

7/26/91

Dear Dave,

If by this time you've not heard from Stow/leur 7/23, expect to and think about what you can or want to do. He limited you to two double-spaced pages. You sent two single-spaced pages. If he rejects that length you can forget it or shorten it further or perhaps make a different kind of request, for the same space for a historian's overview of the assassination literature and other attention. In the latter you can make conclusory statements about the article and the Dallas exhibit. Nothing wrong with your shortened letter and you may want to raise a question with the editor about giving unlimited space to an incompetent, propagandist's factual errors about so significant an event in our history and denying adequate space in such a journal for correcting it. You may also want to rethink and castigate her in generalities and citing your own expertise (biblio) make simple and conclusory statements about her errors and suggest that such a journal first ought have some way of knowing who real experts are to consult them before publishing anything at all on what had the significance of the assassination of a president, inherently a coup d'etat and failing that ought not be bound by what is ordinarily an essential restriction in publications for such significant events and errors conveyed to professional historians and others who depend on the journal and presume it presents what it believes is factually correct.... It is the old problem of there never being time or space to catch up with all the propaganda and lies. Imagine the space required to address Belin for example!

I do this in a bit of haste, this being Friday and the last outgoing-mail day of the week which in the title of the old British TV comedy, ^{was} the week that was.

As you may remember, when we went to Dutch's Daughter restaurant and found it closed Saturday 141 was already having trouble moving. First she had to resort to the walker and then the wheelchair that she still has to use. It was a week of medical appointments for us both, probably about a dozen by now! Five yesterday alone!

I'd persuaded 141 that the benefit I am getting from this fine physical therapist to whom the orthopaedist referred me indicates that she should see him and ask for the same referral. Yesterday was the first appointment ^{the doctor} she had. I began yesterday with a blood test from which I went to ^{the therapist} him and got considerable relief and I think understanding of a new affliction. Then I went home briefly before going to the podiatrist, after which we had time for lunch but not for me to take a nap (up 2:30) before keeping her appointment. The old X-rays alleging to show that 141 had arthritis from her head to her toes having disappeared and the family doctor's staff having provided the reading of the wrong X-rays, I suggested and he agreed to new ones. Only a new woman in his office ~~made~~ made the appointment for her at the hospital rather than the several doctors who are radiologists. That entailed much more time and movement, all in a wheelchair and me with some difficulty to which I'll return. She is to hear from the orthopaedist today and hopefully will get not only information ^{but the referral, too.} yesterday he indicated belief that her hip-area troubles may not be from

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arthritis. I got the impression that she may also have some spinal stenosis, which I have. But I think we'll know and if so there is ready relief available for her that is not so easily available to me, deep cortisone injection. It is not now necessary for me in any event but I've prepared for the possibility, which would require me to be hospitalized and my blood clotting and anticoagulation to be monitored carefully by writing the wonder man known to Johns Hopkins medical students, residents and interns as "the guru" ^{and} as asked him to tell me to whom then to go up there *if necessary.*

Among the many other things I no longer remember, including even dental appointments to which Lil had to struggle on the walker, Wednesday I had a urological appointment at Hopkins and Lil's sister Belle as always drove me up, this time for the first time without Lil. That morning, while walking with a cane for security I stumbled inside Carmaks, fortunately, because ~~me~~ I got a sharp pain, almost fell and there was a bench nearby. After sitting on it for a while I made it home ^{I then went to the orthopaedist's} and, ~~having a p.m. appointment with the therapist~~ until this evening housed in the orthopaedist's office, ~~went there to be there by 8~~ when I thought the doctor came. Turned out he gets there at 9 but when the therapist saw me and asked me why I was there ^{and} I told him he volunteered to begin treatment immediately. He finished giving me a little relief before the doctor squeezed me in. He decided I have a sprain in the left foot and no break. So, my scheduled p.m. appointment for 8 Thursday was for miraculous treatment for it. Do not be unaware of the debt we all can bear to professional athletes who caused creations of a new discipline, sports medicine! I could not use my left leg in driving there and could on leaving. The benefit recedes but it apparent and I get another treatment of it Monday. The pain is no longer as great when I have it and I've not really needed the cane since but carry it for security away from home. Indications are that this trouble will disappear in time and I'll be left with the old ~~ones~~ ones I've made out with.

