

3/15/88

Dear Eldon,

Beware the Ides of March - whatever that means!

Had to write to tell you my big news: Alyson Press in Boston has just accepted my biography of Jack Bee Garland and I've already signed the contract! They want my completed manuscript by Sept. 1st and are giving me a \$1500 advance. I am so proud & excited - I'd been envisioning my 4 yrs. of work on this story just being tossed in the dumpster after I kick off. Instead I'll be leaving this beautiful story behind in the libraries!

Apr. 3-8 I'll be in Honolulu for more info on Garland. He stowed away in 1899 to get to the War in Manila, but was discovered and kicked off in Honolulu. I know there are details in their old newspapers. My mother is going with me - she says she wants some memories of me after my early demise.

I've been doing really well, but had a really lousy Christmas/New Years holiday. Christmas Eve morn we had an explosion & real bad fire on the top floor of our apt. bldg. While our apt. suffered no flames, we did incur a lot of water damage. Fortunately nothing really valuable was ruined. Then I got sicker than a dog. Started as a sinus infection with a headache so bad I couldn't open my eyes. Then I must have had an allergic reaction to the antibiotics they gave me, because I hiccupped for 5 days! No lie. Couldn't eat or sleep. Docs told me to stop the AZT, did a CAT scan, a lumbar puncture (fluid from spine), & chest x-ray, but everything was fine. Gave me a bunch of downers, but that made me even more out of control. I missed Christmas & New Years festivities. Finally, I just stopped taking everything they gave me, took a bath, smoked some marijuana & tried to concentrate on breathing & that's how I got it back together. When I told the doc what I did, she advised that I just smoke some marijuana next time I'm feeling ill cuz it'll probably be better for me than to come to the hospital & take the junk they give me! She actually said that!

Anyway, I'm back to "normal" & feeling OK. Back on the AZT - feel nauseous and have diarrhea, but nothing debilitating. Still doing the inhaled pentamidine. Howard Beck sent me a copy of The Wisconsin Light and I see pentamidine finally hit there. Good! I think it really makes a difference.

So, Eldon, how about my great news!!? Write soon!