Two anchoring scenes of history, like hands measuring a breadth:

"Last Sunday"—the sixteenth of January, 1853, near Astoria, Oregon—"as some of the settlers were crossing the bay, they found, drifting in a canoe, three men nearly starved to death.... One of the poor fellows was peeling the skin from off his hands and arms and eating it."

Six weeks before, four men had crept from the fort at Sitka, Alaska, headquarters of the Russian-America fur-trading company. Having signed on from their native Sweden for seven years' service at Sitka, the four chose to escape from their indenturement with the Russian frontier regime; all they knew of their chosen destination—the American fur-trading post at Astoria—is its direction, south along the wild coast of Alaska and British Columbia, and its means, an eighteen-foot canoe they have managed to steal.

What stretches between the historical scenes is a desperate voyage of a thousand miles, in North Pacific winter and through the waters of the premier seagoing Indian tribes of the world. The story I'll tell as a weave of history and fiction, The Sea Runners.

The record of that colossal journey exists now as a single six-inch newspaper item, reported to the Oregon Weekly Times by one of the settlers who stumbled across the three survivors in a coastal bay north of Astoria. Besides the above quote, the brief report tells that the voyagers and 17 other men from Stockholm had come to Sitka "in the ship Nicholas" in 1850 and that "after a residence of nearly three years, they found that they could not bear the ill-usage and tyranny which they were receiving, and determined to make their escape." It lists their resources: a couple of compasses, a chart, muskets, powder and shot, some fishing lines. All else of the story—the human components—I will retrieve by setting to work on it with history's exactness of detail and fiction's power of imagination.

The cast of characters:

Melander, the planner of the escape. Rebelling against the indentured life—"the Russians' oxen," he bitterly describes himself and the other Swedes—he has put together the escape as if he were a man piecing out a chess problem. Tall and museful, he is a commander who believes that events can be summoned under control by patience and preparation.
Karlsson is his first, carefully-chosen accomplice; a skilled canoe man, and a frontiersman who seems to Melander to possess useful depths of endurance. A taciturn figure who has not shown himself interested in much about Sitka life except the native women in the village outside the fort, Karlsson joins the escape mostly from curiosity, to see whether the deed can be done.

Melander's second selection, Braaf, is a thief, and chosen for that reason. He it is who in the months of preparation steadily compiles the necessary pilfered supplies. Braaf, at twenty, is much the youngest of the men, a Stockholm street boy who enlisted for Alaska a jump ahead of the law and is bored to his fingertips by Sitka life.

The fourth man is the wild card flicked into the escape scheme: Wennberg, a clever trapper who discerns the plan when he catches Braaf amid a theft of provisions, and thereby muscles his way into the escape. Wennberg is the most contentious and crafty of the four, a dangerous element for the original three to deal with.

The novel opens at a point several days into the escape, as the four are coming ashore to a dark-forested island for the night. A couple of taut introductory paragraphs introduce the men and the situation, building to a line something like:

"As the four men move from sight, another white wave replaces the rolling hill of water which brought them to this shore where they are selecting their night's shelter, and where one of them is to die."

From there, the storyline steps back to how the escape was plotted and achieved, follows the fugitives through the dangers of the first portion of their journey, then connects again at this major point, about a third of the way through the book, where the death is to occur. Thereafter the story runs a straight line of adventure through the rest of the forty days of voyage down the North Pacific coast.

Throughout the narrative, the sea runners face three constant adversaries: the weather, the Indian tribes spaced along the coast, and themselves. The principal plot developments are a decision to cross a treacherous breadth of water (Dixon Entrance) in hard weather; the death of one of the men at the hands of the Haida Indians; a showdown about leadership; the problem of skirting past the potent sea-going tribes of the southern portion of the journey, necessitating some dangerous travel by night; and the final struggle of the survivors to safety.
The best summary of the novel is that I intend it to be a page-turner. The pace will be rapid; I see this as a book of 65,000-75,000 words, perhaps fewer.

As to what the book will be "like", I might suggest Joseph Conrad's Typhoon; that is, a continuous action story keyed to one powerful element—the impossible escape—as his was keyed to the colossal storm at sea. On one point it might resemble too Guy Davenport's story of the discovery of the Lascaux cave paintings, "Robot": as the sense of prehistory emanates from the ochre wall animals "flowing in long strides down some run of time" in Davenport's story, the black-forested North Pacific coast will be the evolving universe of these men in the canoe.

Or perhaps I should leave it at this, that it'll be a novel of considerable compression, with its focus always on the actions of the men as they try to cope with ocean and wilderness. John Berryman wrote that a mark of modernity is that a person now can live his life without ever having the chance to know whether he is physically brave. Daily for some forty days, the sea runners are whetted against that question.

###
Proposal for The Sea Runners, by Ivan Doig

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###
MAP OF SITKA—OCTOBER, 1867


John Work, who was in charge of the Fort Simpson post for a number of years at this time, has left in his Journal a full report of a trading trip to the Queen Charlottes on board the *Llama* commanded by Captain McNeill. They left the west coast of Vancouver’s Island on the first day of May, 1835, and after trading around Laredo sound, the ship stood across to Charlotte’s Island and in the evening was off Cape James. From the Indians they traded 29 beaver, 16 land otter, 60 martens and 74 mink. No mention of sea-otter is made. By the 10th of May, in spite of baffling winds the *Llama* managed to make Skidegate Harbour. Here a number of canoes came off to trade fish, bearkskins and some marten skins. It was noticed that the Indians seemed shy of coming on board and Work soon realized the cause of their hesitation. "Their shyness arose from the loss of the ‘Vancouver’ last year, as they are connected with the tribe who inhabit where she was last, and who abandoned her."

any is found among them. They grow considerable of potatoes, they have several patches under cultivation about their village."

The trade in potatoes with the Company posts, here mentioned for the first time, might be called the beginning of agriculture on northern shores. Dr. John McLoughlin, for long the head at Fort Vancouver, and under whose jurisdiction all the forts on the coast fell, wrote to John Work concerning the same matter as follows:

"I hope every means will be used to increase our intercourse with the Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and it will be proper to purchase potatoes and whatever property they may bring to induce them to visit the Establishments more frequently, as we will be eventually the gainers by such a course. The potatoes cost a trifle, and provided they are not required at Fort Simpson, they may be sent to Sitka if they could be procured in sufficient quantities to fatten pork, which may be sent in by our spring ship from which you might breed and sell the expectation."

It is by such glimpses as this that we get a picture of how the Hudson’s Bay Company adapted themselves to chang-
Forty-two snowstorms visited Boston during the season just closed.

Boston is freezing on ripe strawberries, which cost $300,000.

The Nevada Legislature has passed the compulsory education act.

An Illinois Senatorial committee has reported in favor of abolishing punishment.

Last mail arrivals gave the Bank of England's rate of six per cent—an advance of 1 per cent.

English papers state that after June, the French government will adopt the English system of luggages for vessels.

Forty-two railroad accidents have occurred in Boston, and by chance twenty-six persons were killed and thirty-five injured.

The practicability of a shipyard through Nicaragua has been settled by the laborers of the present company.

The city of Boston has 33 years supported its own invention, and now it depends on the State to support it.

The Legislature of Wisconsin has increased Senator Carpenter and Representative Ethington for voting in favor of the back-porch plan.

Permits have also been issued in Boston for the erection of 163 buildings in the business district since the fire.

The United States have been named 15 other occasions.

Two hundreds of silver ore were shipped from Montana, on the 20th of February, to Swansea, England. The price paid for it was from 20 to 25 per cent.

The strike of the strikers in South Wales is at an end. Only a portion of the miners have been paid.

The ironworkers' wages have gone in on the master's terms. The strike has cost 50,000,000 dollars.

Edward P. Smith, who has just been appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was formerly a Senator and Secretary of War.

The strike was the result of the demands of the ironworkers' union.

The peace with which the comparatively new industry of building iron steamships on the Delaware is being developed, is attracting general attention, and the superiority of these vessels over the coal mines has been thoroughly and most thoroughly publicized.

A gang of 100 colored miners are on their way from Richmond, Va., to Boston, in the same coal mines where they were previously working.

A San Francisco firm has contracted with partners to provide for twenty-five sections of a system of various works, including a transcontinental railroad to San Francisco Bay.

The Chicago relief disbursements last year were over $20,000,000.

The first production of coal on the southern Pacific Railroad is reported.

Iowa has 5,683,294 acres of land under cultivation, and sixty years ago it was 5,388,294.

A Wisconsin justice lately divorced a unhappy couple by repeating the marriage ceremony.

