Oct. 22, 1998

Dear Cami and Evan,

We were glad to get your change of address and hope the dream house is living up to expectations. We've been through that and know the feeling of walking into a new place and feeling perfectly at home.

Your card said you would provide details after you unpack in October. It is now late October, so I figure it's safe to write.

We are fine — although as you one day will learn, the definition of "fine" change as you age. I have suddenly discovered that I am only a few months short of 70. It can't be that old!
Beside moving—how are you? (although we're moved enough to know how agonizing the moving process can be.) Since bad news travels faster than good, we presume things are going well for you.

And, of course, what do interested in is what are you working on now, Ivan? Said it about time for another great American novel? I can quite recall the spacing of your books, but I don't recall wanting this long for the next one.

We continue to live a quiet life. We both work (part time) at the “Bargain Box,” which is hard to describe. People give “stuff”—ranging from household furniture to tiny bits of jewelry—and every thing in between.

Come to think of it, I think Jeanie
found a great coat for you when you were here years ago.

It's a resale shop and we make about a million dollars a year and give about half that much to various charities. We have - I think it's five full-time paid employees and 300 or so volunteers.

Anyway, it makes you feel you are not quite as useless as retirees are wont to feel. But I still miss N.C. and teaching. I don't think I realized how much I loved my job at N.C. until I was no longer there.

Retirement? Bah. Humbug!

Mark is on the copydesk of the Sun Times now and teaches part-time at Medill. He's been approached for jobs elsewhere including a paper referred to as the New York Times.
Claudia is fine and living in Destin, Florida, one day, drive away and easy to visit. She has three lovely kids—Joe, Mark, but his are not one day drive away.

I don't get much of a visit on Ken Bodié, the new Medill Dean. I stopped by the school on a trip up there a few months ago but he was at an all day meeting with the administration so couldn't meet him.

Any way— it's always good chatting with you and hearing from you in return.

Take care —

Jeanne & Ben
Dear Ben and Jeanne--

My, my, where did October go? Answer: to the carpenter, the electrician, the tree-cutter...As did September and August. We moved only .8 of a mile, but into a residential stratosphere as well. We have a garage now!

Now that we’re in our post-carpenter period (we hope) after 13 weeks of tooth-and-nail homeowning, we can sit back in our happy daze at having Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains spread out in front of us, and, what the hell, maybe write an occasional letter. This place was rebuilt only 5 years ago, but it was in the hands of a couple--he an electronic components entrepreneur of some kind, she a New Age poet--who seem to have lived here like spoiled slack-brained adolescents; in all the house, there were no towel rods, toilet paper holders, clothes hooks, knobs on bedroom closet doors nor about a jillion other details that were beneath their notice. Not a bookshelf on the premises, of course; by now we’ve put in miles of ‘em.

There was also the little matter of the house inspector we’d hired standing at the foot of his ladder and saying, “I can tell you even before I go up on that roof, it’s shot.” But it’s only 5 years old, cry we, clutching our armful of housebuying cash. The upshot of that was that we got the cost of a new roof taken off the price of the house and now we are not only the new possessors but the heirs of a class-action suit against Masonite for that failed roofing material. We may get zilch or we may get reimbursement (again!) for the cost of the roof--clearly there are angles to living at this elevation that we hadn’t known.

Anyway, the voids between the ears of the previous owners did give us the chance to install the downstairs office we wanted. It’s actually an office suite: at the north end, a cozy room with a reading chair, a view across to the ferry landing on the Olympic Peninsula shore, and lots of storage; then the main office, about the size of the one we had in the old house but with a whopping swanky trapezoidal desk Carol and I designed and share, and a 10-foot-wide panel of windows directly out to Puget Sound and the profile of the Olympic mountains; and at the south end, a full-size room that currently holds my exercise bike and not much else but will gradually accrete bookshelves. As to the upstairs, there’s a vaulted-ceiling living room with a whammo effect: a bay of floor-to-ceiling windows on the water side that provides a view of, oh, thirty or so miles of shoreline, mountains, forest, ship traffic. (We toured the two of you past the site, I remember, when we took you out for a drive to see the rhododrons etcetera in bloom.) The whole house is oddly like living on a thrust stage--there’s no “backstage,” every room faces out onto the Sound. From anywhere in this place, every time we turn around there’s a tugboat or a container van ship or a ferryboat or a sunset over the Olympics or a silver rainsquall. And, natch, we love it all.

Amid the work on the house I managed to do the final version of the next book, a novel called Mountain Time. It has Baby Boomer protagonists, mostly, although with some flashback scenes to WWII and a 1939 CCC camp and a bit of Chicago jazz. Herewith, you veterans of that toddlin’ town, a sample of the jazz bit--the South Carolina premiere of the book:
A Loop date, deep-dish pizza at the Uno and then music at the Do-Re-Mi Club on lower Dearborn. Whatever the jazz equivalent of a maitre’d is, he took one look at the pair of them—Lexa with her prom-date chest and cowgirl freckles, Foster the finest young manhood Des Moines had to offer—and seated them up next to the piano, inches from the end of the keyboard. They each ordered a beer of a kind they had never heard of, and peeked around at the huge blowup photographs covering the walls. Krupa on his drums sounding the wake-up call at Carnegie Hall in the Goodman concert. Billie Holiday with eyes so deeply closed. And most of all the one of Louis Armstrong with his cheeks and eyes as big as his horn, and above him the dance of lettering of his creed, We all go do-re-mi, but you got to find the other notes for yourself. When Marian McPartland came on, slight woman in a velvet pantsuit, three-inch earrings dangling like dollhouse chandeliers, she sat down to the piano, glanced, a little startled, at Lexa and Foster and said, “Wow, music in the round.” Then shifted slightly sideways toward the audience and began to play. Lexa took it all in, vowed earrings into her life, vowed a life of highwire grace. She watched the astonishing hands, already knobby on a couple of the knuckles, terrifically long spatulate fingers, and the music came and came, Ellington’s velvet “Long Valley” and a Coltrane piece called “Red Planet” that indeed sounded from beyond the bounds of this earth and the one of McPartland’s own, “Twilight World,” of course. Came request time—Lexa definitely remembered this—and someone called out, “Love Supreme.” McPartland scoffed, “‘Love Supreme,’ that will be the day,” but caressed into it... When it was over, Lexa and Foster sailed out of the Do-Re-Mi in a certain state of ecstasy that they both knew was leading to the next. Desire under the El.

Can’t remember if I passed along the news that I’m a Scribner author now—howdy, Hem; move over, F. Scott. The famous Scribner backlist aside, this move has brought me my best line-by-line editor since, well, Ben Baldwin. Her name is Nan Graham and she handled that unkillable best-seller Angela’s Ashes. Scribner also has such items as The Joy of Cooking and Stephen King, so I’m glad to be in their thriving company.

Carol’s ‘retirement’: she’d tell you this house is her retirement, as of now. She made a good graceful deceleration from the college last winter and spring quarters by sitting in on music and art courses taught by colleagues she knew were the right stuff, and also doing some volunteer tutoring, mostly working with students not native to English. That got her past any decompression bends from leaving the classroom—she declared again the other day, when somebody asked her, that she doesn’t at all miss the paper-grading. We both suspect that the finger of fate may single her out to be on the Innis Arden community board sooner or later, and that’d be hunky-dory, it’s an unusually pivotal board in the life of the community, with real power over what gets built or doesn’t. And we did some traveling last spring, a Four Corners trip keyed to a speaking gig I did for the Utah Nature Conservancy—we both lapped up that slickrock country, loved prowling from Chaco to Canyon de Chelly to Mesa Verde...

And that, I think, is the news from us—new house, new book. (Publication date, by the way, could be as late as next August; Scribner seems to want it on its fall ‘99 list.) Whoops, one last bulletin: Ann and Marshall Nelson’s son Laird got married in September. We couldn’t manage to go to Connecticut to the wedding, but can report that the most astounding wedding pic is of Marshall, clicking his heels in mid-air, at age 55 much higher and more lithe than his twentysomething offspring’s attempt at it. Thanks for writing, Ben; it’s always heartwarming to hear from you two.

All the best,
Dear Ivan Doig:

Last week our Book Discussion Class at the Women's University Club (Seattle) met for our regular two-hour, semi-monthly session, this time to discuss your *The Sea Runners*. I had been assigned the task of leading the discussion. Almost all of the 50 - 60 women had read the book, some when it came out in 1982 and then again for the class. Without the usual "research" information used to prime the pump I threw out the question, "So, what's this book about?". The response was lively, and from then on we had a wonderful time.

I was fortunate to have had access to *Earthlight, Wordfire*, Elizabeth Simpson's book on Ivan Doig. In commenting on *The Sea Runners*, pg 39, she maintains that this is a story of events and not characters, whom she dismisses as insignificant. Really! I read the section to the Class, and by the nods and murmurs it seemed to agree with my assertion that Ms. Simpson had clearly not read the book. From then on we discussed and shared passages about the characters and the artistry with which you had developed them. We all loved Melander and were shocked by his early death. However, his unmistakable and lasting impact on the other three men came in strong focus. Events were pivotal and full of drama and suspense, but the inner voyages were the adventure as well as the outer one. The descriptions of the land and sea, trees, and beach all gave impressive poetic release to the terrible tensions of the trip.

It has long been my experience in reading novels that the reward is in the digging -- and in the cultivation of the seeds one finds of insight and meaning.

At the end of our session one of our members said she felt sad to see the maps burned. "Oh, No!", someone broke in, -- "don't you see, it was the burning map that finally guided them to Astoria".

We found the book a great yarn, a deeply moving human experience, -- a work of art. Here's our toast to *The Sea Runners* and to Ivan Doig, in the words of dear Braaf, "May you live forever!"

Yours, very sincerely,

Virginia N. Barnett

Virginia N. Barnett

546 Wood Ave. #C
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
March 12, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

We are sorry that you were unable to attend the Hall of Achievement dinner last Saturday, but we understand the busy lives our alumni lead. Medill is blessed with an impressive list of graduates, and we looked forward to opportunities to express our gratitude for their contribution to the school.

It was a lovely evening, and your comments on your experiences at Medill added special meaning to the event. The enclosures are mementos from the dinner that we thought you might enjoy.

Congratulations on this and future honors.

Sincerely,

Monica Gormley
Medill External Relations

Enclosures
11 April '98

Dear Monica Gormley--

Thanks for passing along the Hall of Achievement keepsakes. I had occasion to sing Medill's praises yesterday at lunch with Henry and Leigh Bienen as they passed through Seattle. I only forgot to bring along my "Hall" mug to hoist a toast with.

sincerely,

[Signature]

cc: Ken Bode
Dear Dean Bode--

I believe you are doing the honors at the Medill Hall of Achievement ceremony, and since I can't be there I'm sending these few words, if you would be so kind as to read 'em off:

"I knew when I was there as a student the J School, a.k.a. Medill, was a nervy place, and it seems no less so now, in honoring me, a guy who sits around in his own head all the time and then makes things up in the hope they're truths. In one of my novels a reporter says, with overwhelming grudging admiration, to a photographer: "Helluva picture, shooter. How good are you going to get?" And she says back: "How good is there?" From the depths of the writing habits and the deadline savvy the old place taught me, I thank Medill for getting us to try to make ourselves as good as there is."

Thanks, and I hope deaning is going well.

sincerely,

cc: Mary Ann Gourlay
The Medill School of Journalism
at Northwestern University
cordially invites you
to the 1998 Hall of Achievement Dinner
honoring

Ivan C. Doig, J61, GJ62, Novelist

David A. Fausch, GJ58, Vice President of Corporate Public Relations,
The Gillette Company

Eliot J. Kaplan, GJ80, Editor, Philadelphia Magazine

Herbert E. Kaplow, GJ51, former ABC News and NBC News Correspondent

A. Douglas Lyke, J52, GJ53, Owner, President and Chairman,
Ripon Community Printers

Judy Baar Topinka, J66, Treasurer, State of Illinois

Richard L. Wallace, J58, GJ59, Chancellor, University of Missouri-Columbia

Keynote Speaker
Dean Ken Bode

Saturday, March 7, 1998
6:30 p.m. cocktails
7:30 p.m. dinner

Marriott Hotel
540 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Business attire R.S.V.P. by March 1
January 15, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

I’m sorry you won’t be able to join us March 7 at Medill’s Hall of Achievement dinner, but we still plan to include you among the inductees and hope you will be able to attend one of our future events.

This year, we will induct eight alumni into the Hall of Achievement, including (in addition to yourself): David Fausch (GJ58), vice president of corporate public relations at The Gillette Company; Eliot Kaplan (GJ80), editor of Philadelphia Magazine; Herb Kaplow (GJ51), former ABC News and NBC News correspondent; Doug Lyke (J52, GJ53), chairman of Ripon Community Printers; Mike Miles (J61), former CEO of Kraft General Foods and Philip Morris; Judy Baar Topinka (J66), treasurer of the State of Illinois; and Richard Wallace (J58, GJ59), chancellor of the University of Missouri.

We will include your biography and photo (black and white) in the event program and other materials. Please mail them both to me by February 2. In addition, I’ve enclosed a survey that will help us to get to know you better and provide us with guidance as we work to improve the education Medill offers its students. Please take some time to think about the questions and complete the survey. We may use some of the answers in the event program, unless you indicate otherwise. Please also mail the survey to me by early February.

Best of luck with your manuscript and travel -- please let me know if you come through Chicago and could spare some time for our students.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Gourlay
Director of External Relations
17 Jan. '98

Mary Ann Gourlay  
Director of External Relations, Medill

Dear Ms. Gourlay--

You're right, absentia is the way to get me there. Enclosed is a b&w pic, a bio sheet to be edited down to fit the event's formats, and some quick answers on the survey. Good luck with the event.

sincerely,

[Signature]
November 14, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

I am pleased to invite you to become a member of the Medill Hall of Achievement, which honors alumni leaders whose distinctive careers have contributed greatly to their fields. Medill launched the Hall of Achievement last spring to commemorate the school’s 75th Anniversary, and I hope you will be able to join us this year as an honoree.

