Jick about Riley: or Riley to Jick?

I'd like to be as sure about anything as this guy is about everything.
Mitch about Lyle:

"There's never any to it with him."
Riley

slim but wide; shoulders as if he forgot to take the hanger out of his shirt.
--small ears? (irony of him being able to listen for his writing)
--electric hair, color of applesauce
--mustache
--green eyes; with catlike exclamation in them. (Eyes reminiscent of Leona, without explicitly saying so.)

--he's a sponge for language; picks up sayings, uses them as style for a while.
--handles lingo like a stream tumbling a rock.
--taps notebook with his pen, the way people used to (before filter tips) tap a cigarette on the pack.

--Riley's knack for lingo: pretty quick you hear yourself talking back from him (as he picks up your turns of speech)
Say this for Riley, he recognized what he was good at.
there were times when Riley had more brass than a bandit.
It was one of the loopiest ideas 00'd had yet.

72 May '68
He always was a pesky SOB. (Riley)
Jick has a vision of Riley—and because of him, Mariah and Jick as well—controlled (or at least connected) by phone lines as a puppet is by strings.
Riley was as happy as a kid turned loose in a pie shop.
Sometimes you have to wonder if the guy is stud loco.
The kiddo with really everything on his mind today, though, was but Riley. At first he'd tried to busy himself at writing, the pocka pocka rhythm lapsed into greater and greater gaps, and as we cruised past away. Butte I heard him put the computer into its case
Riley's 2-colored eyes.

—he and Mariah turn their heads toward Jick; his gray eye matches hers, his other eye adds disconcerting mismatched element.
Riley says abt Eastern Europe, in echo of Edward Gray (quote in Guns of August?)--

"The lights are coming on all over Europe."
Riley lately was refusing to play pitch with us—"Any time my throat feels like it needs cut, I'd like to be in charge of it myself"—and so (they head uptown for the evening).
Riley can be silky.
"It's none of my business any more, is it," she said. "The book, I mean."
Make Riley different from Rob in some significant way: crashes of mood, maybe.
On an occasion of this sort, Riley was at his magnificent worst.
the wordhawk (Jick, abt Biley)
Riley's mustache: cookie duster
Riley looked as if he's been delivered a kick with a frozen overshoe.
Billings Gazette  Ap 23, '89
Magazines: Roger Clawson & Larry Mayer (prosog), pull-p. price
-Recalling "Starvation Winter of Blackfeet"
blacktop helicopter pads at missile silo buildings
.. as Riley could comment, in country where passenger train service is almost extinct, bus and plane service is scant.

---in C's pic of Square Butte near Geyser, a missile silo is the other direction (south).
---Sq Butte in pic is ghostly (with rain), compared with CMR's glamorous colors of it.
miniskirt crew in Judith Basin, traveling in AFV vans & trucks—blue taxis to Armageddon.

-July 5, '89, we met convoy near Stanford, armored vehicles pre-6am of a semi-truck carrying. Pentagon knows what; a few min. behind, another armored vehicle trailing as a surprise shotgun-rider.

-say this to Jeannette Rankin?
Riley can be parenthetical in his columns. Study how Michael Winerip does it in his NY Times suburban pieces.
Riley b. in 1950?

--would make him coming up on 40th b'day

--Leona, 17 in 1939 in Eng Crk, wd have been 28 when he was born; his brother Morgan is older?
look over Seymour Hirsh piece on My Lai story--finding Calley--for journalistic doggedness to apply to Riley.
as part of Riley's smart-assery, have him recite some of the sports nicknames gibberish of Sabres skin Horned Frogs?

--cd also give the baseball scores: 5-3, 1-0

--this could be set in Chinook supper club, TV on in the bar but with the sound off, news comes on, plainly it's "Now here's Marty with the sports."
He was setting his own compass.
possible use with Riley's habit of drinking something different in every bar:

--Jick to Riley: "You want another snort of cough syrup?"

--That was the blackberry brandy talking.
one of those people who collects trouble.

collector of trouble
Ink outlasts blood.

Blood isn't the same as ink.
While he was wrinkled up thinking about it...

(Riley?)
larky: why a 72 deal?
- was this much out 72 do?
as if practicing to be rich. Riley?
Riley's Law (possible name of column?)

Riley's Law is that Murphy was a mere optimist.

