

Dear Jodi and Art,

8/6/81

We are glad to hear from you, even if without a clear signal on the air. Too bad those baddies are stringing you out. It has been so long we were wondering if you are OK.

Hope you do make the Xmas visit. While talking about your 105⁰ days. We got to 100 a couple of times but mostly it stays around 90, which without high humidity isn't that bad.

I've just finished a book in the form of an affidavit - 112 legal sized pages and 82 exhibits, almost none of only one page. I'd be doing the xeroxing ~~now~~ now. In a different day it could have done much and with attention would have. Now I don't know. And I don't know how much I'll be able to do to attract news attention to it. It is the old spectro case. I do have much that is new and I think significant.

The night of April 20, while we were out to dinner, I began to feel not quite right and didn't know why. Couldn't put my finger on anything. Then the left leg got uncomfortable. We got home and I sat and raised it and that didn't help so I got on the sofa with it up and that didn't help, so I called the doctor. He was not in and I called his standby, who invited me to come in. I called a neighbor, who came, and when I started to get up, which I didn't have to do to use the phone, I found I could not use that leg at all. So, I called the doctor, and he probably saved my life with the forcefulness with which he told me there was nobody in Frederick who could do me any good and the one guy who thought he could and couldn't isn't in town anyway, so get the hell down to Georgetown as fast as you can. You'd lose the leg at the least here.

Fortunately, that night an ambulance was available locally. Previous emergency none was. Also fortunately, with a fine paramedical crew, both experienced man and woman. The man was a fan, happily. They were wonderful. Once they got me to Georgetown they just remained in the emergency room to be sure I did not get forgotten. (I remember that can happen, from my volunteer fireman days when I was often the second man in the ambulance.) They ever sent me a card while I was in the hospital (13 days)

I'd called Lesar, who was there and stayed with me until I went into the operating room. One of my last recollections is the doctor telling him he could not get off at that floor because it opened into the operating room only.

I knew something was wrong but I had no idea what. I was worried. But about 9-9:30 I locked up and there was the surgeon who'd operated before, inventor of one of the first heart valves, Dr. Charles Hufnagel, also consultant on Nixon's surgery. He looked worried but I felt much better, even though I was aware that he was worried. He figured out what it was and what to do and then then went ahead and did it until 2-2:30 a.m.

A piece of my own artery came loose just above the implant for the bypass. I guess it was like plaque with teeth. It blocked all three arteries to the thigh and leg. It is amazing that they did it so well. I did not require any transfusion - imaging going into an artery and not requiring more blood - and after I came out of it no pain killers or sleeping pills. Although it was a close call I never had a bad day. And it was a close call. I remember my blood pressure was so high when it was taken in the emergency room they talked about it out loud. But after the operation, that of a boy again and the heart beat that of an athlete. Really. The nurses couldn't believe it.

I'm slowed down a bit more but I'm hoping for gradual improvement. I can't stand long or walk for long and I've gotten some irritations on the left foot. I have to be so careful about them I'm walking less but I look forward to that easing off so I can walk more. Best medicine. I was chopping wood from a wheelchair before I went back last time and now I'm splitting and sawing it. With care, great care. I use a pruning saw a little smaller than a carpenter's saw, only with coarse teeth. I've sawed about a cord the past 10 days, some of it up to six" diameter. And I feel much better for it. I have an electric chain saw as well as a two-cycle one but I wanted that exercise. ...Gotta get to other mail. I'll see again about getting the other file cabinets and getting the oak ones packed and shipped. Then I'll let you know. Hope you get your ticket cleared soon. Our best to you all.

Sun. 7/26/81

Dear Folks:

It's been too long since I've hiked myself over to the typewriter and said hello to some good friends...my apologies.

Wish I could say its been due to the fact that we've been overwhelmingly busy building the radio station, but alas, the proforma appeals from the bums (our opposition) continue. This despite the fact that less than 30 days ago we were again upheld by the FCC Review Board. Now they have asked for a rehearing to the full Commission! That should take 3 to 6 months to resolve, then still there is the prospect of a year delay at the Court of Appeals level. As in the past, they appear to be pressing for a payoff of some sort...we just hope they get the idea in the not too distant, that such is not, cannot and will never be forthcoming. The project is now well over 4 years old! Thank God we were not depending on it (solely) from a financial point of view and have other activities that allow daily expenses to be met. By the time all ends, we will indeed have earned every red brick!

The Southern Nevada summer continues hot; very hot. Last month 20 out of 30 days saw temps well in excess of 105 degrees. The only thing that has made it bearable (aside from air conditioning) is the extremely low humidity - 6% on some days!

Our (just) 14 year old is home with us for the summer from boarding school and we certainly are enjoying having him around. In fact, we almost ended up coming your way on a summer excursion with the family in the van but scrubbed it due to some business that had be tended to. Now we are looking to an eastern trek (hopefully) over the Christmas holiday. In that case we would fly east, rent a car, see my Mom and Jodi's relatives and let the boy have at the Smithsonian. Ohviously, to break some bread with you both would be a joy.

How goes your weather, home and health? I trust Hal you are by now much better and fiestier than ever. Any new developements on the Ray or JFK front? Frankly, in the 10 months we've been here we've been rather out of touch with things. Las Vegas area papers are putrid. We have been getting the Sunday LA Times but even that leaves much to be desired. Jodi says she's going to try and get us the NYTimes and maybe even the Wa.-Post. Thinking of papers, sad to hear that the Star went under. Do you think anything will rise from the ashes to serve the Capitol city, or is the Post going to be it? Maybe I can talk Art Kunkin into coming back and starting another Freep! (Remember Kunkin?)

Hal, take good care of yourself and your dear wife and let us know how all is going.

Best regards,

Art & Jodi