You are in exceptional company. The Medill alumni selected for the this prestigious honor number among the most prominent newspaper, magazine, television, advertising, public relations, education, law, business and nonprofit professionals in the world. We are proud of these honorees and all of our alumni, who are evidence of our continued commitment to preparing our students for excellence in professional achievement.

I invite you to be our special guest on Saturday, March 7, at a conference and dinner in Chicago. The event promises to bring together a distinguished group of prominent alumni and other Medill supporters, and we would very much like you to participate.

Please call me (847-491-2050) or director of external relations Mary Ann Gourlay (847-467-5845) by December 5 to let us know if you will be able to attend the event.

I look forward to seeing you in March.

Sincerely,

Abe Peck
Acting Dean
Dear Dean Peck—

I never thought I'd be in the role of reluctant debutante, but the Medill Hall of Achievement's flattering invitation is a tough one for a still self-employed wordsmith to fit in at that time of year and this stage of my next novel's life. I'm already committed to a stint of travel and speaking just after your event, and I have one of my most rigid deadlines—i.e., self-imposed—on this manuscript at about that same time of '98. So, while I'm truly grateful to Medill for proffering this, I'm going to have to say again that I can't be at all the places I'd like to be. Best wishes to the school and you personally, and salud to Ken Bode when he takes office.

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

Dear Mr. Doig,

Thank you for the fast reply to my first letter. Please forgive my delayed thanks. I am sorry.

The video group and I enjoyed the audio tape. We thought the content and sound was perfect and just what we need for the documentary. One member, Shannon Hubbard, is writing the publisher of the book, This House of Sky, to see if we can get the "ok" on the permission to use the segment. If we are able to use the passage, then we will definitely find the right spot for it.

Again, I thank you for your time and willingness. We appreciate the help and encouragement. We'll keep in touch as our film develops.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Claire Steinberg, Teen Producer
4/2/97

Dear Mr. Doig,

Thanks so much for responding to my request for short story information. I hate to pester you again, but I'm afraid that somewhere between the States and Japan, your letter and signed cards got fairly well chewed up. I've neurotically placed some replacement cards in a plastic cover and I'd be very grateful if you'd sign them.

Although I was a little disappointed to learn that none of your work has been translated into Japanese, I've decided to reread your first two books and present some shorter segments in the course. I'm really looking forward to sharing your work with students in Japan.

Thanks again for taking the time to respond to my request.

Dōmo arigato! Steve Berard
Lisa, hi--Sounds like I owe Jerry, bigtime, for Bucking the Sun turning him into a literary sherpa. If you carry through your threat to have your book group read it, the enclosed (prepared, ahem, by Prof. C. Doig & yours truly) should be gettable from whatever bookstore your bunch buys the books from.

Hope you're both OK. We're seeing your folks every week or so, no alarums there, just usual thunder offstage.

much love

---

Dear Ivan,

Jerry and I recently got back from our bike-riding trip thru the Provence & Languedoc regions of France. It was wonderful and all the hills & switchbacks did a nice job countering mass quantities of bread, cheese, cafe au lait and wine (+ patisserie for Jerry). Anyway, I made Bucking the Sun "road book" and enjoyed it immensely. Reached the final chapter (WHO IS IN that truck??) as we
were boarding our plane in Charles De Gaulle airport to come home, Jerry had to carry my luggage so I could keep reading and find out (all the others guessed every other combination, I never guessed Rosellen + Darius!). Jerry is now reading the book and can't put it down.

So I plan to recommend it for book club.

Congrats, hope all is well, with you and greetings & good wishes to Carol, too. Love, Liza
April 28, 1998

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

Dear Ivan:

Leigh, Laura, and I enjoyed meeting you and Carol. It was a very nice lunch.

Thanks so much for sending (and inscribing) the first book in the “Montana Trilogy.” We will read it in Montana.

If you want to give a reading in Evanston or Chicago, either Ann Nash or I can help. I am sure Barnes and Noble would be thrilled to have you visit their Evanston and Chicago locations.

Thank you for the Portland magazine. I am sharing it with the editor of Perspectives.

All the best to you and Carol.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Bienen
President

HSB:jvr
Memo to Magnolians and others

From: Dorothy Bestor, August 20, 1998

As most of you know, the first meeting of our 1998-99 series
October 6, at Wendy Jordan's, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We have
reading plans to report, however. Because of a scheduling prob-
Library's Book Group office, we are postponing discussion of Wallace Stegner's Crossing
to Safety until the second meeting (November 3), and discussing Ivan Doig's Dancing at
the Rascal Fair October 5. (Sorry if any of you have already started reading the Stegner
book and gotten caught up in it!)

Wendy has already distributed Library copies of Dancing at the Rascal Fair to
many of you, and six more copies are said to be on the way from the Library for her to
give out. Please phone her if you still need a copy. In fact, you might phone her and
reassure her if you've already come across the book through some other source—the King
County Library System, for example, which owns 33 copies. (Any resident of King
County is eligible for a card.)

GOOD NEWS! THERE'S A PROBABILITY THAT IVAN DOIG WILL BE
ABLE TO JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OR SO OF OUR MEETING AT WENDY'S. He
told me the other day that he'll be very happy to drop in, talk about the book, and try to
answer our questions—unless prevented by one of two possible emergencies. It seems that
he and his wife are about to move to a new house, and furthermore he's doing the final
revisions on his latest book, for which the publisher is waiting. If something connected
with either crisis happens around that time, he'll have to bow out; but he's pretty sure that
Memo to Magnolians and others

From: Dorothy Bestor, August 20, 1998

As most of you know, the first meeting of our 1998-99 season will be on Tuesday, October 6, at Wendy Jordan's, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We have a slight change in our reading plans to report, however. Because of a scheduling problem with the Public Library's Book Group office, we are postponing discussion of Wallace Stegner's Crossing to Safety until the second meeting (November 3), and discussing Ivan Doig's Dancing at the Rascal Fair October 5. (Sorry if any of you have already started reading the Stegner book and gotten caught up in it!)

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he can get these matters dealt with in time to be our guest. (I'm to call him the weekend before, to find out for certain.)

Meanwhile, here are some questions we may want to be considering, whether we discuss them with the author or among ourselves:

1. Why did Anna marry the man she did? Are we totally convinced by the explanation she gave? Was she?

2. Why did Adair marry the man she did? When does it seem that she began to regret it?

3. After years of living in a mood of depressed stoicism, Adair finally begins to flower, to be a source of strength and joy to her husband. What caused this change?

4. Rob, too, changes--but in the opposite direction, from optimism to bitterness. When do we first see evidence of this shift, and what apparently caused it?

5. Is there any character with whom Doig shows absolutely no empathy?

6. Angus' narrative addresses various people throughout the story--notably Rob, his friend/enemy whom he's trying hard to understand. To whom else does he pour out his thoughts, and why?

7. Despite all their hardships and setbacks, neither Angus nor Rob ever talks about returning to Scotland. Why don't they?

8. What do you think are the qualities of Doig's writing that make reading this book such a unique and memorable experience? (Let's have some examples.)

See you in about five weeks--DKB
Richard Hugo House invites you to a three-day arts and humanities festival exploring the life & work of Richard Hugo and the role of poetry and prose in the life of the city.

James Welch
William Kittredge
Annick Smith
Colleen McElroy
Madeline DeFrees
David Wagoner
Timothy Egan
Ripley Hugo
Lois Welch
David Mahler
Donna Gerstenberger
Bobby Anderson
The Power of Place

A celebration of Richard Hugo
Seattle / October 2 - 4 1998
Richard Hugo House

A new Northwest writing center where the arts, education and public service come together
“I did the right thing to love places and scenes... and to spend my life writing poems.”

— Richard Hugo

Richard Hugo House is a new place for writers, readers and audiences. It is a center where writing brings people together: artists, politicians, planners, business people, seniors, youth, the privileged and the homeless. Richard Hugo House gives each of these voices an urban venue where ideas are heard and valued.

Events at Hugo House bring fresh energy to urban issues, creating unique, on-going relationships between the arts and individual interests. It is a place where poetry, word by hand-hewn word, forges a lyric response to questions of place and belonging. Here, writers blend academic and activist strategies to reach out with words through a new kind of social venture that connects schools, families, individuals and other civic institutions through writing and reading.

Richard Hugo, born in West Seattle, brought us into the immigrant-rich, working-class neighborhood of White Center, wrote about ordinary places in poems such as “Duwamish,” “White Center,” “Pike Place Market,” and “What the Brand New Freeway Won’t Go By” Hugo vitalized the city of Seattle by transforming it into hard, clean poems. A working man whose work was writing, Hugo carved out a civic place, a city available to the claims of the imagination.

To dedicate Richard Hugo House as a new community place for writing, join us for our house dedication and celebration of The Power of Place and Richard Hugo on October 2-4, 1998.

THE POWER OF PLACE: A Celebration of Richard Hugo

Three days of programs and activities, readings, round-table discussions, civic “conversations,” films, gallery exhibits and musical performances.

Richard Hugo House, 1634 Eleventh Avenue,
Seattle, Washington 98122  206-322-7030


$5 per day, $3 for students, seniors and Upstairs Pass holders.

Saturday evening reading: $10, $5 for students, seniors and Upstairs Pass holders.
Friends, Family, Colleagues, Scholars and Activists

Sandra Alcozer teaches in the graduate program at San Diego State University. Her collection of poems, Except by Nature, was chosen by the Academy of American Poets for the 1998 James Laughlin Second Book Award as well as for the 1997 National Poetry Series. James Tate selected Alcozer’s first book, A Fish to Feed All Hunger, to be the Associated Writing Program Series First Book in Poetry.

Bobby Anderson was raised in High Point, a housing project built in West Seattle for Boeing and shipyard employees during WWII. Just as White Center was a significant influence on Hugo’s writing, High Point shaped Anderson’s work. Anderson’s work has received a Seattle Arts Commission grant. His work has appeared in Quarry Stone, Thera Poetry Review and elsewhere. He has an M.A. in English from the University of Washington. Lee Basket left New Hampshire to study with Hugo and Madeline DeFrees in Montana. After his graduate studies, he stayed on, becoming a Wye Street neighbor and friend of the Hugo family. He has published seven books of poetry and has a New and Selected Poems forthcoming from Blue Begonia Press.

Allen Braden received the Gollier Poetry Prize and an Artist Trust grant. He is working a collection of essays entitled The Making of Richard Hugo. He lives in Pugeton, Washington.

Ruth Brittain is poet and writer who teaches creative writing and composition at North Seattle Community College. Her scholarly research at University of Washington includes research on a collection of early expressions of language. Her book of poetry is scheduled for publication in the summer of 2001. She lives in Seattle.

Rebecca Brown is Richard Hugo House Writer-In-Residence. She is the author of eight books of fiction including Gifts of the Body and In the Wake of Wonder. She is forthcoming from City Lights Press this fall. Brown is the recipient of the Washington State Governor’s Award, the Lamda Literary Award, the Pacific Northwest Booksellers’ Award, and she has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony in New York.

Glenda Cussatt has written numerous, her poetry and prose reflects her interest in Comparative Religion. Cussatt is Coordinator of the Dowsen Neighborhood Service Center for the City of Seattle’s Dept. of Neighborhoods.

Patricia Clark is Associate Professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Michigan where she was recently named the university’s first Poet-In-Residence. Her book of poems, North of Wondering, won the first book competition sponsored by Women-In-Literature, Inc. and will be published this year. She has been a scholar at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and a resident at the MacDowell Colony at Rugat and at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Bob Craig met Dick Hugo in 1937 and played with him on the American Legion Baseball team sponsored by the Day and Night Inn Company. He knew Hugo at West Seattle High School and remained a friend until Hugo’s death.

Madeline DeFrees is the author of two prose volumes, four collections of poetry and one chapbook. She was a colleague of Hugo’s at the University of Montana, was the graduate faculty of the University of Massachusetts, and has taught at other universities and colleges. Her work has been included in Best American Short Stories and has received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry.

Jim Diers is Director of the Dept. of Neighborhoods for the City of Seattle. He oversees 13 neighborhood-based Little City Halls, a Citizen Service Retinue, and programs of organizational development, historic preservation, and neighborhood planning and development.

Ivan Doig was born in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front where much of his writing takes place. His first book, House of Sky, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Doig is a former ranch hand, newspaperman, magazine editor, and a graduate of Northwestern College and the University of Washington where he earned his M.A. Doig received the Western Literature Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award for his body of work, which includes eight novels.

Timothy Egan has worked on the West Coast for the last eight years as a staff writer for the New York Times—first, as a national correspondent, now as the Chief of the Seattle Bureau. He covers controversial topics, giving tours. He is the author of The Good Rich and Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest, which won the Governor’s Writing Award and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers’ Award in 1993. His new book is Last Sky, which Knopf will publish this fall.

Donna Gerstenberger is Professor of English Emeritus from the University of Washington and is an expert on the life and work of Richard Hugo. She edited Hugo’s A Real Study of Hugo along with texts on the American novel, John Willingbys Edge, Iris Murdoch, and Modern Verse Drama. Dr. Gerstenberger was the first woman to chair the English Department at the U.W.

Ken Gifford was a classmate and good friend of Hugo’s at West Seattle High School. He and Hugo played high school baseball and went on many fishing trips together. Gifford is a West Seattle native.

Ripley Hugo is a poet who is writing a biography of her mother, novelist Mildred Walker, one of Montana’s best-known women writers. Ripley Hugo is Richard Hugo’s widow.

