Marcella, May '04:

--she has Molly Holtz material on missile siloes coming to Conrad/Valier etc.
Jick McC was born at the age of 14, already as gabby and contentious as he would be 6 years later when he hit 65.
The Country and the City, Raymond Williams

--praises Brother to the Ox (1939), by Fred Kitchen, as autobiog of modern farm laborer
The City and the Country, Raymond Williams


Scottish. "his parents owning a small pane of glass and carrying it round as a window from 'house' to 'house, hovel to shed"
"What these 'great' houses do is to break the scale, by an act of will corresponding to their real and systematic exploitation of others."

"It can make some difference, as you go about every day, to be out of sight of that explicit command."

--This is relevant to the differences I felt between the White Sulphur country--with its Ringling house and the Castle and the Manger and Rankin and Dogie big ownerships--and the Dupuyer country where no house or enterprise stood out.

--An adaptation of this may be a lever of argument against what I understand as Cronon's view that all changes in nature are simply nature: surely there's a matter of scale, in knapweed replacing buffalo grass?
possible title: Country of the Wind
places as section headings: Panbridge
Gros Ventre
Maynard Dixon: life and art, for Two Med bk?

--write abt him in it? (my instant recognition of his Blckft rez painting in Okla City)
make use of the MT Conservancy sources about the country:

--Dave
--Mark
--Joe Moll
--Ralph Waldt
the typewriter in the bunkhouse

--earlier instruments for guys like me to rise in the world: stenography
The Montanians

look at Brandel for ideas—The Structures of Everyday Life.
dried-up spider parts
between Dupuyer and Choteau, microwave towers and oilwell donkeys: changing signatures on the land.
Signatures on the Land

--horse sculptures @ the Columbia R.
for Signatures on the Land:

Prairie Lonesome chapter, abt lone rancher/homesteader suicides Mark Wyman noticed in Miles City coroners' (?) reports.
for Signatures on the Land:

--square buttes W of Gt Falls; the Hamletts haying on top of one

--Haystack Butte, Heart Butte etc. in line of sight along mtns; Old N. Trail
The land calls the last question: "Do your lines run to the heart's quiet, as mine do?"
...My Lai Abu Graibh... (the DNA helix of horror)
islands of time
--There was a moat around a person...
Kafka's ice-axe goes w/ "water like a stone"
Kramer VV

100—the West as a dawn
ankle socks of onions
browbeaten tomatoes (after rain got to them in '03)
jazz in the garden:

--the Desmond sound

--Brubeck & tractor (in our cassette case file)
As a child, I genuinely had a strong awareness of time passing. It may have been because of death's morning in the mountain cabin, but whatever, I cannot remember when I didn't mark time with some anxiety—the perpetual feeling that summer was going too quickly.

I have always made time a quantity, and watched it dwindle—my head a kind of hourglass...
a day of

plants are passionate for rain. They come out of it sharp-edged, visibly bigger.
at dawn, a TOTE ship passing, illuminated belowdecks as if with a cargo of light.
--as if the cargo is ambient
I stood on the deck (of this house), my toes curled down in pleasure: Goddamn, this is marvelous.

--veg beds: mesas, horse graves

chlorophyll giraffes
Aug. 6, '03: hummingbird at pea vines—pulls at the trellis string!
It is the finches who shame me into filling the birdbath. They alight and peer gravely down, inspecting...
8 to 10 gulls, moving together in glide, a cross between a mobile and a kite
mid-March '03:

--forsythia in S hedge a 10'-high block of gold
The crows are sporting in the lenient twilight air, the bean-eyeing bastards.

--And I, attested homo sapiens, blast their preening butts when they alight. Though a BB/pellet is not much to fight sovereign flight.
sissifying of the weather (by TV forecasters: ice pellets instead of hail)
The Weight of the Wind
For Whom the Bell Tolls, p. 207:

"Robert Jordan explained the process of homesteading. He had never thought of it before as an agrarian reform." (more)
Water Like a Stone

(Seasons in subtitle?)
Christina Georgina Rossetti, "Mid-Winter" (Dict of Qns, p. 409:20)

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.
Edges

--from our June '03 trip to Pine Butte: Conservancy naturalist, probably Ralph Waldt, mentioned that ecologies are biologically rich at boundaries (as the Pine Butte area is, only 3-1/4 mi. from shortgrass prairie to tundra atop the reefs). For example, 1/3 of Montana plant species are found @ Pine Butte.
water scarce in my childhood:
bucketing it in Ringling
shaving/bathing once a week
the Reservation spring
Season of Desire

Mid-Winter

Two Medicine Spring

00 Summer
Face Cards

The Rhyme and the River (possibly a Canadian music album)
Where the River Goes
What the River Says
possible title: The Blue-Eyed Sky
The luckbringer
Where the Divides Meet
Where the Waters Meet
Where We Met
The Barbwire Harp

The Bone Harp
Moving the Water (metaphor-rich)

chapters:

Westwater (Valier)

No Fishing

Watermen (Stegner and Maclean)

alternative: Following the Water
dup of Moving the Water ideas card, for possible UW trio of speeches:

lead:
---Rudy the irrigator was so full of snoose the mosquitoes wouldn't touch him.
---irrigating the bar @ Burt ranch
---Swift Dam project: What a dream was Valier.
---Fort Peck

Imagine the reverse of satellite-eye view: upward from within the earth, to see the declining water table, saline seep, the mudgut of dams...

Lang: history saved the Yellowstone R. from damming

---the Columbia once was dammed by blockage mightier than the concrete dams

---hemodynamics is medical term for movement of blood (see NYT piece, "Scanner Pinpoints Site of Thought...", June 1, '93, in C's
chapter: Snow in the Air

--Harold Chad putting together TV from a kit; the snowiness of the screen, there in gas station & later in house in Ringling. Yet we watched: Life of Riley etc. The latest form of popular culture came to our corner of the country.

--What does a writer do with pop culture? Stegner wanted us to become cultured. I try to celebrate the distinctive part: lingo, craft of work, weather terms, etc.
The Hidden Spring

--multiple meanings of spring:

--flow of water

--season

--propulsive device

--leap

--any others? (check dic)