The new national flag of China is said to resemble an old bed altijd with a basket of flowers on it.

Tom Scott contributes sixteen miles of railroad and sixteen acres of legislation—Charter Journal.

A contemptuous speech of a fashionable tailor as being "one of the old war horses of the trade." A heavy chargers we suppose.

The insane of a boarding-house in Hoboken describe the programmes of the month, which is "jangled out of tune, and bash.

A young man in the arbor of his father's house was found with a bullet in his head.

The prettiest lady and the boldest belle in society there just now is the daughter of the poet.

Colfax is the first presiding officer of the Senate who has retired without a vote of thanks from that body.

"Where was the first" asked a lady of her boy, who rushed out of the open-house the other night in search of the child.

"It was a false alarm," said he, coming back in a vigorous tone.

The absence of small farms into large ones is going on at a rapid rate in Bourbon County, Kentucky. One will have to work with his uptightness; the others, with their feet, or else they will not succeed in getting the山顶 who was posted over the gate intoxicated, and who fired the gun.

They were been called the "dung" on the other side of the cast, and the "dung" on the other side of the river.

The Swedes laid down their paddles and joined the Indians, and the Swedes were a navy to be reckoned with.

The Swedes concluded on, and stopped at a place called Dagnyson, where one of their number was killed by the Indians. They next attacked to land at Queen Charlotte's Island, but were compelled to go back to Ashley Bay, after making a voyage of over 1,500 miles.

When found, they had been in the Bay seven days—subsisting on roots and berries. They were much scattered, and looked the perfect picture of misery and despair.

One of the most important cases of the day was the suit of two men who had been shipwrecked, and were saving the skin off their hands and arms and eating it. Their cause is about specially the same with the others, and with this they have made a voyage of over 1,500 miles on one of the worst parts of the coast.

They were well cared for by the citizens, and at present are comfortable and safe at Chincoteague.

The appointment of ex-senator-Saw- yer, of South Carolina, as assistant of a car manufacturer, to the cabinet honor that that state has.
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Note: The text entries are handwritten and include dates and notes about actions and events, such as channel details, soundings, fishing, and weather conditions. The entries are spread across the days, indicating a diary or log entry format.
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Mr. Ivan Doig  
17021 10th Avenue N.W.  
Seattle, Washington 98177  

January 11, 1982

Dear Mr. Doig:

A postscript to January 8. Late that evening Colonel D. telephoned with a lengthy observation on Dostoevskii and the powers of the subconscious. The Colonel's subconscious had reminded him of a long forgotten couplet:

Из далека собаки вой,
А за стенной перекликался часовой.

Iz daleka sobaki voi,
A za stennoi pereklikal'sia chasovoi.

From afar the dog howls,
And beyond the wall the sentry calls.

He added that he had also remembered that somewhere in literature the sentry calls, "Слушай!" "Slushai!", "Listen!" or "Harken!"

A little Monday morning ephemera...

E.V.

With which are now incorporated The Battleship Oregon Museum, Oregon Geographic Names Board, Oregon Landmarks Committee, Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, North Pacific (Irkutsk) Archival Research Group.
Dear Elizabeth--

Having just received a letter from me declaring for "vniaenie" when you'd just passed along to "slushai," you may be wondering what sort of ingrate I am. What happened is that I'd been out of town, my mail was being held at the post office, and I wrote you the "vniaenie" letter during that. Yesterday your report from the nether regions of the Colonel's memory showed up, so I'd better hasten to assure you that "slushai!" it'll be in my book. A Sitka park ranger I've been corresponding with assures me that there's a Wm. Blake quote that "art...cannot exist but in minutely organized particulars." In cases like this, I sure as hell hope so.

Thanks again. All best.
Dear Elizabeth--

Many thanks for your prompt response, and for your reassurance that there isn't, somewhere out there, a scholar of watch calls waiting to pounce on me. I think I'll likely stick with "vнимание" and let it go at that.

I wish Golovin had been ten years prompter in his visit to New Archangel. From a lot of sources and some imagination I've assembled a New Archangel backdrop for my characters which I think is pretty accurate, but I've been nagged by the lack of some central gabby visitor who would have put into a diary or letters a detailed look at New Archangel exactly in 1852. I suppose working with James Swan's diaries, on my previous book, spoiled me. Anyway, I'm glad to have further verification of the siege mentality of the town; part of the plot of my novel turns on the point of the Russians being so wary of the Koloshes getting in, they overlooked my Swedes wanting to get out.

On the stray chance that his work hasn't reached you, I perhaps should pass along to you the name of: Victor P. Petrov, 5919 Battery Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. He "has published three historical novels on Russian America," and helped me by providing information on Russian Christmas customs. He also sent me one of his books, which my rusty college Russian isn't at all up to, but it's titled Kamerger Dvora--something like Chamberlain?--and is about Rezanov.

I'll try cross paths with you next time I'm in Portland. Say hello to Dick Brown for me, when next you see him; he's been a marvelous salesman of my books.

very best
Mr. Ivan Doig  
17021 10th Avenue N.W.  
Seattle, Washington 98177  
8 January 1982

Dear Mr. Doig:

I am delighted to have your intriguing letter! In part, of course, because I am so pleased to think you are so much involved in an aspect of history that I find so utterly fascinating -- but also because your letter spurs me into action. Even since Dick Brown at the University of Oregon gave me This House of Sky I have wanted to tell you how immensely moved I was in reading it, both by the beauty and majesty of your western mind, and by the evocation of the sense of space and aloneness I summon up from memories of childhood summers in northern Wisconsin. A different landscape, but a well remembered awareness of solitude. And with your gift, you touch the memories of others with grandeur.

Well. On to your question. I don't have an answer. That is to say, I've not come across any mention of a watch call in the materials I've been working on. I'm just now preparing Golovin's letters to his mother and sister (written during that same visit to Russian America) for publication; he mentions that watch was constantly kept over the Tlingit/Kolosh village. But no watch call is mentioned. I called my favorite Imperial Russian cavalry officer to make an inquiry. After we had discussed Pushkin in some detail, with a couple of detours into Lermontov, and a foray into regimental life, he allowed as how sentries in his day didn't use calls. Each had a whistle, and in case of real trouble, he fired his gun. Not much help to you, I'm afraid. But then, life on the Polish border in 1915 was a far remove from New Archangel in 1852. I might suggest that your question is so distilled that it's unlikely anyone will challenge you. Successfully.

Please count me among your most ardent fans and do let me know if you have any more such rarified questions!

With much admiration,

E. A. P. Crownhart-Vaughan  
Russian Department
In his letters Golovin remarks that the Russian cannon were trained on the Khotov village 24 hours a day, and that the Russians were almost in a state of siege: "The result is that New Anchangel is constantly in a state of siege."

From a letter of 27 November/9 December 1860.

This volume will be out in midsummer - no one can say when.

E. V.
E.A.F. Crownhart-Vaughan
c/o Oregon Historical Society
1230 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon

6 Jan. 1982

Your volume of Captain Golovin’s 1862 report on Russian America has been greatly helpful to me for the novel I’ve been working on for the past year and a half—the story, based on a historical incident of 1852-53, of four Swedes who flee their indenturement at New Archangel and set off by canoe for Astoria. I’m trying to be right about details of New Archangel life, and one item is proving especially elusive: I wonder whether you’ve come across it in your scholarship on Russian America. The newspaper piece on which I’m basing my story says that the Swedes escaped by getting a gate guard drunk, "one of them took his place and answered the calls of the other sentinels." The question being, what was the call? The best source I’ve come up with, the Bancroft Library’s manuscript of an 1853 visit to New Archangel by an American merchant named James C. Ward, says that each hour the sentries called back and forth, "Attention!" I’ve accordingly put "Vnimanie!" into my imagined scene. One Russian America specialist I’ve checked with maintains "Vnimanie" is too awkward a watch call, it must have been something such as "Storoz!" Another such specialist says he sees nothing whatsoever wrong with "Vnimanie!" It’s a small point, but one I’d like to have correct; do you recall any such mention of a watch call in your delvings into Russian America?

best wishes
56A-SE

Russian Church in historic Sitka, Alaska.
Photo by Mel Anderson

J & H SALES ANCHORAGE AK.
PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA.
16 Nov. '92--Trying to unclog the office, moving Heart Earth research material into retirement to make way for Bucking the Sun filecards and folders, today I winnowed The Sea Runners file cabinet drawer, disposing of about a foot of photocopied articles etc. on Sitka, Russian America, Indian canoes, Swedish background. Anything I thought of value, I consolidated into the file folder with checking copies and correspondence; that turned out to include notes on the writing and editing, 1st drafts of the book's lead and similar items which ought to be looked at if I do anything with the Blue as the Odyssey filecard/diary of The Sea Runners.
Maledicta: the Journal of Verbal Abuse articles used for The Sea Runners, transferred to "lingo" file folder in Nov. '92 winnowing of " " " research files.
Blueberries - Indian use: berries eaten fresh, or dried into cakes. Or preserved in oil.

