Great Falls Public Library

Corner of Second Avenue North at Third Street
Great Falls, Montana 59401

December 27, 1988

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

What a surprise to open my mail and find your generous contribution to the Great Falls Public Library!

Needless to say, in these days of difficult times in Montana, your remembrance of us is touching and much appreciated.

I hope your holidays were resoundingly joyous and that you write another twenty books for hungry readers like myself. The Last Best Place, by the way, is selling so briskly that new copies are currently impossible to get.

Sincerely,

Jim Heckel
Director

Great Falls Public Library

Corner of Second Avenue North at Third Street
Great Falls, Montana 59401

April 27, 1988

Dear Ivan:

As I sat down to write this your letter came, beating me to the draw.

First things first: I apologize for the slip-up in reimbursement of your train fare. My fault entirely. You will receive that as soon as it clears the City's red tape mill.

Thank you for coming to Great Falls and for creating so much excitement at the public library. You were our best program -- and had by far our largest attendance -- since you were last with us.

God bless you for thinking of writing to Mrs. Cordingley. That would be what William Faulkner used to call a mighty fine thing:

Mrs. Mary Cordingley
7525 Gainey Ranch Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 95258

As to your personnel questions: the Library Board yesterday appointed one of our department heads, Hilda Arnold, acting director as of May 15. They will advertize my position nationally. Sister Marita will remain at the reference desk in future, but she only works part time now. You could also ask for Brad Collier, our new head reference librarian. He gives good service. He also greatly admires Ivan Doig, so identify yourself if you call him.

Thank you for the splendid program, the good lunch talk and the surprise hug before your talk. That's keeping me going in these last, hard days.

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard Gercken
Director

30 April '88

Dear Mrs. Cordingley--

I'd like to express my appreciation for your role in the speakers' series that brought me to the Great Falls Public Library last week. As you may have heard from my chum Richard Gercken, we had a capacity crowd, enthusiastic and appreciative. Needless to say, the turnout did nothing to dim my affection for Great Falls and that very fine library. I know that Montana libraries need all the help they can get in these tough economic times, so your support has been a particular boon; frankly, I probably could not have made that appearance without the terms Richard was able to arrange.

all best wishes,

Feb. 5, 1987
Choteau Mt 59422

Dear Ivan,

Received the books today and do want to thank you - check enclosed -, especially for the nice messages written in them. They shall have a place of honor on my bookshelves.

Should you believe I found a copy of Winter Brothers - and a new one at that? I tried a book-store in Missoula that Carol Guthrie told me about. My boys both live over there, so they went in for me and found that they had several copies. The lady that runs it is a friend of Guthries and she specializes in books of montana and by montana authors. Should you have any other inquiries, tell them to try "The Birds Nest", 136 E. Broadway, Missoula.

Maybe I'll be able to get to Great Falls when you are there next fall and pick-up your new book and

have you sign Winter Brothers" for me. If not, ill mail it to you one of these days.

Should you be over this way and need a place to rest up, please don't hesitate to call me. Dick and I rattle around in this 4 bedroom house, as our kids are all grown and gone. I'm great at meeting planes and we normally have an extra vehicle around, should you need transportation while here. We would be pleased to have you and Carol anytime your in the area. It would be nice to be able to repay you for some of the pleasure your books have given me and my family.

27 Feb. '87

Sincerely,

Dear Carol--I'm glad the book came okay, and I'll be glad to sign up the Winter Brothers for you when we next see you, most likely this summer. And Carol and I greatly appreciate your invitation to stay with you and Dick, although it's a bad idea from your point of view--we may take you up on it!

I'll be in touch this spring, when I can get our schedule for coming to Montana arranged. In the meantime, all best wishes.

11-22-87

Dear Ivan.

I'm back begging favors again! I have some more of your books I'd like signed. "Winter Brothers" and one copy of "Rascal Fair" are mine, of course. If possible, I'd like the other "Rascal Fair" signed for my cousin Jack Besig. He's the one in New York City who is such a fan of your writing - also spent time at the Holy Family Mission with my uncles (Al & Paul Kenney) about the time you were running sheep on the two Medicine.

I would imagine your publisher keeps you up on all the reviews, but thought you might enjoy this clipping from the New York Times of Nov. 6, which Jack sent me.

Sorry to have missed you when you were in Great Falls. We were vacationing at Lake Powell (the best vacation of my life! when you really need to "get away from it all", rent a houseboat and set out on the lake,

and enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, not to mention the peace & quiet.)

Again, I want you to know that we would love to have you and Carol stay here when your back over this way. We have worlds of room and you would be welcome as long as you wanted to stay. This is a good central point to roam the country side and visit your old friends. Just let us know when your coming, and if for some reason, we're going to be gone, will leave you a Key!

Thanks again —

Carol Jimenez

28 Nov. '87

Dear Carol--

Okay, the three books are in the mail to you, signed, sealed and about to be delivered. I put a little thanks note in Jack's; the thanks are due to both of you, because that NY Times ad for my book that you passed along from him is something I hadn't seen and badly wanted to.

Carol and I have the Jimenez Hilton in mind, don't worry. The third book in this Two Medicine trilogy involves my characters roaming around Montana during the centennial hoopla, so it's not so tightly focused on the Dupuyer country; but I think I want to have a scene from Ernest Pine Butte in it, and we'd probably gladly have a roof over our heads in Choteau for a night or two while doing that. I can't tell yet whether we'll be through your country this summer--probably we will--or in the summer of '89, but I'll let you know as the time nears. Meanwhile, things are going great with us; this book is my biggest seller yet, I'm thrilled to say. Among the folks I've run into doing booksignings etc. was Sandy Wall; also a number of people who used to live in Valier.

Hey, Lake Powell sounded terrific. Never been in that part of the country--but maybe someday, now.

All best to the Jimenezes,
and happy holidays.

Ivan

Choteau, Montana 59422
December 10, 1979

Mr. Ivan Doig
c/o Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
757 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Doig,

I have just finished reading This House of Sky, and somehow felt compelled to write you just to say I believe it is some of the most beautifully-written literature I have ever read.

During most of the past ten years, I have spent the summer and fall seasons guiding and packing for the 7 Lazy P Ranch west of Choteau. During the winter months, I've alternated through various jobs of ranch work, school teaching, ski-bumming, and so on ——— But I have always found time for reading a wide range of literature, so I share your appetite for variety, in

books and travel.

One author that has attracted me is Annie Dillard (*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*), who lives in your area now. She wrote a quite beautiful short story in the November 1978 *Harper's* Magazine called "The Living".

I am quite familiar with much of that Rocky Mountain country west of Dupuyer Creek. Just last week I was climbing the high ridges west of Old Man of the Hills and the South Fork of Dupuyer Creek, and saw three mountain goats up there.

This winter I'm working at a group home for developmentally disabled.

Any time you and your wife happen to be traveling through the Choteau area, please feel welcome to look me up — for a cup of coffee or glass of wine. I'm not hard to locate, unless I'm back in the mountains on a pack trip.

I'll be looking forward to your next book.

Sincerely yours, Gene Lentz

Dear Gene Sentz--

Thanks for the kind words about House of Sky. In June of '77, when I was roaming around to finish the research for it, my wife and I pulled into the 7 Lazy P once, I think to see if we could get dinner. (We couldn't, so ended up at the roadhouse back toward Choteau.) Maybe sometime we'll make it again, and indeed look you up.

Incidentally, I share your admiration for Annie Dillard. She's left Puget Sound--to a teaching or writing-in-residence job at Wesleyan in Conn. or somewhere, I'm told. Have been curious--and a bit apprehensive--whether she'll do a Puget Sound book as fine as Pilgrim.

all best

2/11/85.

