

ch. lengths, actual and estimated, as of 30 Aug. '86

- 1 52 pp.
- 2 80 pp.
- 3 165 pp. (est.)
- 4 120 pp. (est.)
- 5 80 pp. (est.)
- 6 60 pp. (est.) 30?
- 7 50 pp. (est.)

607

ch. 1, length of scenes

mp. total of 1 scene

- 6 Greenock dock, 1-6
- 7 Jemmy and Firth, 7-13
- 5 1st night, 13-18
- 5 Queenstown, 18-23
- * 7 storm, 24-30 ← lengthen (added abt 2 pp., May '86)
- 2 calm ocean, 31-2
- 3 dialog grafts of voyage, 32-35 (shorten?)
- 4 mr and thoughts of Lucas, 36-9
- 2 Helena arrival, 39-40
- 2 statehood, 41-2
- 2 " elena bars etc., 42-3
- 2 " cemetery, 43-4
- 2 further search, 45-6
- * 2 Helena dawn, 46-48 ← lengthen? (only slightly)
jobs, 49
- 2 photo and descptn, 50-1

(5 June '86: looking over the proportions--or as Jim Welch might call it, the sense of timing--of ch. 1 after last wk's revision, I think it now emulates the mood of the narrative the way I want it to: sizable scenes of description and ruminations on leaving Scotland, then the storm scene as the largest of the ch., then shorter change-of-pace scenes of rumination and banter, then the same-sized even scenes of looking and looking in Helena, what I hope is a steady tenor of something about to happen.)

ch. 2, length of scenes

ms. pages

- 2 letter from Scotland, 53-5
½ postal clerk, 55
1½ stage to Augusta, 6-7
1 ruminations, 57-8
2 Augusta, 58-60
2 w/ Herbert from Augusta, 60-2
3½ tapping the keg and 'calico,' 62-5
1 snow, 65-6
½ short conversations, afoot, 66-7
½ snow melts, 67-8
8½ to Gros Ventre & Lucas, 68-76

ch. 2, length of scenes (contd)

- 26
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | confrontation w/ Lucas, 76-7 |
| 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | following 2 scenes in Medicine Lodge, 77-80 |
| 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ | home to Nancy, 80-7 |
| 2 | supper, 87-9 |
| 3 | back at saloon, 89-92 |
| 2 | Toussaint, early next morning, 94-4 |
| 3 | Rob & Angus get jobs, 94-7 |
| 2 | Fox & Mitchell in saloon, 97-9 |
| 1 | rob/Lucas/Nancy, 99-100 |
| 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 2 scenes of Gros Ventre's reputation, 100-2 |

ch. 2, length of scenes (concluded)

12 { 1 2 scenes of Angus ready to look at land, 102-4
 4 3 scenes of looking for land, 104-8
 7 west to Ninian, 00

18 { 3 home to Rob & Nancy, 111-114
 2½ calico celebration, 114-115
 2½ Angus decides to leave, 118-120
 4 Lucas says wait, 120-123
 4 Lucas offers stake, 123-127

Chapter 3, Scotch Heaven

Ms. pp.

Intro., 4

{
1
2½
½

homesteading dialogue
explanation of land system
invest 3 years...

homesteading

30

{
3
½
4
½
3½
½
4
10½
1
2½

building Rob's high homestead
oakum & manure
Lucas & Nancy visit
new homesteaders arrive
Angus joins the school board
first frost
Angus' trip to Gros Ventre
winter
chinook
Rob marries Judith

- teaching
27
- + to come
- 2½ Angus elected teacher
1 He accepts
4 first morning at South Fork school
6 lessons & the outhouse
½ McAsker
½ just for a year rumination
3 songtime
2 Ninian on the universe; Rob hard of hearing
4½ --rough--

— to come —

- 2½ story time
½ schoolteacher for another year

- 6½ new teacher at Noon Creek
1 giddy
1½ delivering the geography books
2 Rob teases Angus
2 getting ready for the dance
13 The dance
3½ visit to the Ramsays

- to come -

- 70
84
2 Rob invites Angus to get the cream separator
6 --rough--

- + to come
4 Adair arrives
3 Angus remonstrates w/ Rob
5 misbegotten matrimonial outing
2 "that one is my fiance's"
1½ "Lucas is not quite what one expects..."
2 --rough--

- 4 Sheffield shears
10 Leftover Day

- 3 Anna returns -- to Isaac
4 doomed
9 marriage to Adair

ch. 4, length of scenes (tentative)

