

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Dear Tom:

12/31/76

One can tell almost immediately when a violin is made of chicken shit by the sound. i.e. "He sounds shitty". Very often we blame the musician, when it is obvious that the violin maker used inferior material.

Now, quail dung, can contribute to a superior product!

Enough, already!

Thanks for the clipping. Frankly, it's probably about as good a theory as any other. Did you know that recently Congress voted a grant of \$500000 to some university to investigate the composition of old violin varnish? It's really fascinating that something that would seem to be fairly obvious and simple has been the subject of expert disagreement for over one hundred years.

Speaking of violins, I was

very fortunate to acquire a very nice modern Italgain instrument last June. The instrument was made in Carrara (near Milan) by a fairly well known maker named Cesare Maggiale (i). He was born in 1886 and I don't know if he is still living or not, but it seems doubtful. The fiddle is in perfect condition and I'm very proud to have obtained it. I made a good purchase as far as price is concerned and it is getting more and more difficult to find decent violins. Besides, it sounds well and plays easily.

We are all fine. Mimi is in Boulder, Colo. visiting her good friend Joe. She'll return on Jan. 13 after a three week vacation in the Rockies. Lynn is fine, too. She keeps busy with school and music, etc. She is preparing for an audition with the Civic Light Opera. If she is accepted, she is

placed in their training school where she would be prepared for possible future use in their productions. It would be an excellent opportunity for her.

Not much else exciting.

My love to Beth and a very "Happy New Year" to both of you and your family.

as always

Arnold

P.S. Please forgive the "fancy" paper, but it's all I had handy at the moment.

Dear Tom:

Just a note to express
my and the girls condolence
for your recent loss. I
understand you were quite
close to your grand-
father. Please convey
my sympathy to your
parents on our behalf,
also.

as always

Arnold