Devil's club - Common in ravines and openings. Young shoots browsed by deer. The Indians sometimes brew tea from the very bitter bark as a tonic, or may strip off the thorns and eat the green bark as tonic. (From "Alaska Trees and Shrubs," U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.)

Skunk cabbage - Indian use: leaves used to wrap fish with, and then cooked.

Huckleberry - Indian: eaten in large quantities. Mashed and dried into cakes.

Salmon berry - both sprouts and berries were eaten in large quantities by all coastal Indian groups. The sprouts were picked in the spring, peeled and eaten raw. Usually eaten fresh because watery to dry into cakes.

Rice root - The rice-like bulbs were dug and eaten. Boiled. Bitter.

Indian celery - Marrow eaten raw; root boiled. Contains sugar.

Red elderberry - fruit widely used.

Thimbleberry - eaten by all coastal Indian groups.
FLORA -- list kept by National Historic Park
Sitka

Blueberries
Bellflower/bluebells of Scotland
Devil's club
Bunchberry
False lily of the valley/deerberry
Fireweed
False azalea
Goats beard
Indian cucumber
Huckleberry
Hudson Bay tea/Labrador tea
Lambsquarter/wild spinach
Salmon berry
Rice root
Skunk cabbage
Sitka spruce
Spring beauty
Soapberry
Stream violet/yellow violet
Strawberry (wild)
Wild, or Indian, Celery
Trailing raspberry
Wild crabapple/Pacific crabapple
Western water hemlock
PACific silverweed
Western hemlock
Alaska, or yellow, cedar
Large-leaf avens
Common yarrow
Red elderberry
Sitka rose
Thimbleberry
Red Alder
Common foxtglove
Mountain ash
Buttercup
Laceflower
Skunk currant
Single delight
"Last Sunday, as some of the settlers were crossing the bay, they found, drifting in a canoe, three men nearly starved to death. They spoke to them, but could not make themselves understood. After taking them to their home they finally succeeded in communicating with them. Their history is as follows: They are Swedes, and belong to Stockholm. In 1830 they engaged to work for the Russian Fur Company seven years, and accordingly embarked, in company with 17 others, in the ship Nicholas, Captain Conrad, and sailed for the northwestern coast, bound for Sitka. After a residence of nearly three years, they found that they could not bear the ill-treatment and tyranny which they were receiving, and determined to make their escape. Of the whole number, but four had the courage to make the attempt. They have been a year and a half in making preparations. Every night, they, with the other residents of the place, were in the habit of sleeping in the fort—being the rules of the Company. After obtaining a couple of compasses, a chart, some muskets, powder, shot, some fishing lines, and a few other articles, one dark night they succeeded in getting the sentinel who was posted over the gate intoxicated, and one of them took his place, and answered the calls of the other sentinels; his comrades, in the meantime, had opened the gate, and were getting their things into a canoe. A short time before the relief came around, they got into the canoe and shoved off. They were soon missed, and a party of Indians went in pursuit. When they came up with the fugitives, the Swedes laid down their paddles and seized their muskets, determined to die rather than be taken. The Indians, seeing they were armed, turned back to the fort.

The Swedes continued on, and stopped at a place called Decouvoir, where one of their number was killed by the Indians. They next attempted to land at Queen Charlotte's Island, but were compelled to leave amidst a shower of bullets which completely riddled the sails of their canoe. After a passage of forty days they got into Shoalwater Bay, in a fog, and when it cleared up they were surprised to find themselves land-locked.

When found, they had been in the Bay seven days—subsisting on roots and berries. They were much emaciated, and looked the perfect pictures of misery and despair. One of the poor fellows, when found, was pushing the skin from off his hands and arms and eating it. Their canoe is about eighteen feet in length by three in width; and with this they have made a voyage of over 1,000 miles on one of the worst parts of the coast. They were well cared for by the citizens, and are present are comfortably situated at Chinook. Their names are Carl Gronland, Carl Wasterholm and Andreas O. Lyndall.

CAPTAIN C. J. W. ROSSELL.
Make a picture in your mind of four canoe men borne atop a wave, a sharp white hill of ocean which carries them up and up as it laps toward the sky. Their high-nosed craft, buoyant as a seabird, at last slides across the water's curled crest and begins to ride the surf to the dark frame of your scene, a shore of fir forest. Anthony Island, this particular landfall is inscribed on modern charts of the long broken coastline south from the Gulf of Alaska, but as these four voyagers are bobbing to its shore in mid-February of 1853 they do not know this name, and it would not matter to them if they did.

For nineteen days they have been together in the slim cedar canoe, dodging from one of this coast's constant humps of fir-and-rock to the next. They have been afraid many times in those days, and brave almost as often. Here at Anthony they land wetly, heft the canoe, salal and swordfren, across the gravel beach into hiding within the timber, then start off into the timber. Their search for shelter from the weather. As they move from sight,
another white wave replaces the rolling hill of water which brought
the four men to this shore where they are selecting their night's
shelter, and where one of them is to die.

The escape had been Melander's plan.
Braaf proved so adept a provisioner that Melander was forced to
out-claw him in ration assignments to him, lest the Russians become suspicious about
the blizzard of thievery. By the end of July, the planners' cache
held a compass, two tins of gunpowder, a 00 musket and 30 balls for
it, several fishing lines and hooks, and a fire flint apiece. In
August, Braaf added a coil of rope, three knives and a hatchet. In
September, the plotters turned their attention to canoe equipment:
Karlsson, who rarely asserted himself, insisted on 00 paddles
made by some tribe southward along the coast and which occasionally
were traded north. Braaf frowned. It took him a week to accumulate
three
00 paddles from the native community.
when they met again.
"Three?" said Karlsson at their next meeting. "What if we
lose one?" Braaf cursed in his sweet voice, and went off after
a fourth paddle.
Two anchoring scenes of history, like hands measuring a breadth:

"Last Sunday"—the sixteenth of January, 1853, near Astoria, Oregon—"as some of the settlers were crossing the bay, they found, drifting in a canoe, three men nearly starved to death.... One of the poor fellows was peeling the skin from off his hands and arms and eating it."

Six weeks before, four men had crept from the ironmasters' fort at Sitka, Alaska, headquarters of the Russian-America fur-trading company. Having signed on from their native Sweden for seven years' service at Sitka, the four have decided to escape their indenture to the Russian company; all they know of their chosen destination—Astoria—is its direction, south along the wild coast of Alaska and British Columbia, and its means, an eighteen-foot canoe they have stolen.

What stretches between the scenes is a desperate voyage of a thousand miles, in North Pacific winter and through the waters of the premier seagoing Indian tribes of the world. The story I'll tell as a weave of history and fiction, The Sea Runners.

The exploit of these Indians for their colossal journey exists now as a single six-inch newspaper item, reported to the Oregon Weekly Times by one of the settlers who found the three survivors in a coastal bay north of Astoria. Besides the above quote, the brief report tells that
Dear Tom--

April 21, '80

I appreciated your letter. There's little in the world a writer appreciates more than an enterprising editor, in fact.

About all I can say now, Tom, is that I'm going to have to see how things shake down at HBJ. Liz Darhansoff is becoming my agent, and I'll apprise her of your interest. As Liz sorts through the matter for me, I know she'll keep you in mind.

very best
the 18 voyagers and 17 other men from Stockholm had come to Sitka residence "in the ship Nicholas" in 1850 and that "after a residence of

Captain Conrad," in 1850 and that "after a residence of nearly three
years, they found that they could not bear the ill-usage and tyranny
which they were receiving, and determined to make their escape." It lists
their supplies: a couple of compasses, a chart, muskets, powder and shot,
some fishing lines. All else of the story I will here to retrieve by
setting to work on it with history's exactness of detail and fiction's
power of imagination.
The cast of characters:

Melander, the planner of the escape. Rebelling against the indentured life—"the Russians' oxen," he bitterly describes himself and the other Swedes—he has put together the escape as if he were a man thinking out a chess problem. Karlsson is his first, carefully-chosen accomplice; a skilled canoe man, and a frontiersman who seems to Melander to have useful depths of endurance. A taciturn man who has not shown himself interested in much about Sitka life except the native women in the village outside the fort, Karlsson joins the escape mostly out of curiosity, to see whether the deed can be done.

