

Dear Carol and Ivan:

Your letter just arrived, but unfortunately you don't say anything about the current opus. Well, that's all right, I'll just break precedent and give you a call one of these days. By the way if you should get a call from Evan Smith, he is a former associate at SIU-Carbondale and a long-time friend. He has moved back to the Seattle area, and his wife works on the Times. He is suffering from multiple sclerosis, which is really tough, considering that he has two young children. But he keeps his spirits up pretty well even though he has been unable to find work. He has taught at Kent State and Ohio Wesleyan and we were sorry to see them move so far away from us.

We had a right interesting trip to Russia, seeing the empire perhaps for the last time. Six weeks after we left everything came unglued, and it is difficult keeping up with things at the pace they are moving. George Bush has an even harder time of it apparently. It is really mind-boggling to think of the USSR collapsing. I thought it would not do so at any time that I was sentient enough to wonder about it. Well, all good things come to an end, and some bad things, too. Communism has had less than a rousing success. We met a young man named Yuri whose English was just excellent, mostly self-taught. Ten years ago I might have thought him an agent of KGB. However, what do they have to spy on now, and why would they select someone who is innocent of any national security or industrial secrets. All I know is how to work for a newspaper whose management is determined to run it into the ground. I can't think any Russians would be interested in that. Anyway, Yuri introduced us to his father, and we introduced them to Coca-Cola. Rum thing to do, eh?

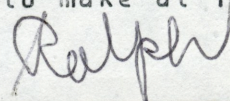
I hope I wrote to you that I thoroughly enjoyed the last Doig book. But I don't for a fact know what you are doing now.

Maybe I should write a trilogy of pioneer life in Minnesota. Garrison Keillor showed that you can do it in fictional form and make piles of money doing it. Here I always thought or was thinking in terms of a factual historical novel. He does invoke the small-town spirit of the Middle West sometimes. I have often thought the depopulation of rural America would be the subject of a great novel, and you handled that subject quite well in the Mariah, Montana opus. But where is the voice of the Middle West?

This is getting maudlin. We enjoyed our trip to Scandinavia, too. My Swedish seems not to have left me, although I often have to reach for a word by asking one of the younger people, most of whom seem too shy to speak English. But Europeans generally have an amazing command of English compared with what they had a few decades ago. We also ran into few Americans or English-speaking tourists in Finland. Not that I missed them, necessarily; it just seemed odd there weren't any there. The cost, perhaps, or some residual fear of terrorism. The biggest terror I saw were the slot machines that kids were feeding quarter-type coins into. We took the ferry several times, and the duty-free stores were perpetually jammed. Prosperity is certainly evident in that small corner of the world, but I believe they are going through what might be called hard times at present. Beer cost \$4 a glass in Finland; after one drink, I became a teetotaler for the rest of the trip. Coffee cost only a dollar or two.

Well here's to you in 92. Mx Maybe we can get together if George Bush doesn't put us all in the poor house. Our thought is to make at least one more tourist visit to Japan.

Cheers,



MERRY CHRISTMAS

December, 1991

Last August we passed the 30-year mark in wedding anniversaries. Both of us are still trying to make ourselves believe that we have actually been married that long. Zora and Dennis celebrated their second anniversary on the same date.

Last summer we returned to the Scandinavian countries for the first time in 29 years. Actually we spent most of our time in Sweden and Finland, nipping over to Narvik, Norway, for a day and skipping Denmark entirely. Ralph had a chance to visit some of his Finnish relatives, we watched the midnight sun, attended an opera in the courtyard of Savonlinna Castle, and did the dozens of other things that are on a tourist's agenda. The locals had no end of fun watching the two of us trying to figure out self-service gas pumps that had instructions only in Finnish. But it was a very enjoyable auto trip.

Sweden and Finland were our return to reality after an almost surrealistic visit to the Soviet Union. Remember that country? It disappeared shortly after we left it. Never had we felt so rich as we did in Russia. Rubles that were the equivalent of a few cents (U.S.) gave us admission to any place of interest, a full meal (when we could find anything to eat) cost sometimes as much as a dollar, taxis (if your heart could stand the ride) were cheaper than bus fare in the U.S., but the poverty and the empty stories, except for those dealing in foreign currency only, were depressing and somewhat frightening. We had no sense of impending change, and we found that Russians, especially younger ones, were eager to talk to foreigners; however, they seemed mostly interested in talking about emigrating. The whole Russian attitude seemed to be summed up in four words. //It can't be done.// As one Englishman we met said, //The Russians are never going to solve their problems until they learn to stop saying no.// He hit the nail right on the head.

The rest of the year has been pretty ordinary for us, filled with the usual things like everybody else's. We work, play, study Japanese a little, welcome any visitors who want to spend some time with us, enjoy our kids, and grow older. We look forward to Christmas in Brighton with Kathryn's mother.

As for Zora and Dennis, they are busy with their work. Dennis is starting work with a new firm in January and is excited about that. Zora now is into her second year with her firm. She is no longer on the very bottom rung of the ladder because this year's associates have taken that place. We are glad they are close enough to see often, though with their busy schedules and ours, it isn't too often.

Eric is still going to school and working full time. He has increased his class load to full time also, but seems to be handling it. His soft heart led him to adopt a dog that otherwise would have gone to the pound, so he has a new responsibility. He is so busy that we usually get a glimpse of him on the weekend, and that is about it.

We wish all of you a very happy new year.

Kathryn

Ralph

4 Oct. '91

Dear Anne Matthews--

Got a great kick out of your phone message. You sound as if this is finally getting to be fun, huh?

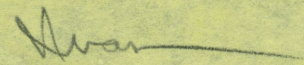
A few more words for your book:

"With daring grace, Anne Matthews leaps into a vitally American contest of ideas: what is to become of the prairie heart of America? Not merely superbly written, Where the Buffalo Roam in its look at places and people and their passions about the land manages to be both nimble and robust--a Coming Into the Country with gale force."

--Ivan Doig, author of

Ride with Me, Mariah Montana

All best wishes to you and your nifty book.



p.s. I hope it was an isolated incident, error, somebody having a bad day or whatever, but I do think I'd better tell you that I was pretty damn sure my phone message to you was not going to be passed along (hence my postcard to you). Puzzles me, because I thought I was just standardly asking if you were there, could I leave a message, etc., but plainly the person on the other end didn't seem to want to be bothered with it all. I figured you'd better be aware of this, because if your book gets the success it's showing signs of, you're going to be getting a lot of phone calls from the media, and a secretary-in-a-snit can complicate that pretty badly. Anyway, you'll know the circumstances better than I can possibly guess, but I wanted you to know one caller's experience. Speaking of which, if the publisher sends you on tour as far as Seattle, give Carol and me a call if you have time.

Princeton University

Department of English
McCosh 22
Princeton, New Jersey 08544
Telephone 609-452-4060

258-

September 1, 1991

Dear Mr. Doig,

We've never met, but I enjoyed your reading at the 1989 Western Literature meeting in Coeur d'Alene. Would you consider doing a comment on the enclosed manuscript? I'd be pleased (and honored) if you could, and so would Frank and Deborah Popper, who took Mariah Montana along on their most recent foray onto the Plains last month, and read it out loud to each other for hours on the interstate. Deborah Popper called me from Sybille, Wyoming, very excited. "It's the first Buffalo Commons novel!" she announced.

Regards, and thanks,

Anne Matthews

Anne Matthews

27 Sept. '91

Dear Anne Matthews--

Just in case my phone message of the 25th somehow did not get relayed to you, I like your book a lot and am willing to give it a blurb if still needed. Please give me a call at (206) 542-6658.

regards,

20 First Place
Brooklyn, NY 11231
718-858-0924

November 10, 1990

Dear Ivan Doig,

Remember me? The person with the peculiar titles? Let the Bastards Freeze in the Dark, and then the great title for the book I never wrote, Going to Heaven in a Flash of Fire?

I sent you the first chapter of my Eastern Oregon novel called Dreams Like Thunder about five years ago, I think, and you were nice enough to read it and say you didn't like it much because you didn't see "that big Oregon country."

You also suggested I try Breitenbush, who didn't actually publish the book but somebody there who liked it sent me to Storyline who is bringing it out in March.

Why am I sending you a book you didn't like to see if you want to write a blurb?

Well, based on my reading of your work, I still think you ought to like it; if you have any patience for this, look around page 97 where Uncle Edmund starts to talk. To me this isn't so much about the big country -- I never was out riding after sheep -- but about talk and story and how people tried to fix up the myth of the West.

Also, I just taught This House of Sky in a class on autobiography at Hunter, and my urbane students, who didn't much like all the "scenery" at the beginning but started to like it a lot when the grandmother and the father got going. The consensus was that I should try you again with my own grandmother-ridden story.

Blurb deadline is December 1, if you feel like it. I enclose an addressed envelope just in case. Thanks in any event.

Best wishes and I hope all is going well with you.

Sincerely,

Diane Simmons

5 Dec. '91

Dear Diane--

I'm just back from a month on the bookstore road and getting into the accumulated mail. Sorry to say, I need considerable lead time any more to look at anything for blurbing--stuff comes in almost daily--and even sorrier to say, I'm declaring one of my periodic moratoriums on doing blurbs anyway, in order to write my own stuff. Congrats, though I guess that's probably not sufficient, on persevering the manuscript into print.

Appreciated your House of Sky report. Nice to think of it at Hunter. It's still selling about 15,000 a year, and is coming back in hardback next year.

How come (rhetorical) you didn't take me up on my offer to wedge the manuscript to a Doubleday editor?

regards from Seattle, where it's raining

August 5, 1986
20 First Place
Brooklyn, NY 11231
718-858-0924

Dear Ivan Doig,

You probably don't remember me and it's just as well because the time we met I'd just left a long marriage and it was taking a lot of gin to get me through some two-day book signing thing. It was at the Rainier Tower in Seattle, October 1980. I was there for a book about Alaska called Let the Bastards Freeze in the Dark. I can't remember who gave the party. I can't remember alot about that period. But I do remember talking to you at lunch, telling you I was writing another book called Going to Heaven in a Flash of Fire, and you saying it was a good title but I shouldn't blab it around so much.

I haven't written that book yet. But I have written another one called Dreams Like Thunder, a novel set on a farm in Eastern Oregon in 1959, probably ~~influenced~~ influenced by This House of Sky which I really did love. So since you are somewhat responsible I thought I would send you a little piece of it, and see if you have any thoughts about who might be interested in it. They are real different books, don't worry. You aren't that responsible. I think I just saw with your book how these seemingly barren little worlds we both grew up in can come alive. And how you can love it and suffer from it so much at the same time. Mine tries to get at the myths everybody out there lives by, which probably weren't ever true in the first place and which you certainly can't go by any more. But what are you without them?

The short story this grew from was published in "Northwest Review." I have a good agent and the backing of Grace Paley, who I know from teaching at City College, and together they have gotten me a very classy rejection from Farrar Straus Giroux for starters. So I'm not without support here in the city, and if you don't have any thoughts, don't worry at all.

I hope all is going well for you and I appreciate your not stealing my title yet. If you ever come to New York you might look me up. I only drink beer any more.

Best wishes,

Diane Simmons

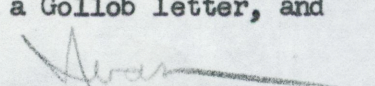
22 Aug. '86

Dear Diane--

Around here, you are gone but not forgotten. Just a week or so before your letter came, a houseguest was browsing our bookcase of signed books, spotted LET THE BASTARDS FREEZE... and wanted to know, "What in hell is that about?"