Angus & Adair begin marriage--she doesn't snore

lamp chimney

Angus makes her ride Scorpion

first winter together

lambs in the oven

Davie's accident

Adair's miscarriage

second miscarriage, second winter

May snow

Scotland discussion

Adair pregnant again

Angus & Isaac

Varick born

Angus measures span of years by Varick

Stanley arrives, 1907

Rob's resentment against nat'l forest

Angus goes to Gros V to talk nat'l forest over with Lucas
protest meeting

ch. 4--scenes (tentative)

~~Varick born~~~~Angus measures span of years by Varick~~~~* Varick's eye accident (move to later?)~~~~Rob tells Angus he's lucky to have a son~~~~Hogmanay: Angus "quotes" Ninian~~~~Angus/Rob running sheep together; Angus to town for new herder~~~~* Stanley arrives, 1907~~~~Bob's resentment (and others') against Nat'l Forest (post meeting in GV?)~~~~Gros Ventre and beginning of homestead boom~~~~Rob builds cabin & sell section?~~~~1910 forest fires - cut? or keep very brief?~~~~combine~~~~* Anna and Angus meet in Valier~~~~Rob chides Angus for still loving Anna~~

Rob and Lucas propose homestead locating to Angus
description of 'steaders

* Angus and Tebbets

wheelmarks to measure homesteads ↑?

Varick growing up

* 1914: Rob/Angus put a band on the Reservation

Chapter 5, Two Medicine

Ms. pp. (calculated throughout as triple spacing)

2 shearing on the Two Medicine

2½ Anna arrives

½ anna/angus dialogue: "Lisabeth resembles you..."

2 dialogue: "show me a two medicine dawn."

1 dialogue, Rob & Angus over Adair

3 confrontation with Varick

1 fisticuffs w/ Rob

½ Adair & Angus discuss Rob

1 Adair announces intention to move to town

- 1½ Isaac builds a reservoir for Rob
- 1½ Lucas tries to invoke peace
- 5½ Lucas's death, funeral & Rob's refusal to let Angus write about it.
7 Lucas's will & dialogue over sheep ownership
- 3 Angus & Rob manage sheep by cutting cards
- 2 dialogue: Angus & Stanley about Varick
- 10 steer-riding contest

ch. 6, 1918, length of scenes

Remembrancer/schoolroom

Angus rides home, thinking of WWI/Varick/winter just past w Adair

summer & shortage of men

4th of July Gleaner WWI list

late August, Davie catches flu/Angus & Adair ride into the mtns to the sheep

Angus & Adair search for sheep

Sept., school causes because of flu/Angus comes down with flu

Angus ill/wagon dream

Angus recuperating/Gleaner flu list

The arc of tension in ch. 4: Angus trying to make a life with Adair while still loving Anna.

--Chronological picture (1897-1914): homestead boom, change from ranching h'steads to dry-land ones; Angus's perplexity about how much the country will carry.

--Characters to be introduced: Varick and Stanley

--Characters to be maintained: Rob, in sheep partnership ~~and~~ and h'stead locating;

--Anna, at dances; Valier; (Angus scene with Isaac?)

--Lucas, in h'stead locating (he is beginning to fade with age?) (Nancy? Adair's

--Ninian (briefly shown; when Angus gives up school?)

reaction to her?)

--Toussaint, at Two Medicine bridge

- Judith: barely glimpsed?

Linda Bierds' main concern, after re-reading ch. 3, June '86:

focus which was on Rob in first 2 chs. moves away from him. Is the promise of ch. 1-- so much in him Angus didn't know--going to be fulfilled?

My reaction: in general plot, the Angus-Rob promised trouble will come on strong in final chs. In specifics, though, I've got to build in more appearances of Rob, maybe more Angus musings about him, throughout chs. 3-4.

plot

departure

After Ninian Duff's ~~death~~, Angus and Rob are the last--"of those who count for anything" (Erskine a shattered man after Davy's death)--of original Scotch Heaven settlers.

plot

ending: reprise of things people have said--Rob, Anna, Dair--go into italics,
like the poetry etc. that has been occurring to Angus throughout the book. He
ponders how things have come out--a bit but not too much the way Beth does near
end of English Creek?--and final words are: Tell me, tell me that, whoever can.

plot

possible last section: ~~late~~ fall of 1919, Angus and Dair going home from Mac and Beth's wedding, first snow of that terrible winter is just beginning.

