

Dear Gary,

8/5/96

Your letter of the 31st was delayed a day by the old zip, which was changed years ago. In that day the manuscript was mailed back to the niece who did the retyping. She is not a proficient typist and that held more mistakes than any of the great volume of recent years when retyped. So making the corrections will take longer. What I also do is make a copy of the corrected retyped rough draft so I can answer questions and as security. I do have that and can't part with it until the corrections are entered into the computer. However, although I cannot now undertake to do that extra xeroxing on out slow, single-stage machine, if the lawyer will pay the cost of the xeroxing I'll have that done commercially here and can send it. I spent a week for each of the first six months of this year in either the local hospital or Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. For among other things congestive heart failure.

Clary will find that there was general thievery. I made no mention of those pictures not knowing whether he had permission but his stealing is beyond belief. I assume he is suing Viking. Groden has nothing but trouble but Viking has the money. The way it works is that they pay and collect from the author by withholding from what they owe him. If they do.

If there were not so many mistakes it would be easier to run the diskette and print it out but there are that many.

I am willing to attest to any of it that Clary might want to use. He is also welcome to use some of Groden's most ridiculous thievery that I document to make a laughing stock of him and Viking, which assumed more responsibility, I think for when you talk to the lawyers, by avoiding the once-traditional peer reviews.

I do stipulate, however, that they keep this quiet as long as they can. I'm feeble and vulnerable and do not want to waste any of the time that remains for me.

Aside from being an incredible subject-matter ignoramus Groden regards all that is published on the ~~story~~ ^{subject} as his property and that should have been obvious to Viking and all the people there involved in his crookedness.

What I have written is about 425 pages.

I've so run out of space I have Groden's two books where I cannot reach them because I'm not permitted to use even a single-step ladder. The only space in my office for them was the top bookshelf. So, I cannot learn that Vaughan stuff that I do not remember. Of was he the policeman? At the top of the ramp?

Groden's thievery is so wholesale I am inclined to believe that when the Clary firm files what it can file Viking will not want this to go to court, to trial

Groden is in other trouble, I'm told. Chris is said to have filed for divorce even though she is in terminal illness.

I feel sorry for his family but for what he has done he deserves whatever he gets, He even stole from the Congress, it is obvious.

Besides which he doctored some of the pictures. I go into that, too.

He even claimed that Black Star's are his and he learned about them from me.

Compare the picture he took of the Oswald shirt with the one in the back of WW II and you'll get an idea of what he is capable of.

I do not suppose anyone down there cares but many months ago I finished the draft of a book on the Walt Brown atrocity in which he blames the assassination on the Dallas police. Simply awful stuff and despite his claims, ignorant.

Best,

Ladd

July 31, 1996

Mr. Harold Weisberg
#100 Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold,

Nice to hear from you and I'm glad you're feeling better!

I would like very much to read your study of Groden's two books and will mention its availability to the attorney. His name is Brian Clary and he represents Roy Vaughan, Patsy Paschall, Tina Towner, and the Charles Bronson family members. It would not surprise me if others get involved. The last I heard was that Groden would be served soon.

Clary got involved when Roy Vaughan decided to go after Groden for his comments in *The Killing of a President*. Vaughan had been using a different attorney for these matters and had gone after others (I think he sued ABC over his portrayal in *The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald* tv movie.) That attorney subsequently retired, but Clary's firm had gotten the old files.

Critic Mark Oakes, who now lives here and who has interviewed Vaughan, mentioned Clary to Paschall. She decided to go after Groden for using her film without permission. Later, after learning Groden was using the Towner and Bronson films without their permission, I told them about Clary and they have joined the suit. Of course, I've known most of these photographers for years and as I contact them for other Sixth Floor Museum matters, I learn that some never authorized Groden to use their pictures.

Speaking of pictures, the Museum's camera exhibit is going to be terrific. It will open in November with these original cameras on display: Zapruder, Nix, Moorman, Willis, Altgens, Tina Towner, Jim Towner and both Bronson cameras. Additionally, we will exhibit the 16mm professional camera used by Bert Shipp of WFAA-TV. Bert was at the Trade Mart, but his camera was typical for news photographers at that time.

You've probably heard plenty about the "lost" Roy Cooper/KTVT film that surfaced recently. I first saw it back around 1979 or 1980 and we used several minutes of it in *The Men Who Killed Kennedy*. One of the scenes got a lot of publicity which, unfortunately, is not what it seems to be. The scene of the Kennedys holding hands at Love Field actually took place earlier at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth. Roy Cooper placed it among the Love Field clips, even though he was the one who shot it originally!

The film that was donated to the Review Board was a first or second generation print. The original, which the family knew existed but couldn't find, has been located. It was Roy's intent to donate it to us and we were going to work out the donation after the first of this year. Unfortunately, Roy died suddenly on January 4 before we could speak again. Still, I expect the original to wind up here.

