

Dear Jim,

6/26/80

We both enjoyed your 6/22 immensely. It gives the impression that the great void has been reduced somewhat, which is our hope. Having a bit of personal life in addition to the great satisfaction that comes from the fine and worthwhile things you do should make for a better, fuller and I get the impression happier life.

Your descriptions of chiaoze make me drool. We'll be seeing Mike soon and will ask him to explain the difference between them and kuo-t'ierh. (Wish you'd told me how to pronounce them, but I've written them out to show him.)

Fascinating that one a thousand years old and still identifiable was found!

The Roger Kent story was well and interestingly done. I remember him slightly from his Washington career and well from his Nixon et al suit. In the draft of a Watergate book I did I included that. Of course I did not know that Libby was co-plaintiff. Good for her!

We'll look for the ~~asado~~ asado recipe. May have some left down the cellar. One thing it will not say is that it improves with age, for that, I probably figured, would not be understood by the average American. It does. I used to use it over and over, basting with a brush or tube baster and on aluminum foil. I'd suck it all up with the baster or pour it back from the aluminum foil and return all to the refrigerator, what had been used mixed with what ~~hadn't~~ hadn't been. Each use added new flavors. As I remember it, the stuff was good for six months. If I can't find a copy, perhaps I'll will remember it close enough.

= Had to get an early start this a.m. because I'm getting the car serviced on the other side of town to save \$\$ and have several errands to do. Just got a very worthwhile batch of Criminal Division DJ records. They include the tizzy when I wrote Clark in 1967. Probably if those processing the ~~records~~ records understood them I'd not have gotten them. They'll be useful in litigation and will fascinate Dave when he gets them. But they also require much work, and with the forecast for rain tomorrow and my need for exercise, I'll have a full day when I return.

I recall that a mountain-goat apprenticeship is helpful in getting to and around on your place, but I guess I was thinking of flowerbeds when I mentioned the multi-vator I got Lil. I've forgotten. I found another on clearance and got it for my friend Russell, the retired vet all crippled up with arthritis. His first use was in flowerbeds, which he'd never been able to work before after they thickened. (He also has a vegetable garden separate from his wife's and hidden from their house by a clump of trees. I loaded him a 100' extension cord to go with his shorter ones and he used it there with great success, working the ~~ground~~ ground up deep and fine.)

On the weed-eater, after you try a rental one, if you decide to get one, give it thought and in terms of all the growing things you have to contend with. Also, there are new attachments. Homelite, new in that field, has a blower for cleaning up, for example. No interest to me. If some have a self-feeder for the nylon cord, that could be a convenience. Smaller ones do. It is no big deal not to have one on mine. Merely requires a minute or two to feed more cord out. Some, probably all ~~break~~ briars, break the cord and you fial plus have to take time to feed more of it. Mine has a separate blade for small bush and a saw blade for heavier stuff. The saw is ^m good for small trees and cutting stumps off close to the ground. I've never had any trouble with mine, Japanese, ECHO. The motor appears to be particularly dependable. McCullough also is out with one. People in the chain-saw business tell me that McC. has gone too much for plastic parts and they don't hold up. I don't know about the other makes, like Sears and Ward's. ECHO is more expensive. A shoulder harness is a real convenience and I think on your slope perhaps important if not essential. It frees a hand when you move around, too.

So far our little vegetable growing has survived the animals. Our experiment with Jerusalem artichokes is gratifying. The deer started eating them this year. We stopped that by getting agricultural blood-meal, making a paste, soaking rags in it and hanging them

on stakes around that area. I'm putting up a chicken-wire fence for the smaller animals, and I'll be laying locust logs around the bottom to discourage digging under it.

Jerusalem artichokes are not artichokes. They are tubers, and that is the part you eat. We use them only in salads. They have the texture of water chestnuts. Lil found some last year and when she saw a couple of shoots, like potatoes sprout, she planted them. Although they did not get large we did get some to eat. If you don't take the new tubers out they become new plants. So far this year they have grown to about half again last year's height. She also saved and refrigerated sprouts on those she bought this year and planted them. They are doing fine. So are those we gave Russell. Almost no work to them, only, like potatoes, digging them up. Only your deer might eat the tops off.

You are fortunate you don't put weight on easily. Both of us do. I have not yet lost what I put on during the winter, about 10 lbs. Even though I work up powerful sweats with the mowing. Glad your health is good. We are OK. Lil's sciatica is receding but from time to time her arthritis is painful.

While helping anyone should be a source of real gratification, your descriptions of your people make me think you are doubly fortunate because all of them seem to have special and extra worthwhileness.

I'll send Dave the piece on Kent.

Later. Interrupted. Had to go off. Got to what locally used to be called MonkeyWard's and saw their grass whips, 2-cycle. Heavily over-priced for the kind of workswanship and design. If you should decide to buy suggest you comparison shop more than you usually would. The M-W tool of least uses costs almost what I paid for mine, not counting the extra cost of the blades if will handle.

We sure enjoyed your letter and what it reflects!

Our best,

