

Dear Js,

1/3/72

This is the day Lil began work; the first of our series of guests leaves; the second arrives. And I wonder how, with the social schedule of the coming month, I'll be getting any of my own work done. (Lil has completed the final draft of the missing chapter of Pt. 2, has started the intro, and I've not finished the conclusions, which do require a bitz of thought.)

TC 40- I've tried several tapes and without tapes. Not until getting your letter (thanks for taking the time) did I have the wit to try still another tapes and lo! with that it works! So, I'll have to try all the tapes and return the defectives. Had I done this earlier, I'd have had a few cassettes of decent TV stuff for you, for there has been some recently (we didn't listen the the tricks of Dirty Dick last night). For example, the voice of an American prisoner in MWN saying get out, that's the Christmas spirit, a pilot saying that the recent bombins, in military terms were not wroth their cost, etc.

It is a rare thing when I forget to seal an envelope. 't is not impossible. On the fatter envelopes, I usually sit on them after sealing, so they'll stick, and then, if it seems added strength is needed, add tape, as I did in the one you described. There ~~is~~ is an exaction to sitting, if I seal an envelope just as I am leaving. I do not think I opened and resealed any I sent you. What I usually do is let them accumulate until they get to near the limit of two or three stamps, then send them. Since there is always something to send and no real emergencies, I just put whatever there might be into the next envelope.

Don't feel there is need for special comment on the clips. I've sent what I thought might be of interest, like the Wash Post's agonizing on leaking and backgrinders. Too little, too late, but better than never.

Although she felt lousy, "il and I went to suburban Washington yesterday afternoon with the fine young friend who is visiting us. His sister and brother-in-law (young radio newsman) live there. "il wore that beautiful Indian silk scarf Je sent her and enjoyed it much. It is quite attractive, and I didn't even remember there was such a thing as Indian silk!

Je didn't say how much the trousers I asked her to get Lil are. If she'll let me know, I'll send. And we enjoyed the honor. "il got a big kick out of labelling the cassettes in the package addressed to her "to whom it may concern". Little things mean so much when everything is so bleak.

One of the guests I expect is the expert on the Kaplan/Vidal case and Kaplan. She is out your way now seeking Mrs. K, the U.S. one. If there is any special interest you have, let me know and I'll ask her. I don't know exactly when she'll get here.

Thanks for everything, and hope you have a good year!

Best,

30 December 1971

Dear Harold:

A hurried note that might save you an unnecessary trip into Washington with your TC-40. In all probability the trouble is not with the machine, but with a cassette.

At the top corners of each cassette, on the top edge, are two little break-out tabs in the plastic shell. This is a safety device to prevent erasing a permanent record by accident. That is, to make sure you don't erase a permanent record you wish to keep, you break out the tab at the upper left of each side. This allows a small tongue of metal to penetrate the cassette when the cassette is inserted into the machine, which locks the recording button and makes it impossible to record anything more on that side of the tape. Sometimes these little tabs get broken accidentally, and the effect is exactly the same -- you can't get the recording button down, which is the whole idea -- to keep the operator from accidentally erasing something. To defeat this system, all you have to do is to find the cassette with the tab broken out, and put a small piece of scotch tape over the hole. When a cassette thus taped is put into the machine, the metal tongue is pushed back into the machine, which unlocks the recording button and permits it to be depressed.

I suppose this happens to all owners of cassette recorders. It certainly did to me, and I actually got to the shop with the machine. ~~wikx~~ The guy took one look..... I, too, had read all this in the instructions, and still forgot it when the crunch came. We have let things slide so for the past year that for the past six weeks we simply have had to attend to an accumulation of things, plus the holiday season which we avoid as much as possible, but that's not enough, of course. Anyway, we hope to get back to catching up on more interesting things in a week or so, at which time you should hear further from us.

In the meantime, thanks for letting us know which stories you have from the New Orleans paper. I note you have some which reached you without dates. When we get into the catching-up bit we'll supply anything you don't have, plus dates for those where you lack dates.

We have the following mailings from you since last accounting. Those dates followed by (?) indicate smudged postmarks where we had to guess at the date: 8nov, 15nov, 7dec, 10dec(?), 11dec, 14dec(?), 18dec(?), 19dec(?) and 24dec. The last two had been opened and resealed. That for 19dec(?) had been resealed crookedly. That for 24dec was less carelessly done, with three small bits of scotch tape added along the overlap. I mention this in case you opened them yourself for a last-minute enclosure and then resealed them before mailing.

Many thanks for all the enclosures, clippings, etc. All requiring comment will be dealt with eventually. We're both fine, just surfacing into other people's world for a few weeks, which of course knocked our own into a cocked hat.

Our best to you both,

  
jdw