

Roger Barlow

MOTION PICTURES

Monday

Dear Roger....

As they didn't announce the arrival of Lily S at half time during the game yesterday, I presume she hasn't as yet made an appearance. Hurry it up, girl, you're missing all sorts of things...kidnappings, Presidential hi-jinks, revolutions, new ice cream flavors and a world-wide welcoming committee. Though the Virginia delegates are truly snowbound at the moment. 12 inches last Friday which, as soon as we were dug out, was followed last night by another 10 or 12 inches. During the past week or so Jason has utilized the CAT TRACKS 4 times to get unstuck! Says they were the best Xmas gifts possible...other than a Quatro! In fact, at this very minute, Jay is stuck trying to get down our driveway with the Olds and its studded tires and limited slip diff.

Work on the New Quarters has been somewhat slowed by the bad weather. The window glass people haven't come to measure and fit the openings for double-sheet glass, though the roof is already on the new extension bay window-cum-entrance.

Sad news...my dear old friend LeRoy Robbins died last Friday after a week in hospital. I could have seen him had I made the trip to San Diego. He has been weakening steadily for the past couple of years due to his bone marrow not producing the needed "platelets". Some sort of "fibrosis" that is not understood and cannot be cured or even effectively inhibited. Finally so weak he couldn't sit up or stand when hospitalized.

Go to court on the 3rd on the roofing matter.

The Olds needed a new water pump last week.

The Rabbit finally, at 115,000 miles, has a leaking head gasket and will be limped to the shop in Harrisonburg tomorrow. Weather permitting.

Have hit a dry spell and written no more ESCAPE ROADS even though I have a list of suitable ideas to the number of about 12. Maybe can get rolling again this week though all the distractions of the building makes it hard to concentrate on other things.

This copy of AutoWeek has pieces on the 16valve GTI and the previous or current 8 valve model. Agree, or should, that the performance (acceleration) isn't really worth the price...\$1200 per second! You might find it interesting. Not a Maserati but, still, a hell of a lot cheaper to run. And 6 maybe almost as much fun. It would need a Park Ward interior treatment to

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provide the gracious living room interior of the BiTurbo. Still, even paying for that sort of treatment AND aturbo, it would be little more than half the cost of the new Maserati or something similar. If you are in a saving mood. Otherwise you are looking at, what, \$35,000 ? Have you looked at \$35,000 lately? By the way, I don't think the suspension and brake changes in the 16 valve GTI are needed or wanted for ordinary driving. Would, in fact, spoil the car, to an extent, for comfortable day to day use. Discs on the rear, instead of drums, don't matter a damn except for driving full bore down a mountain road. The rear doesn't do enough braking to matter if they are drums back there. instead of discs. And the parking brake works far better with drums.

Spoke with Caryl on Sunday...she seemed in remarkably good spirits considering what she is facing. Was relieved that her AAG insurance problem has been resolved.

Winter pix follow later this week.

RUG RATSwhat a grand title.

Love to Hally,

Roger

500 pounds of ballast in the back of the Olds wagon has transformed its snow-road capability ...came right up the driveway when the day before it got only two car length along it!

Og, the original little LOTUS 7, discontinued some time ago, has been built by other people under license and powered by various engines. Now it is to be available with a Mazda Wankel engine and will be, appropriately, called the ROTUS! Leading to some advertising slogans, I hope, such as "DRIVE A ROTUS AND HAVE ROTS OF FUN!"