Braaf, Melander's second selection, Braaf, is a thief, chosen for that reason. He is who in the months of preparation steadily compiles the necessary pilfered supplies. Braaf is the youngest of the men, a Stockholm street boy who enlisted for Alaska a jump ahead bored to his fingertips by of the law, and Sitka life.

The fourth man is the wild card flicked into the escape scheme: Wennberg, a clever trapper who discerns the plan when he catches Braaf amid a theft of provisions, Wennberg muscle his way into the escape. Wennberg is the most contentious of the four, an added element the others must always deal with.
The novel opens at a point several days into the escape, as the four are coming ashore to an island, a couple of taut introductory paragraphs which introduce the men and the situation, and builds to a line something like:

"As they move from sight, another white wave replaces the rolling hill of water which brought the four men to this shore where they are selecting their night's shelter, and where one of them is to die."

This section back was plotted and achieved.

From there, the storyline reverts to how the escape came about; follows the fugitives through the adventures and dangers of the first several days of journey, then connects again at this major turning point, about a third of the way through the book, where the death occurs; from there on, it is a continuous straight line of adventure through.
The narrative will follow the men through the steps of their escape from Sitka, then plunge into the forty days of voyage along the North Pacific coast. They face three constant adversaries: the weather, the Indian tribes spaced along the coast, and themselves. The major plot developments are a decision to cross a treacherous breadth of water (Dixon Entrance) in hard weather; the death of one of the men at the hands of the Haida Indians; a showdown about leadership; the problem of skirting past the potent sea-going tribes of the southern portion of the journey, necessitating some dangerous travel by night; and the final struggle of the survivors to reach safety.

The best summary of the novel is that I intend it to be a page-turner. The pace will be rapid; I see this as a book of 65,000-75,000 words, perhaps fewer. As to what the book will be "like", I might suggest Joseph Conrad's Typhoon; that is, a continuous action story keyed to one element—the impossible escape—as his was keyed to the colossal storm.

On one point it might resemble Guy Davenport's story of the discovery of the Lascaux cave paintings, "Robot": as the sense of prehistory emanates from the ochre wall animals "flowing in long strides down some run of time," the black-forested North Pacific coast will be the universe of the men in the canoe.

Or perhaps I should leave it at this, that it'll be a novel of considerable compression, with its focus always on the actions of the men as they try to cope with ocean and wilderness. John Berryman wrote that a mark of modernity is that a person now can live his life physically without ever having the chance to know whether he is brave. Daily for some forty days, the sea runners are whetted against that question.
Make a picture in your mind of a cedar canoe atop a sharp white ridge of ocean. Carried up and up by the water's eager surge toward the sky, the high-nosed craft, buoyant as a seabird, at last sleds across the wave's curled crest and begins to glide the surf toward the dark frame of your scene, a shore of fir forest. Kunghit Island, this particular landfall is inscribed on modern charts of the long crumbled coastline south from the Gulf of Alaska, but the voyagers bobbing to its shore here in late January of 1853 do not know this name, nor would it matter to them if they did.

Now the canoe man as they alight. Karlsson and Melander and Wennberg and Braaf. For nineteen days they have been together in the slender canoe, dodging from one of this coast's constant humps of fir-and-rock to the next. They have been afraid many times in those days, brave almost as often. Here at Kunghit they land wetly, heft their ark across the gravel beach into hiding within the salal and sword ferns, then turn away in to the timber. As the trees sieve them from sight, another white wave replaces the rolling hill of water by which the four men were borne to this shore where they are selecting their night's shelter, and where one of them is to die.
The Sea Runners

Make a picture in your mind of four men on a dune, a sharp hill of desert which carries them up against the sky as if they are sentinels.

Karlsson and Melander and Wennberg and Braaf.

The dune is moving, for it is surf, the pressure of the North Pacific Ocean behind it... The water is bearing the men to shore where OO, weight and where one of the four is to die.

The escape had been Melander's idea. (plan)

They landed with

---Jö, he says: earth---

are ambulance boys' obvious picture into with street. In
Make a picture in your mind of four men on a white dune, a sharp hill of desert which carries them up against the sky as if they are sentinels. **And their faces cannot be seen, only heads.**

in a line, and arms working back and forth across that line.

Make a picture in your mind of four men being borne on a wave, a sharp white hill of ocean which carries them up against the sky as if they are sentinels.
Make a picture in your mind of four men being borne on a wave, a sharp white hill of ocean which carries them up and up as it laps at the sky. The canoe they ride at last sleds across the curled crest of the water and drops down surf toward another of the dark islands, the humps of fir forest and rock strewn steadily from southern Alaska along the lengthy coast of British Columbia to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which these four have been dodging among nineteen eleven days for nearly a month. Karlsson and Melander and Wennberg and Braaf. Coming to shore
Make a picture in your mind of four men being borne on a wave, a sharp white hill of ocean which carries them up and up as it laps at the sky. The canoe they ride at last sleds across the curled drops crest of the water and down the surf toward another of coastal rock strewn from Southern Alaska to the Alaskan islands; humps of forest trying to shield the shore like a fallen rock wall which they have been moving among for twenty-seven days.
Stockholm phone book names

* Karlsson
  * Braaf
  * Broch
  * Broander
  * Brobeck
  * Brodin
  * Broberg
  * Brodd
  * Brodin
  * Moberg
  * Mickelson

* Melander
  * Mattsson
  * Möller
  * Wahlsten
  * Wahlberg
  * Werner

* Wennberg
Karlsson
Melander
Wennberg
Braaf

a sharp hill that descends which carries them up into outline as if they were norths.
comments before sending 181/2 ms to Liz, 5 June '81

- quinit later s/where, "Now I began afraid &- away of back &- fighting" 
- promyskenniki in M-W-B scene in parade ground 
- white oak? 
- cut "no adm'n... because of p. 9 repes... any Rn."
- cut "on" from "laudle on" 
- march of dwellings 
- inland - speckled, timber - manaed 
- "one day... one miff box"
- "one after - other"
- miles of houses; repeat of p. 13 refen 
- goddarn - Good damn 
- "Siberian post" repeat ?
- mopping
- add promyskenniki 
- cut "top of Africa"
- 15th Night ?
- fever than fifty - change to 30 ?
- ring of course - review 
- first... first
- 25 mi: square = p. 72 distances 
- map = mapmaker 
- braking = butting thru 
- now = just now 
- market: add hungry hinds & sticks 
- 8Art - above - under 
- rice - bread ?
- low tide; square a hill of water ?
Here or else?
Too much metaphor?

But. # = the sled Melander?
12 - live? - tense?
13 - lines 5,6 - censer repeated?
14 - 3rd last - omit yet
15 - Dialogue among the 3 is tense!
and #1 - elsewise?!

Top 24 - rough brush between gyps?
31 - omit upward?
34 - set for breakfast
x 26 - Cauty's nap; stealing scene?
But none dialogue as?

Last 41 - saying:
Mid 43 - If gods have been named, time (of 47D)
unreal better more than "A night later..."
Top 45 - former version of mene tanks?
- Wandering was deliberate in former version?
- Does readers mene without
time frame is a planning for escape > (lot 47D)
47C - replace 47D
Lot 48 - Does reader really for Peckorn's
nursing?
49/ Cape day
As we see my Abraxas - how found?

173 stars' threads

11 top - omit metaphor
"Good."
(Mr.) (Why?)
"Mine is your idea of..."
"Those are..."
said a soft voice
"A 30, that's nothing unless we have a movie and some action..."
"You again forget..."
"Still..."
"Do times have I told you...

Mr.: "Our company man, we're. Let's have more that than nearly 7 moosie's & 'like, however, once we need to talk of is our duty of weather. I know as I do no our damnable place has no 2 seasons, rain & sprinkle. We must decide how soon.

By we are going to need—

Mr. M come how to meet. "Ran"

next into guns & changes mind."

K: "There's one with your legs.

Mr.: "Some kind, none."

K: "There are."

"Good. I m. one among us who works about us. Carl sees."

I'll post up B, a. the camp & goings.

gauge time when it seems best."
"We have 00," over our breakfast, 1/4 Easter. It will be good.

Stogram: "Interesting. set up the flag signal Ddes rama.

Friend said, we are going to give us a chance...

more gun room metal 2 W scene

sprinkle in dialogue

Besides,
Besides again,

by far a inside train out.
N. calm no froze, M. it reflected

weather comments

as cooking like a snow down the -frog-fish.

