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December, 4153202

Jan 14, 1986

Dear Lou,

Have to write today to tell you about "Crazy" Murray and an auction last night. As you know, he's been living in auction home for the past 5 years, buying antiques to furnish Murray Hotel, sometimes known as "Murray's folly" or "Tara North."

I usually don't attend junk auctions since I'm only buying museum quality stuff for the house, but one of my dear friends could not go to last night's junk auction. Several small estates with beat out old broken down furniture and box lots of mismatched glasses and chipped plates etc. Among all this junk was a small ornate picture frame that he wanted to frame his grandmother's picture and an ironstone pitcher with an ice lip. So I went to bid on these small items for him.

While I'm writing for these items to come up a collapsible wheel chair comes up for bid. I bought it for \$5 since no one else would even bid on it. Lee Lawson who was with me poked me in the ribs and said "What do you want with a wheel chair?" Says I, "It for the AIDS project." "Oh, I see."

I then go to the lobby to have a cigarette and the woman who had been sitting next to me is there. Says she "I see you bought the wheel chair. What for?" I tell her it's for the AIDS project and she tells me that she is a nurse and that the wheel chair

was almost brand new and worth about \$150 new. She thinks my giving it to the AIDS project is wonderful and tells me that her friend behind a bank of stuff is a hospital bed and although she couldn't examine it, it was probably nearly new also. I thank her and rush back in to wait for the hospital bed to come up.

When I get back to the seat, Lee tells me that he has spent some of my money while I'm gone. "Whatcha buy?" "A Hospital bed," says Lee. "Bought it right unseen, they didn't drag it out to display it." "Whatcha pay?" "\$2.00," says Lee. "Well, says I, even if it's not usable we can junk it for \$2.00."

So today, I called co-ordinator of our AIDS project and she is thrilled. We are working on getting a house for 7 more patients - already got \$40,000 grant from state towards it. We will supply stove the bed until we get home and she says we need wheel chair right now! Couple patients had to go to doctor every week and are very weak. Wheel chair just the thing, particularly collapsible one.

Do I live right? Well, I don't know, but it seems to me that when you are doing favor for friend, the fall out is very good. I wouldn't have ever attended this junk auction if my friend ~~had~~ had been able to go and I was doing him a favor.

Didja watch that NBC thing on AIDS last night? I taped it and will watch

later-

By the way - I suddenly remembered that I sent you a check # 6965 dated June 24 for \$6.00 for a copy of your book, asking for one with your autograph. Check has never been cashed and I've not got book. Fucks up my pricing of bank statement each month. Did you get it or what happen?

Take good care of yourself - good diet, plenty of rest, light exercise, vitamin tablets etc. Avoid crowds. Will try to telephone later this week or next week. Be good.

Ellen