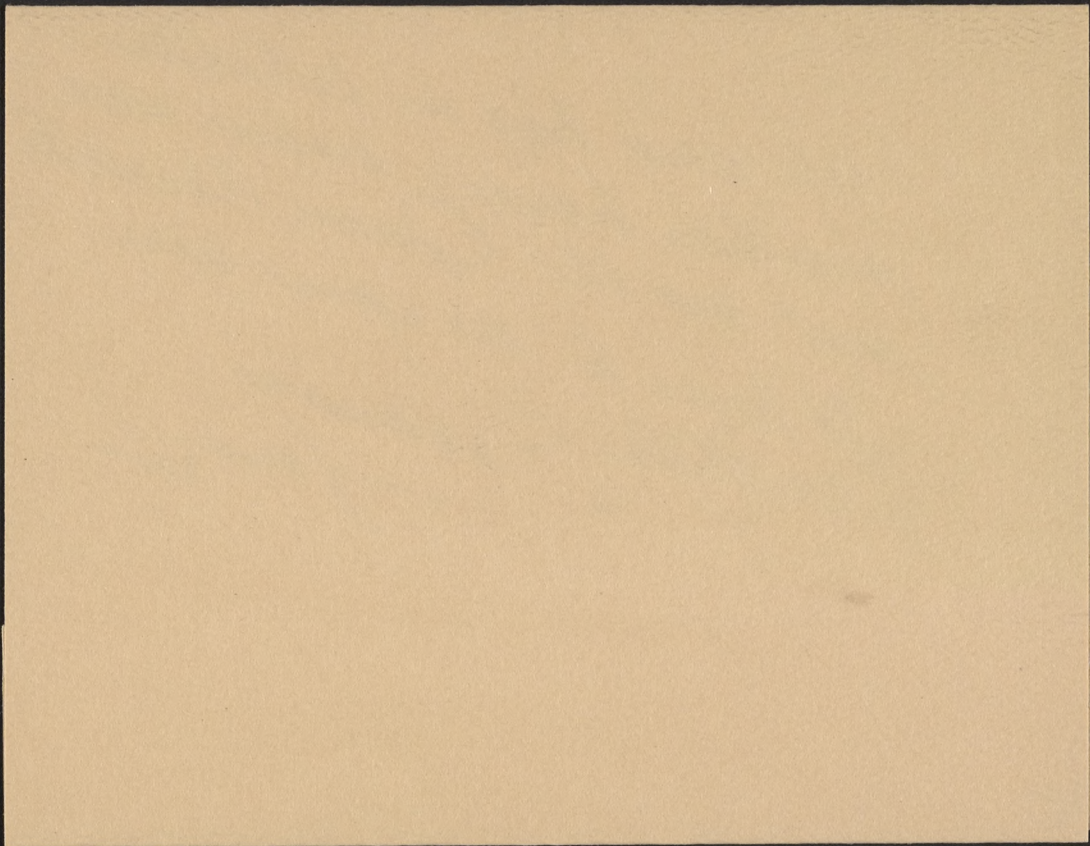


We two are moving down the road...



We now live in Whittiers
mothers house where were
not on the Queen Charlottes
I hope to see you here
or there. Warmly,
Jim 545

NEW ADDRESS: MR & MRS. JAMES A. HOUSTON
24 MAIN ST. STONINGTON CT. 06378
TEL. 203-535-4199





"APACHE PEAK"

THIS UNIQUE POSTCARD IS ONE OF A SERIES

BY WAYNE D. SOURBEER

December 18

Dear Ivan and Carol,

Thanks for the clip of your photo. Next time you come to Montana we'll try for a couple more. By this time, I suppose you are half finished on the novel about this state. I say it doesn't hurt to blight the book stalls with one more thick offering! Oh well, genius must have it's wayward whim. As to the whammy of a whim, we have bought 11+ acres in the Mission Valley surrounded by Indian reservation. Not many Indians, but plenty of Salish/Flathead ancestors running around Arlee and to the north. It's (the property of course) about 10 miles north of Missoula, near Evaro with a view of the Mission Mountains, and plenty of trees which we haven't even tried to name yet. One's called Paul and another is Peggy. There are some thousand, so we may have to revert to their group botanical name with a Latinesque twang. We are living in a mobile home and hope to winter-out the winter this winter. As I lay ink to paper, there is 14" of the white stuff clinging to the land. It's "where peace comes dropping slow" or in better moments a "poetic dwelling." If you get the source of both these quotes I might not burn your diplomas, if any. This spring, if any, we will build a darkroom so that I might be able to get on with it, whatever it is. And remember, there isn't any there out there. Love and misses.

FROM: 20571 Whispering Pines Rd.
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 726-3234



IVAN & CAROL DOIG

17021 - 10th Ave. N.W.

Seattle, WA 98177

Best of the New Year! Wayne & Pamela

BLUE SUN PRESS P.O. BOX 4072 CHEYENNE, WYO. 82001

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87131

10 December 1983

Dear Ivan:

Thanks for your response to Conversations with Stegner. He's your kind of man, and he thinks highly of your work. You might want to use him for a letter of reference some time.

