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Dear Mike and Sue,

When last I heard from you Mokulus Drive had not yet been washed into the sea. Assuming this still to be the case, I have decided to bring you up to date on my past, present and future meanderings, all for entirely selfish purposes soon to be made clear.

You will recall that in our last episode Bill had gone off to war via the route of Army Intelligence (no small trick for our Gummy). When his training was completed fortune smiled on him and in November, 1968 he was assigned to something called the Counterintelligence Analysis Branch of the Office to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence in Washington. In short, a Pentagoner for the duration. In the course of his otherwise pedestrian duties he became an action officer for a threat analysis of the ABM. With the Senate unfortunately voting for deployment of the abominable system this past week it became clear that old Bill would have to further his rather limited expertise in the ABM area. To Bill's surprise however, he found out that the only place you can go to learn about operational problems of the system is to where the only existing prototype now sits, namely Kwajalene Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Since you can only get to Kwajalene by way of Hawaii it looks like I might get a government paid vacation. Assuming the trip is approved (an entirely problematical eventuality) they want me to leave Hawaii for Kwajalene on Monday, the 18th of August. This would mean I might be in Honolulu this next weekend. If the trip comes off I will try to get a week of leave from Friday the 22d of August to Saturday the 30th, or some such. Hopefully, I would then be overcome by the spell of the islands and I would go AWOL.

All of this is a prelude to warning you that your phone might ring shortly and that any intelligence you might have as to where to stay or what to do would be greatly appreciated. I'd hate to hang around the USO or drink in the Navy bars. I wish I could be more definite about whether I will make it at all or exactly when, but the Army thrives on uncertainty.

Washington has been a n exciting place to live and it is getting to be like old home week here. Tom Hout called last week. He is now working for a management consulting firm in Boston. Stacks has just quit Time and has gone to work for Senator McGovern as a speechwriter. Doug Lea is now at the Time Washington bureau and married and about to be a father. The other Washington regular is Stan Thomas, who is divorced and appointed the Assistant Secretary of HEW for Youth Affairs. Everyone agrees that Sherwood should be shot for living in an island paradise. Everyone except me that is. I am now all for it.

If you have moved or might now want to move since I may be coming, please drop me a fast note. I may not leave as presently scheduled as I might get some preliminary help from you as to itinerary.

May the good Lord take a liking to you and may the god of the volcano be restful in the immediate future.

P.S. Will Dava get to the Pacific?
Are Thurston & Isabell lesbians?
Does a bear shit in the woods?

Love and kisses,

Bill