Dear Ivan & Carol:

Have been going to write and get an autographed book for ages. I knew the day that you were in Great Falls but had to work that day, So thats how long its been. Had a gal from Bynum call the other evening as she had just finished the book and had enjoyed it so much wanted to know if I had read it yet and had to say no. Ira received a book from you & also one for Christmas. He said he really thought it was interesting. I could just go buy one but it wouldnt be special. I told the gal that

I had been going to write & get you to autograph me one so she asked if I would get you to autograph one to Margaret Agee as she wants to give it to her for her birthday. Her son married Margaret's daughter Velma.

She (Anne Dellwo) said she had only heard the expression "the snow is ass deep to a tall Indian" used by her Dad & uncle and it tickled her so.

I suppose its a relief when a book is published and on the market. We sure wish you well with it. Probably getting ~~some~~ materials & new idea's and starting on a new book.

He had a new granddaughter born in October and the poor little thing has had so many problems. She's still in Denver where she had surgery for a constricted main valve out of the aoerta, just now getting out of ICU. She have been told she has cystic Fibrosis, were still praying that's not so. So our lives have been kinda hectic, trying to keep their other two 4 year old & work.

Im sending $35.00 and hopes that will cover 2 books @ 15.95 and postage & handling (took a rough estimate of what the maiter will cost & of course I know what book rate is (Ha), If its not enough let me know & if a few

cents too many. Put in kitty for
next book I need & could
want.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Perkins
Box 813
Bynum Mt 59419

Come see us if you make it
back to Montana.

16 Feb. '85

Dear Dorothy--

Hey, good to hear from you. I'm not surprised you didn't make it down to Great Falls the day I was selling the book there--the weather was so lousy I wasn't sure I was going to make it to there (from Helena). I spent a week in Montana, going around to bookstores, and was always either a step ahead of or a step behind a snowstorm.

Tell Ira for me that it about broke my heart to do so, but I cut out a couple of his best stories in the final draft of the manuscript. The book was getting too damn long, so those and some more description of the town I built on Dupuyer's site and a bunch of stuff I had about the grasshopper plagues of the Thirties, it all had to come out. Some of it may show up in later books. Anyway, a lot of Ira's lore and lingo and a story of two really helped me in trying to recreate the sheep ranching of that time.

I've started work on the next book, which will use the Dupuyer country again and a few of the same characters, but it begins in 1889 and will be about the homesteaders from then until maybe 1919. Carol and I hope to get to Montana for awhile this summer, and will see you guys if we do.

As to the signed books, the least I can do is let you have them for what they cost me, so you have a slight refund enclosed.

Was sorry to hear the news about your granddaughter. Speaking of medical news, I've wondered often about Carol Jimenez, how things went with her cancer treatment. We've missed a lot of news because we didn't make it to Montana in '84 except for that flying book trip.

Give our best to Earl and Ira. You've all been in our thoughts, often.

all best

Ivan

Aug. 4, 1980

Dear Ivan Doig:

I wanted to write you and tell you that I have enjoyed THIS HOUSE OF SKY.

I guess I came to know Charlie Doig as if he might have once worked for my father (he didn't) or he might have been one of all the men of the range I grew up around. Somehow, whether I knew him or not back then, I know him now.

Though my father is not a widower I grew up in much the same way as you did. I plan to keep that book so that my son can read it when he is older (he's now 2½) and better understand a way of life his father lived and was formed by.

Also I would like to tell you that I was over in that partmof the state a couple of weeks ago and those big hills are greener than they have been for probably fifty years. Its beautiful over there this yearr-reminds me of Hemmingway's "green hills of Africa".

There are many things I could mention about the book that held me, but there isn't room in this short letter. So, I will settle with only saying that nobody knows the bars in a small town quite the way the ranch people do. I don't know them that way anymore, but I once did. Thamks for bringing them back to me.

Thanks for the whole thing. For the silence. For the humor. For the sadness of it all. For the courage of very human people drawn with that same courage.

If you are ever in Missoula I'll buy you a drink. I'd enjoy that.

My best, Bill Dolson

Bill Dolson
1134 Poplar
Missoula, Montana

29 Aug. '80

Dear Bill Dolson--

Thanks for your kindness in writing me about House of Sky. It means much to me that the people who've known ranch life have responded so well to the book. The only sadness I have about it is that the old-timers I talked to in the writing of it are fewer every time I come back to Montana now.

Maybe our paths will cross in Missoula sometime. I think I'd like that, too.

best

Barbara Grudt
2114 Goodrich Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

January 25, 1985

Ivan Doig
Atheneum Publishing
597 Fifth Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ivan:

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading all four of your books. The latest book, English Creek, was exceptionally good. I think you are a truly talented author.

I recently came across an old letter from a former high school teacher, Frances Tedyman, who now lives in Valier, Montana. The letter describes Rock City in great detail. I thought you might enjoy reading it. Perhaps you can use it for background when writing sequels to English Creek.

Sincerely,

Barbara Grudt

Barbara Grudt

Enclosure

pvb

18 Feb. '85

Dear Barbara Grudt--

That was exceedingly thoughtful of you to send the Rock City letter. I may, in fact, manage to use its information in a book; I had a brief description of Rock City in the manuscript of English Creek and cut it because of length. Also, I'll likely pass a copy of this to Mrs. Tidyman's youngest son, Bill, now in California. There was another bonus, too: seeing Frances Tidyman's handwriting for the first time in 20-some years and immediately recognizing it from all those Valier schoolyears of seeing it on the blackboard.

truly, my appreciation.

Dear Barbara:

I surely do remember you and will give you all the information I can.

Rock City is located at the junction of Birch Creek and Two Medicine where they form the Marias River. It is on the south side of the river.

It is sandstone eroded by the wind and covers 80 acres. The columns generally have a dark black brown top. Once this falls they disintegrate ~~qui~~ quickly

On the upstream bluff water seeps out of the layers of rock into the stream. It is so full of lime it is not good for drinking. Downstream there is a grassy bank where sometimes sheep are pastured.

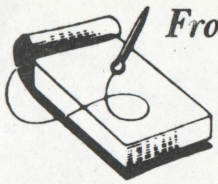
Almost no vegetation except an occasional Russia thistle and orange lichens are found.

Of course it remains a favorite picnic place.

Good luck on your article.

Sincerely, James Telpman

P.S. Jim says you can easily locate it from this on any road map. It is about 17 miles ~~south~~ west of Valier.



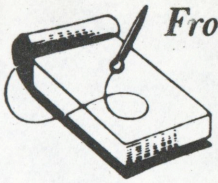
*From the desk of*

BARBARA HART
Box 1121
Big Timber 59011

Dear Ivan,

I shall start this letter by telling you some things about me. I am a 60 year old widow and a grandmother of 5 darling children. This is only the 2nd fan letter I have written. I wrote a fan letter to Beverly Sills last winter as she has added a great deal to the enjoyment of life in this small, rural community in Montana. We are able to watch her in many operas on our P.B.S. TV station.

I have just finished reading



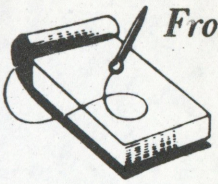
*From the desk of*

BARBARA HART

your wonderful book on Montana and your early years here. Many of my friends have been very happy with the reading of your "This House of Sky"

I truly think it will become a classic because it is so well written, so interesting and so true to life in this state

I was born and brought up in Boston and I graduated from Wellesley College



*From the desk of*

BARBARA HART

but I very much prefer
living in a small town
in Montana to all the
culture, congestion and eseme
of Boston. So happy I
married a Montana rancher
from Melville and I had
many happy years on
our ranch.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hart

Feb. 26, '79

Barbara Hart--

Thanks so much for troubling to write me about House of Sky. I'm sure it's the first time anyone has classed me with Beverly Sills.

