

Dear Jim,

12/11/78

Lil read and enjoyed your 12/6 while I had to take in the skull-numbers of the House assassins. I've just been delighted by it while she prepares supper, mostly salad and some leftovers. I'm redeveloping the Dave Wrone problem. Scale yesterday disclosed that in the past month've put about 5 lbs on and have to waste them slowly.

You refer to your serving wine and cheese and sponsorship by a beer company. Are you aware of the recent scientific work that is another major breakthrough of science? (Confirms what our grandparents knew without PhDs.) For the elderly and for the ill moderate alcohol intake is excellent medication and the best psychological therapy. If you have not and are interested let us know and we'll copy that piece. (Not doing it unbidden now because Lil got behind by the typing of another affidavit, just completed, and after supper I must re-read to get executed in a.m.)

Your beer company might appreciate knowing that the work with which I'm familiar began in England with you-know-what, what they sell. This work, and I don't follow such things and am not limiting, was proven to be good for the circulation of blood as well as beer. Year or more ago I heard a radio item attributed to Lancet.

Years ago a Viennese doctor told me to use wine as a tranquilizer. I rarely take a tranquilizer any more despite chronic anxiety and I'm limited to about four stout drinks a day. In fact I'm to have 3-4 to balance with the thinning qualities of the warfarin and must be precise at blood-testing time. With me it works so well the nurse raves about the balance when she gives me the word after the blood test results.

Your Wrone story is magnificent and the telling superb. Great after the horror of having to listen to the assassins. I did relieve that some by outside work during the lunch break and firewood work after the end of the broadcast.

Elaine will get good at it, a break for Dave and the kids. (By the way, Mike Maio thanked you for the greeting and remembering him some time ago. Forgot to tell you.) Probably Elaine has been scheming something like what she pulled on you since confronted her with a similar problem end 1976. I then sent her an efficient slow cooker with Lil works new wonders and understand now Elaine does also. They'd put up with me for a week.

The day you wrote and commented on the weather, how mild it is here, I was going around as close to barefooted as the obst supports permit. That mild. Even the chiggers returned! I learned the itchy way. But they're gone again. Down to 20, with strong winds.

After I wrote I heard from Christian. He said he'd be sending the book and did. Came today. We'll copy inscription. I asked him what I asked you to ask Turner. While I doubt you'll need or want his detachment address, the label was loose and is enclosed.

There is interest in Lane and Jonesville. Today's Newsweek is to have a piece. The Post had been after Lardner, who was reluctant. But he called me from Memphis over the weekend for leads and contacts. I told him wrong city but gave him names of those who might be able to help if any second-hand.

There has been no local reference to CIA, as you report from your papers. But what you say about location, etc., sure sounds like what interests them.

I'm keeping all the stories for Dave, who has a Lane file and interest and raved about what you gave him and the sensational condition of it, by the way. Meanwhile I'm also serving others on this. No initiatives. Maybe he won't get it this time. As I told Lardner, if I didn't tell you about it, from my observation Lane is one who, if he fell in an undercleaned barnyard would get up with a monopoly on fertilizer. Incredible what he has gotten away with.

I've never paid much attention to the off-beat religions - but if you are going to plow a field why not one already fertilized?

Good thing those well-heeled matrons are thinking up things for you to do - and that they are possible. I suspect your Hospice out there is pioneering and is copied in an exceptionally worthwhile endeavor.

Thanks and best,

6 December 1978

Dear Harold and Lil:

The Peoples Temple file has grown to formidable dimensions, so I'm sending it along third class tomorrow before it gets to the parcel post stage.

I'm sorry there's so much of it, but you'd better scan it carefully for mentions of Lane and other angles that could become obscured.

Also mixed up in the file are each day's small quota of clips on other matters, the Ray hearings, a few assassination stories, and the like.

And it looks as if the file will continue. Lane was here today with a gal whom he took to the U.S. Attorney in an effort to strike a deal for immunity from prosecution if she provides information on the alleged hit list. I'll try to send further developments at less infrequent intervals.

