

Dear Dave,

3/20/94

I remember rather well what you refer to as the "wee note" I "dropped" on the Journal of American History. It was so "wee" ~~that I immediately~~ ^{that I immediately} ~~we~~ returned it.

I think that what you sent is good and have a hunch that in asking you they knew about you and for some reason not immediately apparent may want what they think you'd submit.

Would I love to be able to handle that "Norwegian" observance of St. Patrick's Day! I loved it when I was young and nothing was prohibited me.

When we ^{learned} Lil used to corn beef brisket better than any produced commercially. She used to do it in antique 10-gallon crocks we still have that I got at some farm sale roughly about the time you were born. It was so good that others would ask her to do it for them, 50-50, and they supplied everything.

And kosher-style corned beef is what I was virtually weaned on.

I do not recall how my mother usually obtained it but on Sundays when we went to visit my father's ^{uncles} and aunts in west Philadelphia, in a well-to-do Jewish section, and by several changes in trolley cars, on the return trip we walked several block to get the car and at that stop was a large and fine delicatessen. We loaded up and that was supper when we were home. After more than an hour on trolleys. For 8¢ per gault, 4¢ for childreh and no charge for those ~~x~~ less than 36" tall. A conductor had a booth in the middle of the cars. It was 36" high, his measure.

For an unhurried world big-city trolleys were a boon. Men could read the morning paper going to work or offices and the evening paper going home. They cost 2¢ then. And people were better informed then that since with radio and TV and the passing of trolleys and buses putting the afternoon papers almost all out of business.

Offhand I can't think of a place to offer Posner up.

As you'll find enclosed, I've done that at some length.

Should you not have mentioned your biblio. to Augstburg?

If they accept, let Gary Schoener know.

Sorry I misunderstood and expected you to be away for ^{two} weeks and thus accumulated this much.

Best,

March 16, 1994

Harold Weisberg
RR 12 Old REceiver
Frederick MD 21702

Dear Harold:

Yesterday I received in the mail a request from the Journal of American History that I review the PBS film on Lee Harvey Oswald. I enclose a copy the letter. I said yes. It is odd, after I wrote them such nasty letters (in their eyes) over the way they reviewed other books. You also dropped them a wee note.

I also wrote to history conference in Minnesota asking to be placed on a forthcoming program. Even as mild as I put my proposal (a copy included) it is doubtful that I shall be accepted. But one never knows how they will handle the request. I shall see.

Additionally I cast about for a place to give a paper on Posner et alia., So far I can't find a place, but one never knows.

Posoh


David R. Wrone

*P.S.
Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. The Norwegian restaurant near here
always cooks up corned beef & cabbage & baked potatoes which
the Norwegian customers dutifully eat.*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Twenty-Ninth Annual

Northern Great Plains History Conference

**St. Paul, Minnesota
28 September through 1 October 1994**

**Co-sponsored by Augsburg College and the
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**Proposals for papers, panels, and sessions in *all areas* of
history and history-related subjects are welcome. Proposals,
consisting of a one-page prospectus and a brief vita, should be
sent on or before 31 March 1994 to:**

**Chris Kimball, Program Chair
History Department
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454
Internet: kimball@aug3.augsburg.edu**

please post

March 15, 1994

Chris Kimball, Program Chair
History Department
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Dear Professor Kimball:

Enclosed is a proposal for a paper to be delivered at your 29th Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference this autumn.

I am a professor of history with a Ph.d. from the U of Illinois in 1964. I have taught history courses here for many years, published in and researched the Kennedy years. At present I am working on a book concerned with the first official investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, a study in the institutional structure of government operating in a time of crisis.

Sincerely.

David R. Wrone
Professor of History
History Dept UWSP
Stevens Point WI
54481

The Curse of Theory.

History and the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

For thirty years writers have produced books on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that purport to provide us with the historical reality of what happened to the thirty fifth president. With a handful of exceptions their efforts have been consistently marked by theoretical explanations, the use of theory to explain the facts of the assassination. This approach has an intrinsic public appeal in attempting to resolve issues and questions circulating around the murder, but does not meet the criteria of history properly conceived: a solid objective factual explanation.

I seek to review a good sampling of the dominant theories on the assassination of President Kennedy, relate each of these to the historical context and the factual circumstances as found in the evidentiary base. After that I wish to discuss what the evidence suggests happened to the President, putting it in the context of a historical approach to the subject.

This is not a paper meant to solve the assassination. Far from it. It is meant to survey the subject from the point of view of history and the historical method and demonstrate that theories have been a major impediment to our historical understanding. The subject must be conceived as any historical subject ought to be conceived, documents, research, weighing of evidence, skepticism, analysis, and careful conclusions.

I have spent many years studying the assassination of President Kennedy and have published articles and reviews and a standard bibliography on the subject. At present I am working hard to finish my research on the official investigation of the assassination.