

Hoareithy,  
Hereford, HR2 6DE.  
November 7th, 1983.

John Owen, Esq., LL.B.,  
Messrs. Glasbrooks,  
Corner House,  
Llandeilo,  
Dyfed, SA19 6AG.

Dear John,  
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Thank God my typewriter has come back from its overhaul!

Now, re the affidavit -- and to give you more information, in case it's useful:

I understand that Audrey is going around telling all and sundry that all the money that went into Ardnagashel was hers, and that therefore the 50% of the joint capital that went to her after we split up was no more than what was her own, anyway, and that in fact she has had nothing at all from me.

Going back, then, a bit further than we have already, you and I, here are some details: After the War, early in 1946, I bought Ardnagashel myself, with my own money, for £4,200 -- a ludicrous sum by to-day's standards, but quite a lot then. The idea was to turn the place into an hotel, and this we did. It needed a lot of money spending on it (very rot, alterations, building, plumbing, decoration, furnishing etc), and I threw in the rest of my capital, which was only £2000. That year I borrowed £5000 from my brother, and £6000 from my mother, all going into the business. My brother's £5000 was paid back in 1951, and so doesn't really count, I suppose. The £6000 from my mother (and the subsequent £12000, for which see below), remained in the business, which paid interest on it until the split up, after which I paid this personally until my mother's death in 1982.

We opened the hotel in March (I think) of 1947. and did think of turning the place into a company, but were dissuaded from this by our solicitor, and instead of that we decided that I would cut Audrey in as joint owner of the property. (The legal papers dealing with this are no doubt still with the firm of Cornelius J. Daly, of 19 South Mall, Cork. He is dead, but the firm still carries on). At the same time we opened a joint account at the Bank of Ireland, South Mall, Cork, for all money concerned with Ardnagashel. Apart from this Audrey had a separate account for her private income. I had no income of my own, but lived off the business, as did she.

In 1951 I borrowed a further £10,000 from my mother, and in 1962 yet another £2000, after which the hotel made a good and steadily increasing profit every year, until it burnt down in 1968.

Sometime in the 1950's (I think) Audrey also put ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~



/also put

a fair amount of capital into the place, but I cannot now remember how much it was or exactly when. No doubt she will produce these figures.

With the Insurance money from the fire we converted some of the buildings on the hill behind the ruins into a restaurant and bar, and we ran that from 1969 until 1974, when the property was bought by a Dutch firm. The restaurant was a success in one way, in that we were highly rated by the Good Food Guide, and for one year we had the highest rating in all Ireland; but financially it was no great shakes, and we averaged something over £2000 loss every year.

About 1971 Audrey was anxious to build a house on the site of the late hotel, and this she did out of her own capital. We lived in it until July 21st, 1976, when I left her.

When the Dutch bought the estate, of about 196 acres, they had no use for the new house, but agreed, as part of the deal, that Audrey and I, either or both, could live in it, rates and rent free, until death. I have since renounced any rights to the house. Audrey lives there still. The Dutch paid £120,000.

I think that's all, but if there is anything else you need let me know, and I will do my best to oblige.  
Love to Miranda.

Yours,