

September 07 '05

Dear Brian:

I want to express my appreciation to you and C-Span for airing the Booknotes interview with the Chief Justice on Sunday, September 04. The program was an excellent farewell!

The Chief Justice had quite a dry wit. I enjoyed many insights and chuckles. It has been 35 years since I heard anyone recite the facts of Marbury v. Madison. There was a point where you referenced his age at 55 and you asked how old he was. The Chief Justice responded he was 77. You then asked him if he felt the same at 77 as he did at 55. He said, "Oh, no." How do you feel? you asked. "Older", he replied. Priceless.

In retirement I enjoy C-Span more than ever. I am always watching Washington Journal and Q&A which I enjoy. I do miss Booknotes but I choose Booknotes

and Dr Depth are sources of great interest to me.

Recently I found copies of all the Booknotes books in a used book store. I have now started to re-read the series.

The first Booknotes title is my favorite. I am fascinated by the many ideas on writing. The recent passing of Shelby Foote was like the passing of a friend I knew much about but had never met. Images of his large desk, the deep pen, and Walker Percy immediately came to mind. I remember him discussing how he wrote about the Mississippi Delta. The most recent piece I read was his 10,000 word Introduction to The Reel Badge of Courage.

I am currently doing a slow version of Charles Kaufelth's On The Road. I have spent three years exploring Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. This past March I moved to Dallas from St. Paul. I plan to travel

throughout Texas, New Mexico and Arizona using Dallas as my base. I have discovered a wonderful library and law library on the campus of SMU. In a recent interview you did with David McCullough in Maize, I listened with great interest as he spoke of the public library as an education for free open to all. I spend many hours at SMU libraries just reading and browsing. I feel like a college student all over again.

I plan to visit the presidential libraries of Bush in College Station soon and Johnson and Clinton early next year. I am in downtown Dallas weekly and I must say that as I drive on Elm past the Kennedy site, I choke up each time as if the President died yesterday. I see the scene of November 1963 in all its detail: people dropping to the ground, Zapruder and his camera, the triple overpass. I drive a mile and these on the

right, Parkland Hospital. It is reliving history. I know exactly what happened there 42 years ago. I was 17 years old. But ever today I am not sure who was to blame.

God willing, I'll be here for 3 years and I have already selected Helena, Montana as my next big move. I visit D.C. once a year primarily to visit the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at CUA. I spend days in the bookstore and finally purchase my religious reading there for the next year. I will call you to say "hello" next time.

I have one foreign library on my "To Do" list: the Vatican Archives. I started studying Latin and Italian earlier this year - slow going!

I have to end as so many callers begin, "Thank you for C-SPAN." A whole new world has opened up to me - a world of lifelong learning. It is a blessing of riches that transcends all the pettiness and negatives of people

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trying to outrun or run over  
each other on their way to  
wealth and absolute power. I am  
reminded of Frost's words "...  
I, I took a different road  
and that has made all the  
difference." Life is good.  
My best wishes to you,



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