I passed through Big Timber on a trip last autumn, when I was making bookstore appearances in Montana. My uncle Claude once ranched near Big Timber, probably before your time there; so long ago, at least, that I no longer have any memory at all of where his place was.

I've heard from a good many Montanans about the book. It's been a marvelous bonus that they all seem to like it--or the ones who don't are so mad they can't see straight enough to write.

all the best

Butte Mont.
July 5 1980.

Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave NW.
Seattle Washington 98177

I listened to you when you were a guest on todays show in Great Falls. I was interested because no one has really brought out the truth about the dry land rush to Montana on the west. how they were shown misleading pictures. by the railroads, and the realtors of what to expect. every one tries to paint a glamorous ~~picture~~ picture of hardships overcome and in the end a success story but the truth is probably less than 10% succeeded and then only half threw luck not having an accident or a sick kid.

about 85,000 in Montana alone. too big a percentage to blame laziness - poor judgement or some other excuse. it just wasn't to be made. but the poverty, suffering, loneliness and finally the despair as your stock died of loco or poison crops withered and died. Hail destroying what was left and the only thing left was to turn the horse loose and walk down the road. the kids barefooted, maybe the woman too. - There is damn few of us left and we are getting old and we were

too young then to see the whole picture and to know that it was a crime of the railroads both to the people and also to the land. some of it should never have been plowed. it took at least 20 years to come back to a natural state.

This is happening again now by over zealous realtors that want a quick buck so maybe if your heart is right and if your Education has taken in the wrongs of some of this expansion you can still do some good in writing about it.

Yours Truly,
Bernard Henderson
11250 Main St.
Rosalie Manor # 305
Butte Mont
59701

July 17, '80

Dear Mr. Henderson--

Thanks for your letter. I think my views on homesteading are pretty much in line with yours; my family lasted 40 years on our homestead, until the Depression drove them out, but the last 20 were on sheer stubborness. Perhaps if I get through Butte this fall, when I'll be traveling around to promote a new book I'll have out, I can look you up and hear some of the details of your homestead life.

all best wishes

El Cajon, Calif
117½ E. Main St
Space 176
Oct 25/56
92021

Dear Doug
& Margaret Co. Hens:
White Sulphur Springs
Montana

Dear Doug:-

See by local paper you have in paper-back two of your novels - You sent me one, & other one I read by use of my library card -

Did you not have
a third book, that
was published like
past year - If so,
send me, one, & I will
send the amount.

I'm living here, at
present, near Jeri & family -
Jack & I and my 2 couple
years ago with Lara
Teaching Lessons — Ukulele
all types, English Courses in Orange
& Riverside Co. —
I heard from so many
up North, & I plan to
go there next summer

on the Lake, near
Palm (Kings Point),
as I have a cottage
there.

If in that area, in
the summer, do
drop by —

As Ever,

Katherine Ryan Howell

30 Dec. '86

Dear Katherine--

Sorry to have taken so long to respond, but I've been finishing up my next book and simultaneously contending with an eye problem--correspondence simply didn't get done. I thought I'd better make sure which book you want--ENGLISH CREEK, which takes place north of Choteau, published 2 years ago? If so, the paperback is $5.95, and about a dollar for postage and mailing envelope.

Probably we'd never manage to make it fit our schedules, but do you ever rent out your Polson cottage for a week or so at a time? I imagine you're using it at about the same time Carol and I make our Montana trips--mid-June to mid-July--but I thought I'd ask while I was writing anyway. Best wishes for '87.

Katherine Ancell

El Cajon, Calif.
1174 E. Main St.
Space 176
Jan 8/87
92021

Dear Joan:

Received your card & please to hear from you - Yes, I would like the book you write - English Creek - Jack & I, me have lived in Chateau - Beautiful Country & we enjoyed our stay - Our next door neighbors were the Breens

who knew my Dad,
as he was a Buick
dealer, in Martindale
Area in the "Yrs!" -
So they were so nice in
getting me acquainted,
& such good neighbors -
So much for that ——

Had nice letter at
noontime from Vera, A.
Edith B., I asked my
dear friend, and one of my
first teachers Mrs Donovan!

I will keep me mind
open inquiring, and the place

the cottage at Palm -
the neighbors are all
professional people &
I'm sure you'll
enjoy it - Plenty of
space - 100' x 100' + or
Lake & not too close
& neighbors - Will
keep them your request
in mind - - - -
Sending check for
book -
Also will give you
phone no. of next door
& rear - Morning calls - 619-588-6038
Second choice - Manager here 619-444-2470 Ann Evans Lee

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Regional Office
Federal Building
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Reply to: 1630

Date: MAR 29 1983

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

Enclosed are copies of the pages you requested from the Northern Region's employee newsletter, Northern Region News, and the 1940 Northern Region Fireman's Guide.

Please call Jud Moore, 406/329-3768, if there is additional information or materials we can send you.

Sincerely,

for A R Hamrick

RAYMOND W. KARR
Director
Information Office

Enclosures

1 April '83

Dear Mr. Karr--

My thanks to you and your staff for providing the photocopied historical material to me so quickly. I should say too that I couldn't have asked for prompter and more proficient help than Jud Moore provided me. He obviously is a man with a feel for the past.

cordially

1 April '83

Dear Jud--

The photocopies I requested came yesterday; thanks greatly for the promptness. It occurred to me you might like to see my earlier book set in Montana, so here's a copy, with my compliments.

A quick question, though there's no hurry on the answer: am I right in saying that the old Selway NF was so badly burned in the fires of the early 1930's--particularly '34, I guess--that what was left of it was simply portioned out to other National Forests? I think I read that somewhere, but haven't come across it yet as I start back through my accumulated history files.

best,

Alvin

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Regional Office
Federal Building
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Reply to: 1630

Date: APR 7 1982

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

Dear Ivan:

The following is a brief chronological record of the old Selway National Forest (Idaho), 1911 to 1934. The name was discontinued in 1934 when the entire Forest was divided among the Bitterroot, Clearwater, Lolo and Nezperce National Forests.

June 29, 1911 - Established by Presidential Proclamation (effective date July 1, 1911, 37th Stat. 1695) from parts of the Clearwater and Nezperce National Forests.

June 9, 1931 - By Executive Order 5646, effective July 1, 1931, transferred land to Bitterroot National Forest.

October 29, 1934 - By Executive Order 6889, divided entire Forest among Bitterroot, Clearwater, Lolo and Nezperce National Forests. Name was discontinued.

Our fire management people are checking their records of the 1930-35 fire seasons in the Selway National Forest. As soon as we have some information about those fire seasons, I will send it over for your research files.

Sincerely,

for RAYMOND W. KARR
Director
Information Office

Forest History Society, Inc.
*109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060 / Telephone (408) 426-3770*

November 29, 1982

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

Dear Ivan:

Sorry that you have declined our elasticized cuisine, but it was good to receive your updating note anyway. As to our movie, since we published that self-fulfilling prophesy in the last Cruiser, Laird, Norton Foundation (aka Laird Norton Foundation) has bankrolled the forest fire epic. We hope that it will have its World Premiere in Portland next October. Mark your calendar. During our research, I'll keep your needs in mind, and will recommend a good fire movie. The chances are that the U of W Forestry School has film of interest.

Tax-deductible gifts to FHS are easy. Depending upon how formal you or your tax-accountant are, you can opt between using your canceled check (which satisfies about 90 percent of our donors) and requesting a receipt (which we will gladly provide).

Best to the Mrs.