You've still got a terrific knack for titles, and now my avuncular advice is not to blab around either DREAMS LIKE THUNDER or you-know-what. I very much like what you're setting out to do, looking at rural folk without looking down on them. As to the manuscript sample, I pretty much liked it too, but I ended up having to work a little bit to like it as much as I wanted to--and I guess that margin, of having to work toward liking it, is maybe the one where editors decide. I think I found the sample kind of "short-storyish"--that is, without the texture and breathing space of a novel. I wanted to know what that big eastern Oregon looked country like, what the people look like, even what the weather was like. I recognize how much you're trying to do with voice and stance, telling the story from Alberta's point of view; but there was a problem there too, because at the start of the story I figured she must be a grown daughter and was surprised to find out how young she is. Anyway, for what it's worth--free advice is worth its price--I simply wanted a richer picture of the characters and surroundings. The dialogue seems fine; you've got a wicked ear.

As to publication, I don't really have many chits to call in in New York, and one possibility that did spring to mind--Herman Gollob at Gollob Doubleday--was almost instantly followed by the NY Times' dissection of Doubleday's corporate problems. Even on second thought, though, Gollob might not be a bad try: he's a sort-of Westerner (Texas, I think), has large credentials (Atheneum, Literary Guild, Simon & Schuster), and it's not always a bad idea to try a publisher who's supposedly having troubles; Harcourt was in upheaval after upheaval during my two books with them, it never bothered the books any, and within a couple years they were publishing Alice Walker. I don't know Gollob except through correspondence, but I wouldn't mind providing you a cover letter, now or later, if you'd like to approach him with DREAMS. The other possibility that comes to mind is really perverse: you could send the ms to Oregon. A small Portland publisher called, I think, Breitenbush has been successful with an Oregon memoir titled A HEAVEN IN THE EYE--I wasn't as susceptible to the book's charms as almost everybody else, but I believe they got a paperback contract for it and won a Western States Publishing Award, which includes \$\$ for both the publisher and writer. You could probably find out more about Breitenbush via PUBLISHERS WEEKLY and its index. Just a thought. Let me know if you want a Gollob letter, and in all events, best of luck.



New nonfiction from the author of
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

Dee Brown

Wondrous Times On the Frontier



Life in America during the 1800s – depicted as only Dee Brown can

11.8

Tom Miller

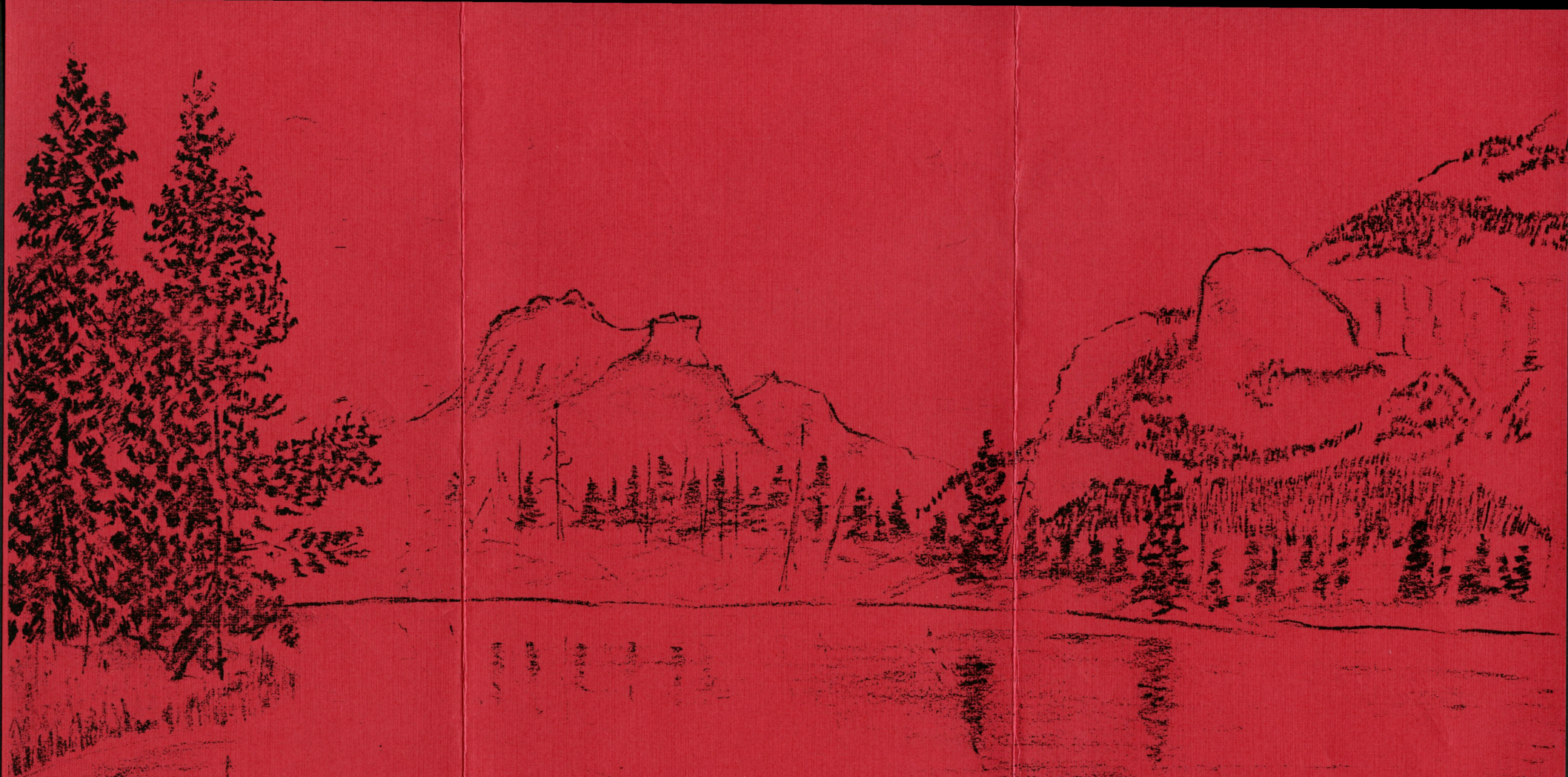
Dear Ivan,

Whidbey time was
very productive. Sent
lot of ms. to LG. good
report back, tentatively
Fall '92, working the
Trading With the Enemy.

if I set it all in by end of
year. I'm told I had the best
4 weather weeks of the year on
Whidbey. but still - a return would be
just the ticket. Hope all well
w/ y'azge guys. Back to ms.
- Tom.



Ivan Boig
17021 10th
are NW
Seattle WA
98177



From Hudson Falls
Ranch,

and Wyoming's high
country,

Merry Christmas!

Bridger Lake, 1991 P.S.

[Press Stephens, January 2, 1992]

Happy New Year to you

and yours,
Joan.

I'm still here selling healthy beef and lamb, and
taking pack-trails into spectacular country. I hope
you'll call if you're ever in Wyoming..

Yours,
Press

Adrienne Cook

Contributing Writer
Washington Home

The Washington Post

1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

(703) 347-1960

PILGRIM'S REST
RD1 Box 90
Broad Run, Va. 22014

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

December 17, 1991

Dear Mr. Doig,

Again, my sincerest apologies for my outrageous rudeness. Around Christmas time -- and usually only then -- I turn into a crazed maniac. I just wasn't thinking about you. I am so sorry. I hope you will also forgive Tom Miller for passing along your address to me!

Anyway, enclosed are the books. Also enclosed is a FedEx mailing set-up to get them back.

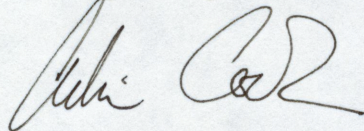
One book is to my husband, Joel Garreau, (author of a book called "The Nine Nations of North America" 10 years ago and the just-published "Edge City") who is a reporter for The Washington Post and a great fan of yours.

The other is for our friend John Loberg, who is not a reader and, when he read "This House of Sky," wept for the first time reading a book. Since then he has devoured with profound passion everything you wrote. I know he will enjoy "Mariah Montana" as much.

Incidentally, I have a goat named Mariah who is the champion Alpine dairy goat in Virginia.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

In deepest gratitude.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Cook Garreau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrienne Cook Garreau
(703) 347-1960

18 Dec. '91

Dear Adrienne--

Aha! I should have known I was talking to a Post reporter when you came down the phone line taking no prisoners the other day!

All is more than forgiven, in fact a share of the apologies go from me to you. After an autumn of bookstore appearances and a grueling week of reading somebody else's stuff for an audio cassette (Norman Maclean's A River Runs through It), I had just reached a coveted day off when you called, and I have had to fend off a few collectors who apparently would have me sign-by-mail endlessly. Anyway, I'm glad you persevered, as I've admired Joel's work greatly, not to mention the Post's, and this gives me a chance to pass along the enclosed as a small thanks to your household for thinking seriously about the landface of America.

best wishes, and happy holidays

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

26 Nov. '91

Dear Noah and Neenah--

I flew out of Minneapolis/St. Paul on Saturday in 19 degree weather, with the wind blowing, snow whooshing past, icicles forming on the terminal windows--now I understand why you two scooted back to Washington.

Weather aside(?), I had a great time in the Twin Cities. Standing room only crowd at The Hungry Mind, and dinner with Gail and Hank See. Gail is as regal as ever. I did hear that the person who bought her bookstore does things differently, and most of the staff had left. Noah, you had wanted to know what the deal was with a Borders store now at the location of Odegard's. The scuttlebutt I got was that Dan Odegard got blindsided by competition--a Barnes and Noble superstore, and I think maybe another discount bookstore or two--in the suburban (Edina?) area where he built that glitzy new store, and when the economics got too tough, he sold off the Hennepin Ave. store. I asked a couple of people in the book biz there, What'd he do, sell off the mother ship and keep the motor launch? and they said yeah, looks like it.

Elliott Bay tonight, Thanksgiving and 18 guests in only 48 hours; I'd better get busy at something. Great to see you two at The Tabard Inn; Carol was disbelieving and envious that we'd had breakfast outside--you could only do that here if you were a goldfish. Do think about a little time off for yourselves if you come conventioning in Seattle next May. We could loan you a car if you want to get off by yourselves; or there are good short hikes we could take in a half-day, then ply you with seafood and Starbucks coffee. Whatever.

all best,

Joan

p.s. Oh yeah, meant to nominate a possible editor for your Great Plains-type Appalachia book: Dan Frank at Pantheon. He was at Viking until about 9 months ago, and published Gretel Ehrlich and discovered books such as Marc Reisner's CADILLAC DESERT and Mary Clearman Blew's ALL BUT THE WALTZ--good feel for stuff connected to the land, in short. I don't know Dan personally, and he's only ever handled paperbacks of mine, which is pretty much automatic pilot, but writers speak well of him, and he's a demon at pushing for blurbs and other support for his books.

GAIL SEE

Literary Ventures

1389 Orono Lane

Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

(612) 473-6887

26 Nov. '91

Dear Gail and Hank--

It was great to see you the other night. Thanks a jillion for inviting me to supper at The Whitney, and for including Isabel (who I think is a terrific professional at her job; easily the best of anybody I've encountered on my booktouring) in the group. And you know I got kick out of hearing your publishing house plans. Go, go, go.

You wanted Noah and Neenah's address, right?

Noah Adams & Neenah Ellis
5809 Surrey St.
Chevy Chase MD 20815

Noah's NPR address: 2025 M St., N.W., Washington DC 20036.