I'll be interested in seeing your Montana novel. Do you have a publication date?

Mike Malone finally talked me into helping him with a general history text of the West. I've always thought that half-breed, son-of-a-Basque that I am, I had learned to say no, but after two nay's I gave in. I'm more than busy on that project even though we have just started.

Maybe we'll cross paths before too long to share sheepcamp lies.

Best regards,

Dick Ehtani

RUSSELL MARTIN

15201 County Road 25
Dolores, Colorado 81323
303-882-4775

10.25.1983

Dear contributors to the western writing anthology:

My apologies for the form letter, but I wanted to get some information to all of you concerning the status of the Viking Penguin project and this seemed like the easiest way to get the job done.

The anthology will be titled WRITERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF RECENT WESTERN WRITING, edited and with an introduction by Russell Martin and Marc Barasch. It will be published in about August of next year in simultaneous hardcover and paperback editions that will be identical except for their covers and their prices. The current guess is that the hardcover will be about \$15.95, the paperback somewhere around \$8.95.

The collection includes pieces by 19 writers--14 short stories or novel excerpts, and 5 essays or memoirs. Total length should be between 375 and 400 pages.

The collection opens with the full text of Richard Hugo's poem "Silver Star" as an epigraph, followed by a 3,500-word introduction written by me. I'm enclosing a Xerox of the table of contents to give you some idea of what and who are included, as well as an indication of how the pieces are lined up. Each selection will open with a short headnote containing a bio of the contributor as well as pertinent information relating to the piece itself.

Payment of permission fees in most cases will be made on publication, except as negotiated otherwise by you, your agent, or your publisher. Those contributors who didn't demand a specific fee will receive \$100. (The top amount Viking is paying for a single selection is \$350.) The fees in every case are inadequate, it seems to me, but the economics of anthologies are tenuous at best, and this is simply the best we could do. (I could whine for hours as well about how pitifully small the editors' advance was, but never mind.)

The editors at Viking and Penguin are very happy with the anthology--impressed with the quality and diversity of the work, convinced it will get some important critical attention, and even hopeful about its sales potential.

It's been a very pleasurable project for Marc Barasch and me, and it goes without saying that we're indebted to each of you. We hope you'll be proud to be a part of the collection.

Best regards,

Russell Martin

11 Nov. '83

Russell--Appreciated the progress report on the anthology. Long ago I put together a couple of textbook anthologies, so I know something of the woes. The table of contents looks dandy--I'll much look forward to the book. Incidentally, yours will about doincide with the German edition of This House of Sky; definitely I'll find yours more intelligible.

best regards

Western Writers Anthology
Martin/Barasch

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

RIVER CAMPUS STATION

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14627

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Nov. 12, 1983

Dear Jean Doig:

Here's a item — in a recent book from Oregon State University Press — that I almost certainly wouldn't have undertaken but for the rich example of This House of Sky. In fact, as I recall the invitation to try it for OSU came with an explicit reference to that wonderful book — "See if you can't do a Jean Doig turn in Central Oregon!"

I'm hoping that my friends Bart O'neary and Ward Porsfeldt at Central Oregon College in Bend are forming up the "hard fall" writing conference for next summer. We've met to discuss details last July, they confirmed that you're willing to come — good news! — and I hope by now they have got the program pretty well nailed down. It should be an interesting and worthwhile enterprise, especially as it moves past its inevitable birth-troubles; I'm hoping that we'll be able to ring in local or locally-connected writers like Bill and Kim Sheppard and Gary Snyder.

-P.S. - I hope this is still your address? How come you're not listed in the 1983-4 Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers, from "Poets and Writers"?
c NYC - 201 W. 54th St, NYC 10019?

Best regards,
Jatold Ramsey

25 Nov. '83

Dear Jarold--

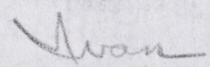
I appreciate the New Era piece. Saw the excerpt in Pacific Northwest magazine earlier this year, but the fuller version strikes more chords with me. By coincidence it arrived just as I'm finishing up a novel set in Montana in the late 1930s, so I have some of the same details in my head these days. My narrator's mother belongs to a social group, called not "The Neighborly Club" but just the ladies' club; the Sat Eve Posts and Colliers, battery radios, a lot of it chimes with me. And my version of your grain harvest is haying.

You're dead right about "Spotted Horses." A masterpiece. (Though I didn't think of its influence until you mentioned it, I suppose that story lives on in any of us who grew up around horses. I haven't been on or driven a horse in a quarter of a century, yet in this Montana novel they come out of my typewriter constantly.) And I believe The Reivers was a wonder, which has been overlooked. It came ~~about~~ out about my last year in college, and I remember how much a friend and I both liked it then. I re-read it a few years ago and was even more impressed; it seemed to me you can Faulkner just doing, masterfully, whatever the hell he wants, in that book.

I too hope Landfall eventuates, although I think it's not going to include me. At least I haven't heard back from Bart Queary since he found out what wages it would take to get me to do a writers' conference. And not having heard, I've commenced on other plans for the summer. I will drop him a note in December to clarify, but I think you'll have to carry on without me. It's your part of the landscape anyway.

