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Dear Don,

I just talked with Marie. She's wonderful! She keeps in touch with everybody and tells us all the things we should know, and would know if we kept in touch as well as she does. I wish we did, but --- we don't, and that's the way it is.

She said you had had heart surgery, it was successful, and you were getting along fine. That's great. Congratulations!

I dropped out of the living world some months ago and gave myself over to Joe's JURGENS SITE report. It was the damnedest NIGHTMARE I have ever had to cope with, but --- at long last, I am LIBERATED! On Wednesday afternoon, two days ago, we mailed it out to Ray Wood at Missouri, all done up in red ribbons and bows, tra-la! It is no doubt sitting in the Denver post office now, waiting for the blizzard to subside so the big birds can fly it away to its intended destination. The blizzard touched us lightly here in Boulder, but Denver and points north, south, and east, are having a helluva time! Here, it started snowing about noon yesterday, and continued throughout the afternoon, during which time I had to go out to Safeway, three miles east on Baseline, and sure enough, it was snowing so hard I couldn't see where I was going; but that is the one, and about the only, route I travel frequently, so, with the JEEP in 4-wheel drive, I went and got home without any trouble. Shortly thereafter, the snow stopped, and today our streets are clear and dry. We had a few gusts of wind this morning, but nothing serious. So, we are secure and untouched while others are bearing the brunt of the most severe "winter" storm to hit this area in decades, if not in history.

Marie is working on her "Ancient Man in the Americas", and has a lot of manuscript ready for me to edit and type. Joe is working on his book on Southwestern Textiles and will be passing it on to me for editing and typing. I am trying to finish up my project on the hybrid jays and their vocalizations compared back to the vocalizations of their parental species, the Steller's Jays and the Blue Jays. This has grown beyond its original concept and now includes the full range of Steller's Jay vocalizations, which may have to be pursued as a separate study. Also, I am trying to fulfill my commitment to RAND McNALLY for a book (at least one book) on the raccoons. Actually, I have enough material for at least three books; and, if I stay home this summer and take care of my children, instead of going in the field with Joe and taking care of his children, I'll have enough for another one! So, I don't see getting my head above water and joining the living world for some time to come. But, 'tis much better to be busy than idle, as I'm sure you know. And even if I should get through with all these writings, there are still many things that need to be done --- household chores, yard work, etc.

We are glad to hear that you are getting along well, and we hope to see you again soon, somewhere. Who knows?

Love,

*DAT*

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