***Carol had graded papers madly while I was away, and so now sees the light at the end of the autumn-quarter tunnel. On the other hand, we always host a Thanksgiving gathering and this year 18 or so people are coming, so we are about to plunge into housecleaning. Happy holidays to you two.

all best,

***Who said, verbatim, when I came home and said guess what Gail See wants to do now: "Well, she either wants to write a book or start a publishing house."

Miller

3 Nov. '91

Dear Tom--

^

Carol and I are lately back from a trip to Montana and just now catching up(?) with life. Sorry the schedules wouldn't coincide while you were on Whidbey; on the bright side, we hope that gave you that much more time to yourself to enjoy the place. If you get back here again, Whidbeying or book-touring, let's give another try. All best until then, and I hope the Cubans is absolutely dancing for you.

9 October 91

Dear Mr. Doig,

I wanted to send you a signed copy of my book. Thanks again for reading the bound galleys so quickly and giving us such a perceptive comment. Your name and appraisal will be a tremendous help. I'm really sorry Soho botched the title of your latest book (which I own and enjoyed); unfortunately they didn't show me proofs of the jacket.

I'm off tonight on the train to Chicago, the first stop on an eight-city tour in the Midwest. It should be interesting. I look forward to the readings and signings (I see that you'll be at the Hungry Mind in November), less so to the TV stuff. Shadow Catcher seems to be moving; "Crossroads" on NPR did a very nice synopsis, and newspaper reviews are trickling in.

I hope you are well. I'd like to meet you someday. Until then,

My best regards,

Charlie Feyn

510-849-0673
office




Dear Evan — Yours

524-3307 → HOME.

I see by my calendar
of events you will be in
Berkeley Nov 12 or
thereabouts. I would
like to invite you
to visit my studio
and have lunch @
me if you have that
time / I also would
enjoy having
you (both) over for
Dinner if that is best!!

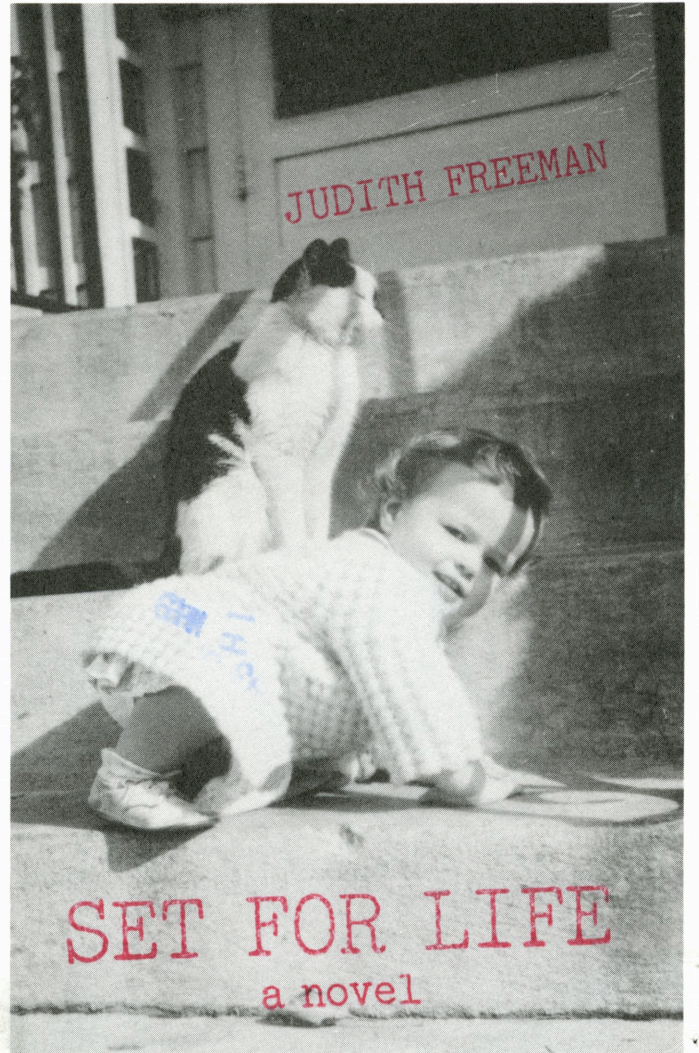
you have time...
call me

PETER KOCH
2203 4th ST.
Berkeley CA
94710



USA 19

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



JUDITH FREEMAN

SET FOR LIFE
a novel

SET FOR LIFE

a novel



Reading +
Book Signing

Elliott Bay
Seattle

October 25th

7:30 p.m.

Fran + Carol Boig
17021 10th N.W.
Seattle, Wash.
98177



15 Oct. '91

Dear Judith--

About the same time you'll be reading at Elliott Bay, I'll be orating in Bozeman at the inauguration of a friend as prez of Montana State U. Sorry as hell to miss you again; do keep trying, give a call when you're up here whether you're reading or not. Coincidentally I did see SET FOR LIFE nicely displayed today in the big University Book Store. In November I start my own touring for the p'back of MARTIAN MONTANA, but nothing in LA area; close friends recently have moved there, though, increasing the chance that Carol and I will come in your direction before the year 2000.

all best wishes

4 Oct. '91

Dear Gretel--

About the time you're knocking their socks off at the Elliott Bay bookstore, Carol and I will be alanding at the Bozeman airport. Maybe we'll crisscross somewhere else on the bookstore trail this fall. Anyway, wish we could say it in person, but Happy New Book!

Montana Historical Society

225 No. Roberts Street • Helena • Montana 59620 (406) 444-2694

Sept 19, 1991

Dear Ivan,

Thanks for the quick and even-tempered reply. Wanted to send you a note that didn't ask you for anything. I know, from Dad's experience, how a writer has to scarp and fight to preserve his writing time — how the general citizenry assume that the lack of work hours set by some authority means the writer ought to be free to chat with them at any time — and I'm sure it goes worse with the proliferation of cultural "projects" funded by grants. I've long thought you've been remarkably generous, and doubtless at cost to your own writing, with talks to various groups. Glad to see you have a sense for self-preservation as well —

Best,

BSh Claib

MONTANA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Montana State Library
1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3115

Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Ave. N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98177

September 11, 1991

Dear Ivan,

I'm responding to yours of August 24 to Dave Walter in part to say "Thank you," as Society Librarian, for sending the compilation of your articles. These will save some inquirer a lot of work, and will arm us for any rush that the forthcoming bibliography may produce. In part writing also to satisfy your curiosity as to how we're going to handle those articles.

As I gather you suspected, these present something of a conundrum for bibliographical control. Because they are published, they would not be proper in the archives unless they were just adjunct to a collection of your personal papers. They are too bulky, and, of course, too distinguished to be given our 'bum's rush,' the lowest and quickest order of treatment, assignment to our world-famous Vertical Files. The cataloger and the staff member who processes cataloged items would hold a grudge against me, and you, perhaps forever, if I asked them to treat each article as a separate 'title,' with its own cataloging, call number, etc. We might also have to buy another card catalog to hold the result, and we have no money and have the prospect, thanks to the Governor, of having 8% less. My solution is to return to a good, old-fashioned method which is very sensible and handy though professionally improper in these sophisticated days, a method the fruits of which can still be seen in many places in our stacks, that of taking any number of somehow related, usually fragile and short items, putting them all into a file box, giving the box a 'title,' and then, as it were, cataloging the box into the collection. Then, each item inside will get the call number of the box plus its own identifying, sequential number, as is done with bound volumes of serials, or reels of microfilm, so that it will be possible to tell, in years to come, if one is missing. Of course, we won't know what that one was, and any researcher will have to go through the box to discover if any particular article is amongst those included. But perhaps with time, and if the bibliography you mentioned does include a comprehensive list of your articles, an annotated copy of that will serve as an itemized inventory of what is, or should be, in the Doig Box, as it will ineluctably come to be called.

You perhaps did not want to know this in quite so much detail, but there it is.

The final "in part" of why I'm responding to a letter not written to me, an ulterior motive subtly foreshadowed by the very stationery chosen, and not to be taken as any sort of revenge for presenting us with a bibliographical nightmare (we really are happy to have the articles), is to approach you, in my role not as Society Librarian but as member of the Publications subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Montana Center for the Book, to sound you out on the possibility of contributing an essay to a possible book of essays on Montana literary matters that the Center for the Book will possibly publish if it can possibly find the funds to do so. Rick Newby, as Pres of MCftB, is more or less ~~the~~

MONTANA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Montana State Library
1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3115

2

the Managing Editor of this possible tome, and I've enclosed a photocopy of the possible and tentative table of contents that will give you an idea what we're about. You can even see the little annotation done right at the moment in the meeting of the subcommittee at which I sought to replace my possible essay with a more attractive essay possibly by you. This suggestion met with enthusiasm, and then, in the time-honored way of committees, with the assignment to ask you.

My thought was not that you would want to, or have the time to do the sort of survey of historical fiction loosely and whimsically assigned to me by the Managing Editor. Rather that, as you are now the foremost practitioner of the Montana-related "historical" novel, I thought (or hoped) that you might be bemused at the chance to ruminate on the use of history in fiction (and even, possibly, that kin, the use of fictional techniques in presenting, dramatizing, non-fictional material). With your own experiences and works as the examples. This could result in an essay that would then become as indispensable to the student of either Montana literature or the historical novel as A.B. Guthrie's venture in that line. And the hope, of course, is that, if it be something you might be both interested in and able to do relatively quickly, you might then be willing to do it.

That any pay would be modest will probably be no surprise. That any pay is contemplated might be. Our book's budget calls for \$250 for each contributor. This is guaranteed in the sense that no author need to (nor should) start writing his piece until he sees the green of our money. Or at least is assured we have secured the necessary funding. At present, we have a fairly firm lock on \$2500 (from the parent Center at the Library of Congress) of a \$10,000 that Rick estimates we will need to see this through.

If you can see your way to pledge your troth to this, we would be very pleased. If you cannot now divert the time nor energy, we will understand. If you have any thoughts and suggestions about the enterprise in general, we'd be glad to have them.

And even if you have to say "No," the Library will cherish the Doig Box.