Again, thanks for sending the piece. Maybe our paths will cross, even if not at Landfall.

best wishes



p.s. It just struck me: there's also a Ramsay place in my novel--an abandoned homestead.

3 Nov. '83

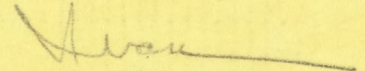
Etulain

Dear Dick--
1

I surmise you are responsible for my getting a copy of the Stegner interview book? Thanks greatly. It looks like a dandy. I dipped around in it freely as soon as it came, and with the leisure of Christmastime I'll do it from start to finish. It's obviously thoughtful work by both of you.

All is well here, though I am in the finishing sprint on the Montana novel I'm doing. Deadline is the end of the year, and while I'll make it, it will keep me busy. I hope you're thriving. I still regret missing you at the WHA a year ago; a strange convention--maybe they all are--I either was three times too busy or about bored to sleep on my feet.

best,



p.s. I put in for a Guggenheim again, this time for a homesteader novel--which probably will really flummox them in NY.

8/22/83

Dear Ivan,

Thought you'd appreciate this little tidbit. I just got off the phone with a friend who, among other things, said:

"I just finished This House of Sky and I still can't stop crying. It's a truly great book — the greatest I've read in a long time."

My sentiments exactly. Glad you've returned to the Montana scene for some more exploration of outer and inner landscapes.

Best Wishes,

- Brandt

GREENWOOD PUBLICATIONS



12324 25th NE Seattle, Washington 98125 (206) 365-7131

August 6, 1983

Dear Ivan,

Many thanks for setting up a contact with John Woods. We had breakfast yesterday at the Trattoria Mitchelli down in Pioneer Square, coincidentally the spot where I usually tank ~~g~~ up with my morning's ration of caffeine before slogging up the street to tap on the keys in front of my cathode ray tube.

Just before John dove into his ricotta cheese pancakes, he said, "Now tell me, who are you, what are you doing, and why should I know you?" My response was, "Help--Ivan, where are you?"

I doubt that I convinced John that I was worth knowing, ~~but I was not a bad guy either~~ He's a rather brilliant guy, and I felt like all I could do was tread water. But we did talk over some ideas and I got some more insight into ~~things~~ things like why publishers want manuscripts yesterday, etc. John also invited me to send something down to him when I get some words together, which I will. I was pleased to hear that some publishers actually employ real live editors, and that they care about what a manuscript looks and sounds like.

I'm coming into the home stretch on Book III now, with about three weeks to zero hour. How about lunch or coffee sometime before I go back to New Jersey?

Thanks again, and best of luck on your Montana work.

Brandt

9 Aug. '83

Dear Brandt--

Glad you got together with Woods. I think you're right that he's pretty sharp, although quite a bit of him is pure adrenalin. He does seem to be in love with words, so I thought that made him okay. I know you don't want to hear this just now, but the sooner you could send him something, the better.

How about your machine ~~making~~ calling my machine to see if we can have lunch on Aug. 25? (Only day this month I can do it, between ~~us~~ and in-laws.) If not then, after Labor Day?

Sunday, we were with friends--Californians now, ex-Seattlites--who were actually using your parks book as they gawked around town. How come, we all demand to know, you didn't explain the golden finger on the sundial on the hill at Gasworks Park? Print up a sequel, we'll buy it just for that.

see you. best,

17021 10th Ave. NW
Seattle WA 98177
14 May '83

Dear Eyan Connell--

Okay, here are the books for signing--many thanks. Custer, hmmm? I'll look forward to that one. If nothing else, it should bring you a lot of entertaining mail from Custer enthusiasts. I've encountered a few, at a Western History Association convention or somewhere, and the debate as to whether angels can dance on the head of a pin is as nothing to the arguments over matters at the Little Big Horn.

best wishes

Evan Day

15 June '83

Dear Evan Connell--

The books arrived--many thanks for the penmanship.
I'll watch for Custer to come riding over the
literary horizon.

best,

p.s. A beer sometime sounds good. We've got the
stuff up here, too, so call if you're ever passing
through.

May 21

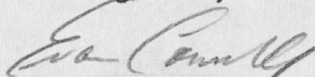
Dear Ivan Doig,

Along with the books is North Point's spring catalogue, in case you're unfamiliar with NP. They're doing some rather elegant stuff. Giomo is an experience, and the Beryl Markham book has several passages equal to the best of Isak Dinesen.

I'll get 200 pages of Custer in the mail to NY very soon and should be finished in a couple of months. After that -- not an idea in the world.

Meanwhile, I hope your work progresses and if you visit the southern provinces let me know, we could have a beer or something.

regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Evan Connell', written in dark ink.

Evan Connell

May 9

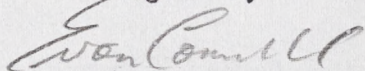
Dear Ivan Doig,

I do remember reviewing The Sea Runners, and no doubt you gathered that I liked it quite well. Hope you enjoy Janet Lewis. My favorites are Martin Guerre and Soren Qvist. I'll keep in mind Houston's new book.