Sincerely,

Pete

Harold K. Steen
Executive Director

HKS:kr

dinner with Falks

Forest History Society, Inc.
109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060 / Telephone (408) 426-3770

(. Camel Store: 476-4434

Gail – gift shop after 1 9 p.m.
Pete's: guest room –
– 3 vol his of Reg 1 (Hda-MT)
(Forestry Lit UW?)
1910 – B'nt supvsor 4-5 Pete's bk
– wrote novel
– J. Price diaries – 1910-50
day to day Sand Pt –
up ive diaries
need 75 persons?

November 7, 1980

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

Dear Ivan:

A quick note in response to your quick note. I'm about to leave for my second trip to the South in a month.

ed'n vacant –
70 %
30 %

Yes, we will be open December 22 through most of the 24th. The Davis Guide offers a good summary of our holdings; if we knew more specifically what sort of stuff would be useful to you, we could advise on the utility of your stopping by. As you probably remember, I have about 300 forestry novels, so maybe we could develop some useful conversation.

The excerpt from your Swan book in Northwest (?) arrived only a couple of days ago. I've managed so far to take the magazine home. The next step is to read.

On a personal note, Judy and I are midway through divorce proceedings. My home address and phone are: 416 Trevethan Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95062, (408) 423-2867.

Sincerely,

Pete

Harold K. Steen
Executive Director

HKS:kr

17 Nov. '80

Dear Ron--

I take it from Pete's letter to me that he's traveling for awhile, and it also sounds as if somebody else's domestic arrangements are the last thing he needs to deal with just now. So, I wonder if you'd do me twin favors.

The first is to let me know--a collect call would be fine--if it doesn't make any sense for me to delve into your holdings on the topic I'm starting on: the details of ranger life in the northern Rockies, probably in Montana, from 1932-41. I have in mind a novel, which I think I'll set in the summer of 1939, about a ranger and his family, and need to know all the everyday details I can find. Have been talking with retired rangers of the vintage and they've been good sources, but I thought your holdings might be valuable as well.

The second, if it isn't entire nonsense for Carol and me to come down to Santa Cruz, would be for you to tack the enclosed house-swap offer on the FHS bulletin board, or whatever the epicenter of FHS communication is.

We're both hoping this trip works out; it's been too long since we last visited.

best

CHRISTMAS IN SEATTLE!?!?*

*umbrella provided

Anyone interested in swapping houses during Christmas week? My wife and I are planning to come to Santa Cruz, to use the peerless facilities of the Forest History Society. Our house in the first suburb north of Seattle will be available Dec. 19-28; if you'd like to talk swap for that period, call the above number for details.

Annex – Bray

Rakestraw has been using ranger material

UOr – Melvin Merritt (in Davis county)

Wm Wiegel

Dennis Roth, head of history '75

Chas Peterson, Logan, has gathered diaries on Wasatch, etc.

Pete: 6–8 Mont books

Ray Kralek – bookends

Pm– 41–2 Bkrid peddler

49– Wisdom: Howe's clothes

~~56 Arrowheads at Antelope~~?

76– LEM

109– '39 fire

128– Bob Marshall

145– Tule

FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY'S PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

JULY 1, 1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

JOURNAL OF FOREST HISTORY published quarterly by the Forest History Society

PROJECTS COMPLETED

...Co-published with the University of Washington Press:
Lumber and Politics: The Career of Mark E. Reed by Robert E. Ficken

...Co-published with the University of Illinois Press:
The New South and the "New Competition": Trade Association Development in the Southern Pine Industry by James E. Fickle

...In cooperation with the Bancroft Library, University of California:
Interviews with Crown Zellerbach officials

...In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service:
Interviews on the history of forestry research and forest entomology

...In cooperation with Curtis Archives, Seattle, Washington:
Collection and inventory of Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company Records

PROJECTS BEGUN

...With major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities:
The Encyclopedia of American Forest and Conservation History, Richard C. Davis, general editor

(from Kathy Fahl)

Other places to look:

(1) See Mary Beth Johnson for materials in the library.
   (A) Fahl Bibliography
   (B) Holman Guide to Oral histories
   (C) Card catalog
   (D) Uncataloged materials
   (E) Photograph collection
   (F) National Forest Histories
   (G) Periodicals - especially "Blister Rust News" in annex

(2) See Pete Steen
   (A) Collection of novels

# Other places to look in SUBJECT FILES

from Kathy Ford

- songs and music
- artists and photographers
- artwork
- literature
- writers: woods & western
- lumber towns
- log drives
- log rafting
- logging machinery
- logging practises
- logging w/ Ox teams
- lookouts

Check the subject/vertical file
345 card file

Xerox

14
10
11
1
3
4
1
5

49

...With major funding from the U.S. Forest Service:
Remaking Statutory Authority of the Forest Service in the Seventies, by Dennis C. LeMaster

...With major funding from the Laird, Norton Foundation:
UCSC Visiting Scholar - to complete a book on the history of the lumberman's frontier, by Thomas R. Cox

...With major funding from the Northwest Area Foundation:
A Biography of David T. Mason: Father of Sustained Yield Forestry, by Elmo R. Richardson

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1979 - 1980

..."O & C: The Billion Dollar Checkerboard"

..."A History of the St. Regis Paper Company"

...Determining the feasibility of a Robert A. Long biography

...Publish proceedings of symposium on environmental change in the Great Lakes forest

..."The Forest in American History"

..."A History of Western Washington Forest Industries"

...Interviews on Forest Service Management Sciences

Forest History Society, Inc.
*109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060 / Telephone (408) 426-3770*

May 11, 1983

Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue, NW
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan:

Here are a couple of items on Kelley. One is a brief description of his career from the Journal of Forestry and the other is Thieme's memoir from Engineering in the Forest Service, a loose-leaf compilation that you may have already come across in the regional office. See pages 7 and 12 in Thieme for references to Kelley. Kelley is mentioned in several of the other memoirs too but only in passing.

We did get quite a rumble the day Coalinga got flattened but not enough to hurt anything. Pete and I met out on the patio though, everybody else just held on to their desks.

Glad to hear the book is going well; I look forward to seeing it. I hope this is of some help.

All the best,

Mary Beth

Mary E. Johnson
Librarian

14 May '83

Dear Mary Beth--

The Major Kelley stuff you sent should do fine. Many thanks. Glad to hear that Coalinga Day caused you nothing more serious than an abrupt urge to inspect the patio!

best

4 May '83

Dear Mary Beth--

Coalinga got all the headlines up here, so I don't know whether you guys got shook or not. I hope not. Certainly you don't deserve any further tribulations after this past winter.

In my continuing saga of the Montana forest ranger--the novel is going well; should be done with it on schedule the end of this year-- I find that I may have to do something I hadn't intended, mention the actual Regional Forester of the time and place I'm writing about. You did a great job of supplying me just what I needed on Silcox. Your reward is that I impose on you again and ask if you have a few biographical pieces, the more anecdotal (i.e., flavorful of his personality) the better, on Evan W. Kelley, Regional Forester of Region One during the Depression. I'm interested in Kelley only until the time of my book, 1939, not in his guayule-growing stint during WWII. I do have the Region One "Early Days in the Forest Service" around here and will glean through them for Kelley mentions, but I could stand to have anything that sums up his career or personality.

Carol and I were in Missoula when Pete was up here, so we're lagging on news of you all. But we do hope you're thriving.

all best

Dan

p.s. All that stuff you gathered for me--egad, 2-3 Xmases ago--now is coming into use for this book. The maturation rate isn't quite as slow as a redwood's.

