

one of the Wickenburg letters mentions a photo taken at Plymales the Sept. before, i.e. Sept. '44; must have been an interim job there, after they left the Stewart ranch and before going to Arizona.

Dad: toed-in stride

drew the back of (his) hand across his face (thinking something over, deciding)

nock (Dad's chin)

My father versus my grandmother in the case of Arizona versus Montana...

Dad's tock of tongue, as punctuation of surprise, concern.

usual, HE ch. 1

whanging at (ranch work again, so soon after his operation)

As the fellow says, at least it's cheaper to be poor. (Dad cd remark.)

...broke.

As the fellow says, I got both worst ends of the deal.

go you one better. (as in, "I'll go you one better"--next higher bid, one beyond
what you just said)

Can ye feature that? (i.e., Dad's way of saying "Can you imagine that?")

Dad: the strain of deciding on AZ causing the ulcer to flare?

As the fellow says, where's all the wherewithal?

I'll be go-to-hell.

grabby-guts (somebody acquisitive)

My father wasn't the type to go off in a corner by himself and learn to play the zither.

- neither of these were . type ...

DARE, 529

at candlelight, early candlelight

possible use: My father came out of the candlelight of this century (b. 1901, in cabin etc.)

nerved himself

his talk was music

Dad had managed to rise a rung or two (i.e., being a foreman etc.)

--to being in command of a season, usually summer.

My father (had risen enough to be a man who could)command a season, usually
summer. (Hay contracting, running sheep in mtns...)

my goodnight kiss on Dad's cheek

Doig brothers a mix of duty and deviltry: at dances they took turns dancing with their mother, but might also end up in a fight.

Dad's (and my mother's) boundaries narrowed to the atoms of air he could summon into a breath.

My father knew he was a frail life in a rawhide sheath of body (ulcers,
his father's heart, horse accidents, emphysema)

bantam

bantam couple, Charlie and Berneta?

Horses were his life, and horses nearly killed him time and again.

His head was made for a hat.

The spell of those early mountain seasons must have stayed with them. Why else return to the thin air so soon after my mother's worsening asthma?

Dad high-strung; tense as a harp; constant smoking

No day since then have I not thought of...

No day since then was easy for him.

used in
another book.

Dad was busy as a whistle.

. rowel of apt...

Dad: roweling himself (back to work after appendectomy etc.)

Grief is rot, tragedy is something to work with: find this in Gordimer's A Sport of Nature (cited in NYTBR?) and use in "The War at Home" essay?

Like all sons, just as soon as I grew old enough to stop overestimating my father, I started underestimating him.

18 May '87

My grandmother, Annie Campbell Doig, born in Perth, in old age wd go to bed for a few hours after supper, then get up to listen Harry Lauder when he came on the radio.

--The staying power of old tunes and rhymes: my ~~dad~~ dad cd barely carry a tune, yet he knew the words of Loch Lomond, and for that matter, When It's Springtime in the Rockies. There were a lot of stray bits firmly in his memory; his knack for storytelling, for instance, and the day on the Resvtn when he and I were in the pickup or the Jeep and conversation about what I was doing in school somehow led him to begin reciting "Hiawatha."

--I of course used this with Angus in Dancing, his headful of poetry.

possible use in The War at Home:

Kathleen Merryman of Tacoma News Trib has been the only reporter to notice, and use, my dad's sampler in a story on me. Male reporters either have never noticed, or on occasion when I've pointed it out, made some uncomfortable crack.

A rust of harshness came into him (use with both Dad and Grandma?)

Dad at Aberdeen, perched like a wet pup atop a tidal rock.

--an earlier failed effort to transplant from Montana

taylor-mades: manufactured (as opposed to roll-your-own) cigarettes

Howard Flint USFS notes in Eng Crk "Forest Service" filecd category include details on how to hunt elk, dress them out, pack them etc.--very exact details of eqpmt etc.

--possible use: some kind of flashback, or -forward, of Dad elk-hunting in the Castles; the great jeep trip with Wally and his boys?

Dad: unease about employers who had to be soldiered for.

My father could run a ranch; what he refused to regulate was (antipathy toward bosses)

The Doig boys' (Scottish) burr is in my mother's autograph book...

...or I'll put in with you. (characteristic remark by Dad; use in dialogue?)

I'll be go-to-hell. (char 'c remark by Dad)

...so fast it'll make your head swim.

devotional

- Dad's approach to work

427 2/11/13
suffrance

- Dad hated being at anybody else's ...

...circles around (as in, "He could fish circles around me.")

spiky (or spikey?)

We'd better look a little out. (Dad or Berneta cd say about Maudlow country's
bad roads.)

really going to town at it (i.e., going all-out, really working or functioning)

Things ran okay when Dad was in charge (of a crew, or a place on shares);
they worsened when ~~somebody~~ anybody ran him.

The one lucky number that life gave my father was 1901 as a birthyear,
(positioning him as too young for WWI, too old for WWII)

Dad's expression of disgust: "Wouldn't that frost ye?"