Something got in my throat.
Nothing 15 drops won't cure.

No to written name of all cases.
Sup 15 more for me a cure my way as well.

Merry Christmas.
Write blue

Get cards ready in pile boxes

need to add to lot 1/2: 12 more pp.

- calculate where cards will be, 4 length: 1/2 - Brown 1.5 pp.

Sat. morn: Male dicte notes

25 26 - Kolosh .5 pp

card game 1 .5

364 - rainbow 1 p

1 5T - U 1 p

1 50 - M sev-a 1.5 pp

2 5T - B 2 pp

1/2 83 - B 1 p

.5 75 - N, Pac. .5 p

.15 78 - hig. N .5 p

97 - sundage 1

Also add: sleeping account

"Tom Stuart overview"

Had seen fit to mention maps: it not within if that much would happen again...

was in white

To see same it's like

came - pouch of stretched wood
waters of earth, mankind's highway & pantry thru all ages.
What can any do &
credence of it was terrible. That terrible credence/Death
No.
Death's terrible credence.

[Incoherent text]

[Incoherent text]

mussels - K & W don't know they're edible
all kinds of more they've pulled up on.

describe day of paddling

Tell their woe in a word. 00.

A word tells their woe here.
readings: had to hear several men and then they shouted.

- Oh: have We die, really is K's name in last line?
- have K not fire atop celler - log & A set signal/-flag?

"Our attention was drawn in some way -

- K & 3 other agents log lights fine c maps very 2 smart men.
- W: we are dead men.

dreams: use only K reception scene.

W & K on coast:

- His mind an uphill globe c by mo OO skull.
- B "And we're dreaming"
- have W Theater to kill K when they meet goal.
- K: "You can make it.

- W working at it in his head as a sinner prize at Boulder

- at NT

if there was a better man than M, I've met him.
For one matter, if this was a better man than 3 who happens to
be a thief, A havent met him either.

Contrary another way,

winter here

- move sea change section to 1st 1/2 of book?

you can make it,

- you can let us eyes out & set fire for me & cash.
9A - correct rhythm.

9B - scenes of NA: cleared.

10 - adj c.m.t.r.s.

16 - expand imperial castellum by as much as 2 pp.

20 - insert next sentence in < at beach. > He might have been...

25 - move on. Tendency?

29 - more N/H house dialogue.

31 - build up of & sausage? (I vored)

52 - add 2-3 pp. of diaper, labial 

56 - move on paddling & Inter. 3rd pulleys in arms.

67 - add "little snail" in<br>bug"?

68 - rewrite Koosh.

69 - move o. Pac.

77 - revise padder scene especially.

78 - add new words.

79 - move M/ more dialogue

91 - remove "cross current" section.

92 - add "people of Pac" material.

88 - add "more".

94 - extend droplet scene.

100 - "For Hill holeup: add long dialogue.

103-107 - "singing scene.

C's comments:

38 - more in may steel scene + dialog.

42 - cut Matthew, Mark.

43 - "Some nights later".

- strengthen W in 3mo scene.

- Why is W still mulling to turn them in? (hr)

- hidey-hole change has been made; delay hidey-hole.

- more time frame of escape more involved, than a M saying.

- How did they find them? Some coast here set in?

- pitiful: not. building season.

- add scene of K still defecting to W?

63-68 - change mileage.
No 5-6 - cut last 1/2 4th ed. move last of p. 6, 97 to
2d ed. - "Rq. Ann." - on p.,
- have Maph's call "No"
"Maybe" indel 4 "perhaps",
change "You" to "along." include grace in it,
- invest of 1 + 2
- have M talk, seq. of islands
- "I manage to said part of 7th voyage,
3d ed. "After again" last grace (accurate)
- "3t at amod. "Against" haded reverse." Terrible meeting
- complete c1. and move to logged c1 of p. 5-6 to here No
- "agent him"
- which "hanging in sport"
- it'll take."
- line 1, add "maybe", p. 4 "if we"
- Kolowry
- "colonialism" indel 7 "captive."
- 3d line of bottom, Kolowry
- line 4, "Begin to walk."
- 2d ed. - sigon for slipshod.
- 3d line from bottom, invest, "here & C."
- invest, "main. We violently."
- 5 in, "when it had been made into."
- invest to "in complex. Complex, y."
- "After a man of marke hands; then the semi-colons in 4th.
- take out comma, 3d line from bottom
- invest total of cannon
- after Steheen: take out commas
- change "mulps" to "color."
- decide later No
- more & chiliag after "yes." No
- add: "Noble lones, thought I had"
- 41, 2 "apiece"
- check "We westmost."
- mid-Nor. Change to early-Nor.
- (To watch timespan of writing)
- change to "We've got them." - No
cut Koreish from meaning list?
- change "dying stark" to "stairing"
- simplify "Cathle f." to "Winifred only"
- fonce as "Bill maege" here = "starkeeper" ; omit "B."
- gun roy OK, or gun blank.
- create "6 into 4 days". Not OK.
- change "stallion" . "wilde stallion? Write ox.
- take hypens out of sea change?
- "eight" crow? No.
- change handling - pelts.
- chapter?
- change M by "pained" - pinched y. just
- show that M & K are in early mon.
- insert M comment o and capability to stand cold water; K mo.
- change "hovage" from dealbag.

Font vigil "1849 - Maltinnes on Verend."
Beaver 1926 - pp. 32-4

Invert = "Seagull". Exam from aw. No.

- Seavre, 193 - add biting tricks to coastal spring.
  - check with Mary, Mullin.

Invert St P. Y Subitek.

Let M & K seem: watch for too many "now."
K's callused change.

- sail all okay.
- check evidence Julyapen et al.
- change Ghentini nuf.
- add R'key learning atmosphere on ace. No
- check latitude: OK
- check paddle grip
- beyond reach: 7' red: OK
- N Cape OK?
- check Kenai etc in Coastal Sel (y Alaska hiding?)
- insert M providing drying salmon.
- dogencamps of Setka?
- check Ambrosius
- check Nootkans
- check channel distances
- check canoe knives
- insert some closely watched scene (sketched by B'mann)
on earlier counterparts to Tour Heli.

- check Tow Hill - hemlocks?
- check lemmings in hovans? OK - Jean, Lemene.
- nightshades
- glacier on plate OK?
- check Setka - Astoria distance
- check distance to canal
- red homes OK?
- insert "boat up chute": No
- 3d day OK?
- salt ok?
- butte: need or NA?
- check CK date
- half a mo OK?
- rain of S. Battery OK? check UW
- salmon OK: individual OK: blossoming OK?
- Gyttle: hundreds of yrs long: OK
- check by shore descent
- check cane
- high tides of comic days spaced right?
- insert "ports"
- hock for seal

- add design 7 dusk paddling? K morning after "this of that"
- 7 coast?

- add to 2 days Walrus section.
- 3 days minus B.A. death?
- check total days \( \frac{25}{3} \) or

- cause Varmland Karelstad

- W spent odd 4d shortage.
- lengthen paddling?

- airplane ride to beach? No

- have W fall into mud? cannot that he's wet?
- odd K mondy?
- cause W shivering
- lengthen cabin descent 6 min.
- W shivering again
- went calvin rifle to closeness to astoria?
- have reserves get hot 1d into them? - heated to K's face?

- cost of air is mortality.
- must was in him (K) man(tail) - 3 mpf[ling a holiday for more (after barracks smells) - more run off system
- on break?

- check refer to SE all weather, more evident it does snow
- add frost to compare means? on tent canvas?

- They did need to link tea cups one another
- wind anything tops of waves (Four Fift)
- no desperate injustice of it
- went to sleep 2might
P.1 - check with C
1 - 
31 - not needed?
61 - gate works open
72 - write a line: more it "single us"?
774 earlier: check usage of musket

- 1364

192 - no names for

Stewart letter
p 41 - maps mentioned
ch 272 pp. 41 why
105 - not of maps
point up importance of K withholding map info.

Inland Passage of Ketchikan - about strain o K.

Give W. but word sometime.

19 scenes to write C yellow pp.

makes K not a hunter?

canoe to UW

check Sur names @ UW & c Kathar H's friend

heighten portrait of K in 1st pp. of 2d '42 - show apathy,

get Deprecate C/me

have hunting difficult because of rain (of foods)

M. altitude

show - K's appeal to women

p. 410 - aaconin W's language

have W say "careful of me. B - no trigger...

have M using a straddle?

p. 407 - magnet blown in 185-

K = particle of Sur dispersion
"Those ones last—those at home, there.

