

Dear Elaine,

3/31/78

We both enjoyed your description of the kid's reactions. Kids are wonderful.

I've forgotten Jim White's schedule. He did tell me.

Because you may not have known he is driving and making a number of stops before he reaches here, which I think he plans for about the 17th., I am taking a liberty. I'm sending him a copy of your letter so he'll know what you'd like to do.

Jim may not remember but I think I did tell him of the fantastic insight with which Chancellor Dreyfus returned from China. If you were not with us then he accurately forecast drastic changes in the top leadership, change that then seemed totally impossible.

We'll both be watching for pretty stamps. What happens is that we have his and her mail. I generally get it and diving it while walking back from the box.

Les Payne phoned me earlier this week. He was to have phoned back if he could get here toward the end of the week. I've not heard so I guess he has been assigned to a story he did not expect. I told him some of what Dave told me of the Doug McMillan-George Leopold operations and he enjoyed it. I gave him only an inkling because Dave can tell him more and I'm sure he'll enjoy it more.

We've had a pleasant break in the weather and I've been doing a little outside work, enjoying it much and perhaps most of all because I can do it. This cuts back on the other work but it is the best medicine for me and it has to be done anyway. I think the battle of the iced lane helped prepare me for more work than I could do last year. While there are some uses of the arms that wear me down fast and leave me a little weak and unsteady the legs are holding up pretty good.

I've been going over to the woods on the far side of our place and bringing back carts of topsoil for where filling is necessary near the house. It is all uphill until I go steeply downhill where I'm filling. The soil is still wet so it is heavier. Today I used a maddock for the first time where I was moving a pile of very stoney soil. No problem.

I could do it easier and faster with my 10 hp riding mower and a lagger cart I have for it but I need the exercise. Good for me and makes me feel good.

As I wrote in haste on a carbon, Dave's Mott letter was very nice. The enclosed Wanda clipping may interest. If I knew how she and Lane separated I'd know better about an approach to her. I think that maybe Jim knew Hayden. Or one of them.

Glad you enjoyed those of the tapes Dave played. Wish I had the memory I once had! Oral histories can be useful, especially with a questioner who can lead one out. Remind. Pick up gaps, overcome confabulations.

When Al finishes with some people whose tax returns she is doing she'll be making some copies. Perhaps what I've caught the FBI in and laying about, even corrupting work records to hide it, may amuse.

It was less amusing for Jim Lesar this morning. The garbologists even took his morning paper! I wish I were closer so I could work something out about this.

Please tell Dave that I heard today that the second Freep JFK issue did come out before they closed down. I've not seen it. I was told by one to whom Lane had sent a copy.

Best to you all,

March 29, 1978

Dear Lil and Harold,

I promised D.R. to have our tax papers finished today but will postpone that work for the much more pleasant activity of writing and thanking you both for the gracious hospitality and the delightful gifts. When Elizabeth saw those stamps (which D.R. had described as a "handful" to her in a phone call), she shrieked in delight and flushed in excitement. She called around town in search of a store which sells super stamp-collector's books but found none, but will get one in Madison soon. D.R. laid down the conditions for using the collection and added one more: no bragging or showing off.

The book with it inscription, Lil, is very meaningful since she studied the Civil War this year, was very moved by a slave narrative read over public radio recently, etc. David is pleased as punch with the pins -- to add to his small, but varied collection.

D.R. and I listened to several of the tapes he made while with you. They are extremely fascinating. Your recall of the details floors me. And, of course, some of those personalities are unlike any I have ever met.

D.R. told you that Jim White wrote while he was in D.C. I am happy he will stay with us overnight and would like to make it very pleasant, perhaps, by having a small reception. D.R. thinks that a reception might be an imposition on him. The Chancellor requested that Dave have Malcolm Rosholt of Rosholt, Wis., a China man himself, meet Mr. White. And, I'm sure Dreyfus will want to meet him. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

I understand that ^{Douglas} George ^(Student) McMillan will be calling Les Payne for a date. If something can be arranged, it will be nice seeing him again.

We've been having some sunny days recently, melting the snow in the fields and open places and baring the brush, fallen branches, and debris which we have to slowly start working on. The ground is much toosoggy yet. But thoughts turn to gardening and in our living room by the south window is a table of peat pots in assorted cake pans and trays (Dave's doings).

The kids are practicing very seriously for 2 major concerts in May, the one will include violinists from all over the state. Their teacher is tricky; she won't tell them what numbers are on the program until late so that they are forced to keep their entire repertoire polished.

I hope we see you soon. Take good care.

Sincerely yours,

Flaine