

## **WOSE**

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Printed on post-consumer recycled paper with vegetable based inks

Feb 14, 2008

Dear Mr. Doig,

I am writing you from my home in Bloomington, IN. My name is Marielle Abell, and I'm quite a fan of your writing. About 10 years ago, my husband gave me Dancing at the Rascal Fair - since then I've enjoyed reading your books several times over.

I am writing with perhaps an odd regrest that I'm hoping you can filfill. My husband, Rob, is turning I'm hoping you can filfill. My husband, Rob, is turning 46 this April 17th If you are willing, I would love to tacilitate him getting a simple "Happy Birthday" card from you. Needless to say, he's a great fan as well. I know it's a strange regrest, as you don't know him, but he would be beyond tickled to receive Something from you.

I have enclosed a copy of a waltz that I wrote for Rob's 44th birthday. It was something I hummed while rocking my then-I-year-old son, imagining the characters from your novels dancing. Thus, the name of the tune, Rascal Fair. It has been played several times at our local contra dance, by a band called the Not Now Sweeties. (A bit of shameless self-promotion, as Rob and I are both in that string band.) Credit for the chord progression goes to David Ernst, who plays tenor banjo with the Sweeties. Enjoy! Warm regards,

Birthday boy/husband: Rob Fischman

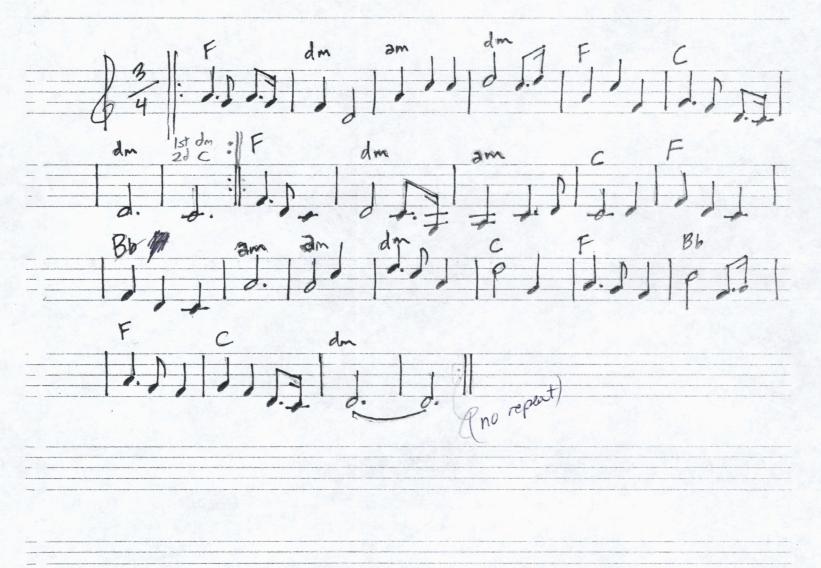
823 S. Fess Are,

Bloomington, IN 47401

Play AAB

M. Abell +D. Ernst for Robs 44th

## Rascal Fair



Dear Mr. Doig,

We in Seeley Lake Montana are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the <u>Eleventh Man</u>. The Alpine Artisans, a local group of artist, writers, potters and sculptures who live in the Swan Valley, together with the Grizzly Claw Trading Company, a local bookstore would like to invite you to do a reading and signing of the <u>Eleventh Man</u>.

The residents of the Seeley Swan Valley are hungry for these literary events and the Alpine Artisans put together a lovely evening. We usually draw between 40 and 50 people. Our most recent authors have been Diedre McNamer, John Maclean, and Bill Kittredge.

If you and Mrs. Doig happen to be making a trip to Montana and would honor us with a trip to Seeley Lake we would be happy to accommodate you locally.

I hope you will forgive me for writing to you directly. Please feel free to email me at this address or to telephone me at 406 677 5251

Kind Regards,

Sara Wilcox Grizzly Claw Trading Company 406 677 5251 Dear Ivan Doig,

I have been meaning to write to you for some time now and that moment has finally arrived.

I have enjoyed your writings for many years now but especially <u>Dancing at the Rascal's Fair and English Creek</u>.

And I loved <u>The Whistling Season</u> and its follow-up <u>Work Song</u>. I recommend your books to those I know who love good reading.

For a city boy, I don't quite understand why I like Montana books, but until I began reading Ivan Doig my favorite was writer was Thomas Savage and his <u>Power of the Dog</u>. You guys just get to me.

I look forward to your next work.

(Mr.)

c.) E.A.Livingston 71-16 66<sup>th</sup> Street

Sincerely

Glendale, N.Y. 11385

Ansley Wilcox Sawyer 8 Bayberry Lane Nantucket, MA 02554

July 16, 2010

Dear Mr. Doig:

I am reading "The Eleventh Man" and find it very interesting. I was a pilot in WW II in the Navy. I also knew Larry Bell very well. He was influential in my becoming an engineer.

The reason I am writing you is because early in your story you said that the Airacobras that came to East Base came in from Seattle. I know that you did enormous research for the book, so I wondered why the P-39s were coming from Seattle and not straight from Niagara Falls.

Would you care to comment?

Sincerely,

**Ansley Sawyer** 

ansleysawyer@comcast.net

508-228-3355



[Falls Church, VA] Dear Mr Doig, 7-26-10 This is just a short note to let you know how much ) enjoy your books, & Resd World Song And then had to au back And Revets Wastling Salan. And He Eleventh Man. Not only to Slike Them, but My 94 year old mother Reads them and listens ar tope. of Marrie- what A gift! Thank You Lund Oltoke Dear Margaret Shhreiner--

Just a quick line (I'm about to go traveling) of appreciation for your letter. There certainly has been a lot in common in Bill's family backround and mine, all right; I recognized many of the Townsendarea names you mentioned, my parents sometimes worked there for a family named Plymale, and there were a number of Doigs-my dad's brother "Red" and a bunch of his cousins--living in Townsend when I was a kid. Also, though it's been a while since my wife and I stayed at LaPush, your mention of the Surf rangs a bell of memory, too.