William Kittredge grew up on the MC Ranch in southwestern Oregon and farmed until the 1930s. He is the author of many books of English and Creative Writing at the University of Montana until he retired in 1997. His books include a collection of essays, Who Owns the Book; and a book-length essay, Reclaiming Desire, due from Knopf, The Last Place, an anthology of writing about Montana, was co-edited by Kittredge.

David Malher has founded and conducted the Volunteer Park Conservatory Orchestra, and his recent CD, The Voice of the Poet, is on the Aristat label. His compositions include Instrumental and vocal works, pieces that are site specific, references for electronics and recording media. David has served composer residences at Dartmouth College, California Institute of the Arts and Mills College.

Celine J. McElroy, Professor of English at the University of Washington, is a poet, fiction writer, folklorist and photographer. A book of her travel essays, A Long Way from St. Louis, was released this year. McElroy is a frequent contributor to the pages of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Her work of poems Traveling Music is out from Stone Line Press. Her book of photographs and essays on Madison, Wisconsin, Over the lip of the World, is forthcoming from the University of Washington.

Vivian McLean has been a Seattle community activist for 50 years. She is a former member of the Seattle City Council, a member of the Deirdre Neighborhood Development Association Board, and the secretary of the Seattle Community Council Foundation.

Jim Mitchell played baseball with Hugo, and their friendship carries back to the 1930s. Mitchell has lived all of his life, and has traveled throughout this country and Europe, Mitchell knew Hugo at Boeing, where Hugo helped him get a job.

Stanley Plumly has published seven books of poetry, including The Monroe in the Far and In the Dark Door. His poems and essays have been in 40 anthologies, and he has received the Delancey Schwartz Memorial Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, three NEA Fellowships, and a Whiting Award among others. He held the Theodore Roosevelt Chair in Poetry at the University of Washington, and is currently Professor of English at the University of Washington.

John Popich was born and raised in West Seattle. He met Richard Hugo at West Seattle High School, and throughout their lives, they fished and played baseball together.

Annick Smith, writer and filmmaker, has lived in western Montana since 1964. Her collection of essays, Homestead, was published by Milkweed Editions in 1995. She was the Executive Producer of Heartland, a film starring Rip Torn and Conchata Ferris, and was a consultant on the film. Her stories have been included in many anthologies, including Best American Short Stories.

Matthew Stadler is a Guggenheim recipient in fiction and has published four novels and a book of essays. Stadler is also the literary editor of Néot, a magazine of interiors. Stadler taught "The Writer in the City" at Richard Hugo House, a course focusing on urban planning and writing.

J.T. Stewart, poet and teacher for many years at Seattle Central Community College, is one of Seattle’s best known literary figures. Almost 20 years ago, she hosted a workshop given by Richard Hugo.

David Wagoner has been the editor of Poetry Northwest since 1966. He is a National Book Award nominee and is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Wagoner has published 15 books of poetry, including most recently, Walt Whitman’s Bathing. He has also published ten novels and one non-fiction book on Theodore Roosevelt.

James Welch is a poet, novelist and professor. Born in 1940 in Browning, Montana, he is of Blackfeet and Cree ancestry. He studied creative writing under Hugo and Madeline DeFrees at the University of Montana. His publications include Riving the Earthboy 40, Winter in the Blood and Food of Crow, which received the L.A. Times Book Prize and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers’ Award. Welch and Paul Steiker co-wrote the Emmy award-winning American Experience documentary, Last Stand at Little Bighorn, and co-directed 1994’s feature Killing Geronimo: The Battle of Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians.

Leils Welch is the Chair of the English Department at the University of Montana. After earning her doctorate in Comparative Literature, she taught at Portland State before going to Montana in 1966. Hugo had come the year before and occupied the office next door. Welch directed the Creative Writing Program from 1966-86 and was appointed to the Montana’s first Marginal Way along with her husband, James Welch, and Ripley Hugo. Currently she is working on a history of the Creative Writing Program at U.M.
Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98177-3708
THE POWER OF PLACE

by April Denonno

“Old rituals call us to the place we started out, the edge.”
— Madeline DeFrees, "Shadegrown Tobacco"

For an event to become a ritual it must reoccur and endure over time. Good rituals bear witness to a community’s daily life and amplify that life into performance—a pageant celebrating hard-won achievements of the past and those shimmering, cloud-shaped dreams we call the future.

To coincide with its “grand opening,” Richard Hugo House is hosting an event intended to become the first in a long line of annual rituals: The Power of Place: A Celebration of Richard Hugo’s Work. The event runs from October 2–4, beginning a tradition of gatherings that pose and respond to a significant cultural question drawn from the arts, politics and the media.

This year’s event will confront the question, “What is a place?” and by association, “How do we know when we belong to a place? Or when we don’t belong?” The Power of Place is also a celebration of origins: the dedication of Richard Hugo House to poet Richard Hugo, whose poetry forged a lyric response to questions of place and belonging.

Anne Stadler, event volunteer and an old friend of Hugo’s, explains: "The Power of Place is like a microcosm of everything that happens at Hugo House throughout the year—it’s Hugo House in little—a slice from every pie." True enough. If you’ve dropped by Hugo House to hear a reading, take a class or visit during Open Hours, you’ll be familiar with many of the folks joining the celebration. If not, the celebration will serve as an excellent introduction to Hugo House and its activities.

On Friday, October 2, filmmaker Annick Smith will show Kicking the Loose Gravel Home, her film portrait of Richard Hugo. Composer David Mahler will perform a work commissioned for the event. Friday’s highlights also include the official dedication of Richard Hugo House with director Frances McCue and writer Ripley Hugo, and a talk by critic Donna Gerstenberger.

Saturday, October 3, kicks off with a rousing literary walk and bus tour of Hugo’s West Seattle haunts, hosted by John Mitchell of the Department of Neighborhoods. Stage Fright will sponsor a youth open mike. The Saturday night gala will feature writers William Kittredge, Colleen McElroy, James Welch, Madeline DeFrees, David Wagoner, Bobby Anderson and Timothy Egan.

On Sunday, October 4, Hugo friends, family and former colleagues will join in the round-table discussion, “Living By Hugo.” Also on the schedule are Rebecca Brown’s Sketch Club panel, “Writing a Place in the City: A Civic Conversation”; “What Hugo Wrote,” an open discussion led by Ruth Brinton and Allen Braden; and the closing ceremony with Ivan Doig and others.

Continued on page 3

A Place to Meet

by Gay Nichols

Since its unofficial opening last year, Richard Hugo House’s walls have vibrated with the activity of over a dozen groups that meet here to write, perform, organize and learn. Some of the groups were formed before arriving and have found in Hugo House a quiet, supportive place in which to meet and further develop. Others have used Hugo House as a forum for launching new groups. Herewith, a sampling of some of the groups and organizations that make Hugo House their home.

Stage Fright is made up of some of the youngest writers at Hugo House. If you’d walked

Continued on next page
MEETING PLACE continued from previous page

into Hugo House’s Cabaret on the evening of Bastille Day last July, you would have heard a young woman with a heavy French accent reading from her work. The reading was part of a Stage Fright contest for the best writing on a French theme read with a French accent. In addition to hosting special events, the group—open to writers ages 14-24—meets at Hugo House for biweekly readings and writing workshops. Conceived by students from the Bush School (and originally called Climbing the Walls), the group continues to evolve. The torch of sponsorship has passed to students from Nathan Hale High School, and more recently, to students from the University District Youth Center. For more information, call Trisha Ready or Issac DeLeon at (206) 526-2992 ext. 23.

If you’ve been in a writing group, you know the importance of the encouragement and criticism that members of a well-oiled group can give. In Claire Lyons’ writing group, an ongoing rejections contest adds structure (and humor) to meetings. To push one another to submit their work, they count the rejection letters they receive as trophies in the battle to get published (though several members have published their work).

Other writing groups meet regularly at Hugo House too, including the Hugo House Volunteer Writing Group and a writing practice group open to the public and held every Monday at 7 p.m.

The Seattle Chapter of the National Writers Union—a lobbying and resource group for writers—is another Hugo House regular. The organization uses this space to hold business meetings as well as to present seminars and workshops on topics such as online publishing, book promotion and the commonsense economics of writing. Other organizations that regularly use Hugo House space include: Indigenous Fountainhead, a foundation dedicated to preserving African traditions; Seattle Playwrights Alliance, a service organization for playwrights; Raven Chronicles, a literary magazine publisher; Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, an education organization for homeless youth; and Washington Lawyers for the Arts, which provides pro bono legal service to artists.

This list is only a beginning: if you’re an individual or a group in search of a clean, well-lighted (and newly refurbished) place to meet, contact Facilities Director Bret Fetzer at (206) 322-7030.

Upstairs Pass Holder Benefits Take Effect

The hammers have stopped pounding, the paint fumes have aired out, and the carpet is nailed into place. In short, Richard Hugo House is renovated. October 1 ushers in full Upstairs Pass holder benefits! Benefits include: reduced fees for meeting space and class tuition, advanced notice of classes, access to the libraries and writers’ room, and the joy of finding Rewrite in your mailbox every quarter. From now on, Rewrite will be mailed only to Upstairs Pass holders. (Of course, you can always pick up complimentary copies of Rewrite at Hugo House.)

It’s easy to become an Upstairs Pass holder. Just fill out the “Join Richard Hugo House” form on the next page and send it in with your check. To find out more about Upstairs Pass holder benefits call Hugo House at (206) 322-7030.

Richard Hugo House

Rewrite is a quarterly publication of Richard Hugo House, a nonprofit community center for readers, writers and audiences. A trigger for involvement in the open and inquiring community of Richard Hugo House, Rewrite publishes announcements, reviews, interviews, focused articles and member contributions as a means for readers to learn about and join in Hugo House activities and events.

Rewrite is produced by an all-volunteer staff and is available free to RICHARD HUGO HOUSE Upstairs Pass holders and affiliated organizations and businesses.

Editorial and Production: Kristen Atik, Lyn Grant, Laura Hirschfeld
Original Design: Tim Braun
Printing: Urban Press
Contributors: April Dennis, Frances McCue, Gay Nichols

We welcome your questions, opinions and ideas. We’ll consider submissions, but please query in writing first. Address correspondence to Rewrite, Richard Hugo House, 1634 Eleventh Avenue, Seattle, WA 98112.

To place an ad, contact Kristen Atik at (206) 322-7030.

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Thanks to: Tim Braun, April Dennis, Stan Henry, Linda Jacob, Ross Jenkins, Andrea Lewis, Frances McCue, Gay Nichols and all the RICHARD HUGO HOUSE volunteers, without whose support Rewrite would not have made it into print.

Richard Hugo House is committed to building a vital learning community that develops and sustains practicing writers doing essential work. Richard Hugo House nurtures writers, readers and audiences of books, plays, films, and other written media, and brings innovative and effective writing education to people of all ages and backgrounds. It is a place for people to gather to celebrate, learn about, and practice reading and writing.

Board of Directors & Officers
President & Director: Linda Jacob
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Secretary-Treasurer & Director: Andrea Lewis
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Administrative Assistant: Kirsten Atik

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Development: Natalie Pascale Buisson, Laura Hirschfeld, Marcin Nelson-Deurs
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Writer-in-Residence: Rebecca Brown
Groundskeeper: Jon Knapp

Richard Hugo House
1634 Eleventh Avenue, Seattle, WA 98112
Phone: (206) 322-7030 Fax: (206) 320-8767
E-Mail: admin@hugohouse.org
Web Site: www.hugohouse.org

To find out about volunteering at Richard Hugo House, call Liz Walsh-Boyd, our Volunteer Coordinator at (206) 322-7030, ext. 3.
This October, Richard Hugo House is opening again! After our renovation, we are pleased to dedicate the house as a writing place. We’re activating memberships, offering services and hosting our first annual celebration.

Each year, Hugo House will take an active role as a source of lively critical dialogue about arts, humanities and social issues. Artistic and social questions arise all around us: What is the role of shelter in life and in literature? How does the position of the gaze or narration distort or illuminate the world around us? What does it mean to “make a place” or “hold a place?” To celebrate our first year, and our new home, we are considering issues of place by producing a three-day arts and humanities symposium called The Power of Place.

Since Hugo House has been making a new, renovated place for writers and since Hugo wrote so beautifully about under-regarded places, we will consider questions like: What is a place, in both a text and a city? What does it mean to pick a spot and inhabit it? In our version, the “power of place” is not another discussion of “regionalism,” but an exploration of overlooked places. We’re interested in how writers, artists, activists and historians adopt such places and re-admit them to culture at large. We’ve put out a call for submissions to collect pieces of writing about overlooked places in the city. The winners will read at the festival.

We also wanted to bring together Hugo’s family to explore the life and work of Richard Hugo through the role of poetry and prose in the life of the city. We are thrilled that Richard Hugo’s widow, Ripley, will be coming from Missoula, along with Annick Smith, William Kittredge, and James and Lois Welch. Prominent local writers Madeline DeFrees, David Wagoner, Colleen McElroy, Ivan Doig, Bobby Anderson, Timothy Egan and Donna Gerstenberger, as well as composer David Mahler and local activists and friends will offer lively readings and panels.

We hope you will join us for an inquisitive, fun-filled celebration of the writing life on October 2–4. Welcome, once again, to Richard Hugo House!

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POWER OF PLACE continued from page 1

We hope the event takes on a life of its own—galvanizing interest so that in years to come we can remember the occasion as one that kindled a new community tradition. Here’s a chance to be there from the start.

The Power of Place: Getting There


**Cost:** $5 per day/$3 for students, seniors and Upstairs Pass holders. Saturday night reading: $10/$8.

**Volunteering:** To sign up call Volunteer Coordinator Liz Walsh-Boyd at (206) 322-7030.

The Power of Place is made possible by the echoing green foundation, King County Special Projects Program, Seattle Arts Commission, the Stranger, Washington Commission for the Humanities and individual donors.

