

does Gros Ventre have stone letters on a hillside?

*-if there is a GV (painted fresh each year by high school kids), Riley could muse on confusion it and other hillside letters will cause archeologists of the future. Similarly, shepherd's monuments made of ~~st~~ piled rocks (check with George Engler whether he has any pics etc. of monuments in the Two country?) Riley cd also cite Pompeys Pillars I&C inscription.

--Riley could muse that GV is for Geo Volente: the earth willing (i.e., pun on Deo Volente; might Jick have come across D.V. in Isaac's letters?). Or Jick could look it up in Riley's packsack of dictionary etc. and do the mental transposition himself, Deo Volente into Geo Volente. (or cd ask MHS librarian;) the fact that the lib'n knows reminds Jick that Marcella would have known it too.)

--possible sequence of hillside letters:

--U of Montana's M, early in ch. 1

--Gros Ventre's GV as Jick et. al. come to town for com'tee, ch. 2

--Riley column on hillside letters, inspired by Ekalaka's Carter County C, ch. 3

--in final scene, Jick could see the GV, beginning to appear on hillside in centennial dawn, and re-say Isaac's line from letter with G.V. instead of D.V.

town letters on hill

M - Missoula

D - Drummond

C - Elkalaka (Carter County)

Rock letters on hills: what do they spell out, across the state? (anagram)

The Montanans

Eugene McCarthy poem about white letters on hillside.

Whitehall - distant W

Choteau - also distant - C a few miles West of town