So, thanks for taking the trouble to write and share your history with me. I wish you well, and congratulate you am Bill on productive lives--I wish we had been neighbors in body as well as spirit, those years.

sincerely,

Mont

[Renton, WA] Sept 4, 1996 Dear Mr Doig: I wish to thank you with all my heart, for the autographed copy of your book Bucking the sun, for Bill & me. your research was really stupendous. Und I really enjoyed some of your excerpts from the book such as: -" Ir ords & Days and things that lie in the mind like stone, Bay, how True that is, "Ollso, Cats cradle lines of the electric feeder system that cats cradle sure brought home memories to me.) taffying it out - stretching Wheeler's temples of temptation In order to tell you why & like your hooks so well, I must tell you who we are! -I was born in Lowa Dec 12 1907 came west to live & work for my drug store of met and married

Bill Schreiner June 9, 1934. He is the one with the Montana pioneer heritage. His mother who died at 953, started the sownsend, Montana library wrote a column on early day places now gone, She was born at hog-em in Hassell Canyon where harfather mined + where he was hilled. at old Diamond are buried two of Bell's ancestors. We called Bell's mother Gram I so did everyone else. Her family was the Murray - Sullivan people who came north o Ganched in the Broadwater Co, valley out of sownsend & up around Shelby, I you bought a copy of the book Broadwater Bygones at the Museum in I vansered you will find pictures of write ups about the ranchers of that time. I here is so much history on Grams side so she wrate a book & so did her sister Bertha Blacker. When they made the Missouri River dam at Helena Fram wrote a poem about it it was published in Helina:

(3) In 1923 Gram's sister (Mrs Jom Costello) was in the process of adding a top story to their hotel which they built & owned -I he Rainbow. as an oil boom was on at The same time as the Dempsey Silbons fight, their hotel a part of the new part had people sleeping everywhere, My Bill was around 15 years of age, rode his busycle in the arena, later delivered telegrams to Dempsy & Subbons & also saw the fight - free . On our wall, in our Mabile Home, we have a picture of the arema, old cars etc. It draws lots of interest when people see it and also some is the Castello relatives ? Children! In 1935 we made two trips to the the Veck Dam. On our first trip to see our brother - in-law & Belli sister who had got on from the beginning & had money saved, we were so impressed we wentback to I ownsend, loaded up all our possessions in an old truck, talked his Wather into going along too, at It Geck in New Deal we built

a shack from lumber from an old building and firter, we had a little tin stone for Cooking & heating & apple boxes for seats. My remembrance is the extreme cold & mud & frost, Gram & f caught cold & Bill couldn't get on at all so we loaded up I went back to Gownsend & got 2 rooms in his family home, It was large & had several small apartments, It was so cold, we moved our hed out Close to The old Cook stone, Frost was even I inch around the windowinside! While at 71 Seck Gram got out & took orders for Fashion Frocks so she saw more of the town than I did, Bells first got after eve mere married in 1934 was stoking the furnaces in Iredent. I we had a company house kented. The fumes & Cold dust, game Billa bad Case of hives so the quit & back to Townsend me went . This was before our trek to It leck. after It seck, he drove a suchid truck for Labority road work. as they had a fab

at the Libby Jam, Iwent up a little later, The local workers made Lahinity sownsend men leave so back to journeurs me went again, We lived in so many kented houses in sownsend, I just Craved a home your own so nest we huilt a log house in 1936. We had 59 it went for the log cutting permit, his mother gave us a Cow which we sold & bought Concrete for the foundation & his can't gave us a lot for some work Bill did for her, & peeled all the logs, Bill sawed them all by hand & by then W. P.A. paid 42 month. The house has had only 3 owners, got a new roof this year of the 2 trees I planted 60 years ago are really pretty, Bells brother John Schreiner lives one short block from it in a house that Murray Schreiner built at the same time. Later both Bill + Murray worked in Geo. Gabish's gatage. In 1941 - just before Searl Harbor, we sold the house - bought an old style trailer - That had been parked in the Kelina

(6) area went to Seattle where wep asked in his Elient (Mrs Wellanders) make - shift trailer park, By then the Costellos were in the "Cabin court business on 99 So, at Riverton Leights -1941 Bill warked at ship yards, Boeings or Sacific Car in Kenton: While at Pac Car we leased a gas station where Bell could over hand cars. I have the station while he worked at Sox Car Then he came home + overhauled Cars. We men there 72 yrs. at The same time we built a house on 10 acres, bought a beg house, taxe it all to pieces & made apartments in it -(Don't know how we did it all -) We sold the gas station business. I bought Bills Blace a gas station, a tavern + 12 unit motel on 6 mpir Way out of Renton-Then after 3 years made a trade for the Ben Caral Motelon 99 So. It had 23 units, we gave Courtesy Car Service to the airport before the big Mitels came in out there. We were there

then took in Surf Resart when we sold it. The man at the Ben Caral Took bankrupsy I we took it back so we had 2 major businesses at once when we closed for the winter at La Sush we came back to the Ben Carol a warked. Our son & wife Kan it for a short time . as they have 6 sons 9 I daughter they soon went back to their home I we sold the Ben Carol, we were 6 seasons at La Bush, Wo had double decker Watel, trailer park, kicker hoat a Charter boat, after me sold, we Commercial fished 2 years. Our last hightrip in our boat, wewent way up un Canadian waters & after those turbulent waters & whirl pools, I sure don't see how those "Sea Funners in your book ever made it paddling down thru there from alaska Juan & Tuca & endup at the Columbia River area almost dead & lived of the land -enroute. I he books about your Mother & Father & your Grandmother were wonderful.

fam the reader in this family, have a large Callection of backs. Ine read all I spour books listed, les are not for from the Fairwood libeary so & requested your books & the librarian is also from Montana if they don't have your book they get it from Seattle each time. A Know this letter is long, but just had to write & thank you again I fin sure looking forward to any future ones you write, Hope you make a million. Why didn't your wife ( araf put in one of her photos of the dam when it was finished in your book? as Ill he 89 in Dec: & Bill 58 Sept 8th I doubt if we ever get to Montana If you ever come to Renton - come see us: We are on The Maple Valley Road 3 miles from Kenton in the River Bend Mabile Sack. Sincerely Margaret & Bill Schreiner

[Bothes da, MD] June 23, 2013 Dear Mr. Doig, I just funched re-reading The Bartendeis Tale, and wanted to Thank you for writing it and all Jun other books. I have them all, starting when my orster-in-law in Wyoning, in the 1980's, sent me This House of Sky, The thought that it would resonate, and ist did, having from up in the forthills of the Bighan Montains with most time

Ont down doing rauch werk. Cining your books the one I re-read wost often is this House of Sky, temph each has its own pomer, including you too of the Pacific Northwest. When hein ill and honobound fine years go, I find that re-reading or newly reading each of your works helped sestre energy along inth renewing my appreciation for your feel for the land and people and challeges of people's lines. ligan, thank your I am most galeful that you path Trued to writing and that it's also given me the opportuity to introduce you will to many others - I'm eager for publication of your next rovel and of sette in yours, we when to Butte wars,

3119 Gloria Terrace Lafayette, California 94549 March 23, 2011

Ivan Doig c/o Scribner Publicity Department Simon & Schuster, Inc. 1230 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Doig,

I only recently have found your great stories and am writing to tell you how much pleasure they have given. Besides your gift for writing - the stories have often intersected my childhood memories and the tales told by my mother. Her extended family had homesteads about 6 miles west of Conrad until they moved to Aberdeen, Washington, in 1918, the site of my birth. She often spoke of the nearby communities that you mention in your stories. We had relatives in Great Falls and Butte as well (an outdoor advertising owner who married into an old Butte family of Spencers and was editor of the newspaper there, as I recall).

