

Dear Jim,

11/4/82

November so far has been almost like May, except for the falling of the leaves and the ending of the shedding of the pines. Days into the 80s and about 60 at 6 a.m. Rare and wonderful! A good, soaking, march-like rain today may forecast the coming return to normal weather but we've sure enjoyed what we've had.

Yesterday was my regular visit to the surgeon. He was so pleased that he let me hear my own blood coursing through the artificial artery. He used what is called a Doppler, after the name of the guy who either invented it for the Navy or whose theoretical work enabled it. My recollection of WW II stories is not always certain. For the Navy that was to enable detection of submarines and other sea-borne objects and provide their distance. A mineralized version has been used in medicine, within my experience, since 1977, when it was first used on me. It is really a modern wonder. A box-like thing not much larger than a pack of 100 cagarets, with a point and a listening device that looks like those of a stethoscope. They put a gel where they want to listen and then move the gadget around. Yesterday, for the first time, it was used on the inside of my knee. While the surgeon moved it around he nodded his head and smiled. Then he used it on the side, just at or below the point where the teflon joins the natural artery. And he smiled broadly. He noticed I was looking at him, so he smiled and asked me if I'd like to hear it. Sounds like water rushing in something hollow, with the regular great increase in volume with each beat of the heart. Made me feel good because it was so loud, so strong and so slowly regular. He said it was good and that he's pleased. So I was too, of course. Means the blood is getting down well. The continuing and permanent problem is its return. I have another similar and also unexpected experience shortly. The deformity in the toes and the strict injunction I have against even the most minor pain or irritation had me go to the podiatrist before my scheduled visit, this Monday. He had to trim the nail and the calouses on the left little toe and that provided relief. He started to ask me if I'd help him when someone is going to demonstrate a new machine, I anticipated what he was going to ask and said sure. So that is this afternoon. Called something like a vasculator. The more he learns and the more I learn the better for me. (Besides being skilled, he is a fine person.)

So, except that I'll have been a sinus sufferer with this beautiful weather, we are both well. As you seem to be from your 10/23.

I guess we are both fortunate in not having to recognize reduced physical capabilities as early as many do. So, if you are tired from time to time, ease off. I do and it helps. I even took a nap day before yesterday, even though there was work being done, unexpectedly, that I'd have liked to watch. My driveway got a long-delayed sealing coat or top dressing.

Probably the work you do for Hospice tires you more because of the emotional drain. I hope you'll try to rest when your body signals you should. You'll get more done, from my recent experiences, if you do.

In recent months I've written many long affidavits and so far they've been remarkably effective. We've even had a major victory before a judge who has been in the FBI's pocket, in the FOIA suit for the Dallas and New Orleans field office records. Absolutely incredible! But another testimonial to intellectual judo.

I'm glad you evaluated young David's work as I did and I was sure you'd enjoy reading it. Promising kid. He got an A with favorable comment for the teacher.

How wonderful your gathering of ~~the~~ China hand at Phoenix should be! Too bad you'll be there so short a time. You have friends near there, don't you?

You mention Joe Alsop. I thought he'd died. If I haven't, I'll tell you my favorite story about him. Back in the summer of 1966 and for some time thereafter he was the correspondent the Trib had covering the Senate. He was grossly fat then. And exuded superiority. I was the editor of our committee and to the degree possible so long before the development of electrostatic copying tried to have a few carbon copies of the retyped exhibits for the press. We had two tables for reporters, each

at right-angles to the dais. Once he realized that there were never enough copies he'd get there early and sit himself at the same table at the end closer to me. And the side closer to me. So, when I handed a single copy to the table, he'd first pretend to be busy with it and then would just put it in his pocket or among his other papers. And nobody else would see it. While I was disgusted, there was nothing I could do except what was futile, speak to him about it. Made no difference at all, unless one of the others caught him and protested.

I'd never heard of any indication of any change in Luce's attitude toward China. Quite surprising. So what Hersey says should be interesting. I don't remember any of his writing other than two excellent books.

What you return so rapidly for is so worthwhile you'll probably not have any real regrets for having to cut it short. And with your advance work, you should have a good and more than adequate coverage for the ~~inspired~~ fund-raiser. Hope it is as big a success as it and you both deserve.

Not much new here. I've been slowed down a bit by having to sit for an hour or more thrice daily with a greasy ointment on each palm. If I've not very careful it gets on books and furniture. Some kind of minor eruption, but the damned medicine just isn't absorbed. Oh, well, not too bad with paperbacks that were second-hand when I got them at our nearby second-hand paperback bookstore. Great buys, from 35¢ up.

Our best,

23 October 1982

Dear Harold and Lil:

Thanks for yours of the 2nd, and I'd better try to answer it before I get even busier than I already am.

David's interview was indeed well done, and thanks for sending it. A kid like that is wonderful to encounter. He's not only laid back and well-balanced -- he's very smart. And I'm sure Liz wowed them at the recital. She's another wonder, with a clear-eyed view of the world in addition to her sensitive handling of the violin. Two extraordinary children of two extraordinary parents.

Maybe I'm just getting old, but I do feel busy. Hospice has been calling on me for help with patients more often than usual, mainly because I'm the only male patient care volunteer who isn't working at some job or other. In addition to that I agreed last summer to handle the publicity for Hospice Holiday, a big fund-raiser for Hospice of Marin to take place Nov. 21. Some releases have already gone out and the rest of the regular releases are drafted ~~from~~ ^{for} the print and electronic media in the area involved. Later there'll be individual features, with pix, for selected print media (Marin has ~~two dailies~~ ^{one daily} and a dozen or so throw-away weeklies.)

I'm trying to get it all well under way in order to get away to Phoenix for a two-day roundtable on Nov. 19-20 on China war reporting during the 1940s. Arizona State University has invited all surviving correspondents who were there, and expect to see -- for the first in many years -- such old friends and acquaintances as Harrison Salisbury, Hank Lieberman and Tilman Durdin of the NY Times, A.T. Steele of the Hertrib and CDN, Mac Fisher (ex-UP, Peking), T.H. White and John Hersey of Time-Life. In addition there'll be John W. Powell, who was accused of treason for reporting American experiments with germ warfare during the Korean War, and Israel Epstein who spent many years on the People's Republic. They'll be nicely balanced by Anna Chennault and Joe Alsop. Academia will be represented by John Fairbank of Harvard and Harold Isaacs of MIT, and so on. John Service also will be there. I'll fly back the night of the 20th in time to make the big Holiday bazaar here on the 21st.

Hersey will be speaking on Henry Luce, which could be very interesting because at the time of his death on an Arizona tennis court he was negotiating through intermediaries with Chou En-lai to visit the Peoples Republic. This last-minute 180-degree switch of his attitude was reported only in a LIFE photo caption at the time.

The place may be crawling with agents, but it should be interesting.

Everything fine here, and I hope you're both well and busy.

Best,  djw