

November 30, 2000

Mr. Ronald P. Sokol
14, rue Principale
13540 Puyricard, France

Dear Ron:

It has been so long since I last wrote that I do not know where I left off. The biggest event of the year 2000 for me has been the move from my house of 30 years to a cottage on the grounds of Westminster Canterbury, a so-called retirement community on the eastern edge of Charlottesville (Pantops Mountain). The cottage is relatively spacious and brand new, but this new setting does require some adjustment.

Overall, the year has been unusual. In January, Jan broke her left wrist, and in March she broke her right wrist. She was in a cast for a total of 12 weeks. This was in the midst of the effort to sell our house and to prepare for the move. After several decades of accumulating furniture, books, pictures, and miscellaneous papers, the necessary downsizing was considerable. The whole process lasted several months and was not without its stresses and strains. I do not recall whether I have mentioned to you that Jan has had Parkinson's Disease for several years. It is progressive, but progresses at unpredictable rates. With her, it has now gotten to the point that she can no longer drive a car, and she has had to give up playing tennis. All of this has amounted to a significant life-changing development.

I still come into my Law School office several days a week and have been working on a variety of projects. My latest undertaking, just now getting underway, is to write a segment on procedure and courts for a projected book entitled *Oxford Companion to American Law*. The editors want this vast subject, historically and contemporaneously, covered in 3,000 words.

Bert Steindorff came by to see me earlier in the fall and gave me a full report on his experiences in Aix and in particular his visit with you. He greatly appreciated your seeing him, and he views that occasion as a highlight of the trip. He has finally decided to apply to law school, and Virginia is his first choice. I wrote a letter to Al Turnbull recommending him for admission and took the liberty of mentioning in the letter that he had had a visit with you. Enclosed is a

copy of Al's response to my letter. It occurs to me that it might be helpful to Bert's application if you could drop a note to Al giving him your assessment of Bert, based on your visit. Admission here is so competitive that every little bit helps. If you do write Al, it might be well not to mention that I sent you a copy of his letter. You could simply say that I have informed you that Bert is applying for admission here.

I hope that this finds you and all of your family doing well and that you have a fine Christmas season. In our new cottage, we have a guest room and bath, so keep in mind that you can stay with us anytime you might come this way.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Meador