What I learned yesterday through the stupidity of sending Lil to the hospital for the X-rays, which required me to walk some distance from the parking lot to the proper entrance and then of all things to the admitting office, then to X-ray, thence back to get the car, is that by forcing the walking through the pain I benefitted the sprain. So, when I finish this I'll go out for the papers and then will go for reduced in length and time walking at the Carmack shopping center.

Our friends at Hana's were also a boon. I've gone there for supper to take home three times this week and each time the quantity of each dish plus the extras Nicole included made an extra meal for both that required only microwaving. They are concerned about Lil and ^{Thursday} Wednesday as soon as they were there Everett phoned to ask how Lil is and whether he or she could be of any help. That night Nicole included a package of candied ginger, which Lil loved as a young woman, and last night an enormous peach. Each time a large container of two kinds of bean sprouts and one of their relish of raw carrots and turnips. ^{Ma} Lil

feel good, too, of course. I think that with no stairs to climb she'll be able to go to Carmack's tonight for the baked fish supper and I think she wants to try to go to Ana's tomorrow night. If she isn't up to it I'll bring supper home. Everett suggested a Korean beef dish she'd never had last night and she relished it. So her work has been practically eliminated ~~at~~ at home.

In simplification, we are making out well and better than for our age we could have expected to and I'm hopeful that we'll get a more accurate diagnosis on Lil that will be followed by some relief.

This also indicates that at least as of now there is no cause for concern by our friends.

And we've taken the extraordinary heat and humidity with no real problems. Lil has not been out in it long enough for it to give her any problems and it hasn't been for me because the car a/c gets cold that fast. Until yesterday it was over a hundred each day and yesterday it was just under it. It is 70 out now so no problem for me when I see about a little walking. I'll wait until daylight this time, tho.

Otherwise, nothing new. The CIA's involvement with the BCCI banking scandal is being played down here. The Post has not yet mentioned what was in the NYTimes and on TV of it and I suspect those mentions are less than the full truth. I think that maybe the parliamentary scrap over this in England may disclose more about the CIA's involvement, which has to be knowing, with those terrorists. *(No Post BCCI story at all today)*

No word from Stone or his squeaking mouse Rusconi and no response from the Wilmington reporter I wrote about Crouch and Fox. Jim has not responded to my request that he consult AARC's files on this and Lardner still has not returned what he promised to return a month ago. Not much I can do about that now and merely insulting him will do no good. No word from Chip but in a phone call from a former Emmy-winning NBC-TV producer now out there who I suggested get in touch with Chip I learned that he did and they were to have gotten together this week. May help Chip and the producer, who has his own company, and has a JFK documentary in mind.

Best to you all,

Hardy

THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY

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July 1, 1991

David R. Wrone
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Dear Professor Wrone:

Thank you for your letter to the editor dated June 25, 1991. Since budgetary limits dictate the length of the Journal, we must ask that you shorten your letter to no more than two double-spaced pages. We will then ask Cynthia A. Brandimarte if she wishes to respond. After that we will publish both letters or, in the event that she decides not to respond, we will publish your letter.

Sincerely,



Steven Stowe

Enclosure: Copy of your original letter to the editor



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July 23, 1991

Steven Stowe
Acting Editor
The Journal of American History
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Dear Mr. Stowe:

Upon returning from vacation yesterday I received your July 1 letter which had not arrived here on the morning of the 8th.

I have gone through my original letter to you and shortened it to two pages of text, totaling 906 words. I trust you find it to be of sufficient length for publication.

It is my belief founded on exceptional subject matter knowledge and much experience that a regular critical, objective review of the more highly touted books on the JFK murder would over a period of years provide the historical profession with the principles to evaluate this complex, indeed Byzantine, period of our past. Nothing helps like knowledge.

In shortening my letter I had to omit the final paragraph on the profession and the lapse in the standards of editorship of the Journal. I also omit other factual errors of Ms. Brandimarte not included in the original.