This past August Richard Hugo House hosted two groups of young writers and artists.

**Many Thanks**

to the SCRIBES and YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS participants for all their spirit, energy, creativity and hard work.

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Staging Dante’s Inferno

This October 28–November 1, Richard Hugo House, On the Boards, and Seattle Arts & Lectures will co-host a national production of Dante’s *Inferno*, adapted for the stage by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. Sponsored by the Lila Wallace Foundation and the 92nd Street Y in New York, this new translation, with innovative stage direction by Robert Scanlon, will appear at On the Boards theater.

To coincide with the production, Hugo House will offer an eight-week class for young writers: “Translations from the English.” Students will rewrite the cantos, translating from Pinsky, who translated from Dante, who looked back to Virgil. Their work will culminate in a public performance.

For ticket information for the student performance, call Hugo House at (206) 322-7030. Tickets for the nationally-touring production are available at On the Boards, (206)217-9888.

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Join Richard Hugo House

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YES, I want the Upstairs Pass for $50 annually ($25 for seniors and students).

SIGN ME UP as a Friend of Richard Hugo House for $100 or more (includes an Upstairs Pass and tax-deductible donation for all amounts over $50).

$100 $250 $500 More (please specify) Send me information about volunteering at Richard Hugo House.

NAME __________________________ ADDRESS __________________________

PHONE __________________________ FAX __________________________

E-MAIL __________________________

RICHARD HUGO HOUSE 1634 Eleventh Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122 • PHONE (206) 322-7030 • FAX (206) 320-8767 • E-MAIL: admin@hugohouse.org
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**FALL CLASSES AT HUGO HOUSE**

- A Picture's Worth by Joanne Psychas, 10th Ave. 2:30 p.m. $5 donation
- Poetry reading with Beth Reynolds, 10th Ave. 2:30 p.m. $5 donation
- Reading on "ranchos" men and the myth of Latin women, 10th Ave. 2:30 p.m. $5 donation
- Writing and Making Your Own Book, 10th Ave. 2:30 p.m. $5 donation
- **Speakers:**
  - Richard Hugo: "Place and Person"
  - Richard Hugo: "Making Metaphors"
  - "You're Writing a Manuscript. Now What?" by Alice Ahedon
  - "Transforming Reality: Writing Magic Realism and Contemporary Fairy Tale" by Priscilla Long

**Notes:**
- Please call Richard Hugo House for schedules, costs, and donations (206) 322-7385.
- Nonprofit Org.
- U.S. Postage Paid
- Seattle, WA
- Permit No. 1030
Ivan Doig  
17021 10th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98177

September 14, 1998

Dear Ivan:

We are thrilled that you will be joining us for “The Power of Place: A Celebration of Richard Hugo.” You will be presenting a short talk on Richard Hugo and The Power of Detail on Sunday, October 4th, at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday evening, October 2nd, Richard Hugo House is hosting a reception for all participants and friends, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Please join us. After this reception, our house will be dedicated by Hugo House founders, Ripley Hugo, the city council and Deputy Mayor Tom Byers. Please join us at 7 p.m. for this important event as well!

The rest of the weekend will be catered by Tom French of Tableau. Tom will sell meals, snacks and drinks, including a trout dinner on Saturday evening. Tom has researched all of the food that Hugo loved and has made a special effort to provide it during the events.

One favor: Would you let us keep hard copies of any notes that you prepare for your panel? We’d like to keep a permanent record of your affiliation with Hugo. These copies would be archived in our library.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you in two weeks!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Frances McCue
Frances McCue asked me to hold forth for a few minutes on some aspect of R. Hugo as a writer, and chose the power of detail, which I believe Dick H was a master of. I'll be reading a couple of things of Dick's as examples, if then in closing — as Frances also asked — a bit of new work of my own that might be in the spirit of Dick's totally craft. (If some questions, if you'd like.)

Why detail, in connection with Dick? In personal terms, when I think back on Dick, it's usually some vivid detail about him. I've always loved that he fancied, fly-fishing buddies in Minnesota were complaining to me that D's utilitarian "marshmallow" way of fishing — "He was pink marshmallows," Ping.

But in artistic terms I always think of Dick in light of something I heard when... (Blake)

I've always thought D's wonderful craft manual on writing, The Tragedian's Tower is full of that Blakean fascination w/ detail:

p. 7 (small mind)

p. 32 (Med. dark track)

I would contend that Dick got a lot of the effects in his powerful poetry by pushing some of detail out into that manifest zone where craft turns into art. I always credit him, in talking & writing, w/ that advice he gave to desiring souls.

Signers of Song
Richard Hugo House
1634 Eleventh Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122
(between Olive and Pine on Capitol Hill)
206-322-7030

Directions from I-5 Northbound
Take the Olive Street Exit and turn right onto Olive.
Go straight for a number of blocks, you'll cross Broadway.
Turn right onto 11th.
Go straight for approximately 4 blocks.
Richard Hugo House is a gray Victorian house on the corner of 11th and Olive.
Entrance to the parking lot is on 11th Avenue.

Directions from I-5 Southbound
Take the Stewart Street/Denny exit.
Take a left onto Denny.
You'll cross over the freeway as you go up the hill.
Get in the right lane and continue straight until you come to 11th.
Take a right onto 11th.
Go straight for about 3 blocks.
Richard Hugo House is a gray Victorian house on the corner of 11th and Olive.
Entrance to the parking lot is on 11th Avenue.
the power of place

Please join us at our opening reception for "The Power of Place: A Celebration of Richard Hugo." We're hosting participants, friends, city council members and press.

WHERE
Richard Hugo House
1634 Eleventh Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122
206-322-7030

WHEN
Friday, October 2, 1998 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

RSVP NOT REQUIRED
RUSTIC SILHOUETTE

By Bessie Broich

The Silver Slipper

Silver Slipper, Silver Slipper...just can't get away from you. This is the tune that is constantly in my mind whenever I think of this Rustic Silhouette wine. I have sampled this wine on several occasions and it never fails to disappoint me.

The Silver Slipper wine is produced by the Silver Slipper Winery, located in the heart of the wine country in Napa Valley. The winery is known for its rustic charm and the warm hospitality it offers to its guests.

As I walked into the winery, I was greeted by the friendly staff who offered me a guided tour of the facility. The tour took me through the vineyards, where I was able to see the beautiful vines that produce the grapes for the Silver Slipper wine. The tour also took me through the barrel room, where I was able to see the wine aging in oak barrels.

The Silver Slipper wine is produced from 100% Pinot Noir grapes, harvested at the peak of ripeness. The grapes are hand-selected and gently crushed to extract the maximum flavor and aroma. The wine is then aged for 18 months in French oak barrels, which adds a rich and complex flavor to the wine.

The Silver Slipper wine is available in both red and white varietals. The red wine is a deep ruby color with aromas of blackberry and dark cherry, while the white wine is a pale straw color with aromas of honeysuckle and apricot.

The Silver Slipper wine is perfect for pairing with a variety of foods. The red wine pairs well with grilled meats and rich, flavorful dishes, while the white wine pairs well with seafood and light, vegetarian dishes.

In conclusion, the Silver Slipper wine is a must-try for any wine enthusiast. The rustic charm of the winery and the exquisite taste of the wine make it a memorable experience. I highly recommend giving it a try.

The wine is available for purchase online or at the winery's tasting room. For more information, visit their website at www.silverslipperwinery.com.
IHC Silver Anniversary Event Features Writer Ivan Doig

Writer Ivan Doig travels to Boise on Friday, September 25 to speak at a silver anniversary celebration for the Idaho Humanities Council. To honor the IHC’s 25th birthday, the Council plans a festive dinner, historical exhibits, book signing, and Doig’s talk, all to be held at Boise Cascade on the Grove. IHC thanks Boise Cascade Corporation for its generous underwriting, which makes possible this gala occasion. Former Council member Dale Higer and his wife Ramona are hosting a special benefactors’ reception prior to the dinner at their home on Warm Springs Avenue. Please use the form at the bottom of this page to reserve tickets for you, your friends, your book club, or your business.

Ivan Doig was born in Montana and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front where his trilogy of novels, Dancing at the Rascal Fair, English Creek, and Ride with Me, Mariah Montana, takes place. Doig’s first book, This House of Sky, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 1978. This House of Sky received The Christopher Award and has sold more than 165,000 copies. This richly textured memoir has been published in England and West Germany.

Doig’s career has been honored with the lifetime “Distinguished Achievement” award presented by the Western Literature Association and the “Spirit of the West” award from the Mountains and Plains Booksellers. Doig has received honorary degrees from Montana State University and Lewis & Clark College.

Ivan Doig lives in Seattle with his wife Carol, who will travel with him to Boise in September. He has just completed a new novel to be published by Scribner in the spring of 1999.

Reading Ivan Doig

If you read all of Ivan Doig’s books in the order in which he wrote them, you realize that there may be a better order for reading. The order of this list takes his Montana trilogy, Dancing at the Rascal Fair, English Creek, and Ride with Me, Mariah Montana, in the chronological order of the stories. Then comes his fourth Montana novel, Bucking the Sun. After these four novels come two autobiographical works, This House of Sky and Heart Earth. The list concludes with two books that take place on the West Coast and Canadian coasts, one fiction and the other non-fiction.

Dancing at the Rascal Fair. Atheneum, 1987, and Scribner paperback. This book sets the stage for Doig’s Montana novels. Leaving Scotland in 1899, Angus McCaskill and Rob Barclay set off for a new life in America. They end up homesteading in northern Montana, at the base of the Rocky Mountains. This is the story of the next thirty years of changing times with hard work, brutral winters, good times, bad times, love, heartbreak, building homes and raising families.

English Creek. Atheneum, 1984, and Penguin paperback. The saga of the McCaskill family continues. The story takes place during the summer of 1939. It is the pivotal summer for 15-year-old Jack McCaskill, grandson of Angus. He discovers his own identity against a backdrop of family conflict and the natural world. It takes you into the world of sheep ranching, the Forest Service, and community life in rural Montana.

Ride with Me, Mariah Montana. Atheneum, 1990, and Penguin paperback. The final book in the trilogy about the McCaskill family. It takes place during four months of the celebration on the Montana State Centennial in 1989. Jack McCaskill is in his mid-60s and recently widowed. He takes his daughter and her ex-husband, who are journalists, on a motorhome tour of Montana seeking stories for their newspaper coverage of the centennial. On the trip he examines his own life and history, along with the life and history of Montana.

Bucking the Sun. Simon and Schuster, 1996, and Scribner paperback. This novel focuses on the Duff family, who first appear as characters in Dancing at the Rascal Fair. It follows them during the depression as they move to Fort Peck on the Missouri River in eastern Montana to work on the construction of the Fort Peck Dam, one of the major WPA projects. Doig provides a vivid portrait of life during the depression, along with a study of the successes and failures of a family. After you’ve finished this book, go to the library and look at the first issue of Life magazine (Nov. 23, 1936) to see how Doig has crafted a novel that is a mirror image of real life and events.

This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978, and Harvest/HBJ paperback. This is the story of Doig’s family. Many of his fictional characters and locations come from his own life experience. This is an autobiographical work that reads like the best-written fiction. Doig grew up in a household consisting of his father, Charlie, and his grandmother, Bessie Ringer. They lived a tough

Idaho Writers Praise Ivan Doig

“Above all, I admire Ivan’s beautiful exactitude. Trained as an historian, he is the most scrupulous of researchers, with a respect for detail and a love for the apparently inconsequential, the precious trivial, which I think he has learned less through formal study than through the rigors of his upbringing at the hands of a father and grandmother whose lives depend upon their observations of weather and landscape, animal and human life. What Ivan writes is true, always true to his vision.”

Mary Clearman Blew (Moscow)
Author of Bolsamroot

“‘He’s a great story-teller, a fine poet and an honest observer of the west in the tradition of Guthrie and Stegner.’
Dean Miller
Editor
Idaho Falls Post-Register

“‘Ivan Doig’s fiction, like Faulkner’s, creates a world that is uniquely American. Within the grand contours of Montana, his characters struggle to define themselves and dignify their lives. To read Doig is to journey inside the circulatory system of the Mountain West.’

Alan Minskoff, Editor
Boise Magazine

May We Send You a Book?

Thanks to the University of Idaho Press, the Idaho Humanities Council announces a special offer. To the first 100 purchasers of Benefactors Tickets to the ‘IHC Silver Anniversary Celebration with Writer Ivan Doig,’ or to those making a donation, we will mail a copy of Elizabeth Simpson’s Earthlight, Wordfire: The Work of Ivan Doig. This engaging book is the first comprehensive book-length study of Ivan Doig’s writings. This very special book will be IHC’s birthday gift to you for helping support the humanities in Idaho!”
Bemis (Continued from Page 1)

Yick Chung and Ye Yick.

Patriot Polly arrived, only one Chinese man had sufficient means to pay $2500 for a woman. Ah Yung, a miner, had wealth valued at $3500. The word "Ah" before Chinese given names simply means, "that person is called..." Ah Yung was his first name, and his surname is unknown. The next wealthi-
est Chinese man, Ah Hon, a merchant, was worth only $1900. With "Hon" his first name, but no surname, he might be "Hong King," but that is just coincidence, not evidence. The person who bought Polly in 1872 may be absent from the 1870 "Warren" census. For example, Charlie Bemis lived there then, but he is not listed.

Life on the Salmon River

On August 13, 1894, Polly and Charlie were married in Warren. Soon afterwards, they moved down to the south side of the Salmon River, about a 14-mile journey from Warren. For the next few years, little is known about their lives. In November 1902, however, Bemises began to be mentioned in the "Shepp diaries."

Charles Shepp and Peter Klinkhammer had a mining claim across the Salmon River and several miles away, up in the mountains. Shepp wrote daily entries in small pocket diaries, now available as transcripts and photocopies in the University of Idaho Library Special Collections. He often visited, and later bought, a ranch at the mouth of Crooked Creek, across the river from the Bemises.