Of course I'll be glad to sign the White Lantern and Long Desire for you.

I've been at work some 2½ years on a long non-fiction thing about Genl Custer & all that, titled Son of the Morning Star, and hope to finish it this summer.

regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evan Connell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Evan Connell

Connell
487 Sherwood
Sausalito, Cal. 94965



Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

20 April '83

Dear Evan Connell--

You may recall reviewing my novel The Sea Runners in the Washington Post last fall. Due to that review I've been reading Janet Lewis and, yes, Evan Connell. If I send a Long Desire and a White Lantern and appropriate postage, would you be game to provide a couple of signatures?

There's a new Northwest coastal novel which I liked a lot--in fact, gave a blurb: Eagle Song, by James Houston (he of The White Dawn). So far I've only seen one review, in Publishers Weekly, which I thought missed the real imagination of the book. Anyway, if you come across that one, it's worth a look inside, I think.

I hope your own work is going well.

best regards

Phyllis Theroux
3210 Northampton Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015

March 25, 1983

Dear Ivan,

The length of time between receipt of your letter and the writing of mine is appalling. Please forgive the silence. The only thing that stands between me and success is me.

If you remember your own letter, I hope that a "Daughter of California and Other States of Grace" or "California II" happens as well. I have been working at a real job, as a writer for the Washington Post Newspaper for the last year and 9 months and am about ready to conclude that experiment and resume the old one - as a writer without Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Hopefully (I know that's a non-word but I HOPE it becomes accepted some day), the muse won't be talking to Norman Mailer and will help me out.

I have not read The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. I have not read almost everything. Nor have I been to Missoula although I've already told you that I have a yen to see it first-hand.

Thanks for giving me a list of the books you've written. I had heard of all but Winter Brothers and plan to put you on my list the next time I go to a bookstore where they sell real books. Thanks again for the compliment of asking me to sign your copy of my book. I am flattered.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Theroux

1 April '83

Dear Phyllis--

Lovely inscription. Befitting the book.

I noticed your mention that your current route into self-unemployment takes you back outside the boundaries of health insurance. I don't know if you'd be interested, but I am a half-hearted--make that quarter-hearted--member of a group that was set up by free-lance writers to fend with such woes, and I think they have some sort of group insurance. I don't use it myself, as my wife's college snuggles both of us under its blanket, and I believe the group insurance is mostly helpful to NY-area writers, where this organization is centered. But maybe it could be a port in a storm. The group is called the American Society of Journalists and Authors--formerly the Society of Magazine Writers, a name I wish to hell they'd kept--and it's at 1501 Broadway, Suite 1907, NY NY 10036; Dorothy Stearn, the executive director, likely could give you details on ~~in~~ the insurance set-up if you call her at (212) 997-0947. I personally don't tout the ASJA highly--I belong mostly out of habit. It's very NY-centered (though I think there's a Washington chapter) and of its 600 or so members has quite a bunch of hackers and cookbook writers; on the other hand, Alvin Toffler, Carolyn Bird and Mary Higgins Clark also are at least nominally in the ASJA. A person needs two recommends to get in, plus a writing track record--no problem in your case.

No need to respond--this just popped to mind as I read your letter--unless you're interested in this bunch and I can be of help. Onward to California II.

best regards

Wm D. G.

29 Jan. '83

Dear Phyllis--

You wondered about having come across a book of mine. If you have, it likely was This House of Sky, which was a 1979 National Book Award nominee. In a lot of ways your Moral Re-Armament upbringing and mine at the bent elbow of my father in the Stockman saloon were different, yet somehow it was those years with my father and grandmother, as told in Sky, which made me feel greatly at home in reading your book. My other works have been Winter Brothers, a strange sort of journal/biography, and The Sea Runners, a novel published last fall.

Missoula is indeed a vivid town; has in fact been the Northwest epicenter of fiction and poetry the past several years. Much of that was due to Richard Hugo, head of the MFA writing program at the U. of Montana until his death last October. My wife and I will be visiting in Missoula the last week in March, and it'll be a diminished place without Dick.

I was serious in hoping there'll be a Daughter of California and Other States of Grace, or some such. It's on my mind again today because last night I read The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie; Muriel Spark's Marcia Blaine School wasn't your Dominican version at San Rafael, but I found myself thinking back and forth between her scenes and yours.

again, tthanks and best wishes.

Avan Doug

PHYLLIS THEROUX

3210 Northampton St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20015

January 25, 1983

Dear Ivan,

Of course, I would be happy to sign a copy of
"California..." Montana has lately been in my mind
because of a young friend who has recently settled in to
Missoula, which sounds like a wonderful town, good for
growing, snow-shoe-ing things.

It nags at me that I have read a book of yours
and don't know which one it is. Could you fill me in
when you write back? Thanks.

Phyllis Theroux

11 Jan. '83

Dear Phyllis Theroux--

Today in my daily tussle to populate the Montana town of my next novel, I came across in a notebook your lovely line (one of many) in California and... "We should all have one person who knows how to bless us despite the evidence." It helped me think through a situation between a couple of my characters, and it also inspired me to ask something I've intended too long: would you be game to sign my copy of your book, if I send it and appropriate postage?

