

Dear Jim,

10/4/76

Glad to get your 10/1 good news on Jenifer and to learn that you are still getting physical exercise. There seems to be no consensus on what causes thrombosis but I believe the exercise can be of some value as a preventive. It is great for the feeling of well-being.

At this moment I have the feeling from a different inspiration, sort of like the cliché about the woman in the dumps who goes out and just buys. I filled a long-standing need. I bought four file cabinets. They'll be here soon. And I have to readjust to this fine old Royal because the new platen on the Hermes is the apparent cause of miserable carbons.

What prompted the splurge is the acquisition of so many declassified records. By the time each inventoried item is put in a file folder they take up great gobs of space. I persuaded Lil to start going over the years of accumulation in the basement. She made space for three cabinets. I'll need the fourth so I got it because with it I got a 10% discount. Anyway, even if I don't know where I'll get the time to introduce a little order into my 10x12 office eliminating a little more of the clutter is now possible.

We are both glad the China clips have been of value. We, mostly Lil, have clipped all on the chance a buried graf could be of use.

I'd never thought of Mao's success in the Oksenberg terms, as applying Marxism only where it coincided with Chinese values and ideas. I was aware of his supposed departures from USSR doctrine and his initial use of some capitalists. I had taken a simpler view at the time I had time to consider what he was doing. I was influenced by a number of sources, my own research on Carlson and his and other books and perhaps Anne Fremantle. I thought the Russian's were not to expect him to apply Marx's theories where there was no working class. He had to adapt. However, after the takeover I had time to read little. I did some at the time of the great leap but not much. I think I wondered then when the emotional appeal ended and the industrial value began. Glad you mentioned this. I've not thought in those terms.

This paper is part of the yield of Lil's cleaning up. Why she didn't throw it away in Hyattstown, before we moved, I don't know. However no reason to use to use it. Not generally for letters. His time to determine if the carbon is a factor by trying different papers.

If your brush chore is not over and if you or the neighbor do not have a bush-axe, also called brush-axe, for some purposes it is great. I still have the one I used on clearing the land at ~~my~~ Hyattstown. Sort of J-shaped head. Can be used to cut below ground level on as I remember it up to 2" stems or trunks. I have found a machete handy for trimming, much easier than a hatchet or ax. Chris McDonald is going to look for a bolo with scabbard for me while she is in the Philippines. Pearl G. never came up with a machete with scabbard. Andy St. George promised one and never delivered. Very handy thing.

Perhaps in your comment on the starvation diet in electronic reporting you are not saying what I've observed, a marked decrease in news content. Some years ago it was not uncommon for me to hear what I did not see even in the Times. Now I never listen to day-time news. Generally supper to the evening news. TV. Abandoned a.m. TV news long ago but started up with advent of bad weather. I find the exercise boring, so I take in the first 15 minutes on CBS while I'm using it. It is gunk now. More entertainment-oriented than the evening junk. NBC's new radio service is similar. I prefer the right-wing DC radio all-news simply because they depend on the wires more. They just read wire copy much of the time.

Regret no explanation of new symptoms. The new GHA doctor is a warm man but he was interrupted by a semi-emergency. Some things he could not explain. Some caution against ~~xx~~ even bruising, perhaps a little more emphatic. But no information at all. He has ordered a series of tests I'll have made when I'm in D.C. Friday. After that I think I'll seek a specialist on my own if he will not arrange it under my coverage. I'm not imagining it when the foot swells and all the minor veins on the arms show. Nor is the coldness in the toes after a vigorous walk normal or imagined. Except for the annoyance of having to cover my feet while I type with them up, things like that, I feel okay other ways. Our best,

1 October 1976

Dear Harold:

A note to go with the enclosed and get them on their way. The murder of the LA private eye, Robert Duke Hall, may not mean anything, but anyone with a connection with Vesco can scarcely be overlooked.

Thus far we have heard nothing on the air from Lane, Freed or Mann, nor has there been anything in print that we've seen. We'll be alert, but we rarely listen to any of the talk shows because of their insipid nature and there is no way of knowing what they have coming up without wasting a terrible amount of time waiting for them to give some hint -- maybe. Nothing ever is announced in advance in a dependable way. Their idea seems to be that if they keep you in suspense you'll keep listening. It may work with some, but not in this household.


We never watch commercial TV news but do try to catch the MacNeil-Lehrer Report on PBS, at least to see what it's about. And although the local PBS News Room show, which is widely admired, is much better than the commercial fare, it still is so limited as to be worth little to us. Consequently we catch KPFA's 45 minutes of hard news at 6 p.m. and on most days tune in one newscast on KCBS at least once during the day. It's incredibly superficial, but you do get an interesting headline from them now and then. Otherwise we regard the local electronic information fare as starvation diet and avoid it nearly all the time. Having said all this, we'll still keep an ear and eye open for anything on Lane et cie, but thus far not a peep.

Been busy at hard physical labor recently, helping our good neighbor dispose of brush on his new place in western Marin, and more recently both of us working on the carport, which proceeds slowly but at least is proceeding. Jenifer is still doing her best to keep up with her reduced work schedule, but is so painstaking and conscientious that the actual reduction is far from impressive. She's still doing very well with her irrigation chore and keeps a relentless record of all that goes on.

In your last 3rd class mailing there were several excellent things, mostly on China as I recall it, but one was most outstanding -- something on Maoism after Mao, by one Michel Oksenberg of the University of Michigan. He's the first academic I've encountered who puts forward the idea that always has intrigued me: that Mao succeeded because he applied Marxism only where it coincided with Chinese traditional values and ideas. I had thought of it in terms of his gratifying the Chinese passion for realism and common sense. Oksenberg makes a better case than that, and I hope he can do more and influence the right people to some extent. He thinks there will naturally be change after Mao (there would be in any case) but that it will be gradual and, barring outside intervention, without serious disturbance.

By this time you should have seen another round of doctors, and we hope very much your new symptoms will have been explained and something done about them. Meanwhile, Here's hoping for less discomfort and apprehension.

Best from us both,

  
jdw