We only visited the area a few times when I was growing up. On a trip to Glacier Park about 5 years ago my husband and I visited that area and found a distant cousin who has wheat farms in the area that was homesteaded by my ancestors.

I was also delighted to learn from your autobiography "This House of Sky" that you had gone to Northwestern University, as I and my husband met on their Chicago campus while pursuing our graduate degrees, and now we have a grandson who is presently a student at the Evanston campus and rooms with a journalism student.

Recently we ordered the trilogy you wrote and in the "Acknowledgments" you mentioned a Jack Hayne. I grew up in a neighborhood called Finch Farms in Aberdeen and we were close friends of a family named Hayne with a son (Jack) in the family. He was a few years older than I was but I've been told that after WWII he ranched in Montana, so was curious as to whether he was one and the same! If so, what a small world!

Thanks again for the wonderful books that have enriched our lives.

Frances F. Coburn genecoburn@gmail.com

Frances & Cabura

895 Towner Park Road Sidney, British Columbia Canada V8L 5L6 ph (250) 656-9959 fx (250) 656-9961 ravengreen2@gmail.com

August 28, 2006

Ivan Doig 17277 15th Ave NW Shoreline WA 98177-3846 USA

Dear Ivan Doig,

Not long ago my wife Diana and I crossed the Straits of Georgia to board a cruise ship bound for Alaska. The *Universe Explorer* was a small ship, populated by academics and blessed with what was then billed as the world's largest floating library. There we found books on Alaska. We read below and gawked outside. As we neared Sitka we happened upon *The Sea Runners* and met Melander and company. Joining their diminishing party on their harrowing escape from New Archangel to Astoria, we became hooked on Ivan Doig.

and appropries to Application booker bases and some some presentation.

Several books later (which books included your evocative autobiography *This House of Sky*, and your novel *Mountain Time* with its larger-than-life characters, fast-paced adventure and contemporary dialogue), I stumbled across the intertwined journals of Swan and Doig in *Winter Brothers*. Here you brought vividly to life for me Swan's tortured life and ambitions in the remote coastal communities not far from where we now live. I particularly relished the historical rendering of Swan's oft-delayed trip to the Queen Charlottes, and his meeting with Charles Edenshaw.

In 2003 we visited the Charlottes. We chartered a plane from Queen Charlotte City and headed south to flop down in the calm waters of Rose Harbour, from where we went by high speed inflatable to Ninstints to walk among the sacred ghosts. On our return flight we traced the remote west coast of Moresby Island; and later on, in Old Massett, met Jim Hart, talented carver and Haida Hereditary Chief (a position once held by Charles Edenshaw). Hart showed us around his studio where, from beneath a veneer of shavings and modern carvings, peeped precious relics from Edenshaw's era in varying stages of decay.

On that same trip we drove to Tlell to meet Noel Wooten, the late James Houston's local fishing buddy. I purchased some flies from Noel, and he decided to take the next day off

fishing. He led me to his inner sanctum, a secret series of pools on a clear river running deep among the cedars and sitka spruce. I failed to rise any sea-run Dolly Varden trout, but by way of compensation Noel led me to Houston's cabin on the Tlell. We entered and I rested my hand on Houston's writing desk.

The only Doig I ever met (no doubt a distant relative) was David Doig, a Scottish friend from British military service days who now resides in rural Ontario (Canada). Yet I feel I ought to know you, your writing resonates so strongly with me. If your travels ever take you to Vancouver Island I would be honoured to meet you. We live on the water, close to the airport and ferry terminal. My phone number is above.

I hope this may come to pass.

With greatest admiration,

Gerdan Green
K. Gordon Green

307 Yoakum Parkway #1419 Alexandria VA 22304 2 December 2006

Mr. Ivan Doig c/o Harcourt Inc. 6277 Sea Harbor Drive Orlando FL 32887-6777

Dear Mr. Doig -

I have read *The Whistling Season* with much pleasure, for several reasons. I was raised (I'm now 90+) in Iowa and experienced the one-room school you so skillfully evoke. I have taught, and can sympathize with Morrie, pitchforked into a situation where you must rely on background, instinct, and luck. But I was particularly moved by Paul's defense of the rural school, not simply as a place for education but also as a focal point for a community.

It still is. I experienced it then, with social gatherings (where I learned "When you come to the end of a perfect day..") or Grange meetings; and again, oddly enough, in Argentina, where I attended the dedication of a refurbished country school. It could just as well have been in Nebraska. Scrubbed children in their uncomfortable best, nervously reciting set pieces while their parents looked on; the farmers in shirtsleeves and their wives in flowered cotton dresses; the unmistakable smell of floor-sweep when I ventured inside; the unreliable PA system. The only real difference was culinary. Behind the long tables were spits angled over a fire trench, each with a lamb carcass splayed on it, and on each table, about five feet apart, were bottles of wine.

But Paul's soliloquies made me think of a parallel, for if Sputnik was the harbinger of consolidated schools, central air conditioning was the ruin of neighborhoods here in Virginia. Fifty years ago families ate supper in summer at the picnic table in the back yard, to enjoy what coolth there was. Kids played back and forth, neighbors gossiped, wives swapped recipes, plans were made for the Christmas block party. And then, gradually, it became more comfortable inside. The tables vanished and so did much of the fellowship. The neighborhood organizations, which had been a vigorous political force, lost their purpose when few people stayed outside after work. There was no villainous appropriations chairman, but central air had quietly done the same.

Thank you once again for so vividly recreating a lost world. I've adjusted pretty much to this one, but I wonder what my grandchildren are heading into. *Hodie mihi, cras tibi* – goodbye, and good luck.

Yours,

Elchaser Charles Schafer Your book (The Whistling Season) triggered so many memories and emotions that for the first time in almost 86 years I am writing to an author.

Beginning with your dedication to the Nelsons. My daughter, Terry Kuhns (Clifton Duke), and Ann Jarrett (Nelson) were roommates as cherubs under the guidance of your wife, Carol. And, they continued as roommates for virtually their whole time at Northwestern.