Forest History Society, Inc.
109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060 / Telephone (408) 426-3770

Nov. 30, 1983

Dear Joan,

Today I've come upon a file titled, "Forest rangers - personal accounts." It was donated to FHS in Sept. '83 by Mrs. Iva Randall. Her husband (still living) was a USFS publicist. Charles E. Randall, 1717 Beasley Rd, NE, Vienna, VA 22180.

There are approx. 3 inches of material. It appears to be 1930's - to 1950's national in scope. There are newspaper articles, ~~notes~~ typed letters, reprints and personal remembrances. If you might find it useful, let me know and I'll send it quickly.

I enjoyed the recent feature article about you - though can't remember if it was the Oregonian or P.I..

Our best wishes to you and Carol.

Kathy

Forest History Society, Inc.
109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060 / Telephone (408) 426-3770

July 31, 1981

Hello Evan,

I recently came across the enclosed booklets while mucking about in the FHS Subject Files. I'm sending them to you as a loan, because I found them quite interesting and wondered if you also might. Your research on rangers in Montana in the early 1930's was brought to mind as I read the specimen affidavits and sample criminal forms in the back of each volume. There is no rush for their return, but we would like them back eventually.

My sincere thanks for sending me, and for writing Winter Brothers. It took me a while, but I finished it on a trip to Victoria and Vancouver in late spring. I thought it quite providential that I had an opportunity to move through that land as I read. (Dinner at Sooke on Vanc. Is. and a visit to the B.C. Prov. Museum gave it all a 3-D quality). Thank you for your generosity and for your ability to share. sue-

all moves along at FHS. The Fahl family awaits another member. I'm expecting another little girl in October. We are all very pleased. It is weird to know "what" we're having - I needed special tests at Stanford, hence the knowledge.

Our warm greetings to Carol and good wishes in your work.

Fondly,
Kathy

17 Aug. '81

Dear Kathy--

First off, congratulations on the daughter-to-be. It sounds to me like pregnancy best

Dear Kathy--

First off, congratulations on the daughter-to-be. It sounds to me like sorcery that doctors can tell you that these days.

The handbooks indeed look useful. If you don't mind, I'll hang onto them through some of next year, when I'll truly be underway on that book. Carol and I spent 3½ weeks in Montana this summer, much of it on research toward that book, and it looks promising.

Just now, I'm at work on a half-hour tv version of Winter Brothers, to be done by the public tv station here. They got some Humanities money for about a third of the budget, so now we'll see if we can cram that book down into that little blue screen.

Best regards to Ron. Tell him we had a great few days with Bill Lang in Helena. And thanks immensely for thinking to send the handbooks.

17 Aug. '81

3017 3rd ave north
Great Falls, Mont.

29 July 1988.

Mr. Alvin Doig
1721 10th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, Wash. 98177

Dear Sir:

When you spoke in late Sept. here last year at Paris Gibson Square, my wife and I talked to you after the talk. I told you about the "Homeseekers" Special train that GN used to run from Chicago to the West Coast in those days- 1928-and '29. At your request , I later wrote you in detail about same. I see articles in the Bay area papers about you and your various books, from time to time, ( we live in Sonoma, Calif. during the winter months).

Thus you are on my mind ,and when I ran across a very interesting book last winter, I wanted to tell you about it. A neighbor of mine here in Great Falls named Louis Bader, passed away at about 98 yrs. last winter in Seattle, I knew him many years ago when he lived here. His daughter came back to the Bay area with a book from his estate.

It is called " Legends Historic or Smith River in Verse" by R.N. Sutherlin, published in 1900 by the Rocky Mountain Husbandman Co. in White Sulphur Springs, Mont. Mr. Sutherlin was one of the founders of the Rocky Mt. Husbandman, and was born 1840 and died in 1900.

The book is indeed all in verse, albeit not all that great as verses go, but is replete with many fine photos of the buildings there in White Sulphur Springs and that area, as well as here in Great Falls parks, etc. taken during those very early days.

I was quite sure that you would be interested in seeing this book , so she loaned it to me to bring home to Great Falls while I am here this summer. We have sold our home, here in Great Falls, but will be back each summer to live in an apartment , or such. We will be here this summer and fall until about mid Oct.

Possibly you know about this book, and have seen it, but if not, and you would like to see it, let me know when you will be here in Great Falls while I'm here, and I'll be glad to show it to you. I am not authorised to let it get out of my hands, as you can understand.

I have been meaning to write to you all summer, but the house sale and apartment hunting , garage sales, etc, have sure kept us busy.

Best regards

Tom Lease

Tom Lease

CC Hal Stearns

1 Aug. '88

Dear Tom--

Hey, thanks for thinking of me in connection with that book of Smith River Valley verse. Years ago I saw the Montana Historical Society's copy, when I was researching for This House of Sky, and so I'll turn down, with thanks, the offer of seeing it. But I hope we'll cross paths even so, maybe in Gt Falls next summer.

Sorry to have to resort to postcards, but things have piled up on me this summer--Carol and I were over looking at the drought in eastern Montana when we got word that her father had died, so we've had the aftermath of that, paperwork, furniture, etc., to deal with besides "normal" life. My next book is perking along; probably I can't find a logical spot in it for the homeseekers' train and so on, but I do have that info filed away and parking toward some future use. I hope you're thriving.

all best,

4553-55th Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105
October 6, 1998

Dear Ivan -

What a pleasure it was for all of us to go behind the scenes of your Rascal Fair with you this morning. It was great to see how some of the characters had taken shape in your mind, to learn how much research — and what kinds of research — you'd done, and to find out that you'd simply made up the "Rascal Fair Song."

Incidentally, I take the Rascal Fair concept to signify life itself, with all its vitality, its motion, its glitter, its mixture of sheer bliss and nasty sin —

prises. I had planned to ask you whether you had had something like that in mind, but we all had so many questions struggling to get out that I felt as if I were on the on-ramp of a freeway trying to ease my way into the stream of traffic. Even my planned introduction of you to the group got side-tracked. But maybe this was all to the good: maybe it simply showed how much interested we were in what you were saying.

I'm sorry for the seven of our members who were still on vacation trips with their husbands; they certainly missed a one-of-a-kind experience.

I'm enclosing the hodgepodge I mentioned when we first talked on the phone. You may be interested to hear that after you left we all decided to read another of your novels soon — probably Ride With Me, Maria Montana. (Since we've been using the Seattle Public Library book club collection as our main source of books, we've established the annual custom of buying fifteen copies of someone book we really like, and then, after reading and discussing it, adding it to the library's collection for others to enjoy.) This year it will be yours.

Thanks again for taking a morning to talk to us when you are so short of time right now.

All the best — and please say "Hello" to Coral for me.

Arena — Dorothy Bexton

Enclosure

October 13, 1999

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

Dear Sir,

My daughter sent me two, actually three but somehow I misplaced or lent out one, of your books for Christmas a couple of years ago. I have enjoyed each; Dancing at the Rascal Fair, English Creek (missing), and Ride With Me, Mariah Montana.

Recently I decided to bring out my library for an inventory and discovered that I had not listed any of your books. That led to a discovery mission and the recovery of the not-missing volumes. My current library consists of about 700 volumes and, now, I intend to make complete your book list.

Yesterday, I looked you up on the internet and read the biography. That is the reason for this letter. You and I share a lot in common. Both of us were born in 1939 and both of us graduated from high school in 1957. That could probably be said about several hundred thousand people but... You graduated from Valier high school whereas I graduated from Cut Bank high school. Who knows, we may have come face-to-face during high school at a football or basketball game or even during some kind of band activity. I also was raised on a ranch. My Dad had a cattle lease on the Blackfeet reservation at Buffalo Lake, about 45 miles northwest of Cut Bank.

