2/5/93

Ivan—

We thought that you'd enjoy this!

Betsy
Dear Betsy--

Hey, yeah, I loved the "Maria Montana, Polish gypsy scourge of North Carolina" newspaper clipping. Does make me think, though, that I still don't know a helluva lot about thinking up real plots.

Big thanks for passing that along; be talking to you.

all best,
Dear Ivan,

I enjoy your books very much, but
thought you needed to know how one of your character's names had been
misappropriated. I wonder if she's
fan of yours (see attached article).

On another note, I recently took a grad
level course in publishing and did a major
presentation on Clark City Press.
I had a chance to speak with the
managing editor and one of the authors,
James Crumley (who was my creative
writing teacher in 1969 at the Univ of Arkansas).

Best wishes,

Karl K

Keep up the good work.
12 Feb. '93

Dear Karl Kunkel—

Thanks immensely for passing along that wonderful "Maria Montana, the Polish gypsy scourge of North Carolina" clip. Can a mini-series be far behind?

My wife and I are heading to Missoula for a visit this spring, and we may cross paths with Crumley—if so, we'll remember you to him. I hope your own work is thriving.

all best wishes,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting is difficult to read in the original image, but it appears to contain additional text that is not clearly legible.]
Well-traveled thief now in city jail

Greensboro's highest-ever bond was set for an alleged burglar wanted in at least three other states and Poland.

BY BERNIE WOODALL
Staff Writer

Greensboro police in November 1991 arrested a nomadic burglar named Maria Montana, or whatever her name is, but she skipped town after posting $10,000 bail.

This week, Montana, who has at least 16 aliases, was brought back to Greensboro after being convicted of burglary in Columbia, S.C. To ensure that she stays here until being tried for the 1991 burglary, a Superior Court judge on Wednesday set what local court officials say is the highest bond ever in Guilford County courts: $5 million.

The $5 million bond set by Judge William Z. Wood Jr. pales to a murderers are released on their own recognizance, so why would a judge place a $5 million bond on a 45-year-old burglar without a history of violence?

Greensboro police say Montana is among a "band of gypsies" originally from Poland who roam from city to city burglarizing homes in well-heeled neighborhoods such as Irving Park in Greensboro and Heathwood in Columbia. The system is estimated to save $10,000 worth of jewelry in the November 1991 burglary.

Sometimes suspected rapists and murderers are released on their own recognizance, so why would a judge place a $5 million bond on a 45-year-old burglar without a history of violence?

"I was told by the district attorney (Assistant District Attorney Randy Carroll), the lady has tended to change names quite often," Wood said. "She's not a U.S. citizen and she tends to get arrested, post a bond and then change her name and start doing the same thing somewhere else. The idea of the high bond is to put a stop to it so a court can determine whether she is innocent or guilty."

Montana's attorney, Charles Lloyd of Greensboro, had no comment on the bond or whether he will attempt to have it lowered.

"As I was told by the district attorney (Assistant District Attorney Randy Carroll), the lady has tended to change names quite often," Wood said. "She's not a U.S. citizen and she tends to get arrested, post a bond and then change her name and start doing the same thing somewhere else. The idea of the high bond is to put a stop to it so a court can determine whether she is innocent or guilty."

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Carolyn LeBauer, who was livid in 1991 when a magistrate set a $10,000 bond on such a high-flight risk, said she was pleased that Montana will likely face trial in Greensboro.

"I've been waiting for her," Carolyn LeBauer said Thursday. "I don't really care if she's good, but I feel we're safer in this area."

The LeBauers live on St. Andrews Road in Irving Park, generally considered Greensboro's most exclusive neighborhood. While Greensboro police detectives...