I hope there's going to be another one?

best regards

Alan Doig

PO Box 10796
Portland, OR 97210
March 14, 1983

Dear Ivan Doig,

Thank you so much for your quick response to my letter. The names and suggestion^{that} I look into Dillon were helpful to me, and I appreciate the time you took to send them.

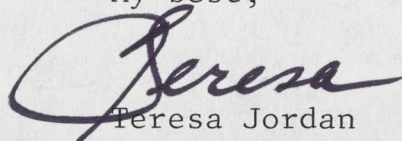
I agree with you completely that I will know the community when I find it. I have a certain model in mind necessary to the structure of the book--a ranch community rather than a town--and beyond that, I need to find a community I can click with. I am going to be asking a lot of them over the next couple years as I try to understand and share their lives. It is terribly important that they like and understand me, as well.

I'm heading up to Montana around the middle of April. I'll raise some dust on the back roads in increasing radius from Missoula and see what I can find.

I'm sorry that the copy of Cowgirls has not arrived. I've ordered you another copy.

Good luck with you new novel. And thank you so much for taking the time from it to write.

My best,


Teresa Jordan

PO Box 10796
Portland, Or 97210
503/224-0912 or 226-3354
February 16, 1983

Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave, N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Mr. Doig,

I met Bill Kittredge at a conference this summer, and since then he has helped me with several projects. The biggest favor he has done me, however, was introducing me to THIS HOUSE OF SKY. When I reached the last page, I turned the book over and started again. It touched me as deeply the second reading as the first. You capture completely the voices and patterns of thought that surrounded me as I grew up on a ranch in southeastern Wyoming. You have also written the one book I most aspired to write, some great many years down the road. I am not jealous; simply in awe.

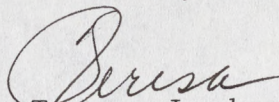
Your book touched me. It also affected me, for it made me realize how much I need to get back to those voices. Portland has provided me a wonderful nest, offering the support I needed for my first tentative venture as a writer. (My first book, COWGIRLS: WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN WEST, was published by Doubleday last fall. I asked them to send you a copy, and I hope you have received it.) I love Portland, and if I wanted to write urban fiction this would be a wonderful place for me. "If he's hurt you that badly, dear, just go out and buy something," says one woman to another as they wait for a light; "If I never see another alfalfa sprout, it will be too soon for me," someone tells me at a party. But it is the country I want to write about, and here there are too few people with shit on their boots. I am homesick for cattle country. Your book made me realize I didn't listen hard enough when I lived there before.

So this summer I will move to Montana. And now I want to ask your help. I have signed with Pantheon to do a study of a ranch community. I proposed the book on the basis of Iron Mountain, the area where I grew up in Wyoming, with the understanding that I wouldn't use that community for the book. Now I need to find a community and since I am planning to enter the MFA program in fiction at U. of MT in the fall, I would like to find a community within 150 miles or so of Missoula.

I would value your advice tremendously. I know you are terribly busy with your own work, and if you don't want to bother with yet another demand on your time, I understand completely. If you feel you can spare the time, I'd send you a copy of the book proposal so you know more specifically what I'm looking for and how I plan to approach it.

Thank you so much for considering this letter. I hope I am not imposing too much.

Sincerely,


Teresa Jordan

PS: There is a theory that the world has only a dozen people and the rest is done with mirrors. At any rate, several times a week I run with Bill Farr's brother, Lee, and Lee's wife Susan.

21 Feb. '83

Dear Teresa Jordan--

No, I never did receive a copy of COWGIRLS from D'day, and so haven't had a chance to catch up with your work. Probably, though, you have seen the enclosed review which ran side by side with one of my novel, THE SEA RUNNERS. We both got sniffed at a bit by academic friends, but worse things could happen.

I'll have to forego looking at your book proposal, for now, as I'm not letting anything nudge my own ranching community of the moment--a fictional town and valley of sheep ranches which I'm inventing and putting on actual northern Montana landscape. I'll be out of this novel by the end of the year, and perhaps more civil thereafter. And I'm not very well acquainted with the Missoula country; Kittredge or Bill Farr might be a more guideful than I can. The one possibility that does come to mind is Dillon. I don't know the place well at all, but it might have some advantages. There's considerable backdrop; Lewis and Clark went through there. There's a small college, Western Montana, where I know two guys who might be useful sources. Also, given that I recently was asked there (but had to turn down) to some sort of conference, it may be a place where there are people interested in the community. I'd say, though, that your own instincts, the feel of the place, are probably your best guides to finding a town. If Dillon does interest you, the people I know are:

--Rex Myers, the western history prof at the college.

--Stanley Davison, retired history prof (also from the local college); he's into his 70's, is quite a source on matters in that area; see, for instance, the article of his in the winter '83 issue of Montana Magazine of History. I've found Stan exceedingly helpful, and he is interested in furthering good writing about Montana; he ~~more~~ fairly recently participated in a summer course aimed at just that. I do pass along the advice that was given me before approaching him: Stan's politics nonplus most of us born since McKinley, so stick to the topic of history around him, no political science.