"Those K's..." "W"—"what in Christ's name do you think they have?"

What do you think they're in? World for?"

K: Hand to bag.

How do they spend their time, I mean?

B: Paddling their arms off, to take wean.

Sit on mine... I mean, truly, here, some damned coast, like 40 kinds of a fine, lovely, zonies, are they just fuckers?

Why isn't it just empty? Nothing sound here, there?

K: We'd better hope it is, here on...

aboard. Maybe people are like crops, come up everywhere. At

B: Oh, weeds, if they're W's.
6 1/8, Nov '81 - C's comment

- W's wife: restore
- desire to escape
- got into it, eaten some difficulty

9-10 - upgrade margin notes
12 - bay: channel - w/c paper
25 - has
25 - transition

3 - garnish
4 - bread
3 - change desired
7 - tighten end, cancel scene
7 - warm bath again - "feed my 'SPAC'"
7 - A - going to be
18 - expand: overview
8 - add dialogue
8 - A - cut last line?
- add how weather feels

10 - K as signature

11 - W sque: needed legend?
17 - lengthen shot scene

- Cagney: have M concerned o stormship

- emit refer to fins, seals, sea otter
p. 9 - after distance - emit reason for disappointment
- change: tracks miles played
- ends of a trip

add paddling

"Cane quote"

add blankets
at half,
M has to get all maps there are.

lot p. clip: edit ok. "it"

work on food: have them catch some fish?
dune grass: show its blades

make W. Lena time span indents.

how far from Astoria? put in letter

emphasize how they feel physically

What made you do people go off & do things?

in comment off: mention men people at time did go off
Blue diary

Sun.

Put up clipped pp.

How's R's dinner of mind in channel? Do please.

Have to call R "invited".

In country, this. Not Smolander or N.K., say that part.

He'd been a fool to think more agent c W a police - a pocket c paper bagged + liked.

Trouble's deacon

not heaven-made for itself

A crime against God meant.

Ironhead

Dwelling Bil in was nothing to two endless piece of paper

- u.e 449? a ski?
p 565 - days of clearing weather - odd to spring - odd again.
57 - wasn't "sniffy" back at room cod scene

"Rams had a flag of mortar, an eagle, a steeple.
""Chambered pedes."
""Thele. a splendid, Monitor, a got later."

He wanted it not to end poorly.

7 add little island

43 rough pp. = 10 pp/day, +2 with ones

use drawing c log.
email recipe in last pp.

sails of juno
- ship on wing
- Neptunue
- sea worms
- nacle of vision

so you're tricking yourself to it.
all monotonous never was back

Marilyn THERE p. 178

scene of W over K after flight
- daggers to bed

dog skeletons on island

more nonsense for B
C's comments from final read of ms, wk of Jan. 25 '82.

3 - were? placement
4 - was

p.4 - prefer farthest

15 - left?

18 - restore roman

19 - had common - used?

27 - restore unchanged?

58 - as

86 -

311 - battalion

166 - cannon?

164 - this - would

164 - left - stay the bottles/ heaven?

163 - defied/ docs?

read to 1770 - 2014

228 - omit this and that

244 - to steel wheels
2d day at Un'Alqine - calendar

trips to load canoe

M pens, one dried salmon
- a barrel was missing, 30 of its contents

had started out 6 canoes & now were 6, canoes

3A chimney until had

Un'Alqine: put stick in sand to be sure

will not advance beyond it.
\textit{Made on copy-edited ms., March 8-10, '82.}

1. Need permission?
2. Frontiers service
3. Woodchipping
4. Indentureship OK
5. Was?
6. Last of
7. Was?
8. Meaning as related with?
9. Translating OK as part? OK
10. Minimus OK
11. All phrases, Ballaster, Gijbbers
12. Scintilla
13. Filling batch
14. Port sentence:
15. Weather... for
16. Dog roller
17. Steam Thinned
18. M's face
19. K's lean head
20. B. wellest
21. Too many metaphors? OK
22. Month clamped
23. Duck's eye
24. Callboy? OED - good-bye
25. Amor or not? unsure
26. Odd sentence
27. Come anyhow
28. Such a one
29. Weather - rewrite
30. Appalled OK
92 - little father?
- cap
96 - papa, oh oh, oh oh or [illegible]
- Nace & selling
97 - pink toy
99 - Joseph's son: Jacob?
- time OK, have held."
106 - Muskin a prayer mg OK - Webr III
111 - a hand: attracted - paid
- mid pull

126 - Bells
166 - Prol. strict
131 - ask a letter: read too often.
126 - M watched
127 - needed decision
128 - cut Sahara etc?
128 (4 3/8) - mld
156 - new ch? no
174 - lean: add 2d shot
176 - show 'em ch will on map

178 - C. Scott

190 - Cling of Tub. or BC [illegible] R 979.9 M 628
191 - Kangaroo Kangaroo
970.1 D782
201 - K thank B?

130 - [illegible] [illegible] OK
301 - what sail, smaller boat? - make it sleep?
314 - next sound - used
317 - hang at bottom
318 - clear, too well
- list of Crystal Eden
328 - Katya - Rn, dies
328 - not while bad
Book World  Roby Wilson  202-334-7884
John Hay  Bat Beach  J. Bunrugs

phone call to Tom Stewart
6 May '82

James Houston  John Gardner  Barbara Tuchman
Guy Davenport  Alastair Cooke
Shirley Hazzard  Wendell Berry
Wm. Maxwell  Cormac McCarthy
Tom Keneally
Paul Morgan

press run  2-4000 copies orders for 15,000 guessed
price $1.95
1/2 dozen hand galleys  with NY

MacD Harris
Peter Matthiessen
Scott Wolff
Ray Canon
M. Arlen

Mary Renault
Jean Harrison
Robt Stone
Tom Keneally

Evan Connell

Londnesque
S. Crane

Conrad
notes during galleys rdg, May 2-4, '82

- ducks
- snake
- owls, parrots
- snake

insert New Caledonia

- acknowledgments to? back
- insert New Caledonia?

49 - Ka 'garani

- explain Ka 'garani in acknowledgments?

49 - clothes as written - stole or... they were worn to...

- now that voyaging rhythm had worked its way into him

52 - rhythm

- add B's hair color & beard

69 - add New Caledonia; cause BE history

65 - initial

94 - non-ital
In a time and place earlier, Melander would have been the fellow you wanted to set a spire on a cathedral; in a later, to oversee a fleet of mail planes. But on an April day in 1851 at one of the rim-ends of the known world, what sat at hand was this squatty wonder of self-propulsion and a proclaimed shortage of gifted seamen in these northern Pacific waters which the fur-trading Russians historically had navigated, pre-Nicholas and pre-Melander, like men lurching across ice.

"If the wind were clever enough," Melander observed to the baffled Finnish skipper upon taking leave of him, "it ought to snuff out these steamsnoroters before they get a start, aye?"

Melander maybe under different policy would have gone on to earn his way up the ranks of the Russian-American Company at New Archangel like a lithe boy up a schooner's rigging; become a valued promyshlennik, harvester of pelts, of the Tsar's Alaskan enterprise in the manner, say, of the adjoining fur frontiers of northmost North America, occasional young Scotsmen of promise were let to fashion themselves into field captains of the Hudson's Bay Company by learning to lead brigades of trappers and traders, keep the native tribes cowed or in collaboration, deliver a reliable per-cent-of-profit season upon season to London; and, not incidentally, to hold those far spans of map not only in the name of their corporate employers but for the British crown, which underlay the company's charter terms like an ornate Simpson, McLoughlin, Douglas, Campbell, Rae, others; watermark. Finleyson, McLoughlin, Simpson, Mackenzie, Fraser, others:
between existences. There was this and that to be said for courage and a calm death; life was tasked with a decent departure. But the fact was that here, straddled between the strange tribes of whitehairs and tearmen, did not seem the ultimate site and audience a canoe warrior of his years had a right to expect.
ocean. Even here at this farthest littoral, the furrowed southeastern archipelago which on a map dithers at the flank of the main Alaskan peninsula like a puppy shadowing its mother—even here, Melander and Karlsson and Wennberg and Braaf feel Kuroshio's shove against their journey without realizing it. Are touched too by the clemency Kuroshio brings from its origins near the equator, warmth being relayed along this portion of coast by a north-seeking offspring of Kuroshio, the Alaska Current. Snow can find southeastern Alaska and often enough visits it, but more commonly winter is moderated here to rain and fog. Not that these are small elements, tapping and sniffing at man as they do, as if deeply suspicious whether he is substantial. To the worst of Alaska's possible weather, though—true North Pacific storm, storm whirling down out of the Gulf of Alaska where the Alaska Current has collided with chill northern water, storm showing in full the North Pacific's set of strengths—fog and rain can be counted only as lazy cousins.
had been taken down.

