

Saturday, 15 August 1981

Jonathan Glasier 3932 Alameda Place San Diego CA 92103

Greetings ++++++

Another heat-wave prediction on the radio at imitation 6 AM so I started the fans.

In case you wondered what jokes were popular when I was a little boy: "Why do they put up so many signs and monuments for that Frenchman, who builds those awful roads? (M. de Tour) "

It's a week now, but I am still shook up about the Gypsies or whatever they were who forced their way in here and even though I seem to have won in this case, getting them out again in short order. But what an ordeal of housecleaning!

Letter from my niece, enclosing pictures--she got very fine color of a sailboat on a lake somewhere. Speaking of pictures, I took some of the recent negatives over to the photo place to get reprints and hope I don't have to wait too many weeks for them---there are such awful delays and the salespeople don't know from nuttin'. I wanted you to have some duplicates of the things taken at Balboa Park that day, which did come out.

The other thing is I don't like ever to put all my eggs in one basket--I feel very jittery about having all my negatives out at the same photo place at the same time. If it weren't for the thousand roaches in the kitchen I would get out the developing paraphernalia and do some contact prints.

The other occasion for writing t is the books that I took out the other day---Chris Banta had called a couple of times with questions regarding his articles and plan for a book on resonators etc. so I checked the main library here for what they had and was quite surprised to see shelf after shelf of things on How To Write and Where to Send It and even a thing called THE CREATIVE ARTICLE (which turns out to be how to do self-help and essays and advice articles of the Dear Abby type).

There is a sort of dictionary or directory of resources which lists various places to obtain information or get answers to questions when writing articles---often at a substantial fee of course.

So there must be lots of wouldbe poets and article writers and especially tyros attempting the Great American Novel---there are books warning and complaining for pages and pages about the perils of the Vanity Publishers---coincidentally, right after I read a couple of chapters of the Lyle Sturrt book on that subject at the library before coming home, I turned on the radio when I got back here and there were two commercials about one of the notorious vanity presses in New York that was offering their "800" WATS number.

I wonder how many people fall for the Exposition and Vantage and other such publishing rackets. The thing is that they get money IN ADVANCE from the victims whereas a printer would probably ask 50% down and would not promise to promote the book and then no promotion happen.

There simply would be no promises at all and just the delivery of the printed copies which some other firm would have to bind.

What chilled me was to have read about lawsuits and other things against one of those vanity publishers and then come home and immediately here is the very same racketeer advertising for MSS. from hopefuls who are going to get burnt.

It's partly a question of knowing when to stop---i.e. not take the risk of a full-length book when one can self-publish a pamphlet, and not order 2000 copies of something when there is xerox and you can experiment with a first edition of 10. I can't really complain about the Creativity Pamphlet (over 250 copies sold) or the Numaudo Book (85 copies sold) or Shall We Improve the Piano? (about 200 copies sold) as being failures--but realize how narrow my escape was when people wiser and wealthier and more successful in other callings than I, have been taken for thousands on their books by these vultures.

At the moment, I am wondering how long to make the retyped and somewhat updated Creativity booklet. I have lots of material---especially ha after locating the long-lost (11 years!) folder with the notes taken at the meetings and the announcements sent out before and sometimes after the meetings, and a list or outline of proposed topics which has my notes of those which were actually held and the topics that were not used for meetings.

Understand that I am not forcing you to get involved in this Creativity thing--just that it would be a possible way for you or someone you know to collect people in San Diego and expand your publicity beyond the musical world into a more general body of creative or wouldbe-creative people. If there were no destruction of homes for putting up extravagant and fantastically expensive condominiums here in Glendale, I might count on staying here and resign myself to promoting creativity meetings in Glendale and nearby; but it looks as though the real-estate vultures will get this place sooner or later---maybe in a year or so. Which means I should try to get Los Angeles people interested in using my Creativity materials somehow---start meetings somewhere in Hollywood or nearby, perhaps--so that these things will not just crumble away from old age in my new filing cabinet and then the Glendale City Dump eventually bury said filing cabinet along with me, and the instruments, as Ed Kneifel pointed out some two years ago that unhappy-miserable Sunday evening.

