

HEART EARTH, possible form

White Sulphur Springs, April 8 postmark

10,000 words (50 ms pp.)

plotline: what we have come back to

(friends and family; community; but economic peril)

through-line: Berneta w/ Hazel, w/ Bessie, and w/ me

scenes: news of FDR's death

making formals and catching mice

visiting Grandma

The "through-line" of action in an actor's part:

Real Life Drama, by Wendy Smith, p. 179: Stanislavsky told Stella Adler, "Search for the line (of the part) in plans of action, not feeling...Find the action and the cliché will disappear. If you act and believe you will begin to feel."

pp. 179-80: "In his work with Adler, the director turned her attention to the through-line of action that should inform her entire performance and the various tasks she had to perform ~~in~~ in order to create that line. Truth onstage was still the goal, but Stanislavsky emphasized finding that truth within the given circumstances of the play, not in the actor's personal history. They broke her part into pieces and made a chart of the main stages in the role."

p. 180-1: "The key to a coherent, truthful performance was understanding a character's through-line of action and its relationship to the central purpose of the play....If the various smaller actions--'beats,' Stanislavsky dubbed them--were properly worked out in each scene, then the appropriate emotion should arise naturally from the given circumstances of the play. There was no need to 'take an exercise' for every line in the script; indeed, doing so turned a performance into a series of disjointed moments that interfered with the through-line."

HEART EARTH--possible "imagining" scenes

Berneta and Hazel catching mice and sewing

(intersperse with Berneta's advice to Wally about marrying her?)

HEART EARTH--possible "imagining" scenes

The three of us washing the car in the creek for a funeral.

(use w/ death of boy run over by truck?)

(or w/FDR's death? after hearing it on the radio, I ask, are we going to wash the car?)

HEART EARTH--possible "imagining" scenes

truck kills boy in WSS scrap drive

(begin this with her letter reference to it, then do the scene descriptively?)

HEART EARTH--possible "imagining" scenes

Berneta and I visit Bessie

(explanation of bad feelings between Dad and Grandma)

(dialogue; physical description of Berneta and Bessie)

(background: Moss Agate life, which Berneta hoped she was marrying out of?)

G'ma: How's Charlie feeling?

B'ta answers, per letter to Wally, abt Dad working hard at Shearer's, lambing.

(Bessie in a kind of exile, in the Wilsall country?)

(B'ta grew up independent as a comet, indulged by Bessie because of her bad health)

HEART EARTH--possible "imagining" scenes

Deep Creek Canyon: gasline problem

" " " : Wally snowplowing (in flash forward?) (dropping the snowplow blade to
send reflector posts zinging off
into the trees?)

see if Berneta's favorite color is listed at front of her autograph book, and if so, use it for the ~~for~~ formals she and Hazel made.

use Berneta's "difference in age" graf to Wally to elide to her and Dad beginning to go together, what she looked like at Moss Agate, the years of courtship...

As will happen this time of year

— cold wind of April.

April-pale sun

Our fund of love...

The

(B answering Wally dt Hazel)

pediment (of snow?), on Baldy, on Bridgers

an old edge of worry

gelid weather (April in WSS)

We still were nowhere much. (saggy house in WSS)

est
living in another bin
1

Grandma's German reefs of obstinacy to Dad's Scottish runnels of calculation

dead brown grass of winter (still was on the lawn of WSS house, that April of '45)

Heart Earth

How proceed? (i.e., what should my folks have done next?)

She refused rescue. (i.e., chose against the chance that AZ would prolong her life)

Heart

use c open's scene.

my folks washing car in creek (Sixteen, Smith River) before attending a funeral.

Heart Earth

She feared the summer blaze of Phoenix; yet, I can see a possible life in, say,
Prescott, higher, ~~warmer~~ cooler, more Montana-like.

hotter summers

mouse dirt

Clinking open the little box of sewing machine attachments...

return to Montana:

flecking

...three sparks upward on a rope of smoke (climbing the northering coil of US 89)

Winona calls me "kiddo".

~~honey~~
honeybrunch