Montana. My grandfather's brother homesteaded (probably in the 1880's) in Montana and farmed just south of Whitefish. When the railroad came through it brought a lady that he subsequently married. My father visited his cousins in 1910. In addition to shooting a deer, he also shot a number of photographs .....mostly of lumbering and Indian gatherings. In the 1950's, my 1<sup>st</sup> wife and I visited my fathers cousin, Tom Kuhns, at his farm (ranch) and also stopped by the Kuhns one room school house. In the 1980's I stopped by the area again...gave my fathers negative to the Kalispell newspaper. And never heard a word from them. Tom was no longer living and a neighbor (Swedish) had taken over the land. They told me how helpful Tom had been when they arrived. The item that sticks in my mind was that he gave them bear grease....it makes the very best donuts.

Words, Latin and Paul's fascination with them. Although my father and I were engineers, my two sisters, 1<sup>st</sup> wife, and daughter all had/have Journalism degrees. And, I had more interest in words than most engineers. My 1 year of Latin in high school was a near disaster...that's why I became and engineer. But, my first wife had 12 years of Latin (two in college)...her's was the writer's pen...early in school a nun told her so. She became city editor of the Kokomo (IN) Tribune before she passed away in 1979. Even with my limited skill, I can still figure out many words by "going back to the root".

My 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of almost 25 year suffered a stroke this year that damaged her ability to read. So, your book is the first and only book that I have read out loud in its entirety in my life. We both enjoyed it.

While reading, I couldn't help but surmise that Paul Milliron was Ivan Doig transferred a generation back in time. Outstanding student from a sparsely populated area....but, the book didn't tell whether he got a scholarship to Northwestern. Do you suppose there's a correlation between dreamers and creativity?

We had read most of your earlier books which we found quite interesting, but this one struck even more of a chord with us. Thank you so much, Ivan, for a very enjoyable week.

John C. Kuhns

2631 S Park Rd

Kokomo, IN 46902

jckuhns@insightbb.com

## Dear Ivan.

I finally got around to reading your book, "This House of Sky". That brought back a lot of memories! It was a great read. You really did turn out to be a great word-smith! It cleared up some questions that I have been puzzling over for years. One of those was; "Why did you never ride a school buss like my brother and I did." I didn't know that you stayed in town with people like the Jordans. I also didn't know why you moved away.

After having read the book, I am sure glad that my Granddad raised cattle instead of sheep. I went with my Grandpa to Manger's place during lambing season once. What a mess! I was somewhat surprised that the only classmates that you mentioned were my cousin George Kirkwood and Susan Buckingham. Old George hasn't changed. He is still as weird as ever. He lives in W. S. S. now, just a stone's throw from my cousin Charlene. As for Susan, I understand that she went off to Stanford, and married a professor there. Not to be critical but I recall that there were more than nine bars in W.S.S. I think that I counted thirteen at one time. Well, no matter, the place is only a shell of it's former self now. It's all the way down to three or four bars, but one of them is still The Stockman. I really can't figure out how there could ever have been enough people around there to support even nine bars, let alone thirteen. I used to stay in town once in a while with George. That was when his mother and Sibley had that café, right across the alley from the Maverick bar. George had a paper route, and after we had delivered the papers, we would take the extras down to the bars to sell to the drunks. We had cap guns, and we would walk into a bar and shoot up the place with them. Then we would sell the papers to drunks. Almost invariably, they would turn around, and give the paper back to us. It was great fun! You evidently came to know that town a lot better than I did. My Grand parents kept my brother and I pretty close to the ranch most of the time.

Do you remember when you and your family lived on my Grand parents place? At that time, we lived on the west side of the highway, at the McKee place. You and yours were at the home place, on the east side of the highway. I think that it was when we were in the first or second grade. Anyhow, Grandpa took me there once after school. You were there, making up your own Weekly Reader stories. I was interested in what was said about Moss Agate in your book. My grandparents lived at Moss Agate during the winter of 1919, after having moved to Montana from Idaho. They stayed there while my grandfather built the house at the home place, which is about eight miles north of Moss Agate, just east of the South fork of the Smith River. They may well have known your Grandmother. Our ranch extended from just north of Moss Agate, almost up to the Y (the intersection of US 89 with the road that goes to Townsend through Deep Creek Canyon). On the east, it included the Mossberg place, and extended almost up to the Castles. On the west, it included the McKee place, and extended almost to the McGlaughlin place. In my opinion, it was situated in what was the best place for a ranch between Ringling and White Sulfur Springs. It had a spring up on the hill above the ranch house. My Grand father had run a pipe down the little spring creek to the house, so that we had running water in the house. The bottom land near the river was to grow hay, and the bench land near the highway was devoted to dry land wheat, barley, and oats. The cattle were pastured on the hills to the east and north of the ranch house. We had a big garden that

was irrigated by the little spring creek, and a bigger potato garden down near the river. My Grandmother raised chickens, and we had half a dozen milk cows, and some pigs that they used for meat. The ranch was fun place to grow up, but it was also a lot of hard work. My grandparents were Quakers, and they were firm believers in "if you don't work, you don't eat". One of the interesting things was that it was right in the middle of Rankin's land. We used to see the convicts, Rankin Riders we used to call them, out there sometimes. Actually, in retrospect, I think that "Riders" was a little too charitable a description for those people. Old Rankin was one hell of a ranch manager, I will give him that. His cattle used to overgraze that pasture around Black Butte to the point where it actually turned brown, and you could see the clouds of dust kicked up by the cattle as they searched for something to eat. Anyhow, we had a hell of a time with Rankin's stock breaking down our fences to get something to eat. Our cattle would get out there and mix with Rankin's, and we would have a devil of a time trying to find them. I spent many a day in the saddle, out there looking for stray cows. My Grandfather finally hit on the idea of going to Black Angus cattle, so they would stand out among the many hundreds of Rankin's. This process took several years, and during that time we had Red Angus. Red cows, but without the white faces of Herefords. My uncle Scott got even with Rankin, to some degree. He used to ride out into Rankin's pasture during calving season, rope a calf, and bring it back across the saddle in front of him, to raise on the milk from the milk cows. He built up a small herd that way, over several years. If I had been my Grandfather, we would have lived on Rankin beef, but my Grandfather, being a Quaker, would not do that. As, it was, we ate pork from the pigs that we raised. Ah, the good old days! Well, enough of that. You are very likely bored to tears by now.

You were my favorite classmate in school. I used to really enjoy playing touch football with you, and the other guys. I have a knee injury similar to the one that you described, from playing football. The thing that I admired the most about you is that you neither picked on anyone, nor were you picked on by anyone-a thing that was refreshingly different in that time and place.

