

The peril Wally is in, while we evidently are safe (yet Berneta turns out to be the one in most peril).

Wally?

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

island-hopping war (in the Pacific)

p. 5: add a vivid personifying line of description of Wally

~~--move~~ "bull-chested & supremely bald" into that line?

--use "the main thing is, never get excited"?

?

*use w/ snowplow scene?*

the top teeth happily out on parade: any way you looked at him he was,  
as he'd have said it himself, quite the Wally. Impossible not to like.

Here at his funeral were his first and third wives, both in utmost tears,  
and his second wife sent bereaved regrets from New Mexico. In my own

remembering he bursts home unfazed by a day of highway work (which may  
have ranged from routine weedspraying to tending victims of yet another

Deep Creek Canyon car wreck, but any of which he will have sailed through  
with his unfailing dictum, "The main thing is, not to get excited"),

Wally's "canned propaganda"-type letter to G'ma from the South Pacific, if I can't find a copy around here--I may have read it onto tape, on the old big reels--is in Meagher County News, July 4, 1945, same issue, in fact same front page, as story of Berneta's funeral.

--can obtain from Dave Walter at MHS, or when we go to Helena in Feb. '91.

made in SKY >

Dad or Wally: "If we'd got twice as many (fish, deer) as we did, at least we'd have one."

those flirty-flirty guys/with their flirty-flirty eyes...

(WWII song "Paper Doll"?)

Wally: "The main thing is don't get excited."

--whether it was a matter of tending to victims of Deep Creek car wrecks or of pulling fish from a brushy stream.

running a blade (i.e., a grader, such as Christie operated)

--sending a blade up the road

Wally: I was appalled in '80 to hear him say he was voting for Reagan, he just couldn't vote for Carter for pardoning the Vietnam draft evaders. In the end, Wally ended his life in VA hospitals whipsawed by Reagan budget cuts.

Wally aboard the Ault in Tokyo Bay for Japanese surrender?

--if so, possibly link this with Japanese now buying Montana cattle ranches.

shipman

Wally on trucking job to Bozeman, would stop in Ringling for Grandæ and me.

sailors such as W  
Now ~~they~~ were dice in hundreds of cups

Four men, like [dice in a cup, to be flung to the gray baize of the  
Pacific.

(Ault)

overside

--he managed to be (so much) more uncle than I was nephew toward him

Feb. 6 '86 letter to Paul abt Wally's funeral is in back of '86 diary.

"Here we are, entertain us!" he gives out with, in a mind's moment twenty years later, when he has come visiting to Seattle.

Hazel Gibson in '90 diary, Sept. 7.

Walter G. Ringer S2/c

U.S.S. Ault D.D. 698

c/o Fleet P.O.

San Francisco, Calif.

*6¢ airmail stamps*

done

p. 5, bottom of page: possible place to add a line or two about Wally, his virtue of being a real person, trustable, humorous without being windy.

--insertion could also be higher on p., after "from New Mexico."

--This should be crystalizing detail, quick deft characterization.

date line: Am Her, "an imaginary line through the Pacific Ocean roughly corresponding to 180 degrees longitude, to the east of which, by international agreement, the calendar date is one day earlier than to the west."

(see Life atlas p. 36-7)

Sanitized mention is made of occasional recreation. (Logbook of the

Ault: Bosun's Mate 2/C...Tried by Deck Court, applying to his own use,

one case of beer, property of the United States). Unmentioned at all is

<sup>unforgettable</sup> the incandescent <sup>stack</sup> day the captain blew his lid:

never listless