

15 December 1967

Dear Bruce:

Thank you very much for the copy of the letter describing the periodical indices at the state library. We had no idea these existed. We also are indebted to you for the material on Lauchli, sent earlier. I have to confess that I forgot to show this to Hal when he was out here a week or so ago. We shall make copies for him and get them to him soon.

When our office was in the Chronicle building I had full access to both the Examiner and Chronicle morgues, which on the whole are less than satisfactory unless you are looking for a specific subject which they happen to have clipped and filed. As far as I know, neither morgue has an index. They clip news items, date them with a stamp, and then stuff them into manila envelopes which are kept in boxes stacked alphabetically. The envelopes serve as the index. I still have theoretical access to these dubious files as an AP man, but our office is now a couple of miles away in the Fox Plaza building and it is a chore to go over there, assuming one can find the time to do it.

You now have sent us quite a lot of copied material and we have lost track of how much it might amount to. To relieve you of whatever financial burden this may involve, I'm enclosing a small check which should put things more or less right, I hope.

You are welcome to see any of our early files and to make copies except in certain rare cases, but it is difficult if not impossible for us to guess accurately your needs. Some time when you are here perhaps we can discuss this and work out some sort of a system.

Mr. Verb's delinquency in the matter of the news clippings appears to match fairly well our own failure noted in the first paragraph. It appears to demonstrate that neither of us is to be trusted except to collect stuff. We are all packrats, of course; perhaps it's just that some of us are rattier than others. Yes, we too have tried to help Hal in the matter of notebooks. My wife once suggested a system of loose-leaf binders instead of the little 10¢ notebooks he keeps. He appeared to regard the suggestion as faintly subversive and went right on filling little notebooks with little notes. By the way we too have our doubts about the angel.

The best for Christmas and the new year, Bruce, and come and see us when you can.

Sincerely,



jdw