

3060 Colima Road  
Atascadero, Calif. 93422  
July 22, 1975

Pam and Wally Simons  
8 Ocean Manor  
2950 Ocean Street  
Carlsbad, California 92008

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Simons:

I visited Bonnie Grimont in Long Beach last Sunday to interview her in research for a book I hope to write about Bert Schievink. She suggested that I write you, as have several other people I have interviewed, but Bonnie was the first one that could provide an address.

Bert was a very close, dear friend to me, as I understand he was to you. During the last two years of his life we spoke many times of the possibility of my writing a book about him. On his deathbed I promised him that the book would indeed be written.

Even though I knew Bert for approximately ten years I know that I cannot fulfill this promise in the multi-dimensional way I want to without the help of his good friends. He counted you among his most valued friends and because of this I am writing to ask your help.

Because I want this book to convey all sides of the Bert we knew and loved -- his complexity as well as his simplicity, his arrogance as well as his humility, his humor as well as his pathos -- I would greatly appreciate your sharing your knowledge of him with me.

At present, the book I project will be along the format of the Sierra Club book, ON THE LOOSE. It will have pictures along with vignettes of his life, his experiences, his humor, his philosophy, his insight. I already have some fine photographs, as well as a sketch of his shack done by a Morro Bay artist who went to meet Bert a year and a half ago. He has volunteered his help with the book, as have many of Bert's friends. If you have any particularly good pictures you would be willing to share for this purpose I would be glad to bear the expense of having them duplicated.

But more important still would be your recollections of Bert, the way you met him, how long you knew him, any anecdotes of him that would reveal his unique "Bertness." I am enclosing a list of possible areas about which you might want to contribute your own unique knowledge of him.

I have a couple tape recordings of Bert you might want to hear someday and I have tape recorded several of his friend's recollections of him in research for the book. If you are ever up this way I would be delighted at the opportunity to meet you.

It is very important to me to keep my final promise to Bert and to do it in a way that would please him. I can think of no better or truer way than through the collective recollections of those he valued most. I eagerly look forward to hearing from you. Thank you so very much for your help.