--Elizabeth Rebish, whom I've not met but was the one who invited me to the recent conference; she said she and her husband run 5000 sheep, which is one of the bigger bands I've heard of recently in Montana.

I guess I would stress (free advice is always worth its pricetag) seeing whether you think you can get along with these people, before committing yourself very deeply. It seems to me there can be a lot of different chemistry, from community to community. Anyway, wherever you end up, best of luck. Our paths undoubtedly will cross sometime in Missoula--Carol and I wander through there a time or two a year.

regards

Alan D.

WILLIAM CURRAN

P.O. Box 11227, Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110/(206) 842-3295

February 22, 1983

Dear Mr. Doig:

Many thanks for your thoughtful note and sound counsel. What I have been trying to do is circumvent the process of getting a list of agents and working from the A's through the Z's. It's almost a certain way to wind up with a bad agent. Not every book needs an agent, of course, but I'm convinced that this one does.

I do have the Appelbaum/Evans book and I agree that it is a good one. I have also seen the Authors Guild survey on agents commissions, which was in the Bulletin a couple of years back, but I am sure that I have mislaid my copy and I very much appreciate your sending the photocopy. Although I check Publishers Weekly regularly, I haven't thought about following the business transactions. It's a very good tip.

If you have managed to avoid the NY Literary Establishment scene, you are truly blessed. It might be the salvation of American letters if more writers could be freed from it. I keep hoping that as the university presses become bolder and diversify their lists, they may offer an avenue of escape.

Best wishes for your current project, whatever it may be. Sea Runners was a tale well told and I hope that you will not abandon fiction though the rewards, as we all know, are not great.

Sincerely,

Bill Curran

Jan. 31, 1983

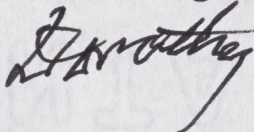
Dear Ivan:

Of course I'm pleased that you want your copy of the Whitefish book signed. But a combination of deteriorating vision and Parkinson's tremor makes it so tough to get a book wrapped or into an old book mailer that I just don't make the effort. Maybe you can paste the enclosed slip into the front instead.

One reason you're not running into wandering Montanans, anyway Missoulians, may be that we're having a benign winter thus far, so why go elsewhere?

I'm two thirds done with a big novel that nobody may want to publish, and a kind of sequel to WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, WHITEFISH keeps getting in the way, even though I can't see very well what I'm doing.

Best regards,

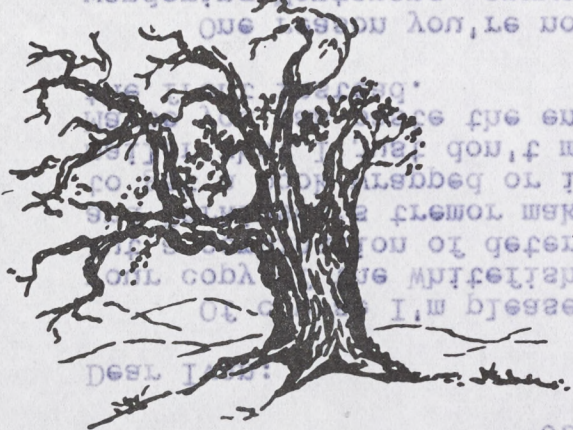
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry Green", written in a cursive style.

THE TREASURE STATE MONTANA

Best regards,

though I can't see very well what I'm doing.
WHILE I keep getting in the way, even
of seeing to WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG,
that nobody may want to bury it, and a king
I'm two thirds done with a big novel

it's so much so elsewhere,
be that me, the making a perfect winter time
wandering, wandering, and my mission, may
one day you, the not knowing into



MISS DOROTHY M. JOHNSON
2309. Duncan Drive
Missoula, Montana
59801

Phone (406) 542-2647

Jan. 21, 1982

17021 10th Ave. NW
Seattle WA 98177

26 Jan. '83

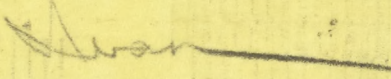
Dear Dorothy--

I've only just now caught up with WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, WHITEFISH, so congratulations are overdue. If I send my copy and appropriate return postage--on the premise that the U.S. Mail might be able to get the book back and forth between here and Missoula--suppose I could get you to sign it up for me?

Have heard from Jim and Lois Welch in Mexico, and look forward to having them on hand out here this spring; Jim will have his teaching stint at the U. of Washington again. I spent some happy time with Bill Lang of Montana Magazine of History at the Western History convention in Phoenix last fall, but otherwise, have not crossed paths with any wandering Montanans.

Hope you're wintering well. Wet, wet, wet out here.

all best


Ivan Doig

4 Feb. '83

Dear Dorothy--

The paste-in inscription is just dandy. Thanks for taking the trouble.

