

8

The New York Times

53 BONN
HEUSS-ALLEE 2-10
PRESSEHAUS II/16-19

November 13, 1973.

My Dear Osnos & Sherer:

I realize this joke may be beginning to sound a bit tired by now, but the latest developments in the saga of the Osnos-Sherer Wedding Present may be of interest.

You will recall that at the end of the last episode, your faithful correspondent was due to embark on a journey to the Moselle Valley in search of grapes, elixir vitae, and the famous Presunt.

He was deterred from this course, however, by the untimely and unforeseeable decision of some closely-related Semitic tribes contesting each other's turf in the Levant to commence hostilities -- or, as they say in Vietnamese, to have a war. It was an invitation I could not turn down.

The trip was actually rather uneventful. By the time I arrived, the two sides had spilled each other's blood and indulged in a tank-wrecking spree and there was little for me to do but mourn it and do a little sightseeing around the Holy Land, as an old Irish priest of my acquaintance in the Papal State (Massachusetts) used to call it. Meanwhile something else had happened.

Realizing the fleeting nature of our existence on this Orb, and taking to heart your good example, I decided to --- bing bing bing --- GET MARRIED on the 11th of May to Adalheid (Heidi) Witt of Bonn, whom I fell hopelessly and irremediably in love with in August.

Perhaps it was only the intensity of the guilt about still not having mailed off your presinct that made me do it. Anyhow, life has not been the same since, and with any luck, I trust it won't be.

So arrange your exams or something to come over then if you possibly, possibly can. Even now, my lawyers are working on the case -- fighting off temporary injunctions, etc.

And that's the way it is here in River City today. How'd by you???? I will resume silence in anticipation of a missive.

How
Craig