

# KAREN

## On Friday

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**F**irst lady Nancy Reagan and her old pal, Time Editor in Chief **Henry Grunwald**, slipped into the Jockey Club Wednesday for a quick chicken-salad lunch.

**Ollie North**, dressed comfortably in plaid shirt and jeans, smiled and exchanged niceties with neighbors as he pulled up in his pickup truck to dump the family garbage Saturday morning at the Great Falls Elementary School parking lot in Virginia.

Absolutely no one could tell if those sacks were filled with shredded paper and undistributed copies of the Weekly Reader, carrying the cover story on the colonel. Great Falls sits on the other side of the river where plain folk who don't pay extra for home pickup, do their own Saturday morning garbage run.

**A**dm. **Bobby Inman**, speaking to fellow Texans as part of the Smithsonian Resident Associates program the other evening, reflected on his Texas heritage and the "can-do spirit" of Texans in politics. "When I ended up in the intelligence community where they wanted absolute fact, I lost the flavor for humor, just as Washington has," observed the former deputy CIA director, who now as chief executive officer of the Austin-based company, Wesmark, can once again revel in Texas folklore.

**George Mahon** of Texas, the longtime chairman of the Defense Appropriations subcommittee, left a strong impression on the admiral. In 1975, the chairman introduced oversight of the intelligence committee into an ongoing function of Congress.

Adm. Inman was one of the early witnesses detailing submarine reconnaissance at those closed hearings. "We got our budget, and there were no leaks out of those hearings," he recalled. When asked if he has considered running for political office, Bobby said the fund-raising process today has discouraged him.

Adm. Inman chaired a panel in 1984 to look at security of overseas missions, specifically terrorism, but also the potential loss of classified information. Secretary of State George Shultz accepted 91 of the 93 recommendations of that panel, said Mr. Inman, or snooping would be an even worse problem than it is today.

The situation in the Soviet Embassy, he said, has been going on for decades. "Espionage cases in the '30s and '40s involved blackmail for lifestyle or ideology," said Bobby, "whereas in the 1980s it's hard to blackmail anybody, [except maybe the Pollard case]. Now, it's cash, drugs, or women, things to make one's lifestyle more pleasant." He added: "The sad thing is the Americans volunteer it."

The former deputy CIA director said **Bill Casey** didn't work with Congress to make oversight effective, hence his failure as CIA director. On the arms-to-Iran hullabaloo: "It was terribly short-sighted. The government doesn't ask what if it doesn't work? Or what is the cost of failure?"

Another Texan, playwright **Larry King**, is thinking ahead. He says his 58th birthday, just a few months ago, inspired his latest play, "The Golden Shadows Old West Museum," about an 88-year-old, crippled former rodeo cowboy trying to recapture his youth. He wrote the play, which takes place in an old folks' home in Texas, in just 17 days. It opens at Memphis State University April 30. He hopes to have his novel "War Movies," about the World War II homefront, completed by that date, and off to Viking press.

**A**ttorney **Adam Yarmolinsky**, provost of the University of Maryland in Baltimore, sold the book completed by his late wife, Jane, just before her death last December. "Angels Without Wings: A Tragedy Created A Remarkable Family," will be published by Houghton Mifflin in the fall. It's the story of how she and her then husband, writer **Kurt Vonnegut**, brought up their four nephews whose parents died within a day of one other, along with their own three children. One of them, **Mark Vonnegut**, wrote "Eden Express."

**S**teve **Trott**, the assistant attorney general, joins his old gang, The Highwaymen, for a 25th-reunion concert in June at his alma mater, Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. He was a member of the group that received a gold record for their 1961 recording of "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore."

**TedKen** watchers are amazed that the senator has stuck to his diet and shed about 50 pounds. In the ol' days one would have swore he was running.

— **Karen Feld**