I did not know that you have three degrees. I have three also, but mine are in mathematics and electrical engineering. Two are from Montana State, and the third one is from Seattle U. I suspect that your degrees were a lot more fun to work on than were mine. Anyhow, congratulations! I almost got a fourth degree (PhD EE) but I did not get the opportunity to finish my dissertation. Like you, I met a high school teacher who influenced me, but mine was a physics teacher. I have finally after all these years developed the ability to read difficult material without writing stuff down, and deriving equations, like I used to do. Now, instead of sleeping, or looking out window during airplane trips, I read mathematics texts. It really freaks out the other passengers! I wish that I could have done that earlier. Well, it's not really that I couldn't have. I just didn't think that I could.

Do you have any children? I have three fine boys. The oldest is a FBI agent, who lives near Salt Lake City. That kid is living my dream life. He participates in a shooting match of some kind every weekend. He gets to shoot up the ammo that they take away from the bad guys. My second oldest is a professional photographer, web site designer, and

advertising material designer. Check out his website (ctwphoto.com). The third one was a late bloomer, but he is a good kid anyhow, and works as a radiologist.

I am sending you a copy of a review of your latest book, which I got out of the Boston Globe. Congratulations on getting it promoted by Cosco in their advertising thing. I wish that I had read "This House of Sky" first, but the first of your books that I read was the one about the boy who spent the summer work for the Forest Service, near Choteau. I am getting ready to retire, and move back west. We think that we will probably live in Arizona, but we do not know for sure. I tried to talk my wife into Thermopolous, Wyoming, but she thinks that it would be too cold, and too isolated there. I plan to try my hand at the wordsmith game. My wife wants me to write something similar to the Clancy books, but I think that I would rather write something more substantial-something about Montana, like you did. I think that something on the order of a cross between "This House of Sky", and "The Legends of the Fall" might be interesting. (I promise not to plagiarize your stuff.) Anyhow, congratulations on getting so many books published.

Well, I had better get this in the mail. I have been trying to get it written for weeks. Please forgive me for ranting on, but I figure that you and I have more than a little in common. Also, I wanted you to know a little of my Montana experience. I suppose that you have heard that my cousin Ronny Straugh died. It's too bad about him. If his dad, (my Uncle Henry) had paid any attention to him when he was growing up, he might have turned out to be a world beater. As it was, his was kind of a wasted life. When we get settled, (probably in Arizona) please come and visit us. I will show you the sights. I lived there for 30 years, and I got to know it pretty well. Anyhow, goodbye for now, and take care.

P. S. The book review that I found in the Boston Globe has disappeared. We are trying to get ready to move here, and I am still trying to put the finishing touches on the house that we bought here so that we can get it sold. (The place was a veritable pile of rubble when we bought it, and I have managed to turn it into something pretty decent. It's a good thing too. In this market, we could never in God's world have sold it in its original condition.) Anyhow, now that I have your address, I can let you know when we get settled in AZ. Take care. Hasta La Vista, and Via Con Dios!

Sincerely,

Larry Ward

Judith R. Collens 3351 Huffman Road Medina, Ohio 44256

Sep+26,2007

My dear Mr. Doig, Having taught The first 4 grades in & 2 vom school 60 years ago, your excellent book to whistling season, was reccomended to me. I took it on a trop to Freland, and it was te perfect traveling companion. We have lost so much of quality education in today's world; my grandchildren's overstocked class rooms depress mell But Jackson, N. H. refused consolidation, + my old school ultimately added I worms to Library, now has grades 1c-6 with a total of 55 students. Thankyou to much fur Rote, morrie, the millions + all of your characters. gratefully, Judith R. Collear

## JOBER LW. A GWEST. NET

The Smiling Dog Co.

Marcia Macy
1400 N.W. 123rd St. Vanc, WA 98685
(360) 573-5254

Marciamacy@aol.com



Acrizen House 900 University Street #1202 Seattle, 14. 98101 We more 10-25-20-7 anne Soper 10 resit & Take Ame booksete etc. with affection & friendly 9-20-2007dear Ivan & Carol, Congratulations on the hallace Stegner award - very deserved + logical if anything is The Book world is legicul. Deen W.S. across a crowded voom at an A.BA-- very strong looking & queat fersenality. What great looks he left TOOMs. Do next Christmas it is

March 28,2007

Dear Mr. Doig,

I just finished rereading The Whistling Season and decided that it is about time to tell one of my favorite authors how much I appreciate your books. Several years ago I discovered English Creek and have been a devoted fan ever since.

Having been raised in South Dakota and having lived in Cut Bank, Montana, I relive the west in your descriptions...My mother, who homesteaded in South Dakota and started a school near where she lived, used to tell us of country school experiences, and if she were alive I know how she would love Whistling Seasons. She often talked about the characters who showed up and used names other than their own.

So man y of the books that we read in our book clubs are really not well written and it is good to find now and then s entences that are well constructed. This book goes on my recommend list for my two book clubs. We who live in retirement centers appreciate a challenge, so I thank you and hope to be able to read more of your writing

Incidentally I hope you don't mind that when our new library was built, we could buy bricks for theoutside and have our favorite author's name inscribed on it. I had your name put on one.

Most sincerely,

Windcove #56 5300 South Main

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Svetskin Josobson

Dear Gretchen Jacobson--

I so appreciated your charming letter. As you doubtless caught on, "Marias Coulee" in *The Whistling Season* is fashioned after some of the country between Cut Bank and Valier, where I went to high school.

The book is really having a blessed life. Not only do I hear from people of your generation and mine who know that part of Montana, but ost recently the book won an American Library Association "Alex" award as one of the ten best of the year for young adults. And of all unexpected thins, the movie rights have been optioned by guys who actually seem to have some money and experience and conceivably could make the movie. We shall see.

If none of your reading groups have come across it, I'd recommend you have a look at a short novel titled *The All Of It*, by Jeannette Haien; it's really written. As for my own work, the thought of my name bricked into permanance at the Cedar Falls library tickles me pink; thanks so much for fine gesture.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. Doig,

I wanted you to know what a pleasure it was to meet you during the South Dakota Festival of Books "Literary Feast" (on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>).

I attended the event especially to meet you and get your autograph in my copy of "The Whistling Season", never dreaming I would be seated right next to you for dinner! So-there! Do you feel like a rock star with a groupie? ©

I read a lot of everything—with the exception of science fiction—but I am ashamed to admit, I had not come across your books before. My loss! I am making up for it now, however. You've spoiled me for other authors. I love your gift for words and descriptions. I always wonder what line I was standing in when talents were being given out—but I suppose the world needs us "appreciators" as much as it does the artists with words and paint, right?

