

Dear Roger,

12/6/89

Good Lord! It's almost Christmas and this letter might not even reach you before you shut up shop there and head for home.

A few days ago two episodes of the Spottiswoode Chronicles (40 pages) arrived together and provided some very entertaining reading. Maybe even better than being there.

Just spoke with Holly (who had just spoken with you) and got the news that you were expected on the 23rd...just barely ahead of the hooves of Dunder, Blitzen and the rest of that aerial delivery team. I had called to let her know that Mary would not be here Xmas week as she felt she should go out to Seattle to see her oldest son, Matt, for the first time in about five years. He is an addict and schizophrenic who has been in and out of various treatment centers for the past several years (fortunately at the Army's expense). I wanted to forestall a visit from you at that time as Mary would never have forgiven us if she missed seeing you all and the children. Holly said "no problem" as you still didn't know your schedule for the rest of the shooting. So we'll see you all whenever it's possible in the New year.

Have been trying to think of Xmas gifts....but what can anyone in New Market find for people who have been looting and pillaging the toy stores and antique shops of the Far East? So you and Holly get short shrift (or none at all) for I found a wonderful present for Spencer and Lilly which will also give you and Holly much pleasure in the watching of them (really Lilly, for Spencer needs a couple more years before he is ready to take it over with instruction from her).

Of course, it's a car. Sized for 3-4 yearolds. Battery powered, but limited in speed. As you see in the enclosed page from The Smithsonian magazines piece on toys and toy makers, it is beautifully scaled and

proportioned and has the air of a real Jeep-like vehicle. I haven't yet found out if it is already in production but I'm awaiting a call. At the price of a single Escape Road, it is quite reasonable as other "toy" cars, Ferraris, and such like, range from \$1000 to \$12,000. Remember, Ettore Bugatti had his factory build a child-size Type 55 (35 ?) racing car for little Roland. I think a few more were made for valued customers....anyway, these have changed hands in recent times for more than a real Bug cost in the 20s or 30s!

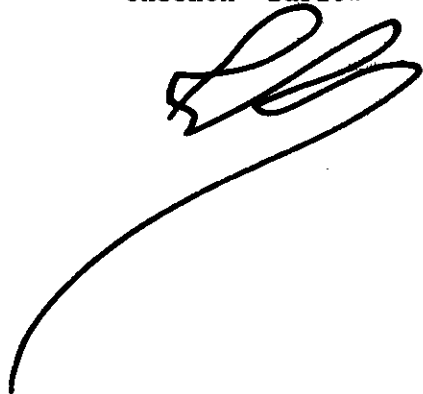
We had a white Thanksgiving (about 3 inches of it) which, happily, didn't last but a couple of days. Been alternately warm and cold since then. We are supposed to have a mild winter, but that doesn't preclude a lot of snow.

No further word from the lady at Automobile Quarterly re the book of Escape Roads.

Look forward to the final episodes on the Tai shooting....and may you have a safe journey home through the skies that I've never believed are truly friendly.

Much love,

"Chicken" Barlow

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping underline that extends towards the bottom left of the page.