Sincerely,

David R. Wrone
Professor of History

Editor
Journal of American History
1125 Atwater, Indiana University,
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July 22, 1991

To the Editor:

Cynthia A. Brandimarte's review of the Dallas exhibit on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy reveals the necessity for subject matter knowledge of this complex crime.

I would disagree that the purpose of history or of this exhibit is to heal. What is to be healed? Is it the outrage over the fact the Warren Commission wrote the conclusion and outline of its Report before it began its "investigation"? I would encourage her to see that the end of history is to define the world in its meaning wherever that path might lead and at whatever cost it might entail to person and society as the only enprincipaling ground to civic action.

When describing the assassination scene she omitted James T. Tague, wounded at a time and place that refutes the official findings that a single person fired all shots. The "glass bubble" was a plexiglass weather shield, no protection from a bullet. "A group of conservative businessmen" did not take out the ad, but instead paid the costs for extremists who prepared and "took it out." James Altgens was not a "witness standing", but a roving AP photographer who snapped one of the key still pictures. She says "fatal shots" but there was only one fatal shot.

The reference to "Mary Woorman," is a typographical error for Mary Moorman whose Polaroid picture caught the grassy knoll during the murder. It was imperative for the reviewer to have noted which of the three basic forms of the photograph the museum chose to display. The evidence in each conflicts with the others. It is an error of fact to say the photograph was taken "as the bullet struck President Kennedy's head."

To relate that the exhibit says small extremist groups were active suggests exotic fringe activists and should have been accompanied with criticism of the obscurant nature of the phrase and the disservice done to the local scene. Just prior to November 22 a Minutemen para-military group secretly vowed to kill JFK when he arrived. A tape recording exists of an anti-Castro Cuban public meeting where threats were made. Two threats on his life came from the National States Rights Party. No known evidence connects these threats with JFK's murder, but federal authorities did not investigate them. Other threats are known. An exhibit even mildly interested in a valid picture ought to have provided the public with panels on this facet of the milieu and not have mirrored official views.

The photograph and the caption contain errors. The exhibit does not faithfully reproduce the alleged perch of the assassin. The evidence does not exist to do this. As they testified before the Warren Commission Dallas officials

upon entering the floor to search immediately moved boxes and raised and lowered the window before pictures were taken. Even the official photographs clash in major ways. The artificial scenario decided upon by the Commission physically refutes its eyewitness testimony. It deemed both legitimate. A reviewer ought not gloss over the central question of the integrity of the objects displayed.

The photograph should have been labeled "Lee Harvey Oswald's alleged perch," as employed in the text. The central issue in the controversy is Oswald's relationship to the murder. Serious scholarship finds no credible evidence connecting Oswald to the sixth floor or to the murder--that is, scrutiny breaks down as untenable the fingerprints, eyewitnesses, carrying the rifle to work, and so forth in the kit bag of the federal solution. At the same time credible evidence in the official records removes Oswald from the sixth floor.

When she says, "official investigations determined" Oswald fired all the shots from there she is wrong. They theorized, or concluded, but they did not and could not "determine" what was false. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service both disagree with the Commission's conclusions that the first shot struck both JFK and Governor John Connally, a sine qua non for holding Oswald was the sole assassin.

For the Dallas Foundation to erect a museum on the sixth floor is an assertion that consciously devised myth is reality; it is not history.

She means by the House Select Commission the House Select Committee. By her grouping the investigative bodies into one sentence their quite different natures are obscured. Over twenty-five federal investigations were conducted, plus ones in Dallas, Texas, and New Orleans. Over one hundred Freedom of Information Act lawsuits have been brought, many of them hotly contested. A six minute film and a few boards cannot even list the names let alone pretend to give results.

The reviewer as well as the museum have fallen into the conventional view pushed by commercializers and "writer-experts" loose in the media and publishing pastures who see two positions, the official and the theories. A third is ignored. Throughout the many years of controversies responsible critics have diligently sought the evidence and its right definition in a struggle against the propaganda of both the wretched theorists and the official conclusion, which is itself merely a theory. They see the exhibit not as "intelligent," but as most irresponsible, the work of ignorant mythologists who have blindly affirmed the official doctrines and peddle them daily to tourists as "history." Even the title, "Memory of the Nation", is tinselled propaganda.

David R. Wrone
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