In 1959 or 1960, I'm not sure which, I dated a girl named Toodie who lived in Valier. She was (is?) a couple of years younger than us, would have been a sophomore in our senior year. I can remember driving to Valier over the gravel road that crosses Two Medicine River which was rough but shorter than going around through Shelby, the Valier cutoff, and then into Valier.

I moved to Phoenix in 1963, having graduated from Montana State College (now University) with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering. This was my way of avoiding a future as a ranch hand. I recently retired after almost 37 years and now find I have the time to, among other things, write screwy letters.

The major reason for this letter is to offer to you the opportunity to communicate with another displaced high-line Montana native. My address, E-Mail address, and phone number are listed below. Please let me know that 1) you received this letter and 2) whether you would like to continue the communication.

Thank you for the stories.

Ted

Ted Mock
2615 E. North Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85028
602 992-0999
TMock1939@aol.com

24 Nov. '99

Dear Ted Mock--

Appreciated your letter, and your good words about my novels. I've actually told more about Valier, Dupuyer, and my folks herding sheep on the Blackfeet Reservation in a memoir titled This House of Sky--that's the one I usually hear about from people from "the old country" of the High Line and south. And yes, I'm sure we would have played football against each other. So our lives do chime together at various points, but I'm regretfully going to have to turn down the kind offer of correspondence; I already can't keep up with my mail, and friends of 30 years are beginning to grouch about not hearing from me enough. But thanks for troubling to get in touch, and maybe we can lay eyes on each other if a bookstore tour or speaking engagement takes me to Phoenix.

Best wishes,

303 Old Riverside Hwy
Omak,WA 98841
August 30,1997

Dear Ivan:

This is to let you know that I enjoy reading your books. So want to read the next one too.

I belong to the Brown Bag Book Club which meets once a month at the Okanogan Library. One of our members got a supplement from the New York Times which advertised books and clubs.

We sent away and got the guide from Simon and Schuster for BUCKING THE SUN. I led the discussion that day and made a copy of the guide for each member. We all liked the book and the guide made it very easy to get the discussion going.

A few years ago we also read THIS HOUSE OF SKY, also with favorable comments.

I have read Hearth Earth, Dancing at the Rascal Fair and Ride with Me, Mariah Montana also.

Please keep up the good writing.

Sincerely,

Coral Harrison

Coral Harrison

S. Berard
Apt. 610, DIA Place
Togane, Chiba
152-1 Tama
Togane-shi 283
Japan




Please forward

Mr. Ivan Doig
~~c/o Simon + Schuster~~
~~Publicity Department~~
~~1230 Avenue of the Americas~~
~~New York, NY~~ 10020
U.S.A.

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

VIA AIR MAIL

Darhansoff + Verrill Literary Agency
10020/1586

NEW YORK NY 100 [illegible] 17/97 23:43 155-B #01

NEW YORK NY 100
PM
17 MAR
1997

Collect & Protect · Endangered Species

1996 National Stamp Collecting Month

2/28/97

Dear Mr. Doig,

I have been an admirer of your work for several years - ever since I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Yemen. The Peace Corps library in Sana'a had copies of many of your books, and I was a lucky beneficiary. I enjoyed some of your books so much that I bought my own copies after returning to the States.

More recently, I've come to Japan where I continue to teach EFL. I'm adjusting to a new environment (going from a village of 300 to a city of ? million), and I'm working hard to develop a curriculum for my first literature course.

I'm very excited about teaching this class, and I'm eager to present some of your work. Unfortunately however, longer works in English would be too difficult for university students in Japan. I'm writing to see if you have ever written any short fiction. If you have, I'd be very grateful to you if you could pass along publishing information. If you haven't, could you please tell me if any of your books has been translated into Japanese? Finally, I'd be very pleased if you'd sign the enclosed cards for my copies of your books.

okina

Best wishes to you. I look forward to reading more of your work.

warmest regards,

Steve Berard

answered 3/22/97

303 Old Riverside Hwy
Omak,WA 98841
November 10,1997

Dear Mr. Doig:

Hope this is still your address.

Our Brown Bag Book Club read and discussed your book BUCKING THE SUN at our August meeting. We had received the Reading Group Guide from Simon & Schuster.

I had read the book before and liked it so was real pleased that everyone at our meeting did also. We had copies of the guide for everyone and that did help.

I have read nearly, if not all of your books and enjoy them all. When you read one of your books it isn't like reading the same book like some authors do. Each is different and well written.

Just wanted you to know that your are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Coral Harrison

Coral Harrison

Written July 13, 1998 in the Strait of Gibraltar
Posted January 31, 1999 from Texas

1704 Cheyenne Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080-2903

Dear Mr. Doig

I would have mailed this last summer, but I've only just now managed to track down your address through a friend of a friend. I just finished *This House of Sky*, and am writing to thank you for it and for your Montana trilogy, which I have read over the past 18 months. They were wonderful, memorable books, and for me they have a special significance.

My father, Clifford Britton was born near Harlowton in May 1914. My Uncle Harold was either sheriff or deputy sheriff (not sure which) of Meagher County in the 1960s, which probably means that he knew your dad and perhaps your remarkable Grandma Bessie (who reminded me of my own gruff and long-challenged Grandma Florence).

Your intimate, detailed knowledge of your family contrasts so remarkably with my ancestral ignorance -- at least on my dad's side. His mother, Florence Britton, separated from my grandfather in the early 1920s, and no one saw him again (family lore has him dying prosperous in Nevada, though I don't put much stock in that). Florence moved the two youngest kids, my Dad and my Aunt Mildred, to Sioux City, Iowa and then Chicago, where my dad came of age. Uncle Harold and Aunt Constance, the two oldest children, remained in Montana.

Prior to becoming sheriff (or deputy) in Meagher County, Uncle Harold for many years helped manage the large Castle Donohoe outfit. We visited the ranch in the summer of 1956, when I was not quite five. Though young, I can still recall with some focus a few parts of the trip -- meals with the cowboys, Bertha the ranch cook, riding a horse (alas, that was the last time I felt comfortable on one -- something I have vowed to change, and there ain't any excuse not to fix, since we now live in Texas!), riding around the ranch in a pickup truck, and stubbornly refusing to enjoy a picnic lunch by a lovely creek because there was a large bull grazing on the opposite bank. I remember Aunt Constance giving us several jars of yummy chokecherry syrup to take back to Minnesota for our pancakes (42 years later, I can still remember its lovely red color and its wonderful taste).

Unlike you, who grew up pretty much alongside your dad, my relationship was distant, though not by choice. My father was a traveling salesman, covering Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas, and he traveled 30 or more weeks per years, from Monday to Friday. That was bad enough, but in the early 1960s, his epilepsy, which had been asymptomatic since 1945, resurfaced and really put him into a black hole--just at the time

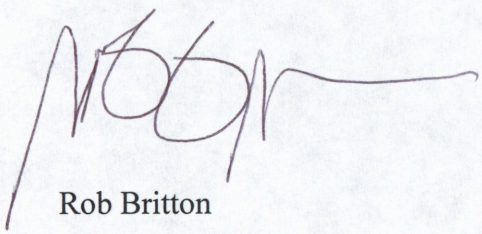
when I was curious about where he came from. He felt poorly and was often cranky, and we teenagers simply found it more convenient to be somewhere else. Now he's warehoused in a nursing home in suburban Minneapolis, speaks little, and is generally "stage-managed" by my mother, an alcoholic who reliably hit the bottle as soon as Dad had backed his car out of the driveway. Yow. Enough of that (except perhaps to note that, like you, I was able to transcend some hurt and some hardship).

