

PEOPLES. Personal  
Tuesday 6-4-85

Thank you for your most informative letter. I could almost see the Town Festival through your observations.

Although I would much rather be back home enjoying the river and working in my business, I am doing very well here at Eglin. There are no fences, guards or guns here. You are more or less on your honor to stay here. I work in a very nice air-conditioned building, keeping the floors clean. It's the best job here, and I really do enjoy it. We can use the telephone at any time except during work hours. I usually call home every day. That helps Johnny Cantrell.

Everyone in the whole community has been so nice to my family. Except for missing me, they are getting along just fine. We had no idea how many friends we had, nor who they were.

As an American, we take freedom for granted and don't truly understand its value, until we lose it. As a prisoner, I am subject totally to the supervision and whims of the

officers. At any time they can require me to take urine, breathe or blood tests. I am subject to search on the spot. My locker was searched the other day. I felt raped. All mail is opened and can be read as are telephone conversations - all taped and monitored. If all Americans could spend about ninety days down here they would be careful to go to the polls and vote correctly. We are well housed, clothed, fed and cared for - But absolutely no privacy or individual freedoms or rights.

But on the bright side, this experience has been good for me spiritually. As a Christian, I have always tried to live a good life and more especially to help my fellow man. I think my record of public service speaks for itself. However, since my arrival here, I have had plenty of free time to re-read the New Testament. I was utterly shocked to read over and over how many times our Lord told us that regardless of everything else we practice, that Heaven is denied to those who cannot forgive their enemy. I held a very deep resentment towards those who sent me here unjustly and towards those who tried to make political and financial hay from this travesty. In all likely hood, I would have gone on through life

with those feelings - destined for Hell. It took quite a bit of reading, thinking and soul searching to come to realize that some good has indeed come from all this. I am not sure exactly what forgiveness entails, but I am trying to be thankful for my experience.

The Catholics, the pentecostals, Buddhist, Islamics and the American Indians all take care of their members here in several languages. The other churches don't bother - including ours. If even a man needed spiritual support, surely it must be in prison.

I get the Island Packet from Lamar Moberly and it seems like the community is getting along about the same. There are quite a few people here from South Carolina. Our inmates are mostly lawyers, doctors, bankers and smugglers. We also have several ministers here - mainly for taxes. Most of them voted for Ronald Reagan, who in turn put them in jail. We all want law and order until it affects us.

Thanks again for your letter and for caring. I hope to be home before too much longer.

Sincerely,  
Henry C. Hayward