conservative nation.

Our station is actively on the block and we have some good nibbles. It's all become too stressful rather than enjoyable. And as you well know, I dearly love this business of communications. But one must recognize when it is time to move on. And we will. And I hope once done our more relaxed travels will take us back your way to break bread and see you both. And remind me to tell you the one about Jodi getting rid of gallstones with a recipe from ancient Rome!

Warmest regards

Art & Jodi