My hello and best wishes to Carol, and to yourself,

Ever,
Bob

Bob Clark

16 Sept. '91

Dear Bob--

Wanted to give you a quick reply on yr Center for the Book query (Montana sure as hell is the center for the book) before the autumn schedule piles up on me. Yah, it'd be bemusing to do a piece on history and the novel. But bemusement is no longer enough, I guess. I must have got essaylike impulses out of my system in those couple of hundred magazine pieces I sent you (by the way, I approve of being boxed up as you described; kind of cozy) and, really, I need to finish up my next book and get on to the couple beyond it. Regrets, one more time, to Rick and thee; but I look forward to the Clarkian treatise on history and the you-know-what. See you, and regards all around.

best,

Alan

MONTANA CENTER FOR THE BOOK
ESSAYS ON MONTANA LITERATURE

Table of contents

- 1) "The Genesis of MONTANA MARGINS," a history of the Montana anthology compiled by Joseph Kinsey Howard (1946) to reflect the state's literary activity in its first half century--Richard Roeder, co-author, MONTANA: A HISTORY OF TWO CENTURIES, and member of the editorial board, THE LAST BEST PLACE: A MONTANA ANTHOLOGY
- 2) "Montana Small Magazines and Cultural Reviews," a discussion ranging from FRONTIER AND MIDLAND, the influential regional literary journal edited by H. G. Merriam at the University of Montana early in the twentieth century, to today's lively scene--author to be determined
- 3) "Range Rhymes & Bunkhouse Ballads: Cowboy Poetry in Montana"--Michael Korn, former Folklife Director, Montana Arts Council ~~uncertain~~
- ask
10/24/2012
← 4) "Montana and the Historical Novel," an analysis of how Montana has been represented in fiction that purports to be historically accurate, by both Montana and non-Montana authors--Bob Clark, Director, Montana Historical Society Library
- 5) "Big Sky Bodice Busters: Genre Fiction in Montana," a discussion of the growing number and influence of those who write westerns, romances, detective novels, etc. in the Montana literary scene--Richard Wheeler, author of INCIDENT AT FORT KEOGH and many other westerns
- 6) "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Woman in Montana," a bitingly witty commentary on the role of women fiction writers in Montana's male-dominated writing scene--Mary Clearman Blew, author of RUNAWAY and member of the editorial board, THE LAST BEST PLACE
- 7) "Second-hand Culture: The Role of Isolation in Montana Literature," a discussion of the effects of Montana's distance from cultural centers on the work of the state's writers, positive and negative--Deborah Schlesinger, Chief Librarian, Lewis and Clark County Library, Helena

- 8) "The New Town Crier: The Native American Newspaper Columnist as Culture Bearer," a consideration, from a multicultural perspective, of the vital cultural role played by Montana native newspaper columnists like John Tatsey (Blackfeet) and Donald Hollowbreast (Northern Cheyenne)--Nicholas Vrooman, Folklife Director, Montana Arts Council

- 9) "All Lessons Are Fatal: Contemporary Montana Poetry, 1962-1991," a response to the contemporary poetry section of THE LAST BEST PLACE: A MONTANA ANTHOLOGY (1988), with special emphasis on those poets--anti-modernist and post-modernist--excluded from the anthology because their work did not meet the editors' criteria for "compelling artistic merit"--Rick Newby, poet and Director of SkyHouse Publishers, an imprint of Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc., Helena

- 10) "THE LAST BEST PLACE: A Consideration"--possibly Lynda Sexson, author of MARGARET OF THE IMPERFECTIONS and professor of religious studies, Montana State University, Bozeman] probably no

- 11) "Collecting Montana's Literary Heritage"--John Womack, ~~author of~~ collector of Montanaiana] ~~author of~~

- 12) "A Western Childhood: Children's Literature in Montana"--author to be determined *Marina*

- 13) "Scratching Our Hundred Year Itch: A Look at Ourselves and Our Literary Carpetbaggers," a discussion of the tensions between nativist writers and more recent arrivals and of the larger world's perception of Montana as a writer's mecca--Patrick Dawson, author of MR. RODEO: THE BIG BRONC YEARS OF LEO CRAMER and a contributor to MONTANA SPACES.

- 14) "Montana Sublime: Last Vestiges of the Authentic under the Big Sky," a consideration of the question, "What makes life in Montana unique in the face of technological and spectacular mass culture?" as discussed in the writings of Montana philosophers Albert Borgmann, Henry Bugbee, and Dan Kemmis--Bill Borneman, poet, musician, philosopher, proprietor of O.K. Books, Helena, and formerly publisher of the Montana literary journal, MULTIPLES.

- 15) "Notes of a Montana Expatriate," an articulation of why so many Montana writers, especially women, depart for other regions and yet retain strong ties to Montana--Melissa Kwasny, resident of San Francisco and author of the novel, MODERN DAUGHTERS AND THE OUTLAW WEST, set in a mythical Montana town.

109 N. 81st St.,
Belleville, Ill.,
June 1, 1991

Dear Ivan:

Just a short letter to let you know how I appreciate the gift of "English Creek" and the autograph. You should know that the intrepid Ben Baldwin made it this far, spent the night with us, then traveled on to Chicago with Jeanne. Haven't heard from them since.

I don't know if Ben told you the trouble I experienced reading your book and writing the review. I've reached a time in life (82 years) in which I have trouble concentrating. The condition occurred most of 1990 and continues to plague me. I wrestled with one book, got it read and gave up on the review. I determined to succeed with yours although I was quite a few months late. Thank goodness, I have an understanding book editor. He's getting long in the tooth, too.

That idea of it being a book that reads better a second (or third) time came to me because I reread the first 40 pages, caught some things I had missed the first time and found everything clearer and more to the point.

Right now I am reading Douglas Jones's latest, "The Search for Temperance Moon." I have met Jones, who lives at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and find him an interesting man. ("I get my exercise walking to the mailbox"). I've reviewed all his novels, beginning with "The Court Martial of George Armstrong Custer," and have seen him develop from a writer who didn't quite bury his research to a beautifully descriptive novelist with strong story lines. He has done for northwestern Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma what you have done for Montana.

My wife, Rose, who observed her 83rd birthday yesterday, thought "Ride With Me, Mariah Montana," the best of the trilogy. Maybe it was because I told her to read it slowly and carefully. She usually zips through the books.

Thanks again for the book and hope the review sold some copies for you in the St. Louis area.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Baldwin

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF COLORADO

P.O. BOX 849 NIWOT, CO. 80544
(303) 530 - 5337

July 26, 1991

29 July '91

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

Dear Pete--

I'm currently swamped with blurb requests, and frankly I'm rationing what time I can find for them to younger writers who need some breakthrough help, as Edward Hoagland and Stegner once did for me. Regrets, but I hope you understand.

Dear Mr. Doig:

all best wishes

In September our press will be publishing *A Society to Match the Scenery: Personal Visions of the Future of the American West*. This work, the first publication to come out of the new Center of the American West at the University of Colorado-Boulder, assembles some of the region's most creative and thoughtful voices to share their ideas and hopes for the future of the American West. Contributors include Wallace Stegner, William Kittredge, Bruce Babbitt, and Patricia Nelson Limerick, among others. Far from being a typical dry conference volume, this collection is a very provoking and entertaining look at the critical issues the West faces.

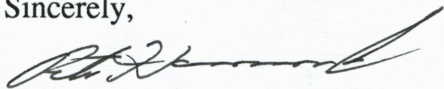
I realize you're very busy but I thought I would write to see if you would consider taking a look at an advance copy of the book and, if you enjoy it, provide a short endorsement.

I've enclosed a description of the book and can send an advance copy should you be willing to take a look at it. It's a quick read and a brief blurb, which I could take over the phone to save time, would be sufficient.

Also, I noted in an interview you gave that appeared in the recent **Bloomsbury Review** you mentioned the situation regarding the lack of employment benefits for agricultural workers. As an historian, I suspect you might enjoy a book we recently published by Boulder author Franklin Folsom, **Impatient Armies of the Poor**. The book is very much a "grass roots" history of the unemployed and their fight for benefits and has been very well received by social and labor historians. I've enclosed some information on it and would not be above trading a copy of it for the requested endoresement.

Thanks for considering my request and I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Pete Hammond
Marketing Manager

Enclosure

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Chronicle

BOISE OFFICE

June 18, 1991

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

Dear Ivan,

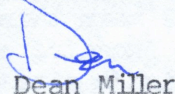
Here is a belated copy of the story for which I interviewed you (by mail) late last fall. I've had a move, a session of the Idaho Legislature and a thousand other excuses since then.

In any event, you can see we got great play and I hope Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane sold out of your books for the holidays. They were certainly selling well at your reading last fall. It was a thrill for my wife and I to attend and to speak with you. The Sandpoint crowd was grateful for your autographs on our sackfull of books.

Now, we've moved (I'm in a one-man bureau in Boise for the Spokesman-Review) and are learning Oregon Trail lore. What do you hear about Sue Armitage's Canadian and American Studies Summer Institute at Washington State University? I'm thinking of applying for next summer.

Also, I've hatched the story for my first novel and am gathering ideas and reasearch. Is there a book somewhere I can read that teaches one about plotting, or is that something that one must thrash out on one's own?

Best Wishes,


Dean Miller

30 June '91

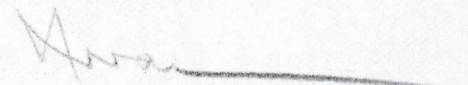
Dear Dean--

Thanks for passing along the piece on Western reading lists. A nice and valuable job you did there; my wife will find it useful for the Literature of the American West course she teaches.

Your question on plotting: there well may be a decent book about writing that'll tell you something about how to plot, but I'm simply not up on the textbooks of writing, having chosen to read writing rather than teach it. (The few books I ever look back at for reminders have to do with the care and handling of the language: Dick Hugo's *The Triggering Town*, *On Writing Well* by Wm. Zinsser and, confusingly, *Writing Well* by Donald Hall.) I guess I'd suggest taking apart in your mind some books that you like and that really move along--Ed McBain's *84th Precinct* detective novels maybe?--and try to apply the reminder of making something happen every so often. The main thing I'd tell you, though, is not to fret too much about plot--concentrate on the language and flow--and be aware of the usual journalist's pitfall in turning to fiction: you now have to love (or hate or whatever) your characters instead of being professionally dispassionate about them. Some years ago Nicholas Von Hoffman and Michael Arlen, brilliant journalists both, both came out with novels which were just icy dead; neither of them really liked the characters they were creating.

Well, enough horseback advice. Good luck with it, ~~there's~~ the main thing is to get the stuff down on paper and tinker with it from there. I hope Boise is treating you well.

regards

A handwritten signature, possibly "H. A. ...", written in dark ink.

6-13-91

Dear Mr. Big,

My name is Sue Shan.

We've never met, but my home is a short walk from yours + we share a mutual affection for the surrounding territory.

I tell everyone you inspired the title for my latest series of drawings + paintings - "the Canyon Series."

In Chintha Brothers you referred to "this small valley which holds my home." When I was raised in Eastern Washington, we probably would have referred to "this small valley" as a "gully." "The Gully Series" doesn't have much of a ring to it. I figured if you, with all your literary awards, could call my little view a "valley," I could call it a "Canyon" - hence, "the Canyon Series." Thanks!

I hope it's possible for you + Carol to stop by for a glass of wine & see my own visual impressions of your "valley" - my "canyon."

Ed + I have enjoyed your books. We're both avid fans.