You may remember me telling you that my dad's name was Ivan (Fenner). I know you would have liked him and he you. He grew up cowboying on the plains of western South Dakota and would have been happy doing so forever...unfortunately life and making a living got in the way. Dad died in 1997 (of a massive stroke caused by lung cancer) at the age of 71—way too soon, for sure.

We have a family story about my dad's name. When hearing what he had been named, one of my grandma's sisters-in-law asked her, "Well, Susie, will he be 'Ivan the Great', or 'Ivan the Terrible'?" To which grandma replied, "Only time will tell..."

I have just finished reading "This House of Sky" and "Heart Earth". What a treasure to have so much recorded of your family history—and a history of those eras as well.

I am a child of the 50's (born in '53) but not so young that I cannot enjoy knowing you "when" and relating it to my own experiences here on the plains of western SD. I spent as much time as I could riding horseback on my maternal grandparent's ranch—although you would not be impressed with the horse. "Red" was huge and wide and mostly Percheron in heritage. He enjoyed being in the corral much more than having a pesky grandkid on his back, so I spent a lot of time coaxing him around those thousands of prairie acres of grandpa's.

Unlike you, I grew up surrounded by a plethora of family and extended family. I only have one brother (Ross Ivan Fenner in Boise, ID) but have many aunts, uncles, and cousins. It seems like it was never just our family at home in Rapid. Several times my mom's younger sisters or brothers would stay with us so that they could attend school in town.

Thanks again for making the effort to come to South Dakota. If you and your wife ever want to wander around the Black Hills or prairies, please know that our home is always open—and we have plenty of extra beds now that we are empty nesters.

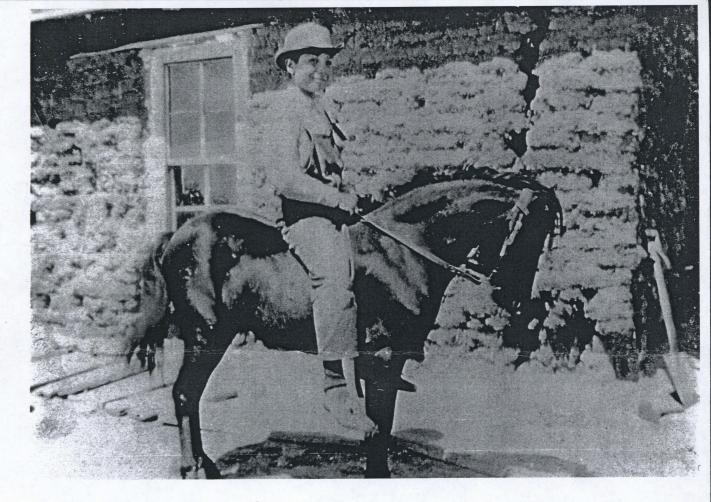
Shelli M. Vallis (and my non-reading engineer husband, Doug!) © Jul N. Vallis

2527 Junction Drive Rapid City, SD 57702

605-721-7780 shellimv@rushmore.com

Dear Ur Doig - Oct 13, 2008 Im delighted Tell get to hear you speak tonight at Third Place Books. If it toesu't Deen appropriate or 2m too she to speak det, d'el muite you a "fan letter" flecoure after reading The Whistling Season (a ye ago 2 wanted to tell your how much and whey it meant to me and what followed Your vivid writing not only got us to feel-the setting and Dife of the famely Theet to get inside the heart mend and body of young Paul with his classmates, tamby teacher, confusions, worries and dreams. father as well. It was awerdme that I could imagine dad (b 1899 in Hemingtond, Nebraska) in 1910 as well. His father had recently died, his mother needing his help ontheir homestead farm and sod house & I've one cherished photo of him at that age and his on his poly named "Prince and he too attended a one-voom school house hiding his pony a long way. The character building sense values, work ethic, love of latin End books and learning that you showed Jane also was one girl in his class that was convinced to confining so that they condition!

Schalarship, hard work, and hetarning to the Nebetarm to harvest potatoes each summer got kim through law school, Unio, Cheo! Thom his sol house to a lawyer in Sears Tower cheo he was ever Rumble, dedicated, and with a book in his hand! Actually when he left cheo, to be closer to his children in WASherefor Sto he took the bar exam Someone who needed helpwitha will or something and was the oldert fellow to so in oper state Dearne Letis volunteer work in Shelton was to help in mates clary to read who were jailed there. He'd told me many stonies when Lasked Jour beautiful writing made me feel I was liwing the life with faul. I bought three sytra copies with a Short bio of their grand after my 3 daughters' families to have the same Expersence and share with their children Dhoto with your book to help identify. Thus I thank you for Auch beautiful heriting and opening up the demily experience of our heritage too to my family dad head us some books in winter time, the the fong Winter and Robinson Crusar. The fong Winter and Robinson Crusar. They have deeply savored of Foodbara B. Jacy



hester George Britton b. 1899 — (1983) Hemingtard, Nebraska on his pony "Prince" that Carried him to this One-Room School House.

> Barbara B. Lacy 19275 Stone Ave. N Shoreline, WA 98133-3612

John Ratel.

EDRIE JOSephy Pervey, Hailey JD 7 Noverbox 6, 2008 Dear Ivan, What a wouder to l ferent you are! My own copy of The Elevath HOH with its lavely note viside. I can't wait to begin the book now that the Teailing of the Sheep is are for avotter year and this historic electron is behind us. But what a week this has been! I ady wish Dad had lived lougevough to hear Obama Tuesday Might. He would have had teaps in his eves 25 we all did here. What a money

in time...at last. Receiving your book this fall was au inspiration and a curiosity. It made me wish (again) we lived closer, I'd so love an have or so with you perhaps a cup of tea and some good conversation. I say inspired and curious as I survey all your weitings and sknople so with my and. I am a feard I have overreached this time and I am disquited with my usability to tell the stories that havilt me. But another time for this conversation. For war, love and



Morris Island Lighthouse

Sat. april 4, 2009 Dear clean, Having finished reading "The Eleventh Man this morning, I just wanted to drop you a short note and let you know that I enjoyed the book immensly. You did a fine job of transporting me to another place and time. il was not sure where to separate the fact pem fiction until you finally confersed at the end. Il can almost hear John artol the virtues and chagein of flying ( and paraduting.) as it read of the efforts to Country the begg bombs into antwerp of could only think book to Christmas in Seattle when talking to you about reading von Brown's biography, I had no idea you book so prominently featured their honor, while all the while I was reading about their creater and subsequent production Even

with all that was later accomplished by the space station pow un orbit, finding a justification for von Braun's is challenging. Since his original aims since youth were to be in space, it is only the modinations of Hiller which forced the technology for his demonic pursuits.

