

LETTERS

Dear Friend, Dear Subscriber,

This painful little note is the only means we have of telling you the Creek has run dry. For reasons beyond our control, we have been forced out of business. Hopefully, the balance of your subscription will be honored to the best of our ability (sigh) by another magazine. To our subscribers we give only a last heartfelt thank you and if you should shed a tear, remember to smile for it too.

Peace and good cheer be with you always, Pennfield Jensen, Editor
Clear Creek

Dear Darlene and Bob,

Was gratified to see you print my letter to Ladybird concerning American Commercial Barge Lines in the current (march 2-15) NOLA.

Thought I should advise you and readers that Mrs. Johnson's secretary replied to the original I sent to the LBJ ranch by informing me that Mrs. Johnson does not own ACBL. "Nor" the secretary continues, "does she have any interest - that is, ownership- in Texas Gas and Transmission, or any affiliate of American Commercial Barge Line Company." In fact, the letter from the Ranch states that nobody in the LBJ family is connected with ACBL.

I'm not a corporate researcher, live in the country where the libraries stock Huck Finn and don't get much to city libraries. So I took the general company "scuttlebutt" as reliable as to Ladybird's ownership of ACBL. I think its possible that Johnsons once owned or controlled, at least substantially, ACBL, and/or affiliated firms, and sold. But I don't know, and what's more I don't think it matters so awful much. What I said in the letter about conditions on the ACBL towboats was true, and still constitutes a strong indictment of this pocket of corporation blood-for-profitteering. So if Ladybird doesn't contral ACBL, somebody, real people, do. The sad thing is that ACBL is more typical of American corporations as regards labor and ecology, than it is atypical. And as long as we put up with ACBL, and the octopus of similar out fits that dominate the US economy, we all own, in a sense, shares of this shame.

Despite the mistaken ascription of ACBL ownership to Ladybird, I have hopes my letter will do some good. Even though I badmouthed the Union, which has a contract with ACBL (Inland Boatman's Union, a division of Seafarer's International, AFL-CIO) they responded to the copy of the letter to Ladybird which I sent their NY headquarters with a quick reply which said they were forwarding my letter to their St. Louis office for field investigation as to the substance of my assertions re ACBL conditions. Probably nothing will come of this, but I'm hoping.

In any case I would like to forward the information on conditions contained in my first letter to the actual parent company headquarters that does control American Commerical Barge Lines, and incidentally I'd also like to know, if I could, whether it was

previously Johnson family owned, controlled or invested in. So if there are any ace-corporation resear chers out there who happen to know, tell me. Otherwise I'll hit a city library sometime after awhile. Meanwhile, I'm hoping the Union will take a leaf from UMW's book and do something for the rank and file before the rank and file does something about the Union. Boatmen now do heavy work under conditions of exhaustion for something like \$1.70 an hour take home. It's commercial Russian Roulette. and it could be remedied by the simplest moral common sense. Unfortunately, though, moral sensibility seems utterly missing in the common calculus of most business. Since big companies are not prone to reform themselves, even a little pressure and espouse might stir things enough to save some lives and prevent some misery. So if by any chance any of you who read the ladybird letter and this are members of an AFL-CIO union, a note to the Inland Boatman's Union headquarters in New York urging them to press their investigation might just help a bit.

For peace, Larry
Larry Aaronspere
c/o Heathcote Center, Route One,
Box 129, Freeland, Maryland 21053

Dear Mom,

Last week when we talked on the phone you said 1) If taxes went up again you would have to sell the house 2) you were afraid to go to the Chinese New Year celebration for fear of muggers 3) You voted against legalizing marijuana and were glad police were still apprehending marijuana users.

Do you realize the things you said were self-contradictory? If the police are spending their time and energy searching out marijuana, than the only way they can stop serious crime like mugging is to reduce work on marijuana and work more on muggers, or employ more police and do both. But if more police are employed your taxes will certainly go up.

Love, Lew (Epstein)

Dear Editors,

Today, I received the March 16-29 issue of your publication in which you printed my ad. It is indeed gratifying to see that there are some people in that free society that will do something for a convict. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to both of you for the consideration and courtesy you have shown me by printing my ad.

The overall quality of your publication is outstanding and I wish you continued success in all your endeavors. With my wholehearted best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours, Ed Falls
P.O. Box PMB 33592,
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



Dear Rbt and Darlene

Two brief comments to correct real errors in Mayers' over wide reaction (issue 126) to Mangelsdorff's rather honest review in regard to Cotyledon (issue 125). One: The WORMWOOD REVIEW has never been published, financed, sponsored, or endorsed by a college or university - it is a personal mag. Two: the comment that the editor of WORMIE has a "protect america philosophy" produced some real hilarity here - would suggest that Mayer read the 4 copies that we've exchanged with him.

Beyond these two statements, no other comments are needed - NOLA, Bukowski and WORMWOOD need no defending or justifications. I'mpleased that we've been lumped together.

Take care, Marvin Malone
The WORMWOOD REVIEW,
P.O. Box 8840, Stockton,
California 95204

Dear Legal Counsellors,

The drawing on this page is by Rolla O'Grady who is imprisoned in Huntsville, Texas.

I had been corresponding with Rolla since mailing restrictions for newspapers had been lifted (to write to Rolla as an editor I had to mark the envelope 'business'). Rolla sent us drawings by himself and also collected drawings from the other inmates as a donation to NOLA Express.

After we printed a letter from Rolla, the next letter that I sent him was returned with the notation 'REJECTED not on correspondence list. The letter had a full return address and was marked 'business' as in previous letters. The letter had been opened.

Since then, I have not heard from Rolla. Any advice would be appreciated.
Sincerely, Darlene Fife