My brother Jim, now a contractor in Oregon (he's lived in the West all his adult life, mainly in Idaho), visited White Sulphur about ten years ago, while he was building an enormous house for some sports entrepreneur in Bozeman. He asked around a bit, but knowing my brother, he wasn't as persistent as I would have been!

So it's my turn. In summer 1999, I hope to take my son Jack (age 15) out to see those valleys both in Meagher County and up north in the land around which you based the trilogy.

Thanks again for the books.

Sincerely,



Rob Britton

P.S. Brother Jim will attend your reading in Medford, Oregon, on February 11; he invited me out, but am sorry that I cannot say hello to you in person.

Dear Mrs. Doig -
Margaret sent me your home address once but it seems to be misplaced. I hope you don't mind delivering this -
Thank you -
Lynne Dana

910 Countryside Street
Hemet, CA 92545
September 26, 1997

so many responses to your "Bucking the
many damned dam stories pitched at you
ou will want to wad this up and aim for
ile. I wouldn't blame you--you are no
eat novel and mystery but long into
meant to put down a few thoughts before
and time have precluded much

It seemed such a coincidence that I should be reading this wonderful history of the building of a dirt dam when we are seeing reams of news in the local papers about a $1.9 billion project being built only about six miles from our home. The buildup of dust on our patio would be proof if any were needed. This is to be the largest water retention reservoir in Southern California on its completion sometime about 2005 A.D.

That, however, wasn't what I really needed to get off my chest. The memories of growing up in Spokane during the 1930's when Grand Coulee Dam was in progress kept popping up with nearly every turn of the page. We lived in a tiny house (four of us) in North Spokane and our one great trip each year would be a trek in the old 1929 Plymouth that my Dad bought used about 1935. My mother would not only pack up a picnic lunch to eat at the dam site, but also carry along an old coffee pot, cast iron skillet and potatoes, bacon, coffee, etc. so that we could stop by the side of the road somewhere out there in the desert country for breakfast. Dad would build a fire and she would cook our meal over an open fire. Nothing ever tasted ~~so~~ so good. This was a BIG adventure for us once a year, and Dad really enjoyed seeing the progress since as a very young man he had worked on the Long Lake dam on the Spokane river. To this day, I occasionally have nightmares about flimsy scoffolding over rushing water, which I take to have come from his tales of that job when I was very young.

Enough of that, just want you to know that, as usual, your writing is a true delight--I can hardly wait until Christmas when I will be able to wrap and present three more copies to members of my family who are also great fans. "Heart Earth" is such a delight, too, and we thank you for that also.

Please give my good wishes to Margaret Svec when you see her again--I remember her so fondly, and apparently you are very good friends--what a treat for you both!

In the greatest of admiration,

Lynne Dana

Ms. Lynne Dana
910 Countryside St.
Hemet, CA 92545

910 Countryside Street
Hemet, CA 92545
September 26, 1997

Dear Ivan Doig;

You have probably had so many responses to your "Bucking the Sun" and therefore, so many damned dam stories pitched at you after the fact, that you will want to wad this up and aim for the nearest circular file. I wouldn't blame you--you are no doubt way past this great novel and mystery but long into something else. I have meant to put down a few thoughts before this time, but health and time have precluded much correspondence.

It seemed such a coincidence that I should be reading this wonderful history of the building of a dirt dam when we are seeing reams of news in the local papers about a $1.9 billion project being built only about six miles from our home. The buildup of dust on our patio would be proof if any were needed. This is to be the largest water retention reservoir in Southern California on its completion sometime about 2005 A.D.

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In the greatest of admiration,

Lynne Dana

Ms. Lynne Dana
910 Countryside St.
Hemet, CA 92545

January 29, 1999

Clarene Aitken
3948 Martin Way E
#113
Olympia, WA 98506

Dear Ivan Doig:

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your books about Montana. As a displaced Montanan, I gobble them up as much for the descriptions of places and people as for the story. It is like having a feast, with appetizers like sagebrush and wild onions, side dishes of the Big Belt Mountains, White Sulphur Springs and Deep Creek Canyon, and the main course of trail rides in the Rockies , smoke drifting out of a high country homestead cabin, and struggles with gumbo balled roads. It is like dessert of chokecherries, blue sky and the Montana golden light that I have found no where else. The slashing lightning storms and below zero winters are like strong drink that stings all the way down.

For me Montana is a feeling and a state of mind as well as a place and I can go back there for a while and recognize old familiar places and spend time with familiar people when I read one of your books.

I especially appreciated "Heart Earth" which meets me on many levels. I hope you have others in the writing. They are just what a homesick 71 year old Montana kid needs.

Sincerely,

Clarene Aitken

Clarene Aitken (Ms.)

500 N Nowlan
Glendive MT 59330
(406)365-3705
(888)365-3705
Fax (406)365-3617

March 8, 1999

Ivan Doig
17021 10th Av NW
Seattle WA 98177

Re: *Whatcom Places*

Dear Ivan,

I am writing to request purchasing an autographed book, titled *Whatcom Places,* for a Father's Day gift for my father, Jim Frost.

Perhaps on that note I should give you some history here. I am a daughter of Jim Frost, who is a nephew of Pete McCabe from White Sulphur Springs, Montana. My father turned 68 last month. He and his family lived in White Sulphur Springs for many years during their younger years. He remembers you as a child, and personally knew your father. He also knew your grandmother, Bessie Ringer. Your father cooked for the Stewart-Connor Ranch the winter of 1950-51, and at that time my father was employed by the same company. My father has told some heartwarming stories involving your father; one in particular involved some house cats the winter he cooked at The Ranch. The lady that usually occupied the kitchen had made approximately six cats into her "children," and your father despised the house cats. At the time he cooked there, he took the liberty of relocating the house cats to the outside with a broom, all the while shouting, "I'll get yee!" My father told that story with laughter, and fond memories. He enjoyed your father's Scottish brogue tremendously. Shortly after your father spent the time with mine, my father married my mother, and his life went on from there.

My father also recalls the times you spent in the Stockman Bar in White Sulphur Springs while your father was socializing. According to my father, you would be in the big booth in the corner, and eventually would fall asleep before Charley Doig was ready to go home. Pete McCabe had the Stockman Bar at that time, and he was a maternal uncle to my father. Just the other day my father, who now lives in Harlowton, took a drive around White Sulphur Springs, and then home on the back road by way of Ringling, Lennep, Martinsdale, etc. He commented to me that the old barn that used to be at Bessie Ringer's home is now totally gone. Two months ago it was still standing, but looked like its back was broken. Someone has leveled it now, and there is no sign of the history that was once there. It is very interesting to me to hear the stories, and I enjoy bringing back the memories of my father when I question him as to the "old days."

My father also tells me that his father, Charley Frost, knew Charley Doig's parents, and they are all familiar with the area the Doig's first homesteaded. He loves the 16 Mile Country.

My father has a sister born the same year as you, so perhaps you will recall her from White Sulphur Springs. The names of his siblings are: Alan, Bill, Fred, Evelyn, and Kenny.

I apologize for all the trivia I have just given you to read, but I am hoping to be able to purchase from you an autographed, and hopefully personally noted, book titled *Whatcom Places* so I can present it to my father for Father's Day. He has read all of your books, and is working on obtaining the complete library of them. This latest addition would certainly make him happy, and I would love to be able to provide him that happiness.

I realize this book is only offered from the Publisher, and I am willing to do that if need be. Please let me know if this is an unreasonable and unobtainable request, so I can purchase it from the Publisher if you cannot provide this request for me. If you are able to do this for me, please let me know how much to send you for payment, and I will promptly submit payment. I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped, envelope for your convenience in replying.

