

Oct. 27, 1981

Dear George,

Received your letter of Oct. 9 today. Mollie forwarded it to me here in Capitola, CA. Gunnar and I left the middle of August, The idea being to enroll him in a public school so when college time comes around he'll be a bona-fied resident. We have an apartment, Gunnar is a junior at Soquel High school and with luck, Mollie and Jonah will join us here in early Feb. I'm working for the state Dept of Parks and recreation. Obtained the job through a senior citizens organization in Wash., D.C. I've been building a darkroom for the past few weeks and will start photo work by next. Jobs at my age are hard to find and I'm lucky to have this.

To answer your questions about Gardner Pinnacles. I remember talk of the existence of Helicopter fuel there by Eugene Kreidler. Seems to me the pilots were from Midway, would scout all the atolls for glass balls, and kept the fuel there so they could refuel and return to Midway. I checked my color slides, black and white and the series in the SB I can't remember why but I remained in the launch, the photos all attest to this. Maybe it was too rough or they weren't planning on being there too long. Anyhow I do remember Kreidler saying that he himself had dumped one or more drums of fuel. I thought at the time what a deadly trick to pull on anyone. Not sure, but seems that he referred to dumping them on an earlier trip. Kreidler was a real fanatic about "his" islands or atolls. Don't know if you have a copy of the Tuesday Dec. 13 1966 issue of SB. The page of photos and story was on

Gardner Pinnacles. Several quotes that relate to the military. "The scientists made another discovery this time. The military had blasted off the top of one peak for a latitude and longitude sighting, part of the Hiran system of triangulation and aid to navigation."

"Angered wildlife officials (Kreidler I'm sure) noted that the military did receive permission from the U.S. Bureau of Sport fisheries and Wildlife to land briefly but not to use explosives or to scare birds "

"the military is our biggest problem" said Eugene Kridler, regional head of the bureau and manager of the refuge.

This just about drains my head of recall on Gardner P.

I have my Honda (75) 750 Super sport, that is my recreation, transportation and just about everything else. Now licensed to drive same in Calif. Some months ago I made the trip from Seattle to San Francisco on it about 1000 miles in two days of good hard driving. It's a great sport but a lonely one.

Hope that Linda and Christian are well and that your situation continues despite recession and Pres. Regan's elimination of all the good things in life. Let me know what happens in your life. I continue to make progress with my Niihau research. Heard anything about the island lately???

Best,

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Warren

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4 Oct '81

Dear George:

Thanks for your note of 30 Sept. With reference to the burial of material of Pearl & Hermes Reef, & dying of Table-top Coral of Gardner Pinnacle, I again talked to Gene Kridler.

We visited Gardner Pinnacle on 16 Sept. 1966. On the top of the large pinnacle we found 9 drums (55 gal.): One each contained diesel & gasoline, 4 contained water & 3 had rusted through & contained the remains of at least 15 birds that had fallen in & starved to death. All drums were rolled off the flat spot & went into the sea. Certainly the small amt. of gas & Diesel could not have created long-term environmental damage - in our opinions. We also cleaned-up a number of yards of elect. wire that the Military had left strung around among the rocks & which had recently entangled & killed a Man-o-war bird.

That is the only time I was ashore on Gardner Pinnacle.

Gene intimated that he had made enquiries about P. & H. Reef burial, as you had not told me that this was a confidential querie.

Thanks for the loan of your copy of "Proc. of the Symp. on Status & Res. Inv. in NW H. Is.", 24-25 Apr. '80. I return this herewith. Sorry it has a few brown stains on the cover. These were made when my study ceiling sprung a leak during a rain storm. Will be interested in any further info. on what goes on in the Green Turtle - Mak Sae Habitat. Best, Karl

P.S. Many thanks for the copy of your excellent "Synopsis of Big. data on the Green Turtle in the H. Is." This is a valuable summary & I'm very glad to have it.
Best wishes - KSK.