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3/17/00

Dear Hal,

I faced the decision on whether or not to have the heart bypasses done under different circumstances. My local cardiologist sent me to Johns Hopkins, where the cardiologist there, a stranger to me, had the exploratory work done and then waited to think it over before deciding whether to recommend the surgery or not. The next morning he did and without waiting I said go ahead. But for that they had to wait a week for the opening. Time in that surgery room. I returned for it and it went so well they were going to release me on the sixth day. However, they had assumed I was from Baltimore, so I had to stay there another day to arrange for transportation home. I was older than you then but almost immediately the improvement in me was apparent. And in 22 days I'll be 87.

I had no real pain from the operation. Of it I know there were three bypasses. If they did anything about a leaky heart valve of which I'd long known I now do not remember it. From the operation itself I had little pain that I can recall. However, as I was told and I presume you will be, when you have to cough you are to be certain to bring up any phlegm there might be. For that one instant I had a little pain. I remember also that I was told to hold a pillow to my chest then. No big deal.

Stanford
I do not remember whether I was told that it was or was not an immediately threatening condition before I made the instant decision to go ahead. I do recall that the surgeon, who left Hopkins for the ^{out there} hospital next to it in the annual peer reviews and with my problem with names now it does not come to mind, to be closer to his roots, the hospital of the college of the rose bowl, came in to go into those things the evening before the operation. I told him to save his breath, that if the operation was recommended that is all I had to know. His name was Reitz, I remember that, and he was a fine guy.

No such routine on my teeth. I'd have remembered that. None that I know of anyway.

The procedure to decide whether to operate on ^{me} ~~my~~ was to explore, as I recall, whether the bypasses were needed. That also was no problem and no pain.

What my local cardiologist did not tell me but did tell the family doctor and he did not tell the family doctor that he had not told me is that he did not expect me to survive the surgery from which I had no real problem at all ^{and} ~~and~~ from which I've gotten a little more than a decade so far.

From my experience I encourage you to be confident that if you decide to

go ahead to do that with confidence. Not a fair way to put it but it can well be a fact that that operation gave me about 30 manuscripts to leave as a record for our history and I look forward to more of them although I am much weaker now.

With regard to Pig History it is being retyped slowly here. I have just read and made corrections in the third chapter. The corrections will not be made until all has been retyped. Then I'll be glad to send you a copy. I can have a disk made and you can have that printed out any way you'd like or I can have it printed out here and mail you the printout. I'll try to remember to let you know when it is done.

I never hear from Aguilar any more. I like him as I do Barb and some of the others who are off on that kick but the sad truth is that they do not realize that there is much established fact that is foreign to them and that ^{refutes} ~~refutes~~ what they believe. I like De Salles, too. But none of them want to hear what disproves what they want to believe.

Frankly, with the many changes in my life I am better off not having to take unwanted time because they will not let themselves be informed. In varying degrees they think themselves Barry Mason returned.

From my experience, if you decide to go ahead and have the operation now do it with confidence. From my experience also you should then base all on a daily walking program, increasing it slightly and not rushing that increase but doing it daily. That for sure and whatever exercise is prescribed. I think that is very important and that I'll be 87 is, I think, a good argument.

Best,

Hal