I'm happy to hear of the big novel. I hope it's the one with some of your air-wardening in it? The other day I read something by Wright Morris which mentioned a stint he did, peering for blinks in the blackout, and I thought of your experience at it.

all the best

MacDonald Harris

1743 Bonaire Way · Newport Beach, Ca. 92660 · 714/548-4219

28 January 1983

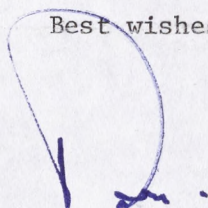
Dear Mr. Doig:

I found that I did have an extra BALLOONIST, so I'm sending it along too. Thanks for your flattering interest in my work.

En revanche, if you should happen to have a spare copy of THE SEA RUNNERS lying around, I'd be happy to have your autograph.

As it happens, I am writing "a next book for Tom Stewart," and we've just signed a contract; it's called TENTH and it's about music.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Harris', with a large loop at the start and a small flourish at the end.

FOX RIVER BOND
25% COTTON

MacDonald Harris

1743 Bonaire Way · Newport Beach, Ca. 92660 · 714/548-4219

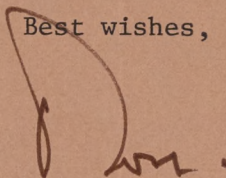
16 January 1983

Dear Mr. Doig:

Yes, please do send the book - I'd be
happy and flattered to sign it.

Congratulations on THE SEA RUNNERS.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MacDonald Harris', written below the text 'Best wishes,'.

11 Jan. '83

Dear MacDonald Harris-- 1743 Bon Air Way Newport Beach
CA 92660

I imagine you're as busy writing a next book for Tom Stewart as I am, but I wonder if I could request a couple of extra words from you--in my copy of Herma, if I send it and appropriate postage? I'm chagrined to admit that I caught up with Yukiko and The Balloonist only after they had metamorphosed into paperbacks.

I hope your work is going well.

best regards

Alan Dorg

GARY JENNINGS

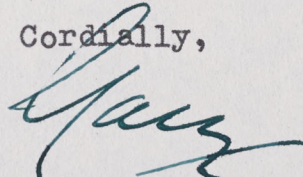
Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue, N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan --

Nice of you to ask. And, to save back-and-forthing,
I'm sending under separate cover an inscribed AZTEC -- plus
my copy of your SEA RUNNERS, in hope of reciprocation.

You think you got problems containing the population
of Montana between covers. My in-the-works is bulging with
everygoddambody in the whole effing Eastern Hemisphere.
I look forward to your next, but mine, I dunno.

Cordially,



8 January 1983

5 Jan. '83

Dear Gary Jennings--

I know you're busy making words for the next book, but I wonder if I could get a couple out of you for your last one: would you be game to sign my copy of AZTEC if I ship it and appropriate postage? It comes to mind because I'm re-appreciating AZTEC these days, as I work on a Montana novel which evidently is going have a cast of characters only slightly fewer than Montana itself. How you kept everybody in the One World living, breathing, and distinct, is a salutary example.

All is well, though rain-soaked, here. SEA RUNNERS has 17,000 copies extant, which for me is good. But I'm already more in love with this next one, the Montana opus.

Best wishes.

Wuan Dorig

3 Jan. '83

Dear Judith Thurman--

As an admirer of Isak Dinesen's writing, I want to thank you for undertaking the biography of her. You've done a wonderful piece of work, in both writing and scholarship. The book is one I prize to the extent of asking this: would you be willing to sign my copy, if I send it and appropriate postage?

At a book party here in Seattle this fall, I met, and was impressed with, the St. Martin's sales director--Brenda Marsh, I think? I also can report from riding herd on my novel these past weeks here in the Puget Sound country that your book is on prominent display even in some small-town bookstores.

best wishes

13 Feb. '83

Dear Judith Thurman--

Many thanks for obliging. I've been pleased to see the good reviews this book has garnered. A rare case of literary virtue promptly rewarded.

all best wishes

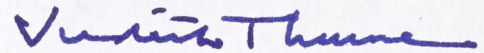
9.ii.83

Dear Ivan Doig,

Thank you for your gracious letter of appreciation for Isak Dinesen. Of course I will sign your copy. I would be delighted. I will also look for your novel.

If you send the book to my office, it won't get lost in the chaos at home. My address is: 1 Union Square West, #709, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Best wishes,



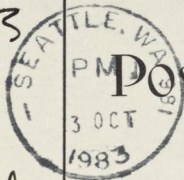
Judith Thurman

The Writer's Cottage at Dorland provides a peaceful setting.

DORLAND MOUNTAIN COLONY

A working retreat for creative people on site of the
Nature Conservancy's Dorland Preserve

14.x.83



Post Card



Dear Ivan:

Thank you for the kind
& generous cover letter /
Pinchart nomination -
it arrived, of course, the
morning after I 'phoned.
Now there's the damned
typing ... ah well. Let
me know if you can't face
your typing & need me. I hate it, but I do it. Best,
[Signature]

P.O. BOX 6, TEMECULA, CA 92390

Photo by Rev Steveson

Ivan Doig.
17021 10th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98177.



12.viii.83

JEAN COCTEAU besucht ARNO BREKER auf der großen Ausstellung „Arno Breker“ in der Orangerie in Paris 1942, bei deren Eröffnung auch die Freunde Charles Despiau u. Aristide Maillol anwesend waren.



