It may be that I know or at least use too much history in my fiction; Stegner maybe has had the same "problem." For all the history and background I winnowed out of Eng Crk, it still has a bunch. I've been trying to let the tip of the research iceberg show, the summit 10%; but in the bob of the couple of years of work on a book, 11% or so may creep into sight.
cubes from the iceberg
Alpha Helix piece: cannibalize for research examples?

--Tow Hill example?
Research:

Iceberg effect: it is not wasted, whatever you don't use.

Evaluating accuracy of sources: people's memories are unsteady (Peter Doig example)
--try for several sources ("slushai"; 4 rangers looking at Eng Crk forest fire)

Common sense: WSS phone book for bars; st. bank examiners for Eng Crk farms
Iceberg Maintenance

--chapter on research and keeping track of it
--haying: ads in small-town papers
--Forest Service
--Sea Runners: Slushai!
grasshopper poisoning (as a research obsession):
--material in "Bucking the Sun: grasshopper poisoning" file
-- " " Frances Inman letters
-- wanted to use w/ Jick in Eng Crk, didn't fit; on through the trilogy, it still didn't fit; then it fit Bucking
slow poetry of fact: "words fail...-c wind blew."

---ranger diaries: Pinchot kept diary, to his dead beloved.

---rangers who pack things home or know where they're tucked away: Evan Kelley dismembering the old Selway NF...

---bank examiners' lists of farm inventories

---Historians warn themselves with the apocryphal story of the last surviving veteran of the French defeat at Waterloo being interviewed. Asked if he remembered Napoleon (on that day), he said, Of course, how could I forget such a moment, such a man—he was very tall and had a long white beard.

---On the other side of Waterloo, Duke of Wellington "sparrowhawks, madam" story; is it in bio of W'ton? (more checkable)

---Jim Welch's "fact" of animals speaking to Blackfeet; Mary Blew's of the difficulty of a child explaining her grandmother's boyfriend.
slow poetry of fact: the poppies and other planted things that mark the otherwise vanished homesteads Jerry DeSanto has shown us on the N. Fork of the Flathead.
Cursing: The Journal of Verbal Abuse
Wood and Wealth of my work. Read list from accounts:
- WSS phone list (ban read bar names)
- Ray Arney (read class #)
- See Runners' lists, + dexterity of all (also W Bole)

- fracture lines, & was systems have been changed.
  Kennedy list of Congress changes have been a nuisance than: yes, but were
  in technological ends. STA: microphone, home & medical. Everything before
  1956 in log volumes of listing, & computers us being put in. (Tail)

- being yoked to same. I consider least proficient of material. Allowed
  to type in WSS here, in old days, only if did research. Needed to
  type, now of course one can answer. But last time I was ol. Some of
  us of Cal @ Berkeley, the usefulness of us were, monoline transcribed by
  pencil.

(read from Mariah ms.?)
"Talking History" interview:
- Rascal Fair opening: Glasgow newspaper article about burned house
- Maurice Shebdett: "History has first place."
- Songs throught trilogy: "Dancing at Rascal Fair"; 1930s reenactment: Roadkill Angels
- "Lucy, you know, we can't be around for days off 'chaps off sharp at the edge of town."
- Jim's memory research: memory comes back to him mercifully (at age 65)
- Arguments: past has brought us to where we are.

methods: oral history - note a hero to a 1-nm account, did you. Where'd you fire, hour:
- letters: emigrants home to Scotland: Heart Earth
- archives: land files 1930, complete inventories (for mortgage purposes)
- language: June books - journal of Varread above (Walnus peoples)
- photos

historical realities drop into one line: my uncles in WWII
Thus Hornsby's Farmers, of first settlers: "I wasn't here, yet I remember them."
- Back where I have never been. (wagon people)" who "propped aside cottonwoods to build our city with"

Dor's journey in newfangled range. (January rested)"

Don't know - T.G. World
"Talking History" interview:
- Annie Campbell, from "Parnell": I've been to both ('other' 'Parnell')
- Kalgoorlie gold rush in '93
- my uncles in WWII
- Dick Brown: "US civil war of incorporation, 1860s-1910.4 - incorporation 'gunsfighter': W.Bill Hickock, Wyatt Earp, Walter Crow (dead Whitlock, 15th July 1876)
- amin family: convict squatters
- West - Western, mining pioneer east from Perth
- New Guinea (now Papua NE)
- frontier mythology: Ned Kelly/Crocodile Dundee W.Bill Hickok/Cary Cooper
- bush ballads/country poetry
horses ran loose by hundreds, many work stock
--Eric Ford letter, 1/29-79, p. 6
--possible use: after the homesteaders' demise...
--Howard Gribble letter: neighbor who fed horses to hogs
UW Natural Sci library: compare with submarine of Das Boot--

