

Dear Jim,

7/7/81

We were glad to get your letter of the first yesterday and, of course, the bay leaves with it. Lil has done little real cooking lately because of the heat and what bothers her more, the high humidity, but she will get around to learning whether she likes the dried ones better than the fresh ones or vice versa. She was quite happy to get them.

Our temperature has gotten to close to a hundred several times and it is again going above 90, with high humidity until yesterday. The weather out there has made news on east coast TV, including the fires so close to you.

I'd thought of phoning you on Sunday but never got around to it because Lil was not free when I had the thought in mind. I spent most of the day concentrating on preparation for deposition testimony or making another affidavit in the old spectro case where, to use Fensterwald's phrase when he heard about what I have, I may cut them a new asshole. When I was thinking of this I was thinking of nothing else.

You had mentioned your friendship with the Snows and we are familiar with his great work, which we admired contemporaneously. While I do not now recall exactly how, I was aware of his widow's book and however I heard of it was quite favorable. While I walk less and listen to the all-news radio less, it may have been there, less likely on TV news. It is fine that she is able to follow up his great work with what appear to be quite worthwhile endeavors of her own. She also may introduce him to many of a generation who know little or nothing of him.

The sinking of a concrete pier under the house does sound serious. Hope it is corrected easily. I suppose some of the new support will have to be of masonry, but the way houses are built out there, there may be techniques I've never heard of.

There isn't much news here. I try to get a little exercise and if little, always it makes me feel good. If I can't do anything else I'll spend an hour sitting before the sawbuck sawing firewood. When it gets bad we turn the air conditioners on and I walk around in the hours periodically. I am not able to do it for long at a time and I've not been able to rest while standing and then resume it, as the doctor thought I might. I do get a fair amount of walking in most days but never for as long as I'd like. To the road and back remains the limit and by the time I'm back I'm uncomfortable. Except for sinus and her arthritis problems Lil has been pretty good. She's been spending a little time freezing berries I've been able to get locally, things like that and vegetables. She's also taking advanced tax studies at CPA level, a CPA course, and is enjoying the work and the challenge.

Our at-house rabbit population has ^{said} increased to the point where Lil is distressed. They eat her flowers now. The chipmunks are cute as they climb pipes to get at bird feed, which they appear to be storing for the winter.

Best
Haully