After days of hovering gray and cloaking rain the sun seemed a new idea in the scheme of things. The fresh breadth of existence was astounding. The nearest mountains stood green as May meadows. The next, loftier group darkened toward black. Then the highest, horizon peaks farthest east and south, were a shadowed blue as though thinning of substance as they extended along the coast.

This fresh light and warmth replenished all four men. "Midsummer Day come early," Melander exulted. "Today we jump over our own heads."
pare of skin coiling from the blade's glide, the red-white-red-white spiral stair ever more likely to snap away: but yet is it, for each shaving of coil twirls a bond with all the others, the helix holding itself together, spin on spin, by creational grace. Just such an accumulating dangle this Milbanke voyage became. With each effort by Braaf and Karlsson the canoe sliced distance from the North Pacific, making the journey just that much more apt to sunder or just that much more cunningly pliant, persistent—you would not have wagered which.

It was full dark when they tottered onto the shore.

"Tomorrow," came Braaf's voice. "What's the water tomorrow?" Not another ocean like that, is it?"

"No," said Karlsson. "Channel again, tomorrow."

... and the day after that, and maybe another and another, and then it's ocean again, Braaf, bigger yet. And after that, Karlsson knew but did not say either, the expanses beyond the edge of the map. Days of rain, those four next.

Of channel water like a gray-blue field very gently stirred by wind.

Of clouds lopping the mountains, so that they seemed strange shagged buttes of green.

Of soft rattle of wings as gulls would rise in a hundred from a shore point of gravel.
let slump, in a half-fall rightward, into the water's trough. A new law of seagoing this seemed to be, stagger-and-dive.

Karlsson questioned to Wennberg.

Wennberg half-turned. He was grim but functioning.

Braaf, though, announced into the crystal air: "Might as well bail up your breakfast now as later, iron-puddler."

"You crow-mouthed bastard," Wennberg husked.

Minutes later, he clutched the side of the canoe, leaned over, retched. Then grasped his paddle again, cast a glare around at Braaf, and ploughed water in rhythm, more or less, with the other two.

Their crossing was seven hours of stupefying slosh, under the most winsome weather of the entire journey.

"Cape Scott, off there," Karlsson called as they were approaching the south margin of the Sound.

Across Karlsson's lap lay the fourth Tebenkov map, its lower left corner presenting him a paper-mimicry of the cape ahead. Several inches of crinkled rock inked in series there, dragon's grin it might have been, precise miniature of the westward jut of shore now showing its profile in front of the canoe, and the broken rampart of searock that thrust beyond the cape.

"Cape Snot, may's well be," Wennberg retorted thickly. "That map quits off, you showed us. So where d'we bear from here?"

A forcible part of Karlsson wanted to shout out and have done with it:. . .Wennberg, where from here isn't anything I can know, we've
Something flitted, was down among the shore rocks before Karlsson could distinguish it. Birds of this shoreline evidently had caught motion from the surf. Sanderlings, oystercatchers, turnstones, dowitchers, snipe, along here always some or other of them bobbing, skittering, dashing off; the proud-striding measured ravens of New Archangel were nowhere in it with these darters. Contrary another way, too, this southering coast was beginning to show itself. Its clouds were not the ebb and flow skidding about above Sitka Sound, but fat islands that impended on the horizon half a day at a time. Here it seemed, then, that you could navigate according to the clouds' positions, and that the routes of birds had nothing to teach but life's confusion which it would be like both weather and wíndom to deceive you into.

With the glass Karlsson checked back on the villagers and their whale festival. Wood was being piled up the beach from the carcass. Evidently the celebration was going to rollick on into night.

Karlsson one more time put his attention south.

The withdrawing tide was lifting more and more spines of reef to view. But no beach was coming evident, just a broad tidal tract of roundish rocks, as if the farmfields of all the world had been emptied of stone here. Or, cannonball-like as they looked to be, it might be said battlefields.

Beyond the stone clutter no islands stood to sight, only the bladed outlines of seastacks. Many of them. All in all, Karlsson saw, this appeared the rockiest reach of coast yet, and it needed be
LYMPIA, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1878.

EDITORIAL.

Forty-two tornadoes visited Boston during the season just closed. Boston is feasting on ripe strawberries, which can be had for the asking. The Nevada Legislature has passed the compulsory education act.

A joint committee has been appointed by the legislature of Georgia to report a bill for the establishment of a state university.

According to the Illinois Board of Education, there are 2,300,000 children in the state of Illinois, and 23,000 of them are admitted to the public schools.

The English government has decreed that the sale of cigarettes shall be prohibited in England.

The Chicago relief disbursements last year were over $2,000,000. The first production of coal on this coast was in 1852, at Newport on Cape May.

T sweetheart's farm has 3,663 acres of land under cultivation and hay last year.

The Chicago Tribune is to be printed in a new building, a four-story edifice, at a cost of $300,000.

A new national flag of China, said to resemble an old British flag, has been presented to the Chinese government.

The national flag of America, designed by the late General Grant, is to be presented to the United States government.

A new national flag of Russia, designed by the late General Scott, is to be presented to the Russian government.

The national flag of France, designed by the late General Macombs, is to be presented to the French government.

The national flag of Germany, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the German government.

The national flag of Great Britain, designed by the late General Scott, is to be presented to the British government.

The national flag of Italy, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Italian government.

The national flag of Spain, designed by the late General Scott, is to be presented to the Spanish government.

The national flag of Portugal, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Portuguese government.

The national flag of Greece, designed by the late General Scott, is to be presented to the Greek government.

The national flag of Russia, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Russian government.

The national flag of Japan, designed by the late General Scott, is to be presented to the Japanese government.

The national flag of China, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Chinese government.

A new national flag of India, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Indian government.

The national flag of Australia, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Australian government.

The national flag of New Zealand, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the New Zealand government.

The national flag of South Africa, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the South African government.

The national flag of Canada, designed by the late General Sherman, is to be presented to the Canadian government.
"Last Sunday, as some of the settlers were crossing the bay, they found, drifting in a canoe, three men nearly starved to death. They spoke to them, but could not make themselves understood. After taking them to their house, they finally succeeded in conversing with them. Their history is as follows: They are Swedes, and belong to Stockholm. In 1850 they engaged to work for the Russian Fur Company seven years, and accordingly embarked, in company with 17 others, in the ship Nicholas, Captain Conrad, and sailed for the northwestern coast, bound for Sitka. After a residence of nearly three years, they found that they could not bear the ill-treatment and tyranny which they were receiving, and determined to make their escape.

Of the whole number, but four had the courage to make the attempt. They have been a year and a half in making preparations. Every night they, with the other residents of the place, were in the habit of sleeping in the fort—being the rule of the Company. After obtaining a couple of compasses, a chart, some muskets, powder, shot, some fishing lines, and a few other articles, one dark night they succeeded in getting the sentinel who was posted over the gate intoxicated, and one of them took his place, and answered the calls of the other sentinels; his comrades, in the meantime, had opened the gate, and were getting their things into a canoe. A short time before the relief came around, they got into the canoe and shoved off. They were soon missed, and a party of Indians sent in pursuit. When they came up with the fugitives, the Swedes laid down their paddles and seized their muskets, determined to die rather than be taken. The Indians, seeing they were armed, turned back to the fort.

The Swedes continued on, and stopped at a place called Decouver, where one of their number was killed by the Indians. They next attempted to land at Queen Charlotte's Island, but were compelled to leave amidst a shower of balls which completely riddled the sails of their canoe. After a passage of forty days they got into Shaldwater Bay, in a fog, and when it cleared up, they were surprised to find themselves land-locked.

When found, they had been in the Bay seven days—subsisting on roots and berries. They were much emaciated, and looked the perfect pictures of misery and despair. One of the poor fellows, when found, was peeling the skin off his hands and arms and eating it. Their canoe is about eighteen feet in length by three in width; and with this they have made a voyage of over 1,000 miles on one of the worst parts of the coast. They were well cared for by the citizens, and are now comfortably situated at Chinook. Their names are Carl Gronlund, Carl Wasterholm and Andreas C. Lyndblad.