Shepp first mentioned the Bemises on November 8, 1902, when he states, "Bemis... over." From then, until Polly's death in 1933, his diary entries tell us much about the couple, including their personal possessions, their activities, their garden, and their ranch buildings. For example, on August 17, 1910, Shepp wrote, "Polly & Bemis over to dinner. Polly caught 27 fish." In later years, Pete Klinkhammer commented, "Polly loved to fish and was good at it. We'd see her [gardening] & she'd bend to the earth real quick, then shed shove something into the big pocket of her long pants. Come three o'clock every day Polly had her gardening done and her fish bait, ready and waiting in her pocket. We used to know what time it was by watching her."

Occasionally, there is unintended humor in the diary. One sequence starts on January 7, 1912: "Put George in chicken house." On January 8, Shepp "Killed George, he weighed 48 [pounds]." Then, on Sunday, January 21st, Shepp wrote: "Bemis' & Polly over for dinner. Cooked George with noodles." By mid-1919 Charlie Bemis was virtually bedridden, so Shepp and Klinkhammer increasingly did his chores. During 1921, for example, they crossed the river many times to cut wood, put out a stoopewie fire, plow and plant the Bemis's garden, burn brush, cut hay, and do the watering.

Then, on August 16, 1922, with Pete taking produce to Dixon, Shepp wrote, "Bemis house burned at 12 [noon]. Had a hell of a time. Got the old man out by the skin of my teeth. Lost Teddy [Polly's dog]. He got burned. Polly & I got the old man over [the river] about 4. Had hard time. Didn't save a single thing. The whole place was on fire when I got over."

On October 29, 1922, Charlie Bemis died. Shepp wrote, "Bemis Dead," underlining it for emphasis, and adding, "Bemis passed in at 3 am... Gus & Holmes down. We buried the old man right after dinner. Fine day."

Two days later, Shepp noted, "Polly going to Warren. Klinkhammer took up where the following day. Polly lived in Warren for almost two years. In the summer of 1923 she visited Grangeville, and in 1924 she went to Boise. Both times, newspaper reporters interviewed her.

Meanwhile, Shepp and Klinkhammer agreed to build Polly a new house and look after her; in exchange, they would get the ranch on her death. Between October 1923 and September 1924 Shepp often wrote about the house, putting up, cutting roof shingles, installing a telephone, and constructing windows. In early October, Klinkhammer went to Warren and brought Polly back home.

As Polly became older, Shepp and Klinkhammer did more and more of the heavy work. She still kept very busy—in one, two-week period, during 1926, Polly killed four porcupines. We can only imagine how she did it; the diary doesn't detail her methods.

Then, on Friday, August 4, 1933, Polly became very ill. By boat and horseback her friends got her to a car that took her to the Grangeville hospital.

The "Pokker Game" Legend

The following month, Boise's Idaho Statesman proclaimed, "Crizek explodes myth of Chinese poker bride"; supposedly, an Indian girl named "Molly" was the "real poker bride." Jay Crizek was Idaho's first Inspector of Mines, and Molly was Molly Smed, the wife of A. D. Smed, the Justice of the Peace who had married the Bemises. Through all the Shepp diaries, and in published interviews with Polly herself, there is absolutely no mention of Polly being "won in a poker game." This 1933 newspaper account is the first printed reference to the "won in a poker game" story.

On November 5, 1933, the Sunday Oregonian published a lengthy article with sensational head-
lines: "Old Chinese Woman of Idaho Famous. Polly

Bemis Seriously Ill in Grangeville Hospital. Carried Nearly Ended. Patient Bemis That She Was Won in Poker Game by Man Who Later Married Her."

The next day, Polly died. Writer Lamont Johnson may not have interviewed Polly herself; he probably obtained his information from Mrs. Eva Weaver, Polly's nurse. In 1958, Johnson wrote Sister M. Alfreda Elensohn of St. Gertrude's Monastery in Cottonwood.

"If and when I locate that letter of 1933 from Polly's nurse, I will send you a photostatic copy... The real poker bride was an Indian girl named Molly... Polly didn't tell me these details, but she told me all the rest of it. It seems to me that the letter covered several pages, and I know I never destroyed it; I think it is still stowed away... in a garage I have hired."

Johnson later wrote Sister Alfreda that he had visited Cottonwood, but did not find the letter. My inquiries to various likely repositories have also not produced it. Since Polly herself denied the poker game story, how did it get started? The late Otis Morris offered some explanation. Morris, whose stepfather was W. J. Kelly, one of the witnesses at the Bemis's wedding, stated, "My stepdad died in 1911 and up to that time I had never heard a thing about it but sometime after that in the next five or six years they got the story out that she was won in the poker game.

Therefore, Otis Morris first heard the story about 1916 or 1917. He also thought he knew where it originated, saying, 'I'm satisfied in my own mind that Jay Crizek started it.' That would explain why the first in-print mention of the story was when Jay Crizek denied it in September 1933.

Nearly all previous writers believed that Charlie was born Polly. In a poker game. One source of this misconception is a two-page manuscript, now at St. Gertrude's Museum, written by Warren pioneer Taylor Smith. In it, Smith names five men who reportedly saw the game and told him about it, one of whom was W. J. Kelly.

Since Otis Morris never heard the story from his own stepfather, before W. J. Kelly died, Taylor Smith may have fallen for a practical joke. Logically, given the anti-Chinese attitudes that so prevailed in early Idaho, it is difficult to believe that a lone Chinese man would sit across the table from a Caucasian man, in a roomful of other Caucasians, staking his entire fortune playing a "white man's card game."

There is evidence to show that the Bemises knew about the story and maybe even entertained their friends with it. Nearing death, how-
ever, Polly denied that it had ever happened. Both Polly's denial, and her listing as a widow in the 1880 census, provide strong evidence for the inaccuracy of the "won in a poker game" legend.

The Name "Lalu"

There is another unsolved puzzle with regard to Polly Bemis. Numerous secondary sources state that her Chinese name was "Lalu." However, there is no ev-
er, that name does not appear in any of the newspa-

er, the interviews with Polly, or in the Shepp diaries.

Several Idaho repositories own copies of an undisputed manuscript about Polly Bemis written by George J. Bancroft, a mining engineer who knew the Bemises beginning around 1917. It may be the source for the undocumented name, "Lalu." Although the first page contains the handwritten name "Lalu Nayhoy," probably added by Bancroft's daughter, writer Caroline Bancroft, the name "Lalu" is not in the manu-

script at all.

Conclusion

Historical research has persuaded me to be more skeptical of some of the supposed "facts"

(See BEMIS, Page 8)
Doig (Continued from Page 3) existence in central Montana with lots of hard work and little success. The one thing that seems to have held them together was Ivan. From rural poverty in Montana, Ivan Doig went to undergraduate study in history and journalism at Northwestern University and an eventual Ph.D. from the University of Washington. It is a remarkable story.

Heart Earth. Atheneum, 1993, and Penguin paperback. When Doig was 6, he spent the summer with his mother and father in the Montana mountains where his father was herding sheep. On his sixth birthday, his mother died. With this book, Doig focuses and expands on one element of This House of Sky, the story of his mother’s brief life.

Winter Brothers: A Season at the Edge of America. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1980, and Harvest/HBJ paperback. With this book, Doig shifts from Montana to his present home-state of Washington. He came across the diaries of James Swan while doing research at the University of Washington. Swan left his wife and children in Boston and set out for the West, eventually settling on the northern tip of the Olympic Peninsula in 1830. His family never rejoined him. For the next fifty years he was a teacher, explorer, government agent, ethnographer, and sometimes heavy drinker. He also kept detailed diaries and wrote two highly acclaimed books. He collected Indian artifacts for the Smithsonian, recorded linguistic information, and wrote about tribal legends, folklore and beliefs. Swan died in 1900.

The Sea Runners. Atheneum, 1982, and Penguin paperback. In 1853 three Swedes escaped Russian indentured servitude in New Archangel, Alaska, and took an Indian canoe 1,200 miles to Shalowater Bay on the Washington Coast. Doig came across a small clippin in an 1853 Oregon newspaper telling of their arrival and that a fourth member of the party had been killed by Indians during the voyage. Other than their names, nothing else is known of them. Doig used this as the basis for a well-researched, but fictional, account of their incredible voyage. It was his first novel.

Those who want to know more about Ivan Doig and his works should consider reading Earthlight, Westfire: The Works of Ivan Doig by Elizabeth Simpson. This is the first comprehensive study of Ivan Doig’s writing. Doig cooperated with the author in her research. Included are many photographs from Doig’s personal collection of his family and the Montana locations of his writing. The book was published by the University of Idaho Press in 1995. © Marty Peterson is an avid reader who lives in Boise. He was co-director of the International Hemingway Conference in 1996. He is Special Assistant to the President of the University of Idaho.

IHC Requests Nominations for 1998 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award

The Idaho Humanities Council announces its first biennial award to recognize outstanding contributions of humanities teachers in Idaho schools. Two awards of $2000 each will be selected in late fall 1998 and awarded early in 1999. One award will go to an elementary teacher, one to a secondary teacher. Of the $2000 award, $1000 will be given to the teacher for professional development, and $1000 will be awarded to the teacher’s school for improvement of humanities courses and programs or purchase of humanities instructional materials—at the discretion of the award-winning teacher. The Award program is made possible in part by a grant to the IHC from the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

Any student, parent, fellow teacher, school administrator, or member of the public may nominate one full-time teacher of the humanities in an Idaho public or private school. Self-nominations are not encouraged. Awards will be made only for the teaching of existing, rather than proposed, humanities courses or programs. In most schools, the humanities are generally courses in literature, foreign languages, government, history, or social studies. Philosophy, comparative religions, anthropology, and art or music history courses also qualify.

Teachers of the performing and visual arts are not eligible for this program, unless such subjects are components of an interdisciplinary humanities course or program.

Nomination forms will be mailed to school districts statewide by September 1. Nominations are due at the Idaho Humanities Council office postmarked not later than November 1, 1998.

For nomination forms, call the IHC office at (208) 345-5346, or toll free at (888) 345-5346. Only one nomination per nominator. Multiple nominations for the same individual will not affect final selection. ©

What Are You Reading? In each issue of Idaho Humanities, several readers tell us what they’ve been reading and what they recommend.

Reader: Mary Lou Reed, Coeur d’Alene
Occupation: Political Activist
Book: Song For the Blue Ocean by Carl Safina

“This sad but lyrical song for the earth’s waters reaches the heart. The seabird scientist/author recounts with great compassion the twin plights of the rapidly disappearing large fish and out-of-work fishermen. Through his eyes we scout the Atlantic for a glimpse of scarce bluefin tuna, tag groupers in the Far Pacific and even engage in a chapter of conversation with Idaho’s own salmon-saving giant, Ed Chaney. A beautifully written, armchair ocean voyage.

Reader: Marianne Love, Sandpoint
Occupation: High School English teacher, freelance writer, and author
Book: In the Wilderness: Coming of Age in an Unknown Country, by Kim Barnes

Lewiston-area writer Kim Barnes has written what I like to call a “pass-it-on” book. After devouring this brilliantly-written story of Barnes’ childhood in Central Idaho’s logging camps and her adolescent struggles with fundamentalist religious doctrines, I sent a copy to my sister-in-law, Mary, in Houston. She mailed the book to her daughter, Maureen, in Tacoma. After reading it in one day, Maureen loaned her copy to a friend. At this writing, my own personally autographed book is in the hands of one of my English students. Kim Barnes’ award-winning book is definitely an Idaho literary gem.

Reader: Richard A. Slaughter, Director of the Martin Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, University of Idaho
Book: Full House: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin, by Stephen J. Gould

Full House is a wonderful exercise in the application of probability to biological and human events. Gould’s ultimate purpose is to explore the disappearance of .400 hitters in baseball, but along the way he explodes myths of creation and Darwinism as commonly understood. He demonstrates that existing complex (multi-centered) organisms are not the result of progressive adaptation, but merely the sole current surviving twigs on a very full bush of random biological development. “Look in the mirror, and don’t be tempted to equate transient domination with either intrinsic superiority or prospects for extended survival.”
**WORKSHOPS**

- Interpreting Beethoven's Fifth Symphony
  Workshop by Geetha Schuller
  The Forked Lamp, 302-205-4554

- Poets as Storytellers
  Contact: Diane Rigsdale, 302-205-4554
  TBA

- LECTURES
  - Multi-ethnic health event sponsored by Idaho NCE
    Sept 03 11 a.m. at McGraw Theatre, 1205 S. Idaho Falls, 302-445-5243

- Idaho's Bar: A Vanishing Legacy
  Presentation by Arthur Hart
  Historic Idaho
  July 30
  Contact: Ruth Ann Olsen, 302-776-5524
  South Bannock County Historical Center, PO Box 837, Love Hot Springs, 302-205-4095
  Aug 2
  Contact: Lois Nielson, 302-682-4696
  Homestead Museum, 208 N. Eastern, Idaho Falls
  Sept 9
  Contact: Margaret McLain, 302-226-2535
  American Falls District Library, 308 Rosewood Dr, American Falls, 302-205-4554
  Aug 31
  Contact: Laura Bean, 302-456-4776
  Mountain Home Public Library, 760 S, 10th East, Mountain Home

- Following the Trail to the Buffalo: A Cultural Landscape
  Presentation by Donna Tupple
  Contact: Donna Tupple, 302-309-2446
  Idaho County Historical Society
  July 21
  McCall Public Library
  July 22
  Wiser Middle School
  Aug 1
  Boise Public Library
  July 28
  Greenleaf Senior Citizens Center
  July 30
  Lewiston Red Lion Inn, Part 2
  Aug 1
  Ketchum Library
  Aug 23
  Madge’s, 110 N 1st Ave, Garden City
  Aug 23
  Boise, First United Church
  Aug 29
  Coeur d’Alene, NC Field, Todd Lockett Hall

- CONFERENCES
  Our Sacred Heritage
  Conference on Preservation of Historic Religious Properties and Communities
  Contact: 302-205-3518
  Idaho Heritage Trust, Idaho Historic Preservation Council, 302-205-3518
  Please be advised. No information.