Murphy's Law states that anything that can go wrong will go wrong.
Riley's Law states that Murphy was a mere optimist.
sap  (Jick calls Riley)
Murphy's Law is that anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

Riley's Law is that Murphy is a mere optimist.
Nelson has a black beard, Jick has grown one for the Centennial; Tam says they look like the Smith Bros. off the cough drop box.

- beaver (beard)
Riled-Up Riley
Riley does a "meeting himself on the long road" column, using "he", about himself; it dawns on Jick that R., who seems to him perpetually young, is also thinking about age.
Nelson: Tam's former husband—intro it as a "last name," by inference, then show that it's his first.

--Tam or Jick says of him: that dingbob.

possible name: Nelson Michael

Riley Wright
decided not to use, in Jan. '89 revise

could gather for a column on tombstone inscriptions sometime—"They throw you out of the columnists' union if you don't do one of those occasionally,"

alternative: R at some pit says, "What, you want to get me kicked out of the columnists' union?"
Riley's penmanship: chicken tracks?
HELENA — Montanans who don't feel like driving to Helena in bad weather can make their opinions known to legislators quickly and easily from their hometowns through telefax machines.

The Legislature's public-information office in the Capitol rotunda is equipped with a telefax machine that operates around the clock to receive documents. Its number is 444-4105.

Information officer Sandy Merdinger said many public libraries around the state have fax machines from which letters and testimony may be sent to legislators in Helena at little or no charge. A number of private businesses and print shops also are equipped with fax machines and charge by the number of pages sent, she said.

If people want to send testimony for a committee hearing, they should send it in care of the committee chairman, she said.

As the temperatures have plunged, use of the Legislature's fax machine has boomed. Merdinger said the machine received more than 200 pages of documents from across Montana Thursday.
Riley at some point (but just once) picks up Jick's habit of remarking, "Highly interesting."
Riley's never-written book cd be mentioned somewhere in ch. 2; at Chinook supper club?
The latest Rileyism (Mariahism?)
he had the gall to ask me that.
Riley: quote Stegner (on DeVoto?) about how a writer spins his work out of his guts like a spider?
Riley should make some reference to his family in ch. 1 or 2.
Jick could later say of Riley, (something about him) was as hopeless as his pitch playing.
(Riley) looking at you in two tones.
Riley was always about half-cocked, and although I'd like it to, I don't mean that to describe him mentally. (Rather, physically he always has his head partly to one side, or eyebrow up...)

Is this too close to description of Rob Barclay?
the eggnogger (Jick refers to Riley's habit of odd drinks)
characterize Riley's mustache
Saints Lord It Over Cardinals (Riley's mock football headline)
Riley, if he does a mock 1789 column (French revolution):

Whoops. Must have hit a 7 instead of an 8 in the century date there.
Riley says "Naw" instead of "Nope"
hotshot (Jick, abt Riley and/or Mariah)
Schnickelfritz (check with Katrhin Maloof)

-refering to Riley-
Cryptic devil. (use as device at some point when Riley says something Jick doesn't quite get.)
At first I thought she had something in Riley Wright. (describe)

Don't get this wrong. He'd never done any dirt to me. But he had to Maria, and in my book that's the same thing.
Riley tells Jick he's a Fabian

(Jick thinks he means the longhaired singer.)

from Ideas notebook:

"group of socialists who formed a tiny party in London in 1884. Dedicated to gradualism and avoiding direct clashes with the state...they took their name from the Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus, who defeated Hannibal by avoiding direct combat."
Riley's ital piece after Lawrence's poesy recital: cd cite--

Kipling

Jeffers' "I wd burn my right hand in a slow fire/to change the future"

Hugo
Riley's column next. Same as ever, the heading *Riley's Law* with the dictionary-like explanation under it: *Murphy's Law* is that anything that can go wrong will go wrong. *Riley's Law* is that Murphy was a mere optimist. That and the all too familiar Wright mug, so favorable a picture of Riley it surely had not come from Mariah's camera, and then the day's dose of words.
p. 9h--Riley cd be showering after running, Mariah cd meanwhile be Janing (Fonda exercise).

---At Chf Joseph battlefield, Jick--mad abt Riley locking keys in Bago--wants to leave Riley; if he's so goddamn fond of running, let him canter the 15 miles back into Chinook.

---Riley cd occasionally get out of Bago before they reach a place and run on in.
Missoula I scene: possibly add detail of Riley jingling change in his pocket, chingchingching.

--add a description of Mariah, so Riley doesn't take the scene entirely from her.