(He was in a must be much better mood this last time about two weeks ago, but I can't be optimistic about it -- he probably has gone Establishment and he still wanted to scold me like a naughty child when I am about 12 or 13 years older than he is. Since he is moving to Venice I suppose I have to put up with him once in a while but reserve the right to get angry. )

Phone just rang: Clyde Corson just starting out from Lawndale to come here on the busses and discuss computers--which means he will be spending more time riding than staying here.

By the way, the Electronic News weekly for last Monday just arrived late yesterday and it had the programs for the WESCON exhibit in San Francisco (it will be Anaheim or some such place in 1982) in mid September. Long list of lectures and seminars at that giant electronic industry exposition, and a whole section or department of it given over to speech recognition and speech synthesis and another section given over

to such matters as Electronic Mail--voice-handling is the new buzzword for that--the office of the Future will store and forward telephone messages or recorded messages that have been spoken.

All of which means that some live-wire extraverted promoter could do something about Nuamdu Numaudo under these circumstances. They give the names of the speakers on the programs and some are in Orange County, so I need representatives or agents or gobetweens of some kind.

- Another four pages of hieroglyphics from Chalmers the conservative Atheist. Maybe I can needle him about the Russians they used to have a magazine called Bezbozhnik (the russian equivalent of "atheist"). Have you seen his envelope-sticker yet? "CREATIONISM IS A COMMUNIST PLOT. "

Up at the xerox place yesterday they posted a reducing diet on the wall: such items as: Juice of one raisin, strained; three grilled butterfly-livers; one sweet pea, sprinkled with grated cheese; a glass of steam may be consumed on alternate days; and so on.

Well, I am not going to get any midriff bulge when I have to walk two miles to and from the grocery pulling that rickety cart; and have to spend so much money on shoes and shoe repairing materials!

Now there is another book that I may have written you about already but I can't find the diary entry so mabe I didn't yet: Paul Ryan, BIRTH AND DEATH AND CYB ERNATION, which is a 1973 publication by Gordon & Breach New York NY whoever they are--it says science publishers but this is a kind of d New Age book and since the author and his cronies were deeply involved in the McLuhan thing at Fordham Univ. in the late 60s and around 1971, and I guess met McLuhan there, it is full of the Understanding Media kind of hyperbole and overoptimism about the future of Cable TV and students and the like with portable videotape outfits doing their locall community and feeding it back upon itself and upon themselves. A good deal about that setup of a video tape / affair where the people see themselves on the monitor or even do that barbershop-mirror bit of letting the camera see its own monitor and those endless repeated images getting smaller and smaller and smaller, and a great deal (this would certainly intrigue the Movement Choir) about the Dance in various forms.

My I'm confused this morning----can't find any carbon copies and yet this nagging feeling that I'm merely repeating myself and a lready wrote this to you before! b ut I couldn't have----htere is no record of it here and I was writing somebody else about it.

Hai Having been videotaped about 4 times O I at least understand what the book is about----ran across it purely by accident. Decidedly not what I would have expected to e see in an uptight city like Glendale. Teh Moral Majority would be incensed about this.

I think we need to evaluate McLuhan's sudden rocketing to fame when he was about 56--rather late in life to get it--and then the even faster decline in his public image and falling from the scene a who while ago, so that he outlived his own notoriety by a few years. That must be a sickening thud--to outlive one's own reputation and suddenly bee forgotten and consigned to the garbage-heap. Wonder if that is my future also? Although it's better to be a has-been than a never-was. I think you see the relevance--my trying not to put all my eggs in one basket----having sidelines such as Numaudo and such as the Creativity Meetings in case my musical affair fails or doesn't pan out. Or if the next robbers steal everything.

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Yours,