

Dear Jim,

1/6/80

The forecast for yesterday was 8-10 inches of snow in two storms. So, when Lil was up I put on extra clothing, started the snow blower without difficulty after a year of inaction for it, and cleared about half of the predicted, expecting to have a repeat, which did not come. However, part of it was slushy, on the verge of what the machine will not handle and some exactly what jams it. On the first trip out I got the mail and paper and managed to hold onto both while working back to the house, where I gave them to Lil. I was aware, by accident, that there was a letter from you because that envelope was the last as the rural man bound them with a rubber band. I was anxious to read what you said about John/Kevin but it was more than an hour. By then I was tired, but as soon as I stopped work and before I could remove the extra clothing Lil told me there was a fine letter from you and I had to read it immediately. I forgot the weariness as I did. Unfortunately, it returned.

It is really very helpful and put so well that rather than try to encourage the Maios with a paraphrase I intend to read the pertinent parts to them as soon as we can get there. If we are not now iced in and if the roads are as clear as I have our lane it may be tomorrow night. Lil knows the schedule of the youngest son, Danny, and if he is at the restaurant Mondays that will be helpful because he can translate words or phrases the Maios may not get in English.

Not long after I wrote you Mike gave Lil a note with John/Kevin's address. I'll enclose it when Lil is up.

We had a very pleasant experience with the Maios New Years day. I think they intended it as an honor but it did not work out as they expected. I was out sawing wood - fortunately, given the heavy snow and low temperatures - and when I got in Lil told me to change, that we were going to the Maios for dinner, their family dinner, with us part of it.

They expected no business that day. The night before they'd expected little business because there had been but four reservations for New Year's Eve. However, both times they had heavy business. It turned out that only Jackson sat at the table with us, with Mike sitting for a few brief periods. What a feast! With dishes of which I'd never heard, one after another until, we just had to quit.

It provided a good chance to get to know the maturing Jackson. He is a sophomore at VPI, in architecture. He has adapted well and has bridged the two cultures. He is a fine young man, with promise for a fine future. Also studious, doing well in school and working hard to get more than merely good grades. His command of English is now excellent, undoubtedly better than most of his native-born Virginia peers.

His belief is that Johnny has not been able to face his problems and has always run for them in this country. His estimate is that it may yet take Johnny 1 to 2 years before he is willing to make the effort and face them, when he will come out OK. We hope you are both right because it was our feeling, which we communicated to the Maios, and for them and for Johnny we do hope it turns out that way, as we think as well as hope.

Danny, the third son, is suave and sophisticated for a high school student. He also spends much of his summer in specialized study and is heavily into extra-curricular activities, which should also benefit him. We got attractive Xmas cards from him and Jackson, each with well-phrased and sincere and appreciated personal notes added. Danny also signed his name in Chinese.

Thanks for the story and note on the Harper's/Watergate piece. I'll address it separately, carbon to Dave. The Honestown developments were unknown to me so I'm glad to get that clip. I phoned Crewdson when I heard that Lane had filed suit, in part because Lane will never let it go to trial. If I heard further from Crewdson, who was in NY to confer with their lawyers, I'll suggest the book I was going to do.

Thanks and best,

Harold