Well before I digress further, I just went to say thanks again for your winting, a welcome diversion from the current economic malaise that surrounds us. We are holding our own despite cutting aun ewil force by 35% and wood haves by 10% or more. ( this is at o'Weal.)

On a brighty note, hope your year gree well. Hive my best to Carol.

WEJCO Best regards.

David

Mov. 6, 2008 Lear Caroland fran, I sure enjoyed talking with you this evening and I'm glad all seems to be going well with your book (and future book!). your fans (and my friends) are: Meta Van Horn Vottie Crouch Becky Forney Manythanks in advance for doing this por me. Iknow these Cadies will be sopleased! Shope we can at least do lunch sometime over this winter. alluest wishes, Midge P.S. I think I must have gotten into a box of my granddaughters stationery! (2)



Dear Wan I have just cataloged the new book so that it can stand provilly on the shelves with its neighbors. I blush at the acknowledgement - but my Mother will have some bragging rights this winter. for and Corol are simply to kind. Roy's I enjoyed the reading last night sitting in the back row with Tony Angell & kes unfe - Great to see you - we'll be in boch. From "Just plain" Betty.

Mar. 11, 2009 Dear Mr. Doig about sin group and In writing to tell you how much your book The Whistling Season, meant to me, and also to other members of our book discussion groupento emitorio elute estil a to Your wry humor and easy style made this a delightful "read". I dearly loved the two heroes-Oliver, who did the heavy lifting, making big decisions and taking responsibility for the outcome for his family and his community - and Maurice (Mouris? ! Listened to it) 300C 11 71021

who gave his students the keys to the world with his snasbuckling graceful style of teaching The book is a charming account of a life style in a time other than our own rich and simple (?) My desire for happy endings left. me hoping that the animal-trapper would be conveniently eliminated by an intended victim, leaving his liberated and bespectacled son to be reborn as a mily - and Maunice (Morns ! Meters ) to

respected and productive member
of the community. But I guess
life isn't often like that Is it?
Thank you for showing us
life in another dumension
Dorothy Epstein



Ms. Dorothy Epstein 128 Clay Cir. Brick, NJ 08724

Dear Mr. Doig, I have loved are your books especially This House of Sky so I was pleased that Bucking the Sun takes Place once again in Montana ui the 1930/2 or early 1940/2. I liked the strong women In the book and their strength 3 character against the odds and devotion to their men and their Causes; It was educational in that I blewned about the building of the Fort Pech Dan ouer the missouri Ruier during this Period and the many struggles that came with the project. It brought to mind many elements that I had not thought of

before - people looking for yales, unions, ancient huffals skiells churry up in the water, FDR delivering his speech at the dam, mud slides, engineering successes and failures, etc. In the midst of everything is family love. I am glad that members

The Duff Jamily fixed on in this

new book. The relief work and

MINT DERIVERS new Depression tied in with many
ment Depression tied in with many
thereof that I am fearthing my students
thengs that I whole book was very interesting.

The whole book was very interesting.

The whole book was very interesting. another brilliant hours. I would sign this be honored if you would sign this book and book place for me. Do
book and book place for me. Do
would have give out
that you give out
you have so,
to jaus? I would love to
have one of Best wishes and I fook
have more of Junearly
work. July Aristia.

1938 St. David Drive Bettendorf, IA 52722 January, 26, 2000

Ivan Doig c/o Scribner 1230 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Doig:

I recently read your novel <u>English Creek</u>. I now consider it one of my favorites. I thought that the way you told the stories in the book was very well done. The blend of humor and events that seemed like they could actually happen that you used was excellent. I especially like how you described the characters and made them seem like a real person. One other thing that I thought was important in your work was the language that you used. You managed to bring to life the way that the people lived through their words and phrasing. Reading the dialogues made me feel like I was actually in Montana watching the events as they took place.

What are some of the reasons that you like to write? Did you always know that you wanted to be a writer? I hope that you continue to write. You are one of the best authors of our time. Thank you for your time and I will continue to read your work.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Miller

Mike Miller

Genold Deegan
337 Million d Road,
Chappa zna, New York,
10514
March 28, 2000

my Ivan Soig

Dear Mr. Dois:

What a good writer you are. On inventive, joyful, compelling novelist. A truthful, bemund, and loving memorialist. I look forward to reading more of your work.

By chance I brought Rascal Fair home from the library, two is three months ago. I was enthralled, and very impressed with your verbal agaility, and plotting thorough ness. Your warne warn't familiar, when I checked Rascal out: I took it became the Jacket copy spoker of your knowing the Ruchy Mountain West. You do indeed.

I grew up in Denver. Lived there
through high school and after a stint in the
army. The Characters in your novels, and your
father and grand-mother were similar to members
of my family I clan, and to those friends and
relatives older than my parents.

21

I started at the Un Coborado, after the army, transferred to the Un Washington for their tar East Department, and did some graduate worke at Harvard. I then worked in Tapan; I settled in Sanfrancis to upon my return from Tapan. So, whe traced vaguely similar paths from the Rocking to and in the Pointer

I'm like all of your novels, in cluding
the Sea Runners. It's an interesting epic.

I was artenished to pead your blust for the
game of "pitch." The only times I ever played
it or was around people who played it, was in
Colorado.

Buckey the Sun would seem to open the positility of a revel about Hanford. In the Forties, or in the Wineties. Is me in your plans?

I hope you have been reaching a reasonably - sized andience. We have a strong local (and independent) brookstone here. When I ordered Mountain Time from the owner last month, she reported she had to special order your brokes. Stocking them didn't move them ant. She reported she had to be she had to she had talked by a brobseller

in Doise, who can't keep your tother in stack. Well, you're reaching some people - I think your comment in Sintemporary authors shout Characters rooted in a region but wrentling with life as it comes is sound. Leave the King dom by andis Kenneally, published in 1954. It's a gem. Cordially yours, Tevall Deeg an

Dear Mr. Doig,

I am ninety one...goin' on ninety two. I live in Timbercrest a Retirement Home in North Manchester, Indiana where I am happy and very well taken care of. I have a good , caring family who insist they care for me a great deal, but I'm sure they are very grateful for Timbercrest. I don't want to live with them either!!

I don't know why I am telling you all of this unless I want to give you the opinion that I am still capable of some judging and making opinions for myself.

That leads me to the purpose of this letter which is to tell you how thoroughly I am enjoying your books. I just came on to them by chance so the first one I read was The Sea Runners. I loved it. Then I was told that This House of Sky was your first and considered the best one. I was eager to prove to myself that it could possibly be better than The Sea Runners. I'm still not sure.I'm now waiting for our local library to get Ride with me Mariah Montana from the State Library. That will be my seventh.