CAPTAIN O. J. W. HUSKELL.
Monday, July 21 - Seattle to Juneau  
Alaska Flt #63, 9 a.m./arr. 11:05 a.m. 1-stop Ketchikan  
lodging: with Sheila and Martinus Nickerson (907) 586-6553 on the 21st;  
with R. Joseph Leahy and Betty Hulbert (get phone # from operator)  
on the 22d, 23d, and likely the 24th.

Friday, July 25 - Juneau to Sitka  
Alaska Flt #62, 1 p.m./arr. 2:30 p.m.  
SHEE ATIKA LODGE  
lodging: Potlatch House Motel (907) 747-0241

---Friday, August 1 - Sitka to Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia  
probably by chartered float plane  
lodging: unconfirmed, but try the Singing Surf Inn (604)620-3318

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30: Sitka to Ketchikan, Alaska Flt #60, 7:05 a.m./arr. 7:45 a.m.  
Ketchikan to Prince Rupert, Trans Provincial Gruman Goose,  
1v. 3:15 p.m. (MWF) /arr. 4:15 p.m.  
No confirmed lodging; try Prince Rupert Hotel (604)624-8202  
Prince Rupert to Masset, Trans Provincial Ltd., 1v. Seal Cove  
9:45 a.m. 2 or 1:15 p.m. 10:10 a.m. /arr. 10:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Monday, August 1 or Tuesday, August 5 - Masset to Prince Rupert  
Trans Provincial Ltd., lv. 8:30 a.m./arr. 9:25  
Lodging: unconfirmed, but try Prince Rupert Hotel (604)624-6711

Tuesday, August 5 - Ferry, Prince Rupert to Port Hardy, B.C.  
Runs southbound on odd-numbered days, lv. 12:30 p.m.  
No reservations required for passengers. $45 per passenger.

Wednesday, August 6 - Arrive Port Hardy, 8 a.m.  
To Victoria by bus, lv. 8:30 a.m., arr. 6 p.m.;  
or Pacific Western Airlines, lv. 10:50, arr. 1:35 p.m.  
(Pacific Western phone 433-5088; family plan $102.26 T.I.;  
later flight lv's Port Hardy 2:35 p.m., arr. Victoria, with  
Vancouver stopover, 5:05 p.m.)

lodging: The Embassy Motel in Victoria, (604) 382-8161

Saturday, August 9 - Victoria to Seattle  
Jetfoil
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Dear Mr. Doig:

Better late than never. We exchanged letters when you were writing THE SEA RUNNERS, concerning the factual basis for the report on which you based the story. I wasn't able to come up with anything then, but came across a reference to it recently in the voluminous Correspondence of the Governors of the Russian-American Company. It is unindexed and in handwriting frequently difficult to read, hence I didn't come through before.

In a copy of a dispatch #108, 15 May 1854, from the Governor to the Main Office, it is stated that one Efim Kuz'min had entered the colonies on Russian-American Company service on a false passport under the name of Kondratii Ivanov on the brig SHELKHOV on 9 July 1853. When his deception came to light he was sent to the Ozerskoi (lake) redoubt, a kind of satellite of Sitka a few miles from it, to be kept under surveillance until he could be sent on the ship SITKHA to Alan (E. Siberia) in 1854.

On 3 May 1854 the manager of Ozerskoi redoubt, Iona Gavrilov, reported to the governor that Kuz'min and the company employees Aleksei Nikiforov and the Finlanders Tonias Mainder and Mat Roslander, being kept at the redoubt for slaying a Kolosh (Tlingit) had taken a 6 oared iailik (a smallboat, yawl) with arms and cartridges and departed.

That date must be reliable, but you cite the OREGON WEEKLY TIMES for 20 March 1853. Would that not have been 1855? Naturally, on reaching civilization they would not have given their real names nor have told the real story behind their flight.

So that is it. I realize that for you THE SEA RUNNERS was two or three books ago, but I thought you would be interested nevertheless. I hope the book did well, it was a very readable account, and I enjoyed it very much.

Last month I attended the 2nd International Conference on Russian America at Sitka (19-22 Aug.). Research on that period is increasing, and it was a very successful conference. And also fine weather, with a view of Mt. Edgecumbe every day.

A major novel of the Russian period of Alaska history has yet to appear. With the facility you showed in THE SEA RUNNERS I hope you will try a hand at the task someday.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Pierce
Dear Dr. Pierce—

Better late than never, indeed. I'm quite entranced at hearing your discovery of what must be the actual story of the "sea runners." Needless to say, it also confirms me in being glad that I decided to do the tale as fiction rather than waiting for the actuality to come to light—it's nine years now since I first spied that old Oregon Weekly Times reference.

You're likely right that the newspaper item would have been 1855 instead of 1853, although I don't have conclusive proof and the circumstantial evidence indeed points to 1853. That is, the item as I saw it was an 1878 "25 years ago" reprint, and I was never able to find the original issue of the newspaper in the U. of Oregon microfilm—the Weekly Times was a broken series, the UO library then was notoriously one of the worst in academe, etc. to the point where there was no telling whether indeed that newspaper of that time was anywhere on the premises. Out of curiosity, I'll pursue this again sometime.

I truly do thank you for troubling to pass along the information; keen and dogged scholarship, truly, that you would remember my inquiry to you. I take your point that the ultimate novel of Russian America is yet to be written (you evidently share my hunch that Michener's big—and, interestingly, delayed—Alaska novel won't do the job). I'm now finishing up a Montana trilogy of novels, and have another book or two in mind beyond that. Whether I can muster myself to Russian America again or not, I really don't know, now. Certainly it would be an enticement if you and other legitimate scholars do the groundwork in the R-A Company papers, and if you or any of your colleagues ever shepherds that collection into English translation—or for that matter, into a complete index—I'd be pleased to hear about it. In the meantime, my best wishes to you in your own northern endeavors.

Sincerely,
Dear Lars—

I wonder if I can impose on you for one more quick favor. THE SEA RUNNERS will be read by the Radio Reader, Dick Estell, whose show is heard on KUOW and many other Public Broadcasting stations. When Estell read my book THIS HOUSE OF SKY on the air, he rather blithely mispronounced his way through various Montana place names. I'd like to provide him a basic pronunciation guide for SEA RUNNERS; would you look over my phonetic suggestions to him about the Swedish names and words, and improve any that need it?

Melande—Neh-LANDer

Wennberg—VENN-bairg

Braaf—Brawf

Gotland—shoWd this be GAWT-land or YAWT-land?

Sraland—SNOE-land

Slite—SLEET-uhr

riksdaler—RIKES-dayler

fangelse—FEN-gel-suh

I hope I haven't mangled or oversimplified any of these too much. Dick Estell reads with what I would call a fairly neutral Midwestern accent, and concentrates on the drama of the story rather than niceties of pronunciation, so I want to provide him as basic a guide as I can.

best regards
Nov. 30, 1982

Dear Ivan,

I just received your note and will try to answer your questions. Delighted to hear that good ole Dick Estell is going to read THE SEA RUNNERS. My radio dial is permanently set at KUOW and I've listened to quite a few of Estell's readings. And now to the phonetics:

Wennberg—VENN-bairj (the final g pronounced "soft" as the y in "yellow" or "canyon")

Meland—Meh-LAND-er

Braaf—Brahv (just as in "bravo" without the o. The final f should be pronounced as a v. In older spelling the v-sound was often spelled with an f. The King spells his name Gustaf but pronounces it Gustav. Cf. Engl. "of")

Gotland—GOTT-land (with a hard initial g, just as in Engl. "got." pronounced
Stress on first syllable GOTT- as in German "Gott.")

Småland—SMOE-land

Slite—SLEET-uh

riksdaler—rix-DAHL-er (the daler sounds pretty much like Am. "dollar."

fängelse—FENG-el-suh (thus no "hard" g audible in the word)

That should do it! A couple of weeks ago we had a visit from the head of the Emigrant Institute in Växjö (Småland) and he was going to order THE SEA RUNNERS for their library. When will we get the film version?

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear [Name],

Thanks very much for the help with the names. I've added the various Indian place names in the book, to further test Dick Estall's tongue, and sent off the pronunciation guide to him. I don't yet know when he'll read the book; I expect to find out by the KNOW monthly schedule like anyone else, I'm afraid.

Alas, no prospect yet of Melander looming at us from the Technicolor wide screen! I'm told, though, that the movie of the book will be in this Sunday's New York Times Book Review as one of the "recommended" books of the year.

Very best,

[Name]
try extend ms
to 130 pp.

Go there for verbs, sentence patterns, rhythm...
system by add physical details? N.A., coast?

naked seas, tangled islands, 00, maybe < lost.

vesper
viago

Fine up, samovar, in shed