Dear Ivan.

Thank you for initiating
the contact w/ John
Woodes/HBT. He was
an interesting man
& we shared a passion
for the art of transition
that led us astray from
business. I hear your MT book may develop into
a Faulkner group of spinoffs. I do look fwd
to reading. And, think of me for typing, if
you get wished. Keep at it. Best to Carol, Irene

Ivan Doig

17021 10th Ave NW

Seattle WA 98177

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Dear Ivan:

21. VI. 83

MADE BY
DEXTER PRESS
WEST NYACK, NEW YORK

Thanks for your update re:
HBJ/August. Saw Kittredge today.
S passed on greetings - he says we
should all get together when he's
up in Seattle. I wanted to
send you a photo of the
"lovely" Montana home I'm
buying.... But seriously, also
saw David Long in Kalispell,
S he said to tell you he
loved sky; Long's stories, by
thruway, Home Fires (U. Il. Press) are
marvelous. Hi to Carol.

WHETHER IT BE MINING, TRAPPING, or just plain getting away
from it all, this old cabin typifies the many similar structures built in the
West in the late 1800's and early 1900's. They are becoming increasingly
scarce as the effects of time go on. This cabin is located along the Middle-
fork Clearwater River in North Central Idaho, off Lewis & Clark Hwy. 12.

Pub. by Ross Hall Scenic, Route 1, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
53383-D

Best, Ivan



United States 13c

Mr. Ivan Daig

17021 10th Ave NW

Seattle WA 98177



Ivy Covered Log Cabin in Northern Idaho

Photo: Will Hawkins



W-268

SILVER CITY, IDAHO

Cattle roam the streets of ghost town. Silver City,
which once was a busy mining town of 10,000.

Color by Hart W. Emple

23.ii.83

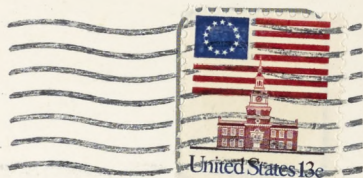
Dear Ivan:

Thanks for thinking of me for
the NEA/Pen newspaper fiction;
I had, in fact, already gone
ahead and sent a probably-too-
long story on the What The Hell
theory. I hope your Montana
book is going well.

Ivan



63712



Continental card

Ivan Doig

17021 - 10th Ave NW

Seattle WA 98177

Pub. by Wheeler Scenics, 303 So. Harding, Boise, Idaho 83705

Historic Silver City, Idaho





PUBLISHERS 597 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY 10017 TEL: (212) 486-2700

January 4, 1983

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan,

Somehow this got to Rantala, who opened it,
back to us, now to you. Sorry.

Best,

Thomas A. Stewart
Editor in Chief

TAS: agr

Doubleday

Office of the Vice-President

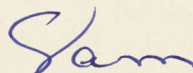
December 6, 1982

Dear Ivan:

Congratulations on THE SEA RUNNERS. The reviews, the book itself, the choice of the book as a Notable Book by the New York Times book review editors -- all attest to your achievement.

We're working on, or at least toward, a book by Ed Hillary, to be written in part with his son, Peter. I think I see a few problems with the manuscript. Would there be any interest on your part in coming in to work with it, if your schedule permits? I'm not sure exactly how we are going to resolve this and in fact we don't have a clear contract yet. But I did think I would ask you -- and besides it gives me a chance to congratulate you and to be in touch.

Best,



Samuel S. Vaughan
Editor-in-Chief

SSV:rw

Mr. Ivan Doig
c/o Atheneum Publishers
597 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017



Doubleday

Office of the Vice-President

May 25, 1983

Dear Ivan:

Your beautifully fanatic partisan, Liv Blumer, at Atheneum, gave me a copy of THE SEARUNNERS, which I had wanted, and I thanked her for it and congratulate you on it.

You should know how much she is doing for your name and reputation. And what you've done for yourself will be a splendid setting and setup you are now writing.

I wish there were a way to get you into the Hillarys' situation -- but it proceeds very slowly and I'll let you know if there is. You could be just what they and the book need. But nothing should get in the way of your doing your own work now. Or ever.

Best,

Sam (j)

SSV:rw

Samuel S. Vaughan
Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 10th Avenue, N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dictated 5/24/83



Doubleday & Company, Inc. 245 Park Avenue, New York 10167 Telephone 212 953 4697

17 June '83

Dear Sam--

Thanks for the kind words about SEA RUNNERS. The Penguin edition comes out in October, as does a HOUSE OF SKY photo book I had very little to do with--I think I may have stumbled onto something, the pleasure of having books appear without having to put in all those typewriter hours!

I'm glad to be kept apprised of the Hilary book, though indeed it is a question whether I'll ever see time for anything but my own work. This current Montana novel seems to be dragging a next one into my mind with it. Anyway, we'll see. Appreciate your interest. I'm off to Montana for the final fling of research and writing on this novel, but Liz Darhansoff will have my whereabouts. Hope you have a thriving summer.

best regards