Near the end of his life, the only times I saw Dad with a hat on any more were on his way to the hospital. (In contrast to his practically living with a hat on during ranch work.)

use this as a flash-forward, from Arizona scene? or Morgan ranch?

Dad: skin and bones

full toot. (go at a job full toot, i.e. all out)

Dad's energy:

--the lifelong energy (slamming away at the work, doing the job better than it deserved) waned with emphysema

"forenoon" is Scottish usage for "morning" (small plaid dic. pamphlet in Sc Lingo file

his stories were polished & painted

When it came to truth, nobody could polish and paint like OO

stones

my father.

We are dogged.

--The dogged Doigs...

Dad's story of his saddlehorse getting away from him as he opened a gate at the Dogie, having to walk 3 miles back to the ranch in boots and ~~caps~~ chaps with the horse shying just out of reach in front of him all the way.

gutbusting life (Dad would bust a gut at any ranch work)

--Dad scampering from chore to chore (ideal, at the Morgan ranch)

Dad was a hay contractor. (good at it, much sought, steady, day-by-day,
could run a crew)

(Dad) in one of his routine miracles

It bled through him like a slow poison.

The burning in his stomach...

(would return--or blaze new--after my mother's death
and his war with Grandma).

Even when he was mad enough to melt nails, my father went back and forth (to funny).

More times than he can cuss it

Mother's death took away a pleasure of . mtns
(from Dad, once a long & lone hunter) which was
not reborn until in me.

three times back from death, but alive with a
burning in his stomach

It took me until I was grown, when I began to
rage at the enterprises which employed me, to
realize that his ~~own~~ habitual damning was
a lament at not being able to run his own
ranch.

Deathday

Deathday description of Dad: ~~blet~~ tongue, crows-
feet, hips

HE Charlie

Not much happened to my father without a kink somewhere in it.

H~~E~~ Charlie

headstrong

shoring inside him

Valley

callous (Dad's hands)

Valley

holding himself together *with work*

Valley

tense as a cat

(Dad - tense as a panther)

unborn in him

Valley

His limits were sharp. But they did not include. . .

Valley

We didn't have much more than what was on our
backs, and Dad's reputation as a top hand

Valley

I began to be born when my father met my mother
at a dance.

Valley

It takes money to make money, the local saying had it. Or if not that, at least luck or a father-in-law with deep pockets. Dad had none of the three.

Valley

Dad wanting to sing

Valley

he was charred inside

Valley

Dad: short-boned

Other men. Other women? I think not . .Not
from what I could see

Valley

Religion there was none.

No church in our lives. Not so much by design
as slippage. (indifference)

Valley

Dad's family found wagon wheel tracks (and rawhide-covered wheels?) of early w wagon train

if there had been religion in our lives, he would
have seen it as a bit of purgatory

flatbacked

square lines of head and shoulders

shy creatures the Indians had abandoned

his amount of imagination

Lady

he was in a new desperation I did not know about
then

North-ADD

Dad could tell sheep apart, seeing each head and shape as distinctly as a human face and body. My talent was different and tinier: I could sift through a band and find a ewe with a specific number.

Facing North

sheep raising had become spiritless work for me

aircraft plant, for Dad?

Dad, survivor of broncs, bad health and much else,
had begun inchingly to die.

Ivory

Dad about tv announcers or newsmen: how much does he get
for doing that?

gray look of illness, or after operation

Endings

Dad's ropy muscles

Endings

When his health began to go downhill now, it plummeted.

Endings

Dad had come into this century in a log homestead cabin,
and now he was leaving it haltered by a plastic tube to
a metal tank of oxygen

Ending

Before, death had made hasty swipes at him. This time it fastened onto his chest and rode him ~~to~~ *to exhaustion*

Endings

What pain cratered in his eyes

Funny and nervy and no stranger around risk.

No stranger around risk, he...

--way of clamping his jaw (use w/ asthma dashes thru Deep Creek Canyon?)

--for all of his young glitter as a rider...my father was a man tucked and trimmed, much inward...

--if my mother's looks reflected her jerrybuilt family line, my father looked handtooled; carved face...

--describe Doig homestead/ranch situation; Dad's jack-of-all-trades knackiness.

Foreman, range rider,

--I slept on the bench at ~~am~~ many a dance, and (as if I peek...I see them first meeting)

--music: The music isn't much but nobody cares, they'd dance to ...
thumped out on a washtub if they had to.

much tew yoong t'be marryin'."
--Grandmother Doig: "Och, he's muuuch tew yaung ~~to x t h e m x a r r i e d~~
much too young

her Campbellite verdict that they were behaving like
-- " " : "tew dewes in a dewcut": two doves in a dovecot
if they were indeed carryin~~x~~ on like...

it went on for years.

- Dad color blind

Dad grinding his teeth (about weather and not working)

dog carrying a rattlesnake (Dad's story of it)

Alfred Messmer loaned Dad \$250 to start The Grill. (loan was made in The Stockman)

"Charlie wuss a good man, you know. He wuss what you call nice people."