--Angus thinks or says, about possibility of hard winter after summer drought,
"We've always made it, so far." (or: "We always have, so far.)

- Angus has heart trouble?

plot

possible final Angus-Rob scene:

spring, possibly 1920; Angus, riding to teach school or possibly out with bunch herd, sees Rob at his reservoir. He rides over, offers to help Rob skin out dead ones. Rob rebuffs him, instead begins driving sheep along the bank of his reservoir to pack the dirt down (sheepfoot packer principle), his horse slips and goes into the water. (breaking thru ice as well?) *Toussaint there as bunch herder?*

--Rob has completed reservoir so he won't need access to Angus's creek water?

--end with funeral scene: intermingling of preacher's (or Ninian Duff's?) Lord is Shepherd eulogy, and Angus's italicized thoughts to Anna, Adair, and Rob.

--if this is 1916, or some other point at which Anna is still alive, the Reese family can be at the funeral, Angus aware of looks from Beth, Varick glancing back at her. Possibility: make it 1918, ~~Annie is working in a munition factory~~ Beth is home from college because it was closed for the flu epidemic. (Would there be a funeral crowd during the flu epidemic? Would it be held outside? People wearing masks?)

--Varick is about to go to WWI? Beth is not on hand--away at college--and Angus is relieved, not to face her eyes?

plot

Not every plot development has to lead to the end of the book--i.e., to be neatly tied up and resolved there. Angus and Adair's struggle to have a child, for instance, maybe can stand on its own. More important is that the overall situation of the characters be logical, feel right, at the end.

plot

first snowfall, autumn before Angus's winter with Rob in the homestead cabin;
near end of book, first snowfall of winter of 1919, Angus thinks back comparatively,
notes that 1919's is even earlier and the snow seems to be sticking.

plot

Jick: born Sept. 4, 1924

Alec: " Sept. 11, 1920

Beth and Mac: married in ~~early~~^{mid-} autumn, 1919

Beth: finished the 1918-19 school year as Noon Creek teacher, after her mother's death in influenza epidemic.

Mac: returned from army in late 1918 or early '19, became Noon Creek assoc'n rider the summer of '19, courted Beth that fall(?) and proposed.

plot

Think visually.

Linda Bierds mentioned this, that she will try to trigger a poem by imagining a scene--the wave of wagons in "Child in the Wagon," for example. She cited my opening scene on the dock and the bumboat women as instances.

--also Rob and Angus awakening into snow on the freightwagon trip.

Jick: b. Sept. 4, 1924

starts school Sept. 1930

schl years at S. Fork: 1930-1

31-2

32-3

33-4

34-5

35-6

36-7

37-8=first 8 grades

38-9=freshman in Gros Ventre

39-40=soph " "

40-41=junior " "

41-42=senior year; graduation, May '42

Sept. '42, enters WWII

college: 45-6

46-7

47-8

48-9 graduated

Alec: b. Sept. 25, 1920

Alec: Sept. '26 started
'29, 1st school

Anal Hsd

'26-'27

'27-28

'28-29

Stark

'29-30

'30-31

'31-32

'32-33

'33-34

mineral

'34-35

'35-36

'36-37

'37-38

if I carry the book to 1919, title the final chapter: 1919 (?)

Shline 823.8 E42Mid

MIDDLEMARCH: Critical Approaches to the Novel

possible ending of SCOTCH HEAVEN:

(spring of 1920, after~~s~~ the '19 winter; Angus knows the homestead community
is ruined; that he and Adair will stay married but he'll mourn for Anna.)

...which is why I have committed all this ^{telling} to paper....

possible upbeat ending: marriage of Mac and Beth

possible final scene: Angus dances with Beth--not really hearing the music, but conducting "you" conversations with Anna, Dair, Rob?

--outside, snowing early and heavy; start of winter of '19?

(scene would match with Jick and Beth dance in English Creek; in final book, Jick and Tam would dance the two-step; a dance of generations.)

Angus envisions the possibilities of Adair's death: the horse slipping from the bank of the reservoir, or Dair riding him in. Either way, she would not have been at the reservoir but for what Angus told her.

--possible accident rationalization: It had happened before, a Double W rider named OO, perfectly strong young man, somehow tangled himself and his horse...

Plot possibility:

--Angus and Anna make ready to run off together in June, 1914. (Isaac is at Glacier Park) Angus tells Dair the night before. She leaves him, saying she's going to Rob's.