"heroic claustrophobia"
--long carrying shot, camera rushing the length of the sub; what happens when you travel similarly in aisles of N Sci, avoiding Q00 shelf here, studying students' chairs there, another user, until at last you reach the far end--fire the tubes, launch. "Fire one!"
--red tape on floor
--Swans's Smithsonian stuff there; lighthouses; forestry;
Joseph Heller: Shearing instead of lambing.

(from Carstensen: in God Knows, Heller cites shearing as the messiest problem with sheep, overlooking the many times more difficult weeks of lambing.)

Similar: Tom Wolfe in *A Man in Full*
- cites Seattle as one of old cities, older than Atlanta
- compares crowd noise in room to rushing sound of Columbia R.

error in Eng Crk: superintendent for nat’l forest supervisor
Brad Hamlett

432—old Texas cowhands he knew in Custer country

450—one of them at age 75 riding with hobbled stirrups; never learned to drive, and "the minute they couldn't get on a horse, they were done."

Brad as prototypical Montanan—Yeah, hell, down in that Sumatra country, you know, them during the Depression the grass got so short a jackrabbit had to pack a lunch.
"Waldens/Eng Creek" talk in Speeches file box has references to how I did research.
--Tebenkov maps, found last afternoon of 4 days' research at Alaska Histc'l Library in Juneau; white gloves to handle; great portfolio, from about 1850.

--Sitka: pacing off distances; help of local historical society.

--coastline: Alpha Helix, 133' long, reseach vessel of the Institute of Marine Science at the U. of Alaska; stood double watch; crew of 9; like big fishboat

--Wennberg's seasickness, intensification of mine crossing Milbanke Snd and Qn Ch Sound.

--Chancellor Howard Cutler and Enid: serving for Ruth (Genesis 29); watercolors

--up at 5, b'fast, go to bridge at 5:45 when capt. tk watch from mate; stay to midmn, go to cabin to write, back to bridge after lunch for afternoon; write after supper.

--Gene Ervine, Sitka park ranger: Wm Blake quote, "art cannot exist but in minutely organized particulars" (had asked him about what wood they'd smell in shipyard; similar questions, how high the tides, which way winds blows in morn and evening)


- lesions of pox
- brown s rothka; rum; champagne
getting itself onto the page with the richness I wanted.

I happened to open the New York Times Book Review to an interview with Anne Tyler, a novelist I much admire—Earthly Possessions and Searching for Caleb I guess are her two most recent works. I was astonished at how much she sounded like me—a clock watcher, keeps a very stringent writing schedule, allows herself so many minutes for lunch, begins to get uneasy if the mailman doesn't show up at a precise time—quite a number of the same, healthy habits I recognize in myself. Then I read on to this paragraph of the article about Anne Tyler:
"The housewife and the writer -- (she is both) -- are connected by index cards. White and unlined. 'Around the house,' one card reads, 'Cobb wears kneesocks with her housedress.' There are cards scattered in almost every room of the house.... The cards -- with their random thoughts trapped -- are eventually filed in one of two small metal boxes. The blue box is the novel box. Divided by chapter number, the box also has "extra," "general," "look up," and "revise" sections. The second box is the short story box. Its categories are "details" and "first sentence." The Cobb kneesocks card has a three in the left-hand corner, which means it goes to event three in the 11th chapter of the new novel."
So: detail...Cobb wears kneesocks with her housedress. Detail...my father was so slim-hipped his belt lapped around as if trying to circle him twice. Detail...when my grandmother was losing a game of solitaire, she would cheat just once to try get the game going again. I had these details, and hundreds more, in the journals—but they were not finding their way out into my manuscript readily enough. I was perpetually paging through, trying to remember where I had a particular phrase stashed. But...file...cards... spread 'em around, try 'em in various combinations. Make 'em dance. Now that's organized, I thought to myself. Sure enough, our house filled up with file cards in the next few weeks, and the manuscript of House of Sky began to march out of the typewriter. The method, I know, would not work for everyone, and I'm not sure it'll always work for me. But at the heaven time, it organized my material the right way...and bless the orderly file-carding clock-watching mind of Anne Tyler.