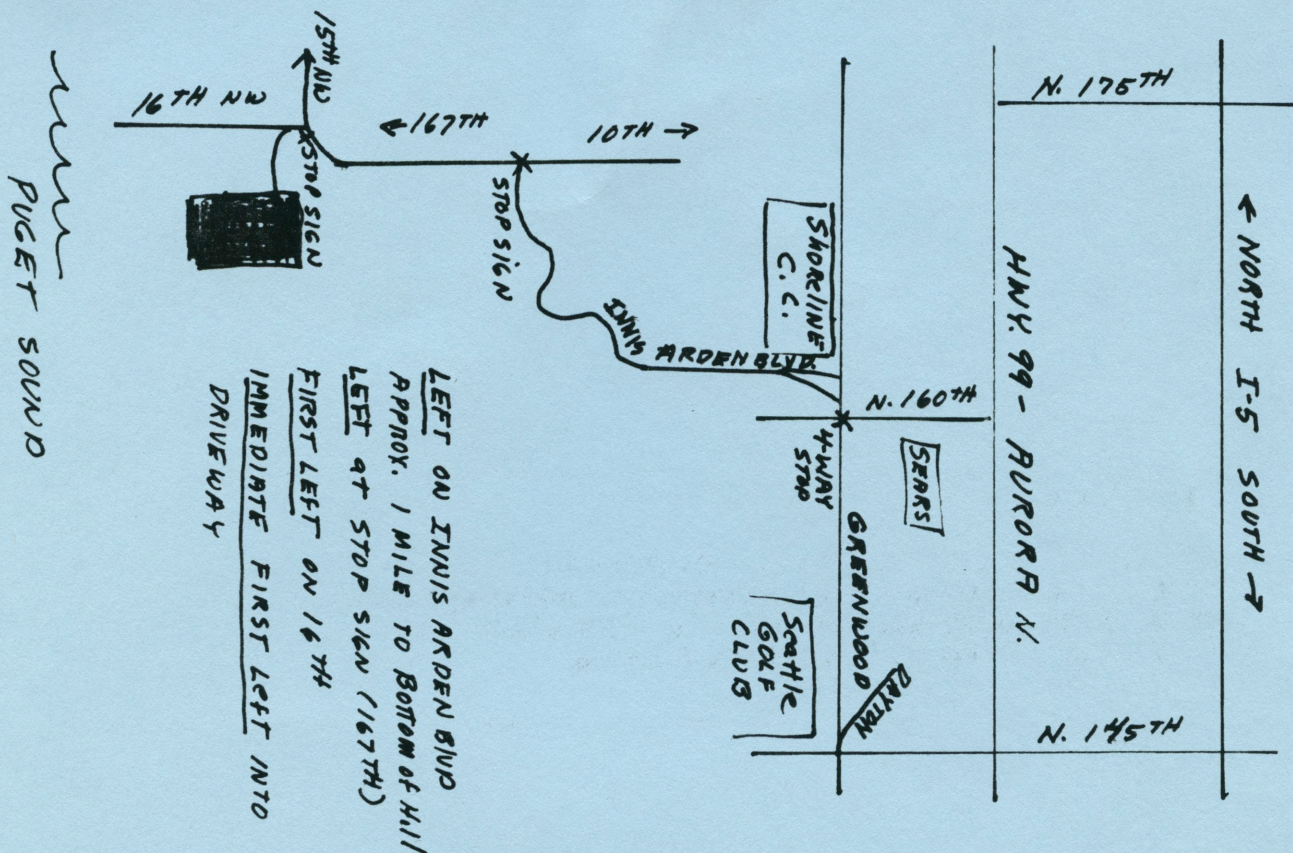
Sincerely,
Sue Shan

20 June '91

Dear Eve--

Ordinarily Carol and I would be delighted to come to your showing---no downtown traffic or anything!---but we're going to be away on July 13. Some other time, if you would? Good luck with your work.

regards



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN EXHIBITION OF RECENT WORKS
FEATURING "THE CANYON SERIES"

BY EVE SHAW

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1991, BETWEEN 2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

TO BE HELD AT MY HOME & PRIVATE STUDIO

1505 NW 167TH

SEATTLE, WA. 98177

(206) 546-8434



Carol's Ivan Drig
17021 10th NW
Seattle, WA 98177

JUNE: moon of the camas

Dear Ivan,

At the recent gathering in Wilson, where you were missed and often spoken of, it came to my attention that Marilynne Robinson's book *Mother Country*, about the plutonium pollution by the Sellafield, England, plant had been banned in England as the result of a libel suit by Greenpeace. The book cannot be written about in Britain, and Greenpeace is demanding to rewrite the "offensive" passages (I've included them with this letter).

The only "political" statement to come out of that meeting is the one of which I have enclosed a copy. It is to be circulated to environmental publications, to her publisher, and to Greenpeace chapters. Marilynne said that she was grateful for the support.

While you are not a "joiner," I simply wanted to ask whether you might be willing to add your name to the list?

Cordially,

Cort

Cort Conley
304 West State St.
Boise 83720

Dear Cort--
Appreciated the chance to join
in late on this, but respectfully,
huh uh.
I hope you're thriving. Sounds
as if there was a lot of good
company at Wilson; when I get
cloned...
best wishes

May 29, 1991

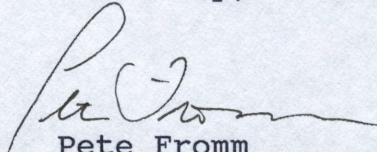
Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig,

Thank you very much for the kind words about my book. I appreciate your taking the time to read through some of it. I know you must be swamped with people asking you to be of some help. I also know you said you would only help with blurbs or the like if you thought the book had some merit. I was a bit nervous when John sent it out to authors I respect and I'm grateful for your support.

Best of luck with your own work, and thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pete Fromm', with a stylized, flowing script.

Pete Fromm
212 4th Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406)-727-7681

John
Daniel



and
Company

A DIVISION OF DANIEL & DANIEL, PUBLISHERS, INC.

Post Office Box 21922
Santa Barbara, California 93121
(805) 962-1780

March 27, 1991

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig,

In Spring 1992 we will publish **The Tall Uncut**, a collection of stories by Pete Fromm. I gather you have met Pete Fromm, a former park ranger who writes fiction about the western outdoors. In case he has been modest, I should tell you that in a fairly short time he has sold a dozen or so stories to literary quarterlies as well as to outdoor journals. Obviously I am a fan of his, and I think he has a good career ahead of him. This year he is Writer-in-Residence in the Great Falls school system.

Pete tells me you have expressed willingness to look at page proofs of his book, and so I am sending you a set herewith. Of course we would love to have a quote from you that we might use to promote the book, either as a blurb on the back cover, or in press releases or advertising copy. I'd be grateful for your support and for anything you might have to say about the book or about the author.

With thanks in advance, I've also enclosed a catalog to give you an idea of our publishing program.

With best wishes,

4 May '91

Dear Mr. Daniel--

Some words for Pete Fromm:

"Pete Fromm is a talent to watch. His stories speak those sweetest moments of riding a river and casting a line, in a land bigger than we can ever hope to be."

--Ivan Doig, author of Ride with Me, Mariah Montana

Best wishes to you and Pete with the book.

Ivan Doig

Northwestern University Medical and Dental Schools



Department of Microbiology
-Immunology

1561 Watersmeet Lake Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-4529

Philip Y. Paterson, MD
Professor and Chairman Emeritus of
Microbiology-Immunology

Professor Emeritus of Neurobiology & Physiology
College of Arts and Sciences
Evanston, Illinois

Dr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

April 20, 1991

Dear Dr. Doig,

I enjoyed our phone conversation on April 5, 1991.

I talked with Ben Baldwin on Tuesday, April 16, 1991. Ben has been aware of my commitment to becoming a fiction writer for some time. I told him about my telephone conversation with you. He filled me in on the significant role that he and Jeanne played in you meeting and marrying your wife, Carol.

I'm taking the liberty of enclosing a printout of the letter I've sent to Ben and Jeanne. I see no reason not to include the Christmas letter chronology my wife, Jinny, and I sent out with our cards last December - January. It will give you a better idea of my background and our new life here in Eagle River.

Let me plant a seed of an idea. Our having lunch on Monday, May 6th in the university area is great. However, my flight leaves Seattle that day at 2:30 PM for a very close connection in Denver to another flight to Minneapolis, where I have to be that evening. Despite flying all over the world, I'm still susceptible to ATA.*

Here are two alternative suggestions I'd like you to think about, either one of which would foil ATA: (1) We meet as early as 11:00 AM for "brunch," in the university area, thereby allowing more time for eating and talking before I head for the airport, or (2) Since in all probability I'll have access to my son's car, I'd be happy to meet you in your neck of the woods for mid-morning breakfast. If we followed this plan you wouldn't need to spend precious time commuting some distance from your home.

Sincerely,

Philip Y. Paterson

CC:

*ATA stands for Air Transport Anxiety.

PHILIP Y. PATERSON
1561 Watersmeet Lake Road
Eagle River, WI 54521-9751

April 17, 1991

Dear Jeanne and Ben,

It was good to hear your voice yesterday, Ben. Jinny and I have nothing but fond memories of you and Jeanne and the many other friends we made through N.U. Newcomers activities. It was a sad day when the Dinner-Dance Club expelled its last burp and put sole to polished wood for the last time.

It felt good to be able to thank you for your thoughtful letter of late winter, 1988, concerning the article about me in Ward Rounds. There was unimaginable inner turmoil from about 1985 on as I prepared to wean myself away from so many things I had been intensely involved with for so many years: the chairmanship (Pat Spear, my successor and the first woman chair of a department in the medical school, is a perfect match for the job); withdrawing from preparation of the fourth edition of our textbook; turning the infectious diseases course directorship, which I had held since 1966, over to new hands, etc. While each of these steps brought me closer to beginning a new life and new potential career, and for this reason were exciting changes, pain was the dominant drum beat at the time.

It wasn't until I read House of Sky by Ivan Doig that I realized he was a N.U. alumnus, a journalism major and graduate student and that you were his advisor. Wow - I said! Doig and Paterson have an acquaintance in common. When I surprised myself by reaching him by phone a couple of weeks ago, I had the feeling that he stayed on the phone as long as he did (which wasn't too long!) because I mentioned your name. Now, knowing what I do about the relationship of both of you to both Ivan and Carol Doig, I begin to understand. I truly hope he finds time for us to have lunch on Monday May 6th. He is the only published author I have sought out. I know talking with him will do me a world of good. I'm brash enough (still!) to think that I might offer him something microscopic in return. We'll see.

I'm enclosing an update concerning our status. It was slipped into Christmas cards last December. Ordinarily, both Jinny and I don't include such enclosures. There's already enough to read when the Christmas season surrounds one. But we thought that the several momentous (in our eyes) events we experienced in 1990 warranted a chronology.

Page 2

The Writers' Support Group I've joined is working out pretty well. The leader of the group has published six books and close to 100 poems and short stories for children. The only drawback I've found so far is the preoccupation of at least half of the writers in the group with writing for children. While some of my fiction turns on children, what I want to utilize in my writing more than anything else are my medical experiences. The courses in Advanced Creative Writing which I was lucky to be able to take during 1989-90, under Fred Shafer's direction, in N.U. College, gave me a pretty good feel as to how I can work these experiences into my fiction writing. Namely, by revealing the "off camera" talk and actions involving doctors, nurses and patients that the public presumably is never privy to and would be interested in reading about. At least that was Fred Shafer's strong sense of the direction I should point in. Sooner or later, as the submissions go off and the responses come back, I will know.

You might keep your eyes and ears peeled for these two couples who spend parts of the year at their places on Hilton Head:

Polly and Tom Stilp, who lived across from us on Chestnut Ave. in Wilmette. Tom is a neurosurgeon; Polly teaches elementary school at Sears in Kenilworth. We got to know them and their three boys, especially the oldest one, very well.

Clarence (Charlie) and Lucia Fleming used to live on Chestnut Ave, but moved into Chicago fairly recently, now that their children are grown. Charlie and I for several years walked together to and from the Kenilworth Railroad station. We were in their home for parties. Charlie is an engineer, a lawyer and a patent specialist. They are a great couple. I recently talked with and corresponded with Charlie about a patent question concerning my son-in-law and his brother, who run a cabinet making business here in the Eagle River area.

We appreciate the offer to drop in and even try one of your pads, should we be in your area. Who knows? Maybe we'll be there! With plenty of warning, of course! The latchstring is out to you two, also.

Our best,

Warmly,

Phil & Jinny Paterson
1561 Watersmeet Lake Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
715-479-4529

Christmas 1990

Dear Friends,

Yuletide and New Year's Greetings from the Wisconsin Northwoods!

This has been a year of tumultuous change: readying our home of 25 years in Wilmette for sale and selling it in May; Jinny's supervision of our new home construction here, 330 miles to the north, with numerous trips back and forth; packing up household goods and unloading the van in July; my closing down a 41 year academic career and departing from Northwestern University in September (more van packing-unloading of office effects); many trips to Chicago and Mpls and travel to Seattle and D.C. after our move; the bewildering process of getting settled (where do we put the car keys and loose change?) and starting our new life in this community of @ 1300 population.

