

Roger Barlow

MOTION PICTURES

3/24/87

Dear Roger.....

It's been a hectic and difficult three weeks....a 75th birthday, moving into Baha Box 85....and dear old Parker's death. Not unexpected, considering all the things afflicting him and his generally frail condition for the past year or so, but, nevertheless, a disturbing loss. We had been the best of friends and companions for 15 years....and shared the best of times as well as some bad ones. He was a dog-fellow with wit and character. Truly, as Mary says, a "Noble Beastie".

The New Quarters are quite delightful; and straight and easy access to the outdoors and/or a car is a vast improvement over stairs for me. How can it be that for 20 years I hardly noticed the house had stairs! Here are some pix.

About the script. Reads very well indeed. Only think you should not use turbulence as an excuse for the pursuers not to call in a helicopter... Not really logical...choppers fly where there is a hell of a lot more turbulence than in mountain canyon country. Fog for a couple of days would be a better excuse and give you the ~~pop~~ opportunity of making your own fog to produce some grand visuals that would be different from the rest of the mountain chase...and damned welcome. Of course, just as valid an excuse to not use a chopper is silence...not to give away the pursuit.

As I've surely told you...on the 6th I'm going in for open eye surgery to have a cataract removed. In and out the same morning. The left eye is getting pretty hazy when looking into bright areas....not bad with the light behind me.

When do we get a VHS transfer of Lily Chenenne???? And a copy of the ~~Max~~ HBO epic ?

Hey, \$3500 is not a very fair price for a new diff...even a Maserati diff. Unless it is a "Torsen" unit and the whole thing has to be replaced. If it is a conventional differential unit that whines when going down the highway the problem is surely only the replacement of the ring and pinion gears what are almost certainly bought out by Maserati and should cost no more than \$300-\$400 plus labor. Even if you have a torsen unit that whines as you go down the road it should only require the ring and pinion gears being replaced...and even if ~~their~~ they are part of that torsen unit it shouldn't cost that much ~~just~~ to

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replace them. As the torsen (and normal) diff units rotate as a mass or unit with no "gear" movement when going in a straight line, any whin then is due to wear and/or misalignment of the plain old ring and pinion gear that, as I said, are surely not made by Maserati and should have a reasonable price tag. Wish I knew of an independent and honest Maserati mechanic you could talk with.

With all the other distractions, I haven't yet had a time to write my Godfatherly letter of welcome to your girl-child. But it will soon be along....before she can read, too.

Sent AutoWeek a dozen outlines for future Escape Roads and got a call back from the Editor saying they approved them all and I don't have to go through such clearance....just write what I want to write as it all seems to meet their approval and suit the concept of the page! How about that!

But no answer yet, yea or nay, from AUDI on my proposal for the 101st Crossingwhich they could truly benefit by or from considering all the bad publicity the 5000 has had with the automatics apparently subject to engine racing. Sales for AUDI have really dropped.

Spring is seemingly here...crocus out and daffs only a few days off from blooming. Parker almost made it to another season of smelling the flowers. But he had a few days downstairs. He hadn't eaten much for months (and showed it) and nothing at all for three days. On the day I had Dr. Kay come out and send him on his way (with his head resting on my thigh) he would eat nothing...not even a milk bone or drink some milk...then I had a thought - some of my chocolate birthday cake! He ate a tiny piece and then a pretty good sized one. So we ended up nicely, sharing my birthday cake as his last meal. Damn, I miss him.

By the way, Monica, who was very fond of Parker, sent the white flowers you see on his grave. The others are from the house. Kim did the photo of Man Mourning His Best Friend. He was buried in his sleeping comforter along with a shotgun shell, my dog whistle and my hunting cap with all its badges and medals.