--Next morn, Angus is all but ready to go, Ninian arrives: tells him Dair has been found drowned in Rob's reservoir. (Horse drowned too, either slipped into water or Dair rode him in.)

--Angus knows he and Anna cannot go under those circumstances; asks Ninian to take message to Anna (telling her to go to Isaac).

--funeral: Ninian preaches the Lord is my shpherd sermon

--aftermath: Rob somehow finds out why Dair left Angus that night; he takes revenge by telling Varick.

Varick invites Angus to his wedding; Beth has asked him to. There, Lucas (who has lost Nancy~~s~~, and maybe control of his finances to Rob) says to him: "Old widowmen, us."

SCOTCH HEAVEN characters:

Angus McCaskill, narrator

Barclay

Robert Burns Lewis, best friend he homesteads in Montana with.

Barclay

Adair Lewis, Robbie's sister who comes over later with the Lewis family and whom Angus eventually marries. (nickname Dair) (look up Robin Adair song)

--Robbie (or Angus) has relative in Helena: tailor, like Dave Doig?

- uncle, Luke Barclay, founder of G-102 Venture

--Lord of the Fields paean recited by Beth at 4th of July: have Angus McC or
one of his students write it?

- probably not; wd cut. surprise

set the 1st Montana section of Scotch Heaven in Helena, leading up to and
during coming of statehood, Nov. 1889; apply for Mont. His Soc fellowship
for research on Helena--for summer '85?

Dair asks Angus if he saw Anna (at some school business)

Angus on jury duty

--when did women serve on juries in Mont? (ask Diane Sands?)

cha

should Angus' mood change--age--along with him, thruout the book?

give Angus and Rob, Anna and Adair, some quirks.

Isaac Reese and Beth despise Angus because they know he continues to love Anna?

It may be that I know or at least use too much history in my fiction; Stegner
maybe has had the same "problem." For all the history and background I winnowed
out of Eng Crk, it still has a bunch. I've been trying to let the tip of the
research iceberg show, the summit 10%; but in the bob of the couple of years of
work on a book, 11% or so may creep into sight.

Ponder this for Scotch Heaven; (from Brian Di Salvatore rev. of Eng Crk)

"Doig seems less interested in any arrival than he is in the passage itself. And that passage in Eng Crk finds conflicts and turmoil in short supply. One wants the characters to push harder against each other; to have enemies. It may be that Doig the chronicler is being too faithful to local histories. In THOS he calls memory a 'set of sages we live by.' But occasionally Eng Crk reads less like saga than documentation. It's history chasing after fiction and overtaking it."

--first thoughts on this, here on 12 Oct. '84 when the book is just arriving in the stores and the only readers to date have been bookstore people: the "history" may be what readers find appealing, as in Michener, while my reliance on it and language, at the supposed cost to conflict and ideas, may give reviewers and critics some twinges as above. Also, Di S and every other reviewer to date cites the book as happening in 1939--they start with that foreknowledge, because it's in the bound galleys, though I managed to excise it from the flap copy--and so they missed the effect I intended, of WWII coming as a surprise to the reader as to the characters, the war and its changes arriving as the "enemy" of the McCaskills.

from Bill Bewis paper, "Native American Novels: Homing In"

p. 22--(Boone Caudill) is free, disconnected from society and past, with no respect for any authority but himself. He does love place, but it is not an Indian's place. In his view the sun is disconnected from any larger reality, the river disconnected, the present time disconnected--or rather all are connected only in the moment of an individual's sensation, the lone source of meaning.

...Boone...is living in white~~in~~ heaven: suburbia, on about as fine a piece of real estate as you could find, with a pretty wife and a full refrigerator and utterly alone.

Rob is the key to Angus-Adair match. He talks with Anna at the dance, learns she'll be with her parents with Isaac Reese that summer, brings Adair for a chance at Angus.

--is this strong and believable enough?

1897 is a year of change; Angus senses it in terms of the upswing of the sheep market; make this underlie the true change in his life, the coming of Anna.

Each ch. should end with Angus "carrying" something with him, on his mind: in ch. 4, it is his contemplation of what future he and Adair will have together once Varick is grown and gone; he thinks of it in terms of a few years yet, but it happens that same summer (as ch. 5 will tell).

ch. 6 ending: shd Angus's eyes fly immediately to the bottom of the flu victims' list, the Ns, and ~~then~~ back up to M, looking for Mr Varick? Then work up that page toward A...and on next page, he does the same, to find Anna?