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May 5, 1997

Dear Harold:

Well, I have kept up my tradition of losing all my money at the Derby! Betsy cashed a check. We watched it on TV, but sent our money out to the track.

On why I was such an idiot on returning your manuscript, I at first had set it aside and misplaced it, and then I misidentified it. When I got your letter last Monday, I went home and picked it up. Just plain stupidity on my part.

No ulterior motive, and I apologize. I thought it was something else. I looked at it several days before I sent it, but thought it was another book.

Sometimes I amaze even myself for my ability to lose stuff. Guess I am going to have to get more organized. Not Janice's fault, I assure you.

We live in an extremely violent society. Last week, a disgruntled and unbalanced nursing home employee who was fired, lay in wait for her former bosses. Killed them both at point blank range. Handgun. The nursing home is only about 300 yards from where I sit in my office. I also know some people in the home.

So, I'm sitting in Jefferson District Court with my misdemeanor client (she shoplifted an Easter bunny) and across the courtroom, was the alleged killer. Bare feet, suicide watch. Her lawyer was making a motion to preserve all the TV footage. Like they do in important cases! Not like some assassinations I could talk about.

Really makes you wonder. Man, I would hate to be killed by some disgruntled client. Glad we have a German Shepherd at home.

Happy the doctors' report was good. You are too busy to get sick. What kind of guidance would I have if you left us? I would probably pester Ginocchio and Wrone and McKnight until they were fed up with me. Gerry and Wrone both wrote me nice notes on receiving Newman's critique.

You probably heard about the rocket they sent up with the ashes of Timothy (LSD) Leary and Gene (Star Trek) Roddenberry. What you don't know is it also carried the ashes of a close friend of ours, Omer (Whayne Supply) Lamkin. His daughter's have been trying to do this for 10 years. Read about it in the paper and saw it on Inside Edition. What an odd thing!

Saw an interesting Frontline the other night. It discussed the Admiral Boorda suicide, politics of the women aviators, infighting in the Navy, etc. I must tell you, I find the Navy to be an extremely odd institution.

One story that I think would be interesting is the refusal of Navy planes to drop bombs on North Vietnam towards the end of the war. I have read that this was very common the last three years or so. Dropped them in the ocean. As one interview I once saw stated, "We killed a lot of fish, but we felt at that point it was better than killing North Vietnamese!" Never have read an article on that.

Guy in this building entertained the Secretary of the Navy this weekend at the Derby. He is active in some sort of Marine retiree organization.

Dad was a submariner, Pacific, claims his nerves haven't been right since the depth charges! I can understand that.

Just saw a three hour documentary on German subs. We are very lucky we won the war.

Well, a young attorney just called and asked my advice. I'll try to steer him in the right direction.j

Bill