

Dear Jim,

3/10/78

~~xxxxxxx~~ I'll be seeing Wrone next week and will tell him about your 3/6. He is coming here for an oral history on Farewell America and to take more files back with him.

For at least six months they have an authentic scholar working on the archive. Odd story. Dave found this PhD driving a cab - unable to get scholarly work. He has explored famous British archives and is good at it.

Your work at Hospice should be gratifying to you...I wish I'd had the opportunity of taping a long narrative from Gary Schoener once when I introduced him to the ExPost's science-medical writer, on work of which Gary was part. My recollection is strong enough to know that the time is worthwhile. Independent of what you've said.

California's weather has been much in the local TV news recently. We all know about the rains and their consequences, etc.

Our own has again been exceptional. Last winter was a rough one but it never got as cold as it usually does. It just got cold and stayed cold, freezing to a new depth and cracking footings and supposedly safe pipes. This year is a copy only not quite as cold. I don't think it got down to zero once. But we've had snow on the ground since mid-November - 10 or 11 storms and until recently little thawing.

Once it started snowing my firewood supply could not be replenished. I save back enough to last about two days, in case of an emergency. I'll get wood thawed before the sap is up much and lay it back for next winter.

The pavement at the lab where my blood is tested weekly is up as much as 8 inches. For two days they could not get the door to the Block office in which Lil had worked open wide enough for people to use it.

As I probably told you, our lane has been ice since the first rain or thaw after the first snow. I've been keeping after it but until now without making much progress. I'd get back to where I'd been and the stuff came down again. Especially today I was able to sheet off large chunks. Thick stuff. I had to break much of it to shovel it out of the lane so it would thaw without creating more ice at night. Today I did more such lifting, it tired me but I feel very good about it and about being able to do it. I believe it has been a real benefit to me. One of the typical symptoms of atherosclerosis has disappeared entirely and another has diminished very much since I've been doing this. If it does not get too cold tonight I'll have most if not all cleared by tomorrow night.

The winter should be about over but we still have freezes nightly. I'm hoping tonight will be the first exception.

The deer must have trouble getting food. Tracks up to the house, where we feed the birds. Pheasants staying close, too. Scared one early couple mornings ago. He was perched high in a tall white pine. First time I've known one to roost that close to the house.

We do look forward to your getting here. Lil should have no last-minute emergencies. She did not advertise this year. However, she has as much business as she wants. Repeats and recommendations from the satisfied. (She has finally recognized that she has always pushed herself too hard because she likes the tax work. She is superb at it, too.) She has found time to be of help to me. My hunch is that her work will be slacking off. Hope so. She is putting in long days still, but without the pressures of the past.

Glad you sounded so good when we spoke.

Best wishes,

6 March 1978

Dear Harold:

Sorry to have been such a lousy correspondent, but I was doing a long personal writing job and didn't feel like leaving it unfinished. Glad you called the other day. You sounded fine, the same as always.

I'm still planning on leaving here late in March, see a number of people going across the country, and should arrive in the WX area some days before the middle of April. There are a number of people I'll want to see in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, and will get in touch with you by phone by the 15th if not before.

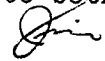
I had hoped to get the files ready and off to Wrono before leaving, but that isn't going to be possible. Instead, as I think I mentioned on the phone, I'll write to him within a few days proposing that I drop by Stevens Point on the way back from the east coast. That will give him a chance to evaluate me and our approach to what we collected, and he also may be able to suggest things which I can incorporate in winding up the files which would best be done at such a time rather than later, by long distance, as it were. We can discuss all the arrangements, and it would be much better if I know, at least, what his preferences are, whether I am able to conform with them or not. He can ask questions and follow-up questions, etc.

Again, let me say how much I appreciate what you have done in providing and encouraging this connection. Saved me endless trouble and all-too-probable disappointment.

I don't really know how I stay so busy, but suppose doing my own housework, shopping and cooking has something to do with it. In any case, after getting the back issues of the NY Times taken care of and doing some other things toward keeping the files up to date, I started on the long writing job I mentioned. In the meantime I began doing some volunteer work for Hospice, and this continues. Like all such outfits getting started, volunteer help is extremely important to them. They're expanding rapidly (7 nurses on call now as opposed to 3 when we first got involved) and recently held a week's seminar for doctor's and nurses from all across the country who want to start Hospices of their own. They even had several of us survivors discuss the receiving end. It's an extremely impressive group, and the movement is snowballing steadily.

After two years of drought, as you know, California has had above average rain this year, all local reservoirs are full, and there'll be a good Sierra runoff to replenish some of the dangerously lowered ground water table in the central valley. It has rained nearly every day for the last two months, at least, but all the really damaging storms have hit in the L.A. area. Not much damage up this way except one MV house which slid off its hill which got too saturated. It would have gone sometime anyway, probably.

Trust your winter is about over, and that this finds you in good shape. Delighted to hear of the possibility of Jim and Howard pairing up. What a team. Best to both of you,

 jdw