

Twin Sulphur Springs:

- a photo-op board that you put your head thru, spa or bathing costumes painted there. Faded & weatherbeaten, one more faded overture to tourists.
- Mitch & Hexa says (as Mariah sits them up/ heads poking out) that it feels like someone is going to throw baseballs @ them.
- fast-food semi makes its way dn alley from back of business to next, supplying. In Car I saw in Cherokee: motel, the (N)
- Hexa & Mitch hits a flock of pintail ducks on county road, getting gravel for the gizzards

Downstairs, though, even from the outside appeared to be a repository straining to join its backyard kin.

Rebecca & Joe Brewster

--move back to Montana to be back, or for this job? (family considerations?)

--how's it working out? drawbacks?

--changes since they grew up in Montana?

--what's it like to go back to Dupuyer and Conrad?

--Montana now a better or worse place? (new people moving in...)

3 news - 1

"game friendly" fences - jackhays
3400 a. / 200 pas (H/d / Angus cows)
600 tan/hay
1000 / man
alt migration

* 3 glacial periods; till, hard for fence posts
w/ 1/2 check on cattle

* spend all summer prep'g for next 5-6 mo.

- Woodworth, old logging/mining
- Upper Okavango Valley; Lhas to Sully L. comm' ty
- H/Ville ranches 100-1200 head/cattle
- Logged over 60's - 70's: snowberry, sask berry (alt like)
- 2 wks no gradation, hi entry - house - road
- river of Stanley, Oak draw, 15" precip (hickberry, larch spruce)
(14" precip @ house)
- Grows, summer spray's spotted trap and

Barrow/2

Plum Crk starts to sell off n' front parcels

- not of snow drove steel penports into ground to bottom wire!
- bull elk hang a ridge above C. Wood Crk valley.

Dupuyer decline:

- cheap rent brought in welfare cases, drugs
- can't compete w/ Connad price
- not look around anyt
- Connad has Tin Pump & Subway
- e. side Tns as soon suffer as have newcomers
- jobs only d'back
- "q'n not hang's a the more" (R's kids in day care)

Twin Sulphur Springs:

--mineral-coarse water

--coarse odor

--artesian

Twin Sulphur Springs, like many western small towns, now has a medical equipment store, i.e. a place that rents out oxygen tanks and other emphysema equipment.

Mitch: This whole country is short of breath.

part of history

--possible subplot: caring for an AIDS patient who has come back to his hometown to die is bankrupting the little local hospital, as well as disrupting the staff. Mitch writes about this?

rockpicking reference by Jick in Eng Crk, p. 106

Bill Tidyman: ask him for memories of high school weekend when we picked rocks

- rockpiles: (parody: "I've got a ~~big~~ rubbery bunch of...")
- some 1-handers, some 2-handers, some big as (watermelons)
 - slab $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft long
 - cornerstone size: small
 - several shapes: slabs, rounded @ corner, groups of tens & hundreds

In compound gear, the truck growled along at slowest speed, the
at least
boys on either side ranging out to pick up rocks as big as softballs,
many bigger than that.

(The) Iron Alphabet

--someone in Twin Sulphur Springs (Lyle?) has the notion of old branding irons (and rights to the brands--i.e., ownership of a brand in the brand book) to newcomers.

the two hot springs as stinky as rival match factories(?)
competing(?)

Keeping the Days

22 Dec. '90: letter today from Susan Hirschman, ed-in-chf @ Greenwillow, asking if I've ever thought of writing a book for kids, citing Jick in English Creek as one of the most memorable kids within bookcovers.

What comes to mind is the situation I had as a kid on the Burt Ranch, maintaining the work-record ~~of~~--"keeping the days"--of Dad's haying crew. Possible plot: the youngster, more or less Jick-like, finds himself accused of error by one of the men who claims he's worked more days than the ~~book~~ boy's daybook shows.

Possible lead:

~~You couldn't even believe Jim Bill Rango when he said hello.~~ *used in backing*

(launch into immediate quote of some Jim Bill tale? Alphabetical elk?)

~~See what I mean?~~ The guy was a specimen of mammoth mouth if there ever was one, and for the life of me I could not see why the rest of the world didn't catch on to his windjamming.

met on '96 booktour:

Rich Fisher, who interviewed me for Tulsa public radio--"Studio Tulsa," KWCS. Former music director of station, he keeps his hand in at music by playing trombone @ rodeos! (in brass band that plays steadily for 45 min. during the big grand entry @ Ft. Smith, Ark., rodeo; says it's a lot harder than symphonic playing, where you get a chance to rest.)

--another source on this would be Nile Norton, who has played jazz tuba.

Billings centennial pics: should be some of bar w/ brands burned in facade

from Eng Crk filed

The (cemetery) grass was patchy, as if scorched in places.

--no matter how much watering was done.

from Eng Crk/Mariah filecd

sheep trailed thru Gros V: another reason for doing it in early morn was to get herders past before saloons opened.

--Mitch wonders about this, Lyle points out the reason. "Think about it." (Which can be a characteristic saying for Lyle?)

Lexa (as teenager to Mariah?): "Tell me love stuff."

"Bite off." (i.e., cut it out, quit)

"Music to paint on velvet by," he told her. (abt c-&-w)

"This is starting to sound like some pasttime besides eating."

"Mmm. Finger-lickin' good."

Lexa: "Whew, what a role model you are."

"No way." (usage by either Lexa or Mitch)

(don't get you) panties in a twist

cut from p. 270:

"If it doesn't involve dropping off the edge of the earth."

"Bossy."

"Yeah, well, I had a great role model, growing up."

It scares me spitless (Lexa and ^{Travis}~~Lyle~~'s life in small planes in Alaska).

"Tweet!" (mock referee-whistle, i.e. hold it right there, stop)

"What, tweet." (i.e, huh uh)

Take a reality check on yourself, Riley.

Riley and Mariah cd use "-ville" as part of their job shorthand:

"Boresville." "Averageville."

Dumbville (Jick cd use: "To me, that was Dumbville.")

It's it--Riley and Mariah say to each other, to confirm a do-able story?

or: Bingo?

or: Shot and gutted?

or: horse, as in 2-person basketball shooting, player's 1st basket h,
second is o, etc. until 1st to spell horse wins.

later in book, Jick can put together some pertinent word letter by letter,
in similar fashion to h-o-r-s-e.

Cool out, Riley.

Mariah could call Riley "Rye" in fonder moments.

(Jick: like the guy was an order of toast, buttered and jellied)