

Mr. George Leopold  
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2/15/92

Dear George,

I am, as you put it, aging, for more than 16 years now, more and more as time passes, but I'm still a bit productive, albeit of limited nobility. But I'm glad to hear from you and to learn that you are doing worthwhile things. And happily married with something special to show for it!

I've heard about but did not see Rather's mishmash rehash. I can't help getting up early ( at 1 this morning, and it's is notw:45) so I try to get abed early. I was on at least three such crappy show. I've told Nightline not to bother me any more and just yesterday told 60 Minutes I'd help them but only with the assurance they are serious and will not use me as the other shows have. These people are so much the creatures of their medium, even the nice ones, of whom I've been interviewed by several, that they can't understand there is anyone who does not give a damn about personal attention or about being on the tube.

Lane's current may be his worst book. But publishers go for such crap because it makes money. Lane's is high on the best-seller list and has been contracted for a movie!

All the current assassination books are in various ways and degrees bad, as is the Oliver Stone movie. I was the one who began exposure of his commercialization and exploitation and as I'd hoped the story carried itself, helping make the historical record.

I don't know the story of <sup>o</sup> these three cigars. The ~~over~~ of Three Oranges interested me more. But we are about half-way between there and the <sup>o</sup> Monocacy battlefield, closer to the latter, and in between we have Barbara Ritchie's ~~said~~ tiny home, preserved in perfect condition, and not far away from it is The Hessian <sup>o</sup> barracks, going back to the war for independence and still in use. Did you know that the <sup>o</sup> Rebs, - think Early, held this town for ransom the interest on which was paid regularly until a few years ago?

Or that in fighting but losing the Battle of the <sup>o</sup> Monocacy the Union forces saved Washington <sup>from</sup> capture. The Rebels got as far as what is now Walter Reed Hospital. When I was a patient there in World War II I saw what was called "The Spy Tree," <sup>o</sup> as far into DC as they got. They spied through glasses from that tree, over then open country.

I hope you can make it. And as you'll see, although we have not moved, we have a street address.

You were one of a good group in college. If you are in touch with any of those I knew, please remember me to them.

Best wishes,

*Heard*

Feb. 10, 1992

Dear Harold:

It's been so long since I've written to you that I'm not sure whether I need to re-introduce myself. This lapse is particularly regrettable since I've been living in the Washington, D.C., area for over six years. In any event, my apologies for not contacting you sooner.

I've been following with interest your recent efforts to expose Stone, Lane, et al., sending back to Professor Wrone clips from the Post. I listened to Stone on the radio at the National Press Club one night while stuck on I-95 and couldn't help but think, What a waste of energy and money on this crap!

No doubt you saw or read about Dan Rather's rehash of the CBS "investigations" of the mid-60's and '70s, complete with "Dick Daring" Lane pushing his CIA conspiracy book. By contrast, I thought Helms and Connally were totally convincing as far as they went.

It's unbelievable to me that publishers in the midst of a prolonged recession in their business will touch Lane's crap. A sign of desperation? A year or so ago I submitted a book proposal on Pentagon procurement fraud to 18 different publishers and most said, Interesting, I'm sure you will have luck with this elsewhere, subject matter just not compelling. That's what I get for not making it up.

So please know that I and many others appreciate your most recent efforts along with all you've done over the past 28 years.

Don't know if Professor Wrone told you that I have been covering the Pentagon for an inside-the-Beltway trade rag for the last five years. It's taken me that long to get the beat I was after: arms control and nuclear weapon programs. It's an extraordinary time to be writing on these subjects, and occasionally I scoop the Post and Times.

I initially came East from Wisconsin in 1983 to attend Columbia University J-School in New York, where I concentrated in science writing. That field has since dried up, so I cover the Pentagon to pay the mortgage.

My wife Ellen and I have a three year old son named Ben who is all any parent could ask for -- the only kid in his preschool class who knew about Lincoln and his "house" in Washington.

Harold, I hope this letter finds you and your wife doing well. Please don't worry about writing back as I understand you've been ailing. Perhaps we'll come up to Frederick some weekend in the spring to visit. I'll be sure to call or write in advance. Perhaps you can tell us while we're there whether Old Receiver Road is anywhere near the spot where McClellan's men found Lee's orders for the Battle of Antietam wrapped around three cigars.

Regards,

*George*