

Dear Howard, Three envelopes today. Please thank your father for his thoughtfulness and his generosity.... Jim White's address is 35 Castle Rock Drive, Mill Valley, Calif. 94941. Thanks. I'll go over the clips when I can. Your 1/15 memo on the book is what impels immediate response. Whether or not Link said that, it is the case. I've been saying the equivalent for a long time but the holy know-it-alls have argued, especially SM. One of the things you should try to guard against is being overwhelmed by the odds and another is a meaningless suggestion, like Harper's. They've been impossible from the first. I had a friend on the inside. Now they have the publishing history on assassination books after early 1967 and that is very persuasive to the business mind. First of all, I think your prospects now are much better with any university press. Partly because you are a student and rather young, partly because some of the people at them are more likely to go for something like this, and for other reasons. The problem you faced with Sion is that he was powerless in the teeth of a policy decision made with me in 1965. It is much to his credit that he tried again, after that and with the commercial record.... If any book like Link's would have been met with indifference, he brought some of it on himself by the nasty cracks about those who really did the work he pretended was his. He thus alienated a large part of the potential market. But the fact is the odds were against him because that is the current fate of the subject.... The University of Illinois Press wanted to read WW but wanted me to wait 6 months for a decision and to have it as an exclusive submission. No, Univ. Indiana. Vernard B. Perry was then director. ~~Univ.~~ Indiana Univ. Press, 10 and Morton Sts., Bloomington, Ind. 47401 in 1965... First, I think, you should find out where Ed Watkins is. If he is with a publisher, I think that he is the best beginning for you. If that doesn't work, try Indiana and if that doesn't, I'll try to find time to think... Last year may well have been a disastrous year for all publishers. Considering what they publish and how, they deserve little better, if the people do. However, your book is not dated, so be patient, try to think it through, and try to have a second read when you get nixed by the first. I think it is a bit visionary to think of any of the larger publishers, and I speak with considerable experience, including in recent years, where those up high on the inside can do nothing when they want to. Or would like to. Or close friends ask. Good luck!

Your cat and chickens clip: not uncommon. Mine did it all the time, only generally they were afraid of chickens. I got a swell series of shots I can show you of one, Blugy, carrying her kittens back across the beam of the henhouse to the extreme end because she birthed them there and wanted them back there when I moved them because I knew she was afraid of hens, because she was using a nest in which they laid eggs, and because I thought a crazy hen might attack them in her absence. Again thanks and our best. We look forward to your return. HW 1/18/73