

Dear Jim,

6/13/81

Lil says thanks for the bay leaves but she hasn't used them fresh so she doesn't know if she prefers them that way. We are grateful for them, thanks. And we'd like to know about tea made of them when you get to it. I'm not supposed to have any caffeine. Lil has been making a kind of mint tea (without any real tea) that I like, particularly with the heat we've been having when it is iced.

If the first leaves you sent were fresh, I guess she didn't use them for a while. There was a period when she wasn't up to much cooking, when she'd done too much work on her flowerbeds and was paying for it.

Otherwise her health is good. But she usually does too much when she gets to the beds, which she loves. I fear yesterday may have that effect when she is up today. She replanted many jonquils, which had been growing along the inlet to the pond, too far from the house for us to enjoy them. I'm hoping to have some grading done there. This would have buried the flowers, so I got a boy to dig them up and do most of the work of preparing a bed near the house and she did the rest.

So far the boy has been a boon. He's slow but he has done the mowing for me and this summer I hope to teach him how to do more so he can keep the place under control and fairly safe.

I'm still not able to do much and my walking capability has not improved. I continue to try to do things with the help of the wheelchair. I push it when I walk in the lane, so I can sit on it when necessary, and I raked up mulch from it. I'm drilling holes in poplar stumps from it with a battery-operated drill. (Hoping to speed the rotting.)

The prothrombin time has been bouncing around. All of a sudden several weeks ago it was much higher in number than when I hemorrhaged - two and a half times as long for the blood to clot compared with the base time. By eliminating the anticoagulant for a day and then having me take a slightly reduced dosage the local doctor has it down to a better level but on the second test this week it was on the way up again. Strange how for no apparent reason the chemistry changes so. Once we get it down I'll have to be concerned about it being too low.

But save for having less energy and tiring easily I'm OK. From time to time for short periods in the quiet, early morning I've been working on an introduction for The King Conspiracies, a book I want to get to. Not doing it today because two graduate students in journalism at Temple are coming down to use me as an assigned subject for an interview. One was a research assistant to a member of the ~~faculty~~ faculty (English lit) who'd come to me for help several years ago. They are due not much after breakfast, so they can get back tonight. . . . The work on the intro because I haven't gotten what I want.

Your remarks about some Southern reporters are perceptive and suddenly I remember some like that, other than Mo.

The clips on Jimmy Ray held information not in others I got. Thanks. I've not heard from him but Carol kept me informed by phone for several days. I'll be getting a tape from Jerry after he sees Jimmy and gets back to Georgia, unless he is then on his way to Chicago, where he expected to get a job for the summer. He makes good money in those clubs. Then he can afford to winter as J.B. Stoner's handyman. I don't think there is anything exceptional involved, that a couple of ~~nut~~ nuts got nutty, in all probability.

Beautiful how the doe had her fawns bedding in your sawdust! They don't come that close here. But we have the birds very close and enjoy them. We are going to have to cut back on the sunflower seeds because of the cost and the mess from the shells they leave all around. We have six feeders on the windows that provide much entertainment as well as several larger feeders short distances from the windows.

Lil is up, so I'm to other things. Glad to hear you are OK. By the way, Howard Hoffman is moving to the Bay area with Lucas productions. Lucas has a new winner. He bought a large spread near you and is transferring up from Hollywood. Our best,