Since Tim Reiterman (ex-AP here and the Examiner reporter who got shot up at Kaituma airport) first broke the story of Jonestown many months ago I've had the distinct impression that the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown was helpless to do anything about it, probably on orders. Supporting this impression are such circumstances as the acquisition of several thousand acres near the Venezuelan border, doubtless a strategic location, and other overtones of quiet but powerful sub rosa support and clout. Only in the last few days has anyone mentioned the CIA in print. For several years I've also entertained the strong suspicion that someone in the intelligence community is fascinated by the political potential in off-brand religious movements such as Peoples Temple, the Moonies, Hare Krishna, and you name it. They even operate in the UFO field at all levels, debunking, supporting research groups, and, of course, complicated disinformation maneuvers. Very sophisticated it is, too. The impulse to take over natural and eloquent leaders like Jones must be very strong to such minds. And considering the socialist nature of Guyana, it must have been well-nigh overwhelming.

Regarding your earlier request that I ask Bill Turner about whether he has any details on the cover that was set up on you at the time of your connection with Christian, I don't know where Bill is, have the impression that he's now probably in the LA area, and in any case don't want to get involved with him now. Even if he had the information you're interested in, which I doubt, he probably would not care to give it to me. For every reason I can think of, I find it hard to think I'd accomplish anything, and would be dubious about anything he might tell me if he did. And, as I say, I'd just as soon stay away from him.

Hospice of Marin and related activities are keeping me plenty busy these cold and windy days. There's a support group called Friends of Hospice made up of well-heeled and very energetic matrons, about 100 of them, who spend all their time thinking up things to make money for Hospice, including things for me to do. The current project is a Christmas fair on the 10th. It'll be held at the old Robert Dollar mansion in San Rafael and should bring in a bundle.


Yours truly will be doing evrything from acting as porter to dispensing wine and cheese, my immediate boss being a cancer widow whose husband was deputy commander of the Presidio and who is a direct descendant of the guy who discovered San Francisco Bay. FOH's next big project is supposed to be a national dart contest (financed by beer companies) which will be run by a retired British artist who spent most of World War II in a Japanese prison camp in Burma. And guess who may have to spend a good deal of the winter making dart boards if this deal goes through. Anyway, these are all interesting, creative people who are dedicated to helping something very worth while, and it's fun to be busy with people like that. Practically all of them have had cancer deaths in their families, so they know what they're doing and why. Very serious, very businesslike. I feel lucky to be able to work with such positive people.

As a follow up, I regret to report that I have been decisively outwitted by Elaine Wrone in the matter of the automatic rice cooker. The sneaky thing guessed to within a few cents of what I have paid for it and sent me a check. Perhaps I had crowed a bit too loudly that I had been able to find a thank-you present for all they did for me. Anyway, I accepted it with what grace I could muster, but reserved the right to complain about any further symptoms of the oil-rich arrogance one associates with the Middle Eastern mentality these days, such as presuming to override one attempted fait accompli with one that works. I closed with a warning to Dave about the perils of letting women go around unveiled. At last report, they had had their first Chinese meal produced solely by Elaine with the help of the cooker, and again, young David's judgment was that it didn't taste nearly as bad as he had thought it might. With such helpful criticism, her future in Chinese cuisine appears assured. Anyway, she's determined to try it, if only as a means of helping Dave keep his weight down. I've been trying to do my bit by writing out some of the easy, sure-fire recipes we've found worked well here.

For a long time, I couldn't bear to go back to cooking Chinese, but recently I've been able to return to it, and alternate dinners between Chinese meals and less ~~less~~ troublesome local fare. It works well, and I like to keep my hand in with the wok, as it were. A lot more interesting, certainly.

I gather the very cold weather that has been hitting the northern part of the country hasn't really borne down very hard on you yet in Maryland, and lets hope the winter turns out to be a reasonable one. Take it easy, and take care of yourselves.

Best,



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