Many factors led to our seemingly radical transplantation. In recent years we had innumerable, interminable, sometimes contentious, discussions assessing where we were in life and what we wanted to do. We began visiting Eagle River soon after our daughter, Anne, and her husband, Michael, and growing family moved here in 1982. The remarkable natural beauty, clear air and uncomplicated life style of this area appealed to us. In 1984, we bought @ 20 acres of rolling meadow and woodland (deciduous trees and evergreens), only 10 minutes walk from Anne et al. Despite escape from the chairmanship in 1987 and more time for generously supported research, I ached for a change of scene, orientation, direction - everything! Four decades of incessant research, training and teaching, plus 25 years of administration, increasing committee commitments and travel on top of everything else, building to responsibilities in two departments on two campuses left precious little time for assuaging other personal interests. A dominant drumbeat was my wish to test my skills at fiction writing, fueled by formal classes the past three years with a marvelous year of advanced creative writing experience at Northwestern (1989 - 90). Jinny always has hankered for a rural setting; our land beckoned her with irresistible opportunities for gardening, seed propagation and other botanical pursuits. Any major change in our lives, we knew, should occur while enjoying excellent health. And so it was, that in 1987 we decided to move to Eagle River, have the "once in a life-time" thrill (and tribulations!) of designing a home to personal specifications and to establish new roots in a setting totally unlike any other we have experienced. Working with a Chicago architect, we began house plans in early 1988; they

grew in size and complexity (just like the budget). In late 1988 we located a fine contractor. Construction started in October of 1989. And here we are!

We live in a double gabled, passive solar, exceptionally well built and insulated house, sheltered by a hill and woods to the north. It has three floors (including the heated basement, which leads to Jinny's green house); there are three bedrooms on second floor. The library on first floor can convert to a bedroom should we ever be restricted to one level. We see no other homes in any direction. Only now, with the birches, maples and oaks leafless, can we see two outdoor floodlights at some distance which mark neighbor's yards. Deer wander all around us (until the hunting season began); we have seen the red fox often and heard his nocturnal screaming under our open window on two occasions. Twice while running, a bald eagle hovered so close I could see his eyes swivel while inspecting me.

We are meeting interesting people and forming new friendships through the Great Books Discussion Group we have joined and through our church membership. Jinny has taken cooking and line dancing classes sponsored in different communities by Nicolet College in Rhinelander (26 miles to the southwest). We took an EMC-CPR recertification course in October; we're in a three week cross-country ski course at present. I'm reading my way through a gigantic stockpile of books, studying short stories and developing a fiction writing schedule. In January, I'll join the Writers Support Group, comprised of @ 15 serious writers that meet monthly in Rhinelander.

We are fortunate to be close to our three granddaughters, Emily (8), Katie (6) and Molly (4), as well as Anne and Michael. Anne is enjoying increasing success with her wool knitting business (mostly sweaters and caps of Icelandic designs); Michael's cabinet making business in this area and Chicago is encouragingly strong. Ben (chem. engineer with Eli Lilly, designs "continuous operations" systems) and Luanna (home nursing and chart auditing for BC/BS) in Indianapolis, in September presented us with Cameron, their first child and our first grandson. Pete and Patricia are thriving in Seattle; her U. of WA physics research is progressing and Pete's hope of developing a cartoon series has resulted in a contract with a computer network.

Have there been some emotional upheavals on this roller coaster ride? Good Lord - yes! Painful ones: wrenching leave taking of neighbors, close friends and colleagues; tearing away from our Wilmette church community; my terminating a

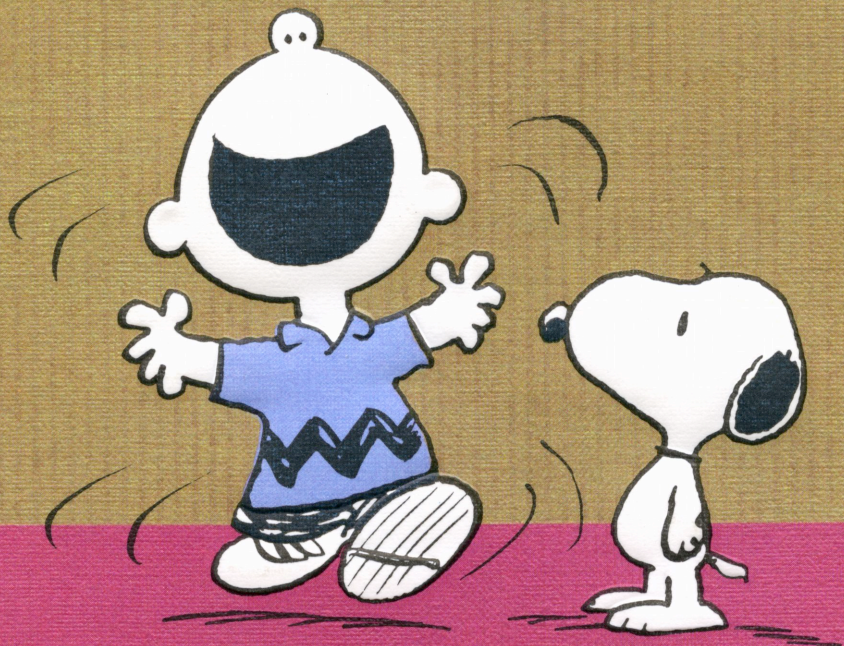
vigorous, fulfilling academic career; the "Paterson Symposium" and reception-dinner at the medical school in October; Jinny's dropping her volunteer work at the Chicago Botanic Garden and her tutoring at Gale elementary school in Chicago. We're saddened by the decline in the health of Jinny's mother, requiring Mrs. Bray to move into a nursing home in Mpls in August, which she is beginning to accept.

Life cannot be significant and lived fully without change. Our future here appears as brilliant as the Eagle River sky, sun and moon, as sparkling as the stars overhead and as colorful as the maple-oak fall foliage. We are blessed with good health and vigor, happy and healthy and productive children, son-in-law and daughters-in-law and grandchildren moving ahead with their lives.

We think of you often. Already, we've enjoyed visits and week-ends with friends and family. It would give us pleasure to welcome you to our new home should your travels bring you our way (Northwest Airlines runs an air link service to Rhinelander).

May Peace, Joy and Faith be yours this season and throughout 1991.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!
MY GRATITUDE
KNOWS NO LEAPS!



CAV 343, CA. May 9, 1991

Ivan,

What a thrill it is for us
to get the copy of 'A Special Relationship'.
Our Teachers and Mom we learned. Our
family has been ordering enough copies
for a second printing. It makes us
very proud of you and our mother.

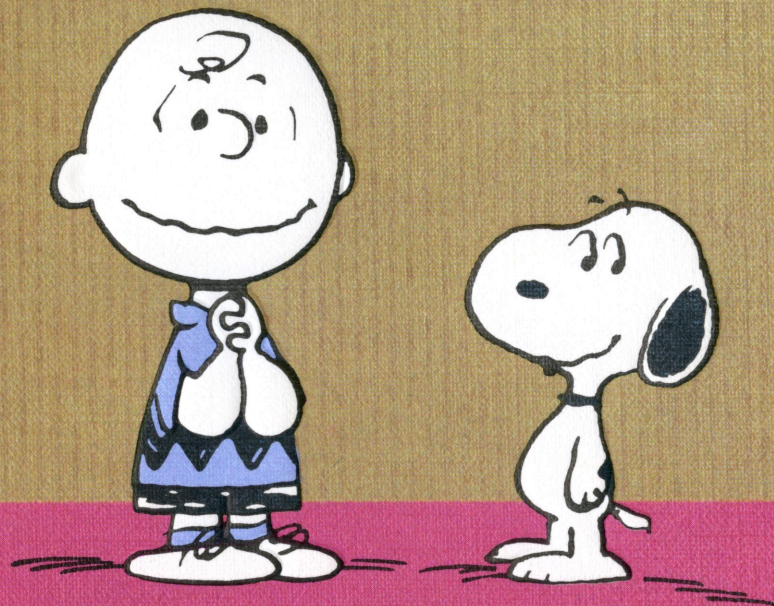
Some time ago we received a
telephone call from a "Montana" student
requesting financial support for the
University. After the "canned" speech
the student caller asked if we were
related to Ivan Daig's Mrs Tidyman.

I confessed and the caller seemed
impressed. I have taken the book
to work and showed it off to
co workers.

It remains now in the
place of honor in our living
room with our autographed
Ivan Daig's.

P.S. It was great to see
you in Westwood. If
you come down again
let us know.
Bill

I THINK
HE MEANS
BOUNDS!



Thank you very much for
sending it. Your friends
always

Charlie & Bill
Tidyman

PEANUTS Characters:
© 1950, 1958, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.



100T 100-2

HALLMARK CARDS, INC.
MADE IN U. S. A.

All Things

Helen Wakefield
6515 Seaside Walk
Long Beach, CA 90803

April 11, 1991

Considered

Scott Simon.
National Public Radio
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Simon:

For years I've tried to locate a poem whose title
or first line is:

'Hot nights there have been in Montana!...',

I've been unable to find either the poem or the
author.

Then on November 23, 1990 at 4:00 P.M. I caught
the end of an interview with Ivan Doig in which
you talked about books written in or about Montana.
I made a note to myself to write you then but lost
the note and just found it.

I'd be very grateful if you or Mr. Doig could tell
me anything you know about this poem.

NPR is my favorite program and my radio station is
KCRW to which I have contributed for years. This world
is a sorry place sometimes but would be even sorrier
without voices like KCRW's and NPR's.

Sincerely

14 May '91

Dear Helen Wakefield--

Well, it can't be said National Public Radio hasn't tried. Scott Simon passed your letter to All Things Considered, as that's where you heard the interview with me last fall; Noah Adams has passed it along to me... and I'm sorry to report I'm no help at all on the poem you've asked about, I don't recognize the line at all. Maybe a university reference librarian could help you; good luck with the pursuit.

best wishes

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO®



1072-

THE RIVER OF FAME
RUNS SLOWLY

ALL THE BEST

"Celebrating 20 Years"



"Groundhog Day," from **FRIED FOG**
And Other Cape Cod Yarns
by John A. Ullman



Dear Mr. Doig,

Many thanks for your quote for
the back of Pete Fromm's book.
I appreciate your support, and
I'm sure Pete does too.

I'll send you a copy of the book
when it comes out.

Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Best wishes,

Paperback \$9.95. At your local bookstore, or direct from the publisher:
John Daniel and Company, Post Office Box 21922, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.
Please add \$1.50 per order for shipping. California residents add 67¢ sales tax per book.



4.22.91

3428 Beach Dr. S.W.

"DOG DAY AFTERNOON" Seattle, WA 98116

colored pencil and crayon on paper

22" x 30", Ray Troll 1987

Dear Ivan Doig

I've asked my publisher,

Harper Collins, to send you a new
novel Rock and Cover in the
hope that you might like it
enough to make an advance
comment or review the book.

I know your time is precious,
so if this is not possible,
just know that I very much
admire your work and I'm
glad we're neighbors here in Seattle.

Best, Brenda

Peterson



Ivan Doig
17021 18th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, Washington
98177

© THE TROLL LINE, P.O. BOX 8874, KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

25 March 1991

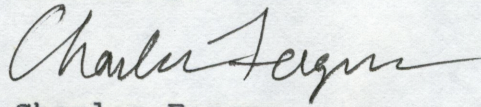
RD 2, 340 Mountain Rd.
Port Matilda, PA 16870

Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue N.W.
Seattle WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

Thanks very much for consenting to take a look at Shadow Catcher. Galleys should be available in late April; I'll ask Soho to include a note reminding you that we made contact in advance. I hope you like the book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Fergus".