Thank you very much for your time. I do appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Sharon Frost Bennett

Sharon Frost Bennett

Enclosure

17 March '99

Dear Sharon—

Appreciated your letter, and all the White Sulphur lore. I do remember the Frosts, though I'd have trouble putting faces to the names.

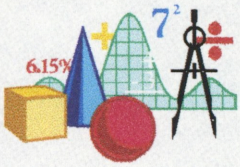
As to the autograph situation: Whatcom Places has only a couple of hundred words by me, a preface I wrote. If you really, really want a copy anyway, try ordering one from Village Books in Bellingham, WA--phone 1-800-392-2665. Or if you can make it a slightly belated Father's Day gift, I'll have a new novel, called "Mountain Time," with quite a bit of Montana stuff in it, in the stores in August. I'll be speaking in Miles City on Aug. 23rd and in Billings on the 24th, and probably a signed copy could be ordered up from the stores that will be handling my booksignings after the talks. Kathy Mosdal O'Brien at the Western Heritage Center in Billings--256-6809, ext. 28) is handling all that. I'm also scheduled to sign books at the Costco in Billings on Aug. 24, noon to 1, if that's any help. So, maybe you can give him an IOU for a book, and work something out from this?

best wishes,

Ivan Doig

# Lawrence Wilson and Associates

Professional Engineers and Surveyors




Village Station
401 South Street
Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-2855

June 7, 1999

Dear Mr. Doig,

Here is the book along with a *PREPAID* U.S. Priority Mail box to return it to me in. I have also included copies of our correspondence to "remind" you as you requested. My son, James Robert Wilson, graduates from the Integrated Science Program of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University on June 18, 1999.

THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR AGREEING TO DO THIS. I look forward to your future books.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Wilson

1 May '99

Dear Mr. Wilson--

OK, I'm persuaded. If you'll send the book with a self-addressed stamped return envelope, I'll be glad to sign it up for your son. (Also stick in a reminder as to what we're up to, and that I said I'd do it; the mail any more is a cross between an avalanche and a morass.) Congrats to you both.

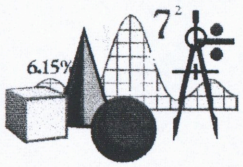
sincerely,

Ivan Doig

IVAN DOIG
17277 15th Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98177

# Lawrence Wilson and Associates

Professional Engineers and Surveyors



Village Station
401 South Street
Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-2855


April 12, 1999

Dear Mr. Doig,

Three years ago this summer, on the day my son left for Northwestern University, we sat in our den and read to each other the passage in your book "This House of Sky" where YOU left for Evanston. I hope the memory of that moment is as important to him as it is to me. I would like to send this book to you to autograph for him so that I can present it to him on his graduation this June from the Integrated Science Program at NU. If you would be willing to do this I would be VERY grateful to you. I have spent a considerable portion of my adult life reading and while reading has not given meaning to my life, it HAS helped me to know where to look for it. The best literature shines a light on our lives and when the light is as bright as yours is, it helps us to see ourselves more clearly and to better understand the context of the circumstances in which we live.

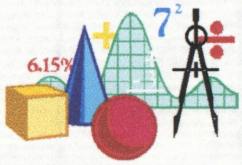
If you are willing, I will arrange to have the book sent to you and returned to me at no expense, and the least inconvenience, to you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Wilson

# Lawrence Wilson and Associates

Professional Engineers and Surveyors



Village Station
401 South Street
Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-2855

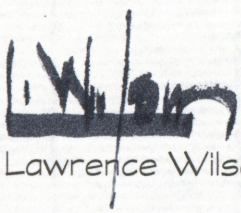

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Respectfully,



Lawrence Wilson

1 May '99

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sincerely,

Neon Day

DAVID B. ROBINSON, M. D.
2870 W. LAKE RD.
SKANEATELES, NY 13152
TELEPHONE (315) 685-6785

March 15, 1999

Dear Mr. Doig,

I am impelled to write to tell you how thoroughly I am enjoying your writing. I have just completed reading English Creek, Ride with Mme Mariah Montana, Dancing at the Rascal Fair (my favorite) and Bucking the Sun. I so thoroughly indentified with Angus (in Dancing) that I ached internally over his losses — and especially his loss of Anna. The aching lasted for a day or so — in fact I can still feel its echos after reading English Creek and Mariah.

Like "Jick", I was born in 1924, have four lovely daughters, so felt empathic with his life experiences and his time in history.

We were recently visiting our son in Seattle and looked for your address in the phone book. Not there — so I hope this reaches you through your publisher.

Thank you for your creative contribution to American literature.

Sincerely,
David B Robinson

900 NE 82nd Ave
Portland, OR 97234-6939

Mr. Ivan Doig
17277 NW 15th
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

I have just finished reading HEART EARTH and it was such a heart-warming treat. The book was so gripping it made me feel right there. There are so many similarities if we could susbsitutute Silver Lake, Oregon for White Sulpher Springs, Montana. The two communities are quite similar to my life. Both are located in sparsely setttled areas.

However, we have been experiencing more growth since there is more widespread irrigation by pumping from wells. My father, H.M. Parks, a geologist with the State Bureau of Mines;
initiated the value of development of the underground water. It was not until 1964 that Midstate Electric Cooperative, LaPine, Or. secured promotion of electric power to provide pumping from wells.

My guess is that you have had support and encouragement from your wife, Ivan. I was shy and withdrawn when Helen and I met through introduction by mail through a mutual friend. She worked patiently to get me to try new things. which I would not have thought possible--a perfect example of the marvelous way in which a wife can be a real partner, whether it's encouraging writing or the promotion of the area where you live.

Until earlier this year I could get around better than average for a person who is 87 but have been stricken with arthritis and now can't walk or stand and am confined to a wheelchair.

Formerly I would have thought that living in an old folks' home would be the absolute pits. Now that I need care I find that it is not so bad. We live at Baptist Manor at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

Marmott G Parks

Mr. Ivan Doig
Somewhere in Seattle??

May 5, 1999

Dear Mr. Doig:

Several years ago my youngest daughter gave me a copy of English Creek saying "You are going to love this one". I did, to the extent that Montana pulled like a magnet. Most of the winter was spent reading that, Dancing At The Rascal Fair and Ride With Me, Miriah Montana as well as Stephen Ambrose's Voyage Of Discovery.

My wife, Dorothy, and I went to Montana two years ago with our camper. We spent a wonderful ten days at White Sulpher Springs bombing around all over the place in our pickup truck. After that we spent a few days at Choteau looking over your "Two Medicine" country. It was a trip we will never forget and hope to repeat.

We didn't read This House of Sky until after our Montana trip. We didn't know about your close ties with White Sulpher Springs until we stayed there a few days. We just happened to choose Conestoga Campground there by looking in our camping directory. We knew it was close to the English Creek area.

Coming home from Montana we spent a night at Fort Peck Dam. It was one of the nicest campgrounds of our two month trip. At Christmas that year our daughter gave us Bucking The Sun on cassette tapes. We have since bought the book.

My main reason for wirting is to share what I feel was a remarkable coincidence. My wife and I help with Landmark Volunteers, a service organization that sends teenagers to work at various non-profit areas all over the country. This spring our granddaughter expressed an interest in one of the programs and has been accepted to spend two weeks in June at Neah Bay. She will be helping develop trails, transplanting native plants etc. She and other teens will also work with senior citizens of the Neah Bay community at the Makah Cultural and Research Center.

The coincidence? I was reading Winter Brothers at the time she picked the program, and have since shared it with her.

Our granddaughter's name is Katie Kurz. I will ask her to take a look at Swan's Swan for me when she gets there. Her program runs from 6/20 to 7/3/99

Sincerely,

Harlan H Gardner

Harlan H. Gardner
R R 1, Box 490
Machias, ME 04654