I'm recommending all of them to family and friends and trying hard to wean my Book Club members from the disgraceful Book-a Minute trash that is flooding the market.

Surprise, surprise! I'm asking neither for donations or favors. I am just a believer that appreciation should be given where it is due.

Yours truly, Ruby Beauchamp

P.S When I recommend your books to someone when paper and pencil are not handy, I suggest to them that you are the one I'd Dog...Doig

Mox 501 M. Manchester, IN 46962 Dear Mr. Doig,

2 just finished reading This House of Sky - probably the

5 th time over - read English Creek again - senic forest fires
have been big, here in montana!

2 m a farmer ranch wife - never worked a "paying" job centre

2 was 63 year and - Have worked two years at

boaders medial Centre Extended care. Day gen wheel thous are 6:57 ine.

Our son Jaim our land. Like your father, we have worked

hard - endled up with not-so-much but treasure every

year we were allowed to work, rain kids and enjoy our

family of neids.

Just To ague with my drift of your books-life es amazing in never changing-yet changes. Lake Francis is short on water-My husbard attended a water meeting at Valin-what to do for neht year - Ou grand daughts just survived a diabetre episode This Labor Day whetherd - because the hiked en Glavie Park-16 grant sed-

My parents are 85 and 89- They have teaded this hard Marias (one of your Javoite words + mine!) - Ledger area lands - all their lives - 2 see them

wearing out.

gust had to drap a note of Thanks for writting it down we have guien your books as gifts a reconnected them to friends.

May Dod bless you a yourd Continually - as you share words with 45- Severily, Souther Souther Souther Souther

Rte 3, Box 348 Comod MT 59425 Mrs. Esling Drubh

## Mayo Clinic

200 First Street Southwest Rochester, Minnesota 55905 Telephone 507 255-2504

David R. Holmes, Jr., M.D. Cardiovascular Diseases and Internal Medicine

January 10, 1997

Mr. Ivan Doig c/o Simon & Schuster Rockefeller Center 1230 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Doig,

We come from different backgrounds and institutions but are held together by the bond of the printed page and the wonder and magic it holds. We have relished the reading of Sea Runners – to which applies the aphorism that good literature does not kiss on the first date.

We found that book to be uncommon – replete with common words and phrases used uncommonly, so that each sentence could be (and was) savored. We also enjoyed *Bucking the Sun* and found that it had some glimpses of this uncommoness but was not nearly as rich. We have enjoyed your other works but also not as much; they sometimes seemed to be more genre – not to denigrate genre – but they lacked the brilliant clarity of Sea Runners.

We hope you will write another book as uncommonly good and rich as Sea Runners and we eagerly await it.

Sincerely yours,

David R. Holmes, Jr., M.D.

Jano Holmes

Director, Adult Cardiac Catheterization Lab

Mayo Clinic

Patricia K. Hodgson

Director of Communications

Patricia K. Hodgsn-

Duke Clinical Research Institute

3261 San Amadeo Laguna Hills CA 92653 January 29, 1997

Dear Mr. Doig,

This is just a note to say thank you for the hours of pleasure your books have brought me. I believe I have read them all -- at least all those in our two local libraries.

My first introduction to your novels was by chance through a "books-on-tape", <u>Dancing At The Rascal Fair</u>. Following that was <u>English Creek</u> and the McCaskills became my friends. Incidently that book has become a favorite gift to teen-age grandsons.

You may wonder why I happened on your address; it was due to research I made preparing for a report to our shared literature group next month (a branch of our College Club). We choose a favorite author or book to present, and I am looking forward to telling them about Ivan Doig and his outstanding tales set in Montana.

Thank you for enriching my life and introducing this former easterner to the western landscapes and colorful lives of its settlers.

Sincerely,

norma Sharp



Door Mr. Doig,

Su June, my book group is

dis cussing your book, Buckingthe Sew.

This book to me, is quite different from your

More recent books and Style.

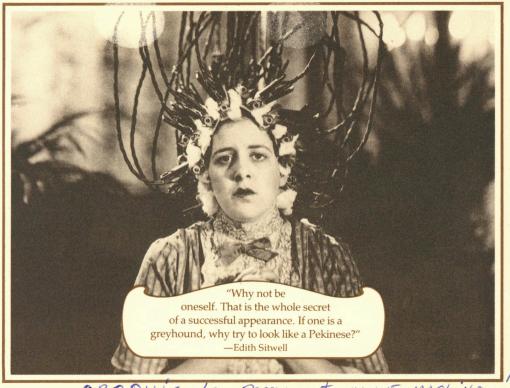
Trom Sea Runners to Geart Earth, Twe read them all evith pleasure. This book, Rowever was an agriced taste and as a result Jam feeling a bet lenease feading the discussion for a group of ladies who have not read your precious books. Bucking the Sun is rough in subject and Theyle I not the frose glienter Bisthers.

Some dack poundints the whee of this book or even a study quide if it's derailable would be helpful. I know your schedule is full and I am asking for precious time in response.

Thank you for your time. Janua Try 4040 9 44 SWSE. Mercer DS WA 98040

(over)

P.S. Jour anniversary introduction to This House of Sky, was special.



CROQUIGNOLE Permanent WARE Machine

February 1st, 1997 Dear Mr. Doig, THANK you for writing Bucking the SUN! It was My introduction to you AND TO MONTANA. I Lived Through the depression - but you brought it into Shorper toous Through The Lives of The Dutts; I could not put it Down - truly - will tell my 79 + 80 year old friends to read it, too. It is A great book ... No trite expressions And No boringly detailed gratuitous sex scenes, I telt the Coldness of the shorty dwellings, + MUKKed the Madering mud - And Almost hated -It ugh this drunkeness. Owen was special-His mathemotics genius did not stond in the Way of his Love for his FAmily. A Great, Great Book - have your Agent Sellit for A movie - today's young People should see what a struggle people Lived + Survived Through. I Toldmy husband The Fort Peck DAM is A must see. I read with An Atlas At my side a now to The Library to check on your List of Acknowledgments of Inter Library exchange. Very Sincerely, Sithers Kay ida nost- 4562 Johnson St. PS. We had a rest of Iwows in The Gary. Indiana 46408-3845 Hungarien Community here in Gary over

## I wow.

And it was so interesting to me that
whenever one of Them\* Dief....
They (The Family) insisted on a church
Burial complete with devout Prayers—
A solemn funeral and memorial dinner. Some times
They\* never had set foot into the Church!



from the Virginia Slims Collection