Charles Fergus

26 Feb. '91

Dear Barbara Kingsolver---

Excuse a note out of the blue, but my wife and I are visiting briefly in Tucson---Carol is doing a sabbatical project at the U. of Arizona library for the Western Literature class she teaches, and I've been researching and pondering my family's brief WWII chapter in Arizona for my next book---and we wondered if we might show our appreciation to the author of Animal Dreams by buying her supper sometime before we head home. (Both of us enjoyed and admired your book; it was pressed on us by friends on the Harper sales staff at last year's ABA.) If your schedule would permit, we're pretty much available---except for the next ~~couple~~ couple of days when we're going to the Chiricahua Mountains---until we head home to Seattle on March 10. It's a little cumbersome to get in touch with us as we're phoneless in the "winter visitors" portion of a retirement home, but a message can be left for us (and I can call back from a pay phone) at the main number here, 325-4800. Or, the mailing address is c/o The Forum, Rm 421, 2500 N. Rosemont Blvd., Tucson 85712. We'll look forward to meeting you if we can, but we'll also understand if it doesn't work out on such short notice.

In any case, best wishes.

Ivan Doig

27 February 1991

RD 2, 340 Mountain Rd.
Port Matilda, PA 16870

Ivan Doig
c/o Macmillan Publishing Co.
866 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Doig:

I recently finished a novel, Shadow Catcher, set in the American West in 1913. Soho Press will publish the book; they are distributed by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

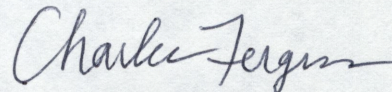
I admire your writing greatly. The Sea Runners is one of my favorite books, and Dancing at the Rascal Fair is a rich and beautiful work. Although not a Westerner, I have spent a lot of time in the West. My aunt and uncle homesteaded a ranch on the Heart Mountain irrigation project in Wyoming right after World War II, and I often stayed with them while I was growing up. I hope my experiences there and elsewhere in the West have invested Shadow Catcher with a strong sense of place. Your books have been an inspiration to me in that regard.

Because of my respect for your work and your stature as a writer, I am writing to ask if you would agree to read my novel, and, if it appealed to you, to make comments that could be reprinted on the book's dust jacket.

Publication is scheduled for September, and bound galleys will be ready in April or May. Would you be willing to read Shadow Catcher?

Thanks.

Sincerely,



Charles Fergus

RD 2, 240 Mountain Rd.
Port Matilda, PA 16870

20 March '91

Ivan Doid
c/o Macmillan Publishing Co.
866 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Doid:

Dear Charles Fergus--

I appreciate your courtesy in asking me whether I can take a look at your Shadow Catcher galley, instead of just sending it; I get far many more galleys, mss, etc. than I can read. I can't guarantee I can get to yours, but if you'd like, sure, send one along and I'll try. It might be a good idea for Soho or you to tuck in a reminder that I said I'd give this a shot, okay?

regards,

Because of my respect for your work and your stature as a writer, I am willing to ask if you would agree to read my novel, and, if it appealed to you, to make comments that could be reprinted on the book's dust jacket. Publication is scheduled for September, and bound galleys will be ready in April or May. Would you be willing to read Shadow Catcher?
Thanks.

Sincerely,

Charles Fergus

AUTHOR'S NOTES

The idea for my novel, Shadow Catcher, came in 1980, when I learned of an elaborate Indian memorial that was supposed to have been built in New York harbor in 1913--but ultimately was not erected. The monument epitomized several aspects of American culture that fascinate me. It was a grand and romantic gesture made at the end of an era of grand and romantic gestures: an era that died, along with our national notions of divine rightness and invincibility, in the trenches of World War One. The monument was supposed to honor the American Indians, the "vanishing race." But of course the Indians had not cooperated and vanished; as a child, I had seen plenty of them on my family's annual auto pilgrimages across the American West.

I began my research into the monument and the accompanying event that drummed up publicity for it, "The Rodman Wanamaker Expedition of Citizenship to the North American Indian," which in 1913 traveled by private rail car to 75 Indian reservations, giving patriotic ceremonies and making photographic portraits of the Indians. I read the Bureau of Indian Affairs' official report on the Expedition, housed in the National Archives. I examined photographs brought back by the Expedition, now in an Indiana museum. And I traveled to several of the reservations that the Expedition visited--I was made a guest at a Sioux Sun Dance along the Grand River in South Dakota, at the remote site where Sitting Bull was killed.

I learned that the Expedition was to some extent a scam, the self-aggrandizing project of a confidence man who had attached himself to the Wanamakers. (The family owned a chain of prosperous department stores.) I learned that James McLaughlin, a famous Indian agent whose Indian police had killed Sitting Bull twenty-three years earlier, accompanied the Expedition as liaison with the tribes. I learned that the Expedition had, from the government's point of view, a carefully hidden purpose. I learned that the Expedition ran into Buffalo Bill Cody, who, at the twilight of his career, was filming reenactments of battles from the Indian wars.

Into my novel, based on this historical event, I introduced a fictional witness: a candid photographer. In 1913, candid photography was considered improper, even voyeuristic. Ansel Fry, the protagonist of Shadow Catcher, takes pictures that expose the Expedition for what it is. A second fictional character, an Indian woman named Annie Owns the Fire, helps Fry realize that he must strive through his picture-taking to reveal the truth about people, about races, and about this questionable Expedition.

It took me eight years to research and write Shadow Catcher, two more years to find a publisher who understood what I was trying to do: blend fact with fiction to depict an era and to draw together human stories, fates, and divergent points of view.

I work as a freelance writer out of my home in rural central Pennsylvania. My wife is an editor and a writer who helped greatly with Shadow Catcher. We have a three-year-old son. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University's writing program, I have worked as a staff writer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and for Pennsylvania State University. I gradually built our house on our thirty acres of woods, reasoning that the tyrant enslaving most writers--making it hard for them to do important speculative work like fiction--is the monthly mortgage payment. My articles have appeared in Country Journal, Science, Science Illustrated, Science 82, Oceans, Backpacker, and other magazines. My collection of nature essays, The Wingless Crow, came out in 1984. Another nonfiction book, A Rough-Shooting Dog, subtitled "Reflections from Thick and Uncivil Sorts of Places," will be published by Lyons & Burford in 1991.

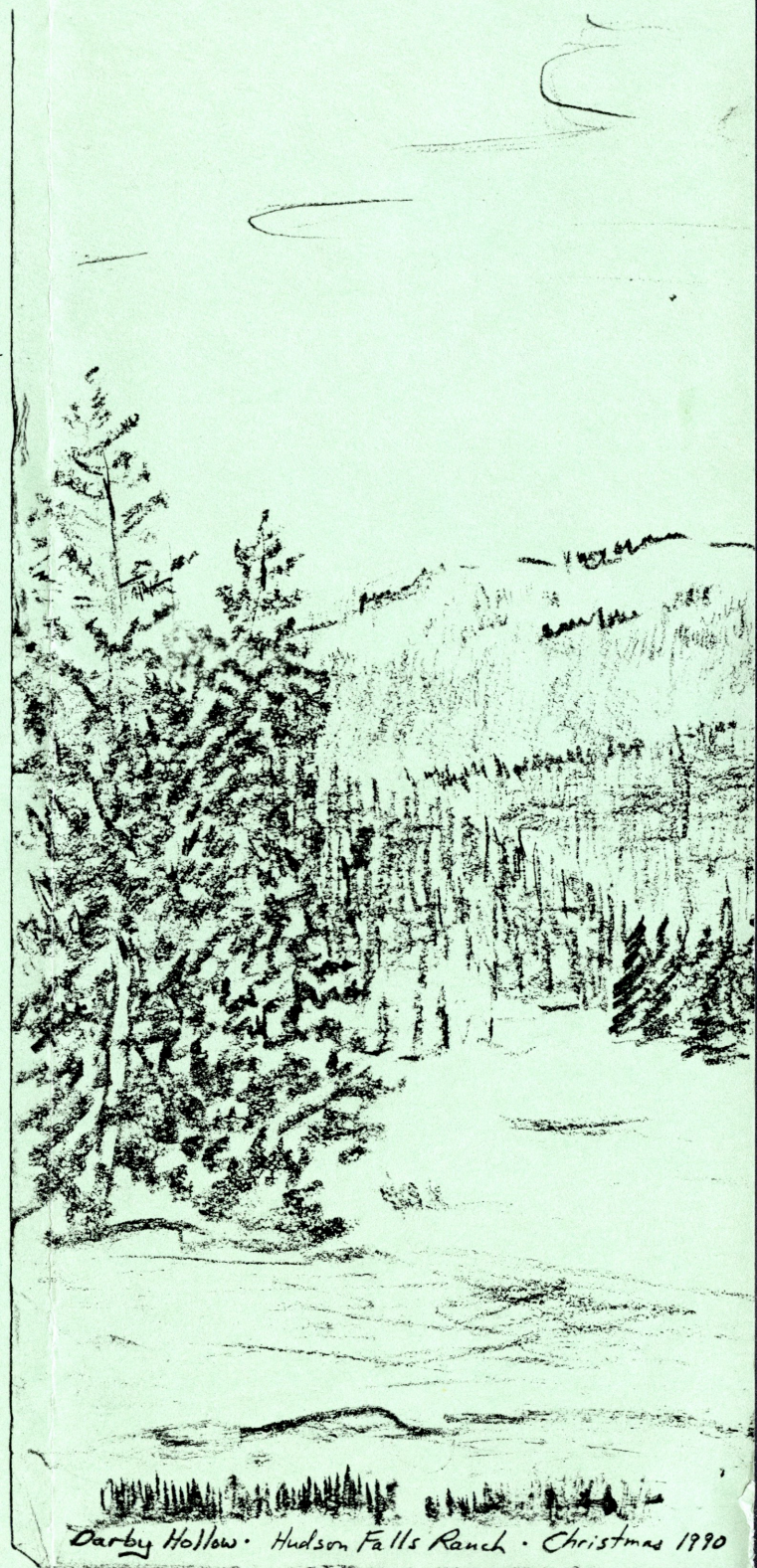
--Charles Fergus
Port Matilda, Pennsylvania

Happy
New
Year!

Thanks so much for your
Christmas message, Jan.
If Gertel already sent you
one of these, please pass
it on to a friend!

Hope will see you in '91.