- CHAUTAUQUA
  Chautauqua Passport to Idaho
  Contact: Brenda Lane, 302-735-2300
  College of Southern Idaho English Department
  July 14-26
  Shannon Manor, Lake Hot Springs, TBA

- Idaho Humanities Council
  35th Anniversary Celebration
  Idaho Humanities Council
  303 N 5th Ave, Boise, 302-445-5243

- CELEBRATING IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL 35th ANNIVERSARY
  - *Oregon Bound 1847*
    Contact: Connie Pepper, 302-205-3518, ext. 1150
    Jerome School District
    Aug 1
    5:30 p.m.

- *Oregon Bound 1847*
  Contact: Connie Pepper, 302-205-3518, ext. 1150
  Jerome School District
  Aug 15
  Blackfoot TBA

- *Mary Isom: “Mary, Sally, Field of the Idaho”*
  Contact: Linda Bioke, 302-684-5294
  Ponderosa State Park
  Aug 25
  9:00 a.m.

- *Julia Bambrick: “Shades of Idaho, Lember County”*
  Contact: Esther Morgan, 302-963-0435
  Idaho County Historical Society
  Aug 19
  12:00 noon

- *James Watt: Mountain Lamb, Julia Ogden, Marie Dutten and Other Forgotten Women: Idaho Voices of the Mountain Women*
  Contact: Linda Hollin, 302-684-5294
  Ponderosa State Park
  Aug 23
  8:30 p.m.

- *Richard Baker: “Rural Hispanics/Southern America”*
  Contact: Neute Mercelde, 302-445-5294
  Boise Military Entrance Processing Station
  Sep 4
  1:00 p.m.

- *Tribal Leader in the West*
  Contact: Esther Morgan, 302-963-0435
  Idaho County Historical Society
  Sep 16
  12:00 noon

- *Bicentennial Moment Meeting Room*
  Contact: Karen Kapke, 302-736-7211
  Kelley Public Library/KA Libraries
  Sep 23
  7:00 p.m.

- *Sharno Harman: Mary’s “Historic Quilts”*
  Contact: Karen Louis, 302-525-7700
  Community Education
  Oct 9
  7:00 p.m.

- *601 South Highlands, Idaho Falls*
  8:00 p.m.

- *Sharno Harman: Mary's “Dying Quilts”*
  Contact: Karen Louis, 302-525-7700
  Community Education
  Oct 7
  8:00 p.m.

- *Gene Williams: “Trading Native American Families”*
  Contact: Neute Mercelde, 302-445-5294
  Boise Military Entrance Processing Station
  Nov 6
  1:00 p.m.

- *1650 Fairview Ave, Boise*

- *EXHIBITS*:
  *Idaho’s Bar: A Vanishing Legacy*
  Contact: Arthur Hart, 302-205-2927
  July 10-Aug 2
  South Bannock County Historical Center, Lake Hot Springs
  Aug 7-Sept 2
  Bonneville-Montana, Idaho Falls
  Sept 4-Oct 1
  American Falls Public Library
  Oct 2-Nov 5
  Mountain Home Public Library

- *Idaho Harvests II*
  Contact: Warren Casey, 302-977-8614
  Aug 1
  10:30 a.m.

- *Danny High School Library*
  Aug 3-Aug 20
  Danny Community Library
  Aug 22
  10:30 a.m.

- *Bovill Community Library*
  Sep 8-Sept 27
  Jacot’s Community Library
  Oct 1-Nov 12
  Troy Community Library
  Nov 12
  10:30 a.m.

- *Germantown Community Library*
  Nov 10-12
  Monrovia Public Library
  Dec 8-9
  10:30 a.m.

- *Dana Public Library*

- *TEACHER INSTITUTES*
  Learning About Idaho Through Idaho Archaeology
  Contact: Kris Mclure, 302-205-2927
  Idaho State Historical Society
  Jul 13
  Summer Teacher’s Institute
  College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls

- *Idaho and the American West*
  Contact: Terr McPherson, 302-445-5294
  Idaho Humanities Council
  Jul 19-31
  Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa
October 5, 1998

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

Dear Ivan,

Enclosed is a check for your mileage and expenses for traveling to Boise to speak on our 25th birthday. We appreciated so much your generosity with our guests. So many had traveled to hear you speak. The evening still resonates, Ivan, with all those who attended. Many things about that evening were special, and I know that you must have felt the warmth extended to you by that audience.

Your talk was terrific, and as far as anyone here can tell, it inspired The Idaho Statesman to do an all-time first, publish a humanities talk in its entirety. I mean, right up there, unedited, with Linda Tripp’s tapes of Monica! I have enclosed Sunday’s Life Section, as I know you will want to see this. We are truly indebted to the Managing Editor, Karen Baker, for this remarkable event. Should you wish to drop her a note, the address is P.O. Box 50, Boise, ID 83707.

Please stay in touch, here, as I know when your book comes out it’s possible that you will come back. We would love to help out. There’s a terrific bookstore in Ketchum, too, that you should hit on the same trip if you can. Bill McDorman is a terrific contact there, and I know he will look forward to having you come.

Warmest wishes to Carol, too. And thanks again for doing such a nice job for us.

Sincerely,

Patty White
Assistant Director
9/30/98

June—It was a pleasure to meet you and Carol Friday night. Your speech got rave reviews! We have entered it into our system and will publish it (unfortunately, we'll likely need to edit since it's 130+ lines: but I'll be gentle!) within the next few days. Thank you so much for allowing us to do so. I've spoken to many people who regret that they couldn't hear you, so they'll be grateful.

Best wishes,

Karen Baker
Maurice Montana enjoyed it greatly. He is looking forward to retirement when he plans to read your other books.

He also plans to write you since he is a perfectionist about letter writing. Hell may freeze over 1st.

Since we had this nice return envelope for dinner reservations I thought I would see if I wrote.

[Des Moines, IA]

Feb 15, 1998

Dear Ivan -

My husband, Dave Witke, regrets he will not be able to attend the "Achievement Dinner" at which you will be honored. He remembers your "dishroom" company with pleasure and was glad to learn you were getting published. He read Ride With Me,
you a note if it would get to you.

I am spending my reading time on woman's work so I only skimmed parts of your book but what I read seemed like very good writing to me also.

David & I are glad for your success & wish you and yours well.

Sincerely,

Priscilla W. (Mrs David R Witte)
Ivan Doig  
17021 10th NW  
Seattle, WA 98177

August 4, 1998

Dear Ivan,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in “The Power of Place: A Celebration of Richard Hugo.” As you know, this will be a three-day event from October 2 – 4th. We are bringing Hugo’s friends, family, former colleagues and students together, along with civic leaders to investigate how “place” shapes our vision of the city and of literature.

Enclosed is a schedule of events. Please review it and note any suggestions that you have. By August 15th, we would appreciate it if you would fill out the sheet on the second page and return it to us via the self-addressed, stamped envelope. This will signal your commitment to the schedule, and offer us a biography so we can print it in the program.

Thank you for your attention!

Best,

Frances McCue
Executive Director

(Hugo said from speech of Mariah @ Tainan)  
- Faulkner’s “it”  
- Tolstoy’s “train bells”
1) Can you participate in the events you are assigned to, at their designated times?

X Yes. No.

2) Do you have any suggestions for the schedule or the panels?

3) Please submit a biography of yourself, and your relationship to Dick Hugo. If relevant, include your relationship to West Seattle or White Center. (250 word maximum.)

Dick was one of those one-person Mount Rushmores whom I still look around for, out on the Montana horizon, and miss as a friend and crafter of words. Carol and I knew him from 1978 on—met at a celebratory party for This House of Sky—and Carol worked with Ripley’s mother, the writer Mildred Walker, on the faculty at Wells College.

Return to Richard Hugo House by August 15th. Thank you.
DRAFT SCHEDULE

Friday, October 2: “NEIGHBOR”

1 p.m. – 1:45 Opening remarks: Frances McCue (15 minutes) House Dedication and introduction of Ripley Hugo. Donna Gerstenberger (20-30 minutes) on Hugo.

2 p.m. – 3:30 “Kicking the Loose Gravel Home”: Film (60 minutes) and talk (with questions and answers) by Annick Smith (20 minutes with question and answer) on Hugo as a “Neighbor” poet and friend.

4 p.m. – 5:30 Panel: Views of Richard Hugo as Poet, Colleague and Mentor Led by Patricia Clark. Madeleine Defrees, Art Homer, Lee Bassett, Sandra Alcosser, JT Stewart.

6 p.m. – 7:00 Reception with participants and friends.

7 p.m. – 7:30 Mayor, city council members, Dept of Neighborhoods. Dedication by Mayor and Dept. of Neighborhoods. Paul Schell, Glenda Cassut, Jim Diers.

7:30 – 8:30 David Mahler’s musical presentation.

8:30 – 10:00 Open Mike of stories about Hugo, poems to Hugo. Emceed by _____.

Saturday, October 3rd: “THE REAL WEST MARGINAL WAY”

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Literary Walk/ Bus Tour/picnic in West Seattle. Hosted by John Mitchell and Peggy Weiss. Supported by the Department of Neighborhoods. Additional narration and planning by Bobby Anderson and Vivian McLean.

1:30 – 4 Films curated by Fidelma McGinn from Media 911.

4 p.m. – 5:30 Panel: “Adopting a Place: how Hugo made new places his own” or “Traveling with Hugo: Finding the Triggering Town” Chaired by Lois Welch. Panelists: David Wagoner, Jim Welch, Bill Kittredge, Donna Gerstenberger.
6 p.m. – 7  Youth Reading: Stage Fright/Climbing the Walls. Emceed by __________.

7:30 – 10 p.m. Readings by Defrees, Welch, Kittredge, Wagoner, Anderson, McElroy, Egan. (15 minutes each; and intermission.)

Sunday, October 4th:

10 a.m. – 12 noon Roundtable with Hugo’s friends and family: “Living By Hugo”. Hosted by John Mitchell and Ripley Hugo. Includes: Ken Gifford, Bob Craig, John Popich.


7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Closing ceremony. Hosted by Ivan Doig and The Triggering Town (15 min + 15 min of questions and answers).

Winners of neighborhood contest read: 30 - 60 minutes.

Frances and Linda say goodbye. (10 minutes)
Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

July 11, 1998

Dear Ivan Doig:

On behalf of Richard Hugo House, I would like to invite you to a celebration of Richard Hugo’s life and work. On October 2 – 4, our new literary center will host a house dedication and three-day symposium: *the Power of Place*. We are investigating how overlooked urban places, like the ones that Hugo wrote about, become necessary and beautiful through poetry and fiction. In the interest of generating a lively critical dialogue about “place,” we are hosting writers, neighborhood activists, historians and musicians to create new work and respond to Hugo’s. Since writers have been overlooked in the strata of the arts, we’ve created Richard Hugo House as a new place that nurtures poetry, fiction and drama. It is a new community center in Seattle where writers can find support for their work.

Please join us for this event! Madeleine Defrees, Tim Egan, David Wagoner, Annick Smith, Bill Kittredge, Lois and Jim Welch, Colleen McElroy and other writers will be coming and offering panels, readings, etc. We are able to offer each featured reader/panelist $500. If you are able to come, we can offer you this honorarium.

We would be thrilled if you could come. Please call me if you have any questions. I will be in the office in August at (206) 322-7030.

Sincerely,

Frances McCue
Executive Director
INQUIRY

Fall

THROUGH

Classes

WRITING

RICHARD

HUGO HOUSE
A PICTURE'S WORTH

Is a picture worth a thousand words? In this class we will explore relationships between visual and verbal imagery. We will look at paintings, photographs and collages to inform our writing of prose, poetry, vignettes and narratives. Through the work of writer-artists William Blake, Leonora Carrington, Djuna Barnes and others, we will encourage our own interdisciplinary creations. This class is suitable for writers of all levels. Class will include museum/gallery visits.

Instructor: Rebecca Brown
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays (twice a week), October 6-22, 5-7 p.m.
Class limit: 15. Minimum: 5.

RICHARD HUGO: PLACE AND PERSON

Richard Hugo wrote from towns and landscapes that matched the internal landscape he carried with him as home. In this class we will study the junction of place, home and self found in his poems, essays and novel to see what it opens up for us as writers. From there we will explore the roads of writing about self, creating personae and developing fictional characters. Poets, diarists, essayists, fiction writers, people who write for an audience, and people who write for themselves will discover routes leading to new vistas within their own work.

Instructor: Ruth Brinton
Class meets: Tuesdays, October 13-November 17, 7-9 p.m.
Class limit: 15. Minimum: 5.

SPOKEN DIALOGUE

What makes good dialogue? For an actor words need to be connected to internal actions. Writers who can visualize and think like actors—and actually inhabit their characters—will find they can write clean, exciting and motivated dialogue. This workshop will explore spoken word, using acting and writing techniques. You don’t need “acting” abilities, just the desire to explore your writing in a workshop. Nor do you need to be writing plays or screenplays. We will start from “scratch,” using the workshop to create and discover “action” in all its mysterious forms.

Instructor: Ki Gottberg
Class meets: Two Saturdays, October 24 and November 7, 12-4 p.m.
Class limit: 12. Minimum: 5.

TRANSFORMING REALITY: WRITING MAGIC REALISM AND CONTEMPORARY FAIRY TALE

In this six-week seminar you will do close, writerly readings of four model stories, including fairy tales and the magically real. You will do timed writing to practice transforming psychological status into landscape and story. Using a fairy tale as if it were a dream, you’ll put it into your own idiom, and write a contemporary version. You will end up with two stories, written very quickly, and you’ll get one ready for workshop during the last two classes.

