

Dear Clay,

11/24/98

The reverse side of this is a duplicate for me so I send it in ~~the~~ event you did not see it. You could have sent it to me and ⁺ now do not remember that! My memory had been slipping and I'm told that ~~one~~ of the symptoms of approaching end-stage kidney disease is a worsening of the memory in some ways.

I was up at Hopkins yesterday and the trip always tires me onto the second day but yesterday it was much longer and I'm more tired today. I had the regular cardiologist's appointment there for today. When I cancelled it I left a message on the machine that I'd get there early in the event had had office hours and could squeeze me in. He did that. I was at his waiting room before he was and as he walked past he said, "See you soon." Examination ^(first one) OK and then had to wait more than four hours to see the nephrologist who, it seems, was also squeezing me ~~in~~ in an a heavy day. He will do the dialysis on the upper left arms. It will require ~~what~~ what I think he referred to as a patch. Or, the vein is far from perfect.

As I asked Jerry to e-mail you as soon as I got home, the package was waiting at the door when we got back. It took 13 days from the ⁶postmark. But I did not want you to go to the trouble of making another copy. This morning I did some switching of boxes so I'll have the two I need when I read and correct. Jerry is to get me more at a place just behind that end ~~of~~ of his campus but he has been too busy. However, I now have the retyped in one half of a stationery box and the other half to put the pages in as I finish with them. I have also stapled the rough draft by chapter so that I can flip those pages while they are on the ~~left~~ left of ^{when} when I sit.

Ordinarily I'd have started it by now but I'm too tired to trust myself now.

Forgot: the operation will be his first opening. ^{the friend who drove me} I think ~~I~~ heard him say to his secretary to make it the first opening. I understood him to be saying, earlier, to me, that it would probably be first or second week of next month.

P The chocolate is fine! Finer to me because I'm not supposed to have any and have not for ^{years} years. Without that to exaggerate it, fine taste. Thanks. Only ate the end of one bar and I'll take the other to ~~til~~ til

On the diskettes, I'll leave that to Jerry. But I see no reason to keep those that are not clear. Especially since you are doing something better that, while I do not understand it, better is better.

I'd forgotten what you's said about the WW I you returned so please tell me again.

I can't take a nap, which, ordinarily, I would do, because the woman who helps and applies my medication on the back is due soon.

Tomorrow will be my first Thanksgiving alone in 85 years. So far Jerry and

another friend have told me they'll bring me a meal and there may be some who will without having told me they would. And Turkey is protein, on which I am to go lightly.

I won't dare go to the hospital ^{thanks giving} because the fine volunteers, and they are fine, those I know ranging from girls to a retired bank president, will not likely be there and the total walk is too much for me, from the car to Lil's room. Of course it will be more alone for Lil, alas.

I refer above to stapling the chapters of the rough draft. With the squeeze-type staplers I could not staple some of them!

The fine woman who has been helping came and then chaos. It was I think the most enervating ^{at} day I can remember. I got a call from the office help ^{at} you heard Mayley talking to and she scheduled me for the advance blood work this coming Friday, day after Thanksgiving, and the surgery to be outpatient this coming ^{at} Tuesday, ^{at} December 1. I made I can't begin to imagine how many phone calls to get through that this is both impossible and dangerous for me and never got a

doctor. Only that I'd be called back. I waited up until 9 p.m. and ^{at} got no call-back. I tried to get my local nephrologist to call and say this was dangerous for me from what he knows of my medical history and he did not want to get involved. I spoke ^{at} briefly to the family doctor who ^{at} was to call me back and he did not. I must have made a half-dozen effort to get in touch with him. He never even told me how much cumadin to take and I finally had to ^{at} prescribe for myself. Then, suddenly out of the blue, I got a phone call from the hematologist, Dr. Bell. I had written him about something else and I ^{at} then told him about this. He was interrupted by another call and came back to say more or less that it was all settled. But if as I think he meant he said, I ^{at} had to be there two days early and stay two days after, I've not heard a word about that. I have to know when to check in and where and then I have to arrange transportation. The friend who has been driving me is due to go deer hunting west of here, ^{at} The ^{at} cousin who ^{at} has driven me ^{at} is communicably sick. If it is to be Sunday or Saturday I can probably get a great-nephew who is not working to take me up, or our Baltimore friends. It was a great relief that by coincidence that wonderful Dr. Bell phoned but it was past his time for going home so I did not question him. Besides which he would not have had the answers. So, all I can now do is keep the phone clear until at least after the doctors are on their rounds or in surgery and hope that I get a comprehensible message from one of them

And all this before the major change in my life that follows!

I could not even read a book, leave ^{at} Hope you have a good holiday.
alone work! I tried, Could not pay
any attention to what I read! Can't begin to
indicate how difficult a day it was!

Best,

Leedy