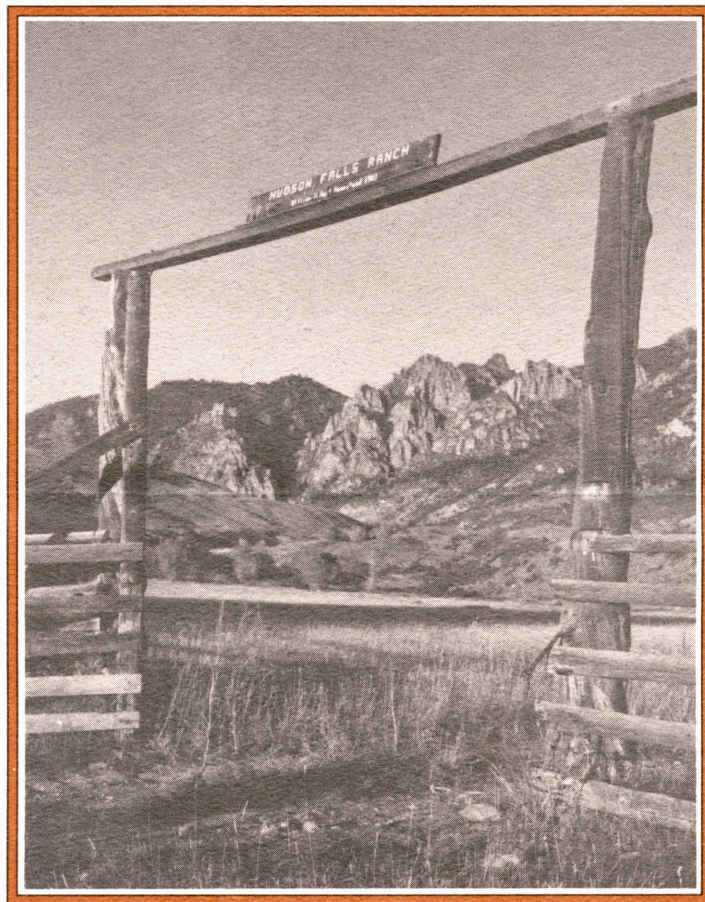
Sincerely,
Paco



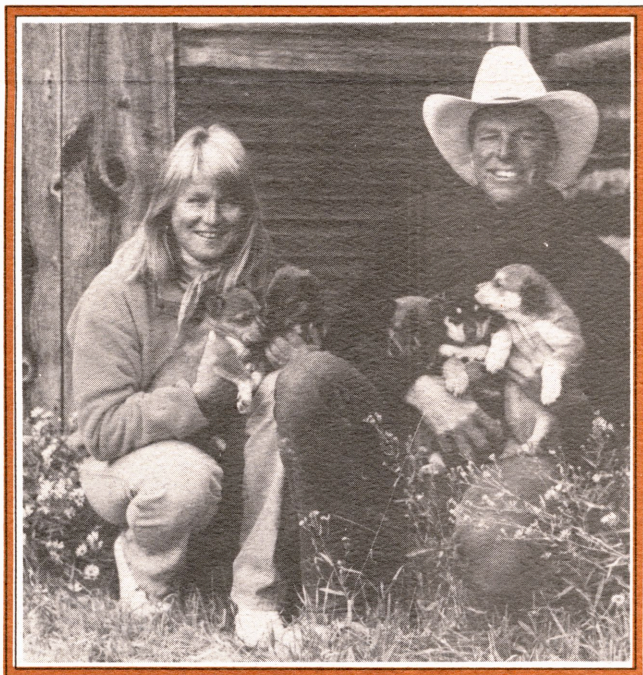
Darby Hollow · Hudson Falls Ranch · Christmas 1990

HUDSON FALLS

naturally raised beef



A LIMITED OFFERING OF USDA INSPECTED, HIGH-QUALITY, NATURALLY RAISED BEEF FROM HUDSON FALLS RANCH ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS.



- We are proud to be offering this flavorful, healthy beef raised with humane and environmentally sound practices in the high country of the Big Horn Mountains.
- We use no hormones, no chemicals, no pesticides. We do not dehorn or confine our livestock. We use no antibiotic additives in any feed, nor do we feed concentrated grains which raise cholesterol. Your beef is raised and fed naturally on open rangeland meadows.
- This season's beef will be ready to ship to you beginning November 15th — just in time for the holidays! Beef comes to your door via Federal Express. The assorted cuts (see order form) are wrapped in an old fashioned double-wrapped, white paper style, sharp frozen and boxed.

Press Stephens & Gretel Ehrlich
Hudson Falls Ranch
Shell, Wyoming 82441

(307) 765-4377



ORDER FORM

HUDSON FALLS

naturally raised beef

Press Stephens & Gretel Ehrlich
Hudson Falls Ranch
Shell, Wyoming 82441

(307) 765-4377

To order your beef please fill out this form
and return in the enclosed envelope.

Check the appropriate box:

The Classic ☐

70 lbs. of assorted cuts with at least one of everything!

5 lb. sirloin tip (roast or steaks)
5 lb. rump roast
5 lb.+ standing rib roast
5 lb. bottom round (roast or steaks)
2 - 5 lb. rolled roasts
2 lb. tenderloin
4 - 2 lb. packages of T-bone steaks
5 lbs. stew meat
25 lbs. hamburger

Total Price
\$ 385.00

The Fête Gallant ☐

25 lbs. of assorted cuts, less burger, more roasts and steaks.

5 lb. rolled roast
5 lb. sirloin tip (roasts or steaks)
6 lb. standing rib roast (or steaks)
1 - 2 lb. packages of rib steaks
2 - 2 lb. packages of T-bone steaks
5 lbs. hamburger

Total Price
\$175.00

The Picnic ☐

25 lbs. of assorted cuts, fewer roasts and steaks,
more burger.

5 lb. rolled roast
5 lb. rump roast
2 - 2 lb. packages of T-bone steaks
3 lb. stew meat
10 lb. hamburger

Total Price
\$ 150.00

Burger Only ☐

Limited special offering of hamburger! Check one:

- ☐ 15 lbs. hamburger
☐ 25 lbs. hamburger
☐ 35 lbs. hamburger

\$3.00 per
pound

Bill to:

Name
Street, Box #
City, State, Zip

Ship to: (if different than bill to)

Name
Street, Box #
City, State, Zip

Your Telephone Number: ()

All orders are sharp frozen and shipped to your door by Federal Express.
Cost of shipping is included in the total price. Please listen for a call from us to time the shipping of your order.



Dear Ivan & Carol,

2/4/91

Congratulations on winning the 1991 Gonouois Awards for the Arts! A well-deserved award. I wish we could be there to applaud you in person! But ~~the~~ alas the "war" etc. keeps us closer to home trying to make sense of it.

We spent last weekend

skiing w/ a couple who are your devoted fans. I loaned him the cassettes of you reading "The Two" - We spent an entire evening praising your use of language & humor & story-telling skills... Will you be reading portions of March on tape? (Nick Estelle mispronounced so much!)
→

Our after noon w/ you This past
fall still remains warm in
our memories - please stay
in touch - & pray for peace

as ever,

Jyl (Hoyt)

[Marianne Koddington, Dallas, OR January
2, 1991]

Dear Ivan - It's not my usual style
to write fan letters, but I enjoyed
reading Ride with me, Manuel Montana
so much that I had to tell you
so. You had me weeping over the letters
just uncovered in that damned library
and laughing 'til I cried at Good Help
a character that will surely endure. Thanks
for brightening my winter with another
marvelous book, and thanks for
reminding me that Montana is more
home to me than I like to admit -
even if it is "no place to spend a life."
My best to you and Carol this new year - Marianne



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

January 17, 1991

Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan:

It's been seven years now since Viking published Writers of the Purple Sage, an anthology that in part owes its surprising success to your contribution. And since I've just agreed to edit a new "volume two" collection, one of my first tasks is to write to you and several other initial contributors to ask for your participation again this second time around.

Michael Melman, the project's editor at Viking, and I are planning a very similar sort of collection—twenty contributors or thereabouts, a mix of stories, novel excerpts, memoirs, and essays. Two contributors to the first anthology—Ed Abbey and Norman Maclean—have died; a couple of others have abandoned the region in favor of fairer financial terrain, and a couple more have actually given up this crazy business for similar sorts of reasons. At the moment, I'm planning to use pieces by about ten former contributors as well as including for the first time work by writers such as Barbara Kingsolver, Sandra Dallas, Tim Sandlin, Linda Hogan, Rick Bass, Terry Williams, Denise Chávez, Charles Bowden, and a few others. We'll be able to pay a whopping \$500 for each contribution this time, and for those of you who, I hope, will contribute once again, I can as well—and at least—ask you to give me your sense of what work of yours you'd particularly like to see included. I'll do my best to accommodate your preference.

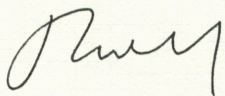
I have to confess, Ivan, that I haven't read Mariah Montana yet, and in advance of doing so, I'm wondering if there is a part of it that you think might excerpt fairly nicely, one that I might read out of context, in effect, with the excerpt in mind before I read the book front to back. Of course, if you'd rather we use something from either of the other two books in the trilogy, I'm entirely open to that as well.

By the way, I was delighted to see you mention Linda Bierds and your occasional collaboration with her in a profile of you in Denver's Rocky Mountain News. My longtime editor at Holt, Marian Wood, introduced me to Linda's amazing poetry and she tells me that Linda's a terrific person as well. A small world it is, as we know.

We aren't on a particularly tight schedule with any of this. The complete and collected manuscript, together with permissions from the various publishers, isn't due until the end of the year, but I'd appreciate getting your thoughts as soon as it's convenient for you to send them along. If I don't hear from you by the time the snow melts, I'll assume that you're comfortable leaving me to my own devices, and that you have no horrible objection to joining this curious crowd again.

Many thanks in advance, and I send my best wishes in the meantime.

Cordially,



22 Jan. '91

Dear Russell--

Sure, I'm game to be in the omnium-gatherum again. How about taking a look at my griz piece in Mariah Montana--top of p. 144 to the end of the italic swatch near top of ~~of~~ p. 159.

I guess you know you'll have to deal through the publisher's permissions dept., rather than me; Macmillan for Mariah, for example. Try Frank Duggan there, (212)702-2121. And I don't know if this'll have any bearing, but Penguin is doing the p'back of Mariah, this Oct.--Lori Lipsky is my editor on that.

We're about to get on a plane for Arizona, will be back mid-March; if you're stuck on anything or desperately need to reach me, Russell, the best bet is through my agent, Liz Darhansoff, (212)534-2479. I hope all is well with you, and great good luck with Son of Writers of the...



January 4, 1991

Ivan Doig
17021 10th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177

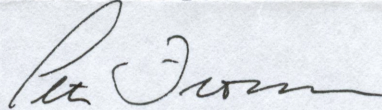
Dear Mr. Doig,

You may remember me as the person who introduced himself to you twice in one week, once in Jackson, once in Great Falls. I also gave you a copy of a magazine containing one of my stories. Regardless, I am now the Writer-in-Residence for the Great Falls Public Schools, and I've been told that you're coming to Montana for a governor's award in late January.

We are kicking off a month of literacy programs about that time and I'm wondering if you would be interested in giving a reading or talk of some sort in Great Falls, probably at Paris Gibson Square. My budget is extremely limited, naturally, but I believe I could come up with something for your time. There is also the possibility that your books could be sold at whatever type of presentation you'd care to give.

Since I have no idea whether you're interested, or if we can afford your interest, I'll keep this brief. If you could let me know if this fits into your plans, and if so, what your price would be, I'd appreciate it. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pete Fromm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

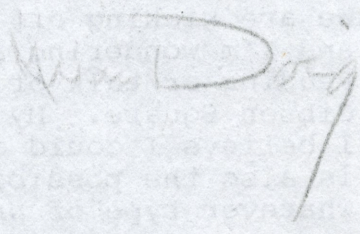
Pete Fromm
212 4th Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406)-727-7681

8 Jan. '91

Dear Pete--

Sorry, no can do on a Great Falls trip at the time of the Gov's Arts Award--I'll only be in Helena a few days and have several things to do. One of the things going on, if it has any pertinence to your own literary celebration, is a Montana Center for the Book day of festivities, Sat., Feb. 9. I'll be talking briefly at that--about 1 p.m.--and answering questions for a while, and other people will do other stuff. Debbie Schlesinger of the Lewis & Clark Library, 442-2371, is in charge of that.

Hope you're wintering okay. All best,



1 Jan. '91

Dear Dorn--
^

Fry

Just wanted to say thanks, or rather a couple of them. The first, for your alert review of Mariah Montana, which I think was the only one to notice the gamble of bringing in a major character--Leona--so far along in the book. (A literary critic wrote me a letter wondering why I didn't bring in Leona from the start and allude to her all the way along; I may write back and ask if he's ever ~~was~~ heard of wonder and surprise.) The other thanks is for the diligence and ministrations that have to go into a page like your "best 15 books of '90" last Sunday; the effort is appreciated.

best for '91