Instructor: Priscilla Long
Class meets: Thursdays, October 14-November 19, 7-9 p.m.
Class limit: 15. Minimum: 5.

YOU'RE WRITING THE MANUSCRIPT, NOW WHAT?

Writers, illustrators and photographers! Empower your project with an extraordinary amount of publishing and marketing knowledge, including:

• strategies to find an agent/publisher;
• systems to gain realistic control over the publishing process and support from publishers rather than just production of the book;
• the M.G.M. approach* for what you need to do and when in the publishing cycle;
• industry secrets from signing the contract to post-publication;
• specifics relating to your project(s), and abundant handouts pertinent to all stages of publication.

* Minimize the Money needed, reinforce the Guts, and gain Marketing and professional savvy.

Instructor: Alice B. Acheson
Class meets: Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

MAKING METAPHORS

We make metaphors to make sense of the world. Comparing things helps us better locate ourselves. Poets construct webs of metaphors to re-visualize what surrounds all of us. In this class we’ll use proverbs, riddles and other familiar forms to generate fresh comparisons and to piece together poems and short prose. We’ll look at a range of poetic forms, from the traditional to the innovative, and work together to try them. Our aim will be to expand vision outward, to find comparisons for what we already know and what we want to learn more about. This class is also a perfect forum to write letters and expand journal entries.

Instructor: Jan Wallace
Class meets: Wednesdays, October 14-November 18, 7-9 p.m.
Class limit: 15. Minimum: 5.

WRITING AND MAKING YOUR OWN BOOK

In this class students will learn to turn their prose and poetry into artists’ books. Weekly writing exercises will encourage students to combine their creative writings with other found images and/or texts and then transform those materials into a book. Examples of artists’ books and the history of the book arts will be shown and discussed in class to help inspire students in developing their own book ideas. All books will be produced using simple photocopying and binding methods.

Instructor: Stockley Towsley
Class meets: Wednesdays, October 14-November 18, 7-9 p.m.
Class limit: 15. Minimum: 5.

BORDERS

Borders are often regarded as wild landscapes, filled with uncertainties, violence and possibilities for unleashing creativity. The borders can be internal, crossing into new ways of seeing the self, integrating oppositional family cultures, or shifting into new understandings of our genders or sexualities. Crossing borders can be literal as we explore new physical territories, new countries and ever changing bodies. Students will engage in written dialogues from the various points of view that we encounter as we explore the worlds within our own personal borderlands. We will also examine issues of power, position and voice within the narrative possibilities of our own writing and that of other participants.

Instructor: Karen Maeda Allman
Class meets: Tuesday, November 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Our classes are designed for a broad range of writers. All ages and abilities are welcome.
Alice B. Acheson, an independent marketing and publicity specialist since 1981, has expanded her individual practice to consult on publishing questions. Alice was the winner of the 1993 Literary Market Place Award for Outside Services in Advertising/Promotion/Publicity (for work on behalf of Old Turtle). As Associate Publicity Director at Simon and Schuster, four books that she handled simultaneously appeared on The New York Times bestseller list. At Crown Publishers, Inc. two more bestsellers included The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel and Simon Bond’s 101 Uses for a Dead Cat.

Karen Maeda Allman is a bookseller specializing in multicultural literatures and a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington. She has taught several courses with a multiethnic focus. Her published work includes both creative nonfiction and academic writing on shifting gender identities, multiraciality and Asian American topics. She is a member of the Asian American Writers Workshop and recently served as a panelist at the Writers at Work Conference.

Ruth Brinton teaches poetry, fiction and essay-writing at North Seattle Community College. She holds an M.F.A. from the University of Washington, where she received the Louisa Kern Award. Her scholarly work includes study of the development of voice in the work of Richard Hugo and Adrienne Rich. Her poems, essays and reviews have appeared in such journals as Crosscurrents, Liberty Hill Poetry Review, Seattle Review, Gamut, Washington English Journal, Poet Lore, Northwest Ethnic News, and in the anthology Life on the Line: Selections on Words and Healing.

Rebecca Brown is the author of eight books of fiction including The Gifts of the Body, The Terrible Girls, and Annie Oakley’s Girl. Her work has been awarded The Boston Book Review Award for Fiction, The Lambda Literary Award, The Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and a Washington State Governor’s Award. Rebecca’s fiction has been widely anthologized and translated into Danish, Norwe-
gian and Dutch. She taught for several years at the University of Washington Extension Program.

Ki Gottberg is a conservatory-trained actress and has worked on many Seattle stages including ACT, Pioneer Square, Empty Space, Seattle Repertory Theater and finally New City Theater, where she was a company member for six years. She began writing for the theater in workshops with Maria Irene Fornes. Following the example of Ms. Fornes, Ki has directed the first productions of each of her plays. She teaches at the Fine Arts Department at Seattle University where she also regularly directs school productions, most recently The Three Penny Opera.


Stokley Towles is a performance and visual artist whose work has been exhibited at the Henry Art Gallery, California Institute of the Arts, Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle Art Museum and numerous additional venues. Stokley’s teaching appointments have included Colorado State University, Cornish College of the Arts and St. Mary’s College of Maryland. He holds an M.F.A. in Photography from California Institute of the Arts.

Jan Wallace teaches at the University of Washington Extension Program and at high schools throughout Seattle. She also writes advertising copy at Nordstrom. Her chapbook, Kick Pleat in the Cosmos, was published in 1997 by Cing Peaches Press. Other work has appeared in Field, Poetry Northwest, Nimrod and other publications. She has been awarded grants from the King County Arts Commission and the Seattle Arts Commission and is a cofounder of the Rendezvous Room Reading Series.
Dear Ivan and Carol,

Perhaps you remember a breakfast with Bill and Dorothy Stafford about six years ago. My husband, Ashley Foster, brought photographs he had taken in Ringling, Montana. We were sure we had found the house where you and your grandmother played catch from the front door through to the kitchen. I'll not forget your reply when you looked at the dilapidated shack:

"Oh, no, that is much too grand?"

Ashley died two years after Bill's death. Dorothy and I recall the pleasure of that early morning when six of us sat at the Stafford table.

The enclosed photograph is evidence that Ringling is not entirely forgotten here in Eugene. At the University of Oregon Faculty Club during March and April there was a Retrospective of Ashley Foster.
photograph. One wall was Ivan Doig Country.
Ashley had copied several paragraphs from
This House of Sky, which he had intended
to show with a set of Montana pictures.
This spring seemed an appropriate time to
give Ringling a small bit of attention.
I apologize for the poor quality
of the photo. No picture turns out the
way I intend without my partner
beside me.

A permanent collection of Ivan Doig
is on my bookshelf. May I hope for
a few more?

With warm good wishes to you both.

Carol Thomas
SKY LODGE

Bed & Breakfast

Affordable luxury in a spacious log lodge in the heart of one of Montana’s prime outdoor recreation areas. All rooms have private baths

Marc and Debbie Steinberg

4260 Highway 12 East, Box 428
White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645

Reservations 406-547-3999
800-965-4305
17021 10th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig,

My name is Claire Steinberg. I am from White Sulphur Springs, Montana and am involved with the 4-H Vid Kid Productions. This is a part of our local 4-H club video project. We work with the local PBS television station to produce live shows, go on location and tape weather, 4-H activities, school sports, or anything that would be an exciting segment on an upcoming program. Another aspect of our video work is contract jobs, when a business or client asks us to film a subject and produce a video.

We are currently working with the White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club to put together a documentary about the White Sulphur Springs / Yellowstone Park Railway. We have been interviewing people, filming old photographs in the studio, researching, and planning. For part of the narrative we would like to ask if you would be so kind as to read a passage from your book, *This House of Sky*. We would especially like to film you or have you make an audiotape. If this is not possible, we would like to ask permission for a narrator to read the passage. The passage we are interested in involves four paragraphs describing Ringling, the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and the trains going through Ringling. (This is on pages 126 & 127 of the Fifteenth Anniversary edition.) Other possible passages are (p. 81) descriptions of sights and sounds around the stockyards of shipping sheep and the creamery business. Page 94 describes your boarding during one winter with Ralph Jordan, fireman on Sagebrush Annie. We have filmed old photos of Sagebrush Annie. Do you have any stories you would like to share about the railroad?

If you would be able to visit White Sulphur Springs to be a part of this documentary we greatly appreciate it. My telephone number is (800- 965-4305). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Claire Steinberg

---

You are warmly invited to stay at our B&B (on the east edge of town) - Welcome anytime!

Dolores & Marc Steinberg
Dear Claire Steinberg—

There's no chance I'm going to be around White Sulphur any time soon for any filming. But I have done a quick audiotape for you of the pp. 126-7 passage, and hope that will help with your project.

On the matter of permission: if there's to be any commercial use of your video, the Rotary Club or the Vid Kids or whoever's going to hold the copyright on the video will have to get permission from my publisher to use the passage I read. (I can't grant the permission myself, it contractually is the publisher's role.) The person to contact:

Lucy TeKempe, Permissions Manager
Harcourt Brace & Co.
6277 Sea Harbor Dr.
Orlando FL 32887 phone (407) 345-3983
fax 352-8860

Good luck with your video.

sincerely,
December 23, 1998

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

Re: Speaking Invitation

Dear Mr. Doig:

On behalf of the program planning committee, I would like to invite you to speak at the UW Network program, which draws staff and faculty from throughout the campus community to meet one another, share ideas, and hear from leaders in the community. We would like you to talk about your outstanding career as a writer and perhaps do some short readings.

Network meets at the Faculty Club at 7:30 a.m. The program adjourns before 9:00 a.m. Your talk would be 45 minutes plus 5-10 minutes for questions and answers. Unfortunately I don't have an honorarium to offer you, but we could arrange for University Bookstore to be on-site with books, and for some signing after the meeting.

The dates that are available Winter and Spring quarters are: February 12; March 12; April 9; May 14; and June 11. I hope that one of these occasions will fit with your busy schedule and that you will consider coming to campus to speak to a group of staff and faculty.

It would be an honor for us to have an opportunity to meet you, hear how you develop the characters in your books, and learn about the rough and rugged Montana you depict in your trilogy.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Gautestad
Meeting Planner/Training Specialist
April 14, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

The Idaho Humanities Council is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and we are interested in sponsoring a high-profile event to honor the occasion. We want to host a lecture in September in Boise by a major writer and your name is at the top of our list. Would you please let me know what it would take in the way of a lecture fee to get you here to speak at a dinner on behalf of the Idaho Humanities Council. We would, of course, cover all of your expenses as well.

Your books have a tremendous following here in Idaho. They have been used in our statewide "Let's Talk About It" series. Your story of your family and of growing up in the remote west rings true with so many people. It appears that nearly the entire IHC board of directors has read This House of Sky, and some of us have read all your books. I think a talk about your life and your writing would be the major highlight of our year. I heard you read at Fishtrap some years ago and would love to see you here in Boise.

I know that you are busy and probably finishing a book, but we could fly you into Boise the day of your lecture and home the next morning. I hope that we can accommodate your schedule and fee. Thank you for a quick reply by phone, fax, or e-mail (ricki@micron.net). We now also have a toll free number: (888) 345-5346.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rick Ardinger
Executive Director
July 27, 1998

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

Dear Ivan:

We’re very much looking forward to your coming to Boise on September 25th to speak on behalf of the Idaho Humanities Council in celebration of its Silver Anniversary. Enclosed is our recent newsletter advertising the event.

When I first wrote to you, I suggested that we’d like you to talk about your life and work. Can you give me an idea or perhaps a title of your talk here that I can relay to the press. We’re getting some inquiries, so I’d appreciate any summary you can supply. You called back when I was out of the office some months ago and told Patty White, IHC’s Assistant Director, that you planned to write something original for the occasion, and we thank you for that.

If you can spare some time for this, I’d appreciate it. Give me a call toll free at (888) 345-5346 if you’d like to discuss this.

Thank you. Again, there is great anticipation for your visit to Boise.

Sincerely,

Rick Ardinger
Executive Director
Rick Arduin - Id. Hon. Council
Sept 25

Topic entitle,

Background for publicity

Bookshop: emphasizing, should over another?
The Bookshop, Dan Wilson

Spy: teaching of loved appreciation: Mrs. Tidyman

Honoring years of service: (cross out section)
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Thumbs! Have a good trip!

P.
2-page fax to Patty White

Just for the record I dabbed in a phrase about covering the travel for me and my wife, but otherwise your letter of agreement looks fine. I'm faxing back my signed copy with this. This copy I've signed is okay for my records. Looks like we're in business; talk to you later on about our travel arrangements, okay?

thanks, and best wishes.

Ivan
April 30, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Doig,

The Idaho Humanities Council is pleased that you are accepting our invitation to be our speaker and honored guest at a dinner and reception to be held Friday, September 25 in Boise, Idaho. This letter will serve to define our agreement on the specifics of your participation. I have enclosed a signature line at the bottom. If you concur with these arrangements, please sign the letter and return to me by fax. I will then mail a copy of the fax back to you for your records.

IHC will pay you a speaking fee of $4,500. We will reimburse you for round-trip travel between Seattle and Boise. We will cover your accommodations in Boise for two nights at the Idaho Heritage Inn cottage and are pleased Carol will be joining you. (Right now we have a reservation for September 25 and 26.)

You and Carol will be our guests at a reception and dinner in your honor and as a 25-year birthday tribute to IHC. You will be our speaker at the dinner and will prepare a talk appropriate to a celebration of the humanities. We will help manage a reasonable period of questions from the audience at the conclusion of your talk. We will arrange with a local bookseller to have your books available for sale and for signing after the dinner.

Please let me know if you would like us to add to or modify any of the above. We look forward to welcoming you back to Idaho.

Sincerely,

Patty White
Assistant Director

Signed: [Signature]

Ivan Doig

217 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 345-5346
TOLL FREE 888-345-5346
FAX (208) 345-5347
Dear Evan & Carol,

Welcome! I hope you're well and comfortable with your clocks set to Mountain time!

Joan Carson-Hanson with Idaho Public Television will pick you up at Heritage Inn at 1 pm to go out for taping. She'll bring you back by about an hour later.

Rich will come by at 4:30 pm to pick you up and take you to Dale & Ramona Higers' house where Jyl Hayt will meet you. Here are some things of interest. I'll see you @ Higers.

Patty Whitney
Dear Juan and Carol,

Here are a couple of souvenir copies of our newsletter.

Your cursor still resonates — and we hope you will stay in touch.
with us when the book comes out!

Sincerely,

P.S. Send us a card w/ new address.
"His novels lay whole worlds at your feet and invite you to make them your own."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Ivan Doig was born in Montana in 1939 and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front where his trilogy of novels, Dancing at the Rascal Fair, English Creek, and Ride with Me, Mariah Montana takes place. His first book, the richly textured memoir This House of Sky (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978), was a finalist for the National Book Award in Contemporary Thought. Doig's eight books have won him numerous awards and hundreds of thousands of devoted readers in the U.S. and abroad. Writing with the precision and detail of an historian, the gift of great story, and the rich cadence of a poet, Ivan Doig is indeed a giant in contemporary Western literature.

The Idaho Humanities Council cordially invites you to attend our

25th Birthday Celebration with writer Ivan Doig

Friday evening, September 25, 1998
Boise Center on the Grove

Scottish & Irish music by the More's Creek String Band; historical exhibits, no-host cocktails: 6:30 pm
Dinner and talk: 7:30 pm
Friends $35
Benefactors $75
RSVP by September 4, 1998
Seating is limited.

IHC's "25th Birthday Celebration with writer Ivan Doig" is generously supported by Boise Cascade Corporation.
The Idaho Humanities Council is an independent non-profit corporation supported by funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by contributions from businesses, foundations and individuals. The Council dedicates its efforts to advancing the public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities, to increasing citizen access to the humanities, and to encouraging meaningful scholarly involvement in public humanities programs.

The Council pursues this mission by awarding grants, by organizing outreach programs, such as the IHC Speakers Bureau, and by initiating special projects, such as its current humanities education initiatives, in collaboration with other organizations around the state and region.

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Program Officer
The Idaho Humanities Council awarded $49,281 in grants at its triennial board meeting held in Boise on June 5, 1998. Twelve projects submitted by organizations and individuals will receive funds earmarked for public and educational humanities programs throughout the state.

An independent non-profit organization, the Idaho Humanities Council receives funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, corporations, and foundations to support public humanities projects throughout the state. The twelve grants will generate an additional $165,129 of local and regional fundraising to support these projects.

The June awards include grants to five Idaho schoolteachers for classroom humanities enhancements under a grant initiative from the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation. The following is a complete list of the June awards: Idaho Public Television (Boise) received $13,565 to broadcast throughout the state “Season XI The American Experience,” the award-winning documentary series that explores American heritage through the values and ideals of people in history. The 1998-99 series will include 8 – 10 new programs and encore of past programs to make twenty hours of television viewing. For the last ten years the Idaho Humanities Council has brought The American Experience to viewers throughout Idaho. One of Public Broadcasting Service’s most acclaimed series, The American Experience is the only documentary of its kind.

The National Oregon Trail Museum (Montpelier) received $10,000 to support development and construction of a multi-media Oregon Trail exhibit at the new $1.2 million museum opening this year. The exhibit aims to use sound, light, and technology to transform 43 photo-realistic paintings of the trail into a first-person interpretive environment. The paintings, made by historical painter Gary Stone under a commission from J.R. Simplot, are being loaned for the project. The painter made extensive use of diaries, over 50 verified sources, in developing the imagery of the paintings. Leisure & Associates of Logan, Utah, is the project designer, and Dr. Ross Peterson of Utah State University is the historian working with the museum. The project director is Allen Harrison of Fish Haven, Idaho.

Idaho State Historical Society (Boise) was awarded $7,825 to hold a conservation “basics” workshop at six small museums around the state: Coeur d’Alene, Cottonwood, Council, Idaho City, Lava Hot Springs, and Idaho Falls. The workshops and a companion technical manual will cover basic procedures for handling collections and will be geared to the volunteer, part-time collection caretakers who work in the state’s mostly small, local historical museums. These local museums are the repositories of Idaho’s historical legacy. The organizers seek to provide museum volunteers with practical hands-on information about handling their valuable and often fragile collections. Kenneth Swanson (Boise) is the project director, and Sharon Holmer (Pocatello) is the project organizer.

IHC Awards $49,281 in Community and Educational Grants in June

The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Summer 1998

My Search for the "Real" Polly Bemis

By Priscilla Wegars

A much-appreciated Research Fellowship from the Idaho Humanities Council allowed me to investigate the life of Polly Bemis, to make several public presentations sharing my findings, and to prepare a manuscript for a children’s book about her life. My analysis of the available information about Polly Bemis has resulted in new interpretations that are part of a scholarly work-in-progress. Although many, many people have helped me with this project in numerous ways, I owe my deepest debts of gratitude to Terry Abraham, Johnny and Pearl Carrey, Cort Conley, the late Herb McDowell, and, at St. Gertrude’s Museum in Cottonwood, Wendy Heiken and Sister M. Catherine Manderfield.

Most Idahoans have heard of Polly Bemis, a simple woman who came to Idaho Territory in 1872 and died here in 1933. By simply surviving in what, for many Chinese women, was an extremely hostile environment, Polly Bemis ensured her place in Idaho history. Since Polly’s death, numerous newspaper and magazine articles, several book chapters, two individual books, and a movie have presented versions of her life. Unfortunately, many of these “biographical” accounts are highly romanticized. They perpetuate the myths that have emerged about her, namely, that she was an enslaved prostitute, whom Charlie Bemis later “won in a poker game.”

Today, the best-known work about Polly Bemis is probably the book, Thousand Pieces of Gold, by Ruthanne Lum McCunn. A subsequent film with the same title was loosely based on the book. On the book’s title page, McCunn describes her work as “a biographical novel” that “tells the story of...Polly Bemis. A few fictitious characters have been added and certain events transposed for the sake of the narrative, but the essential story of Polly’s life remains accurate.”

According to a 1921 interview with newspaperwoman Cissy Patterson (Countess Eleanor Cruger), reprinted in the Spring 1997 issue of Idaho Yesteryears, Polly’s parents in China sold her as a slave girl because they had no food. An “old” woman smuggled her into Portland and sold her for $2500 to an unnamed “old” Chinese man who took her to Warren, Idaho, in a packtrain. Disapponting to some, the handsome young Chinese man, Jim, the love interest in both the book and the movie, was one of McCunn’s “fictional characters.”

A dramatic highlight of both the book and the film is the encounter that occurs when Charlie Bemis and a Chinese man called “Hong King” play high-stakes poker for ownership of Polly herself. Although that would have been an unusual event, I have not found it mentioned in any letters, diaries, or newspapers from the 1870s. Is it possible to reconstruct something that happened beyond living memory in order to separate the truth from myths and legends? One way is to research primary source materials, meaning those materials that were written or produced at the time an event occurred. Photographs, census records, newspaper reports, deeds, vital statistics, and Polly’s interviews, letters, and diaries are all part of the “paper trail” that we leave behind during our lifetimes.

The 1880 Census

For most of us, that “paper trail” starts with a birth certificate. For Polly, however, it begins in 1880, when the United States Census lists her together with Charlie Bemis, in the Idaho County town of Washington. Washington was the old name for Warren, now called Warren. Their entry shows a male, aged 18, living with a Chinese female, aged 27. He ran a saloon, and she was housekeeping—probably just for him, not running a boarding house. Charlie was born in Connecticut, while Polly was born in, or near, “Peking,” China. Charlie was single, but Polly, surprisingly, was a widow.

To explain Polly’s listing as a widow, we must rely on old Chinese customs. In 19th century China, a wealthy married man might also have one or more concubines, a legal status in China with no American equivalent. Such a man, coming here alone, might miss female companionship. In those days, he could illegally purchase a woman to be his concubine. Such a woman, while not a wife, was “like a wife,” she was not a prostitute. Therefore, since the 1880 census lists Polly as a widow, I believe she was purchased as a concubine. If her owner then died, Polly would have considered herself a widow.

The Name “Hong King”

While numerous secondary sources state that Polly’s Chinese owner’s name was “Hong King” and that he owned a saloon, no evidence shows that either statement is true. No Chinese man with that name, or that exact occupation, appears in any of the available primary sources. Although two Warren Chinese dealt in “retail liquor” in 1870 and 1871, their names were My

(See GRANTS, Page 8)

(See BEMIS, Page 4)
In the summer before my sophomore year in high school, I had no plans or ambitions for college. While mom and dad always fed my love of American history and encouraged my sister and brothers to read, I wasn't until my sophomore year that the world opened up for me through literature. My life changed, thanks to a new English teacher at my high school named Calvin Morgan, who opened my eyes and my heart to American literature.

In lieu of a regular text book, he made up his own. Each week he mimeographed the works of America's great poets: Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Robinson Jeffers, William Carlos Williams, e.e. cummings, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Langston Hughes, Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, and more. We studied the American Renaissance, the poets of the Harlem Renaissance, the Chicago Renaissance, read Ernest Hemingway's early stories, and learned about "the Lost Generation.." Our three-ring binders grew with the mimosas and the notes he taught us how to take. He made us keep diaries, poems I remember still. He taught speech and drama, too, and was a natural lecturer; but beneath his natural eloquence was a deep understanding of the primary texts and an ability to dazzle us with language.

Calvin Morgan moved on after several years at my high school, and I never heard about him again. I hope he never stopped teaching. I'd thank him today if I knew where he was. I wish everyone had a story about a teacher similar to mine.

Humanities teachers like him deserve recognition, and the Idaho Humanities Council will begin honoring gifted elementary and secondary teachers this fall with our biennial "Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities Award" (see related story on page 5). The IHC will make two $2,000 awards to an elementary and secondary teacher beginning this fall. The award program is made possible in part by a grant from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

This award will not replace IHC's "Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities Award," which has honored exemplary work of Idaho's humanities scholars since 1986. Instead, the "Outstanding Teacher" award will be a separate program to recognize those teachers of history, literature, government, and other humanities disciplines whose innovative approach to the humanities has truly enhanced the lives of their students.

Parents, administrators, students, and fellow teachers are encouraged to nominate an Idaho teacher who is deserving of IHC's new award.

1998 Research Fellowship Applications Due

The Idaho Humanities Council will award up to four $3,500 Research Fellowships this fall to Idaho scholars researching topics in any field of the humanities. Deadlines are August 15 for draft proposals and September 15 for completed proposals. Special grant guidelines are available by calling the humanities council at 345-5346, or toll-free at 888/345-5346.

Research Fellowships can be used to defray travel costs to archives and research libraries, or simply to devote time to writing or completing a research project.

News & Opportunities

Governor Smylie Remembers, a memoir by three-term Idaho Governor Robert E. Smylie about his colorful life in state and national politics, has just been published by the University of Idaho Press. Illustrated with photographs, the book details the political challenges and victories Smylie confronted as governor of Idaho from 1955-1967. With clarity and candor, Smylie recalls the formation of the Idaho State Historical Society, the formation of the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation, the passing of a state sales tax to fund education, his friendship with New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and his unsuccessful primary bid for a fourth term as governor and later for the U.S. Senate. Few governors have so thoroughly enjoyed holding political office as much as Smylie did. This is a "must read" for anyone interested in contemporary Idaho political history, available at local bookstores or from the University of Idaho Press in Moscow, for $29.95.

Our Sacred Heritage: A Conference on Preservation of Historic Religious Properties and Cemeteries is scheduled for October 10-11, 1998, at Boise's Owyhee Plaza Hotel. Sponsored in part by the Idaho Historic Preservation Council, the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and other state and national agencies, the conference will offer stewards of religious properties the opportunity to form networks with others, confront preservation challenges, and gain creative awareness for maintaining important religious properties in the community. Registration is $35. For information, contact: (208) 344-7186.

The Civilian Conservation Corps: When We Were Boys is a new exhibit at the Museum of North Idaho that explores the Depression-Era program through the many work projects the CCC accomplished in North Idaho. The exhibit examines camp lifestyle of the young men who served in the program. The CCC was established in 1933 by President Franklin Roosevelt to help families in need. Young men, ages 18-25, could enroll in the CCC, where they would work for $30 per month, most of which would be sent home. More than three million men throughout the United States were employed in the program over its nine-year period. The CCC was in operation from Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Dorothy Dahlgren at (208) 644-3348.

The 7th Annual BSU Writers and Readers Rendezvous, October 9-11, at McCall's Shore Lodge will feature novelist Dagoberto Gilb and poets Greg Keeler, Pattiam Rogers, and Robert Wrigley, a lecture on "Idaho's Literary Renaissance" by Lewis-Clark State College Professor Emeritus Keith Browning, and panel presentations by editors and publishers. This year, thanks to an IHC grant, BSU is offering a select number of free registration "scholarships" to encourage public school teachers to attend the weekend gathering. For information on the Rendezvous or on the scholarships, call BSU Division of Continuing Education at 385-3492, or toll free at (800) 632-6586, ext. 3492.

(See NEWS, Page 5)
Dinner with Ivan Doig
Writer Helps Celebrate IHC’s 25th Anniversary

Over five hundred people filled Boise Centre on the Grove in September to help IHC celebrate its 25th birthday. The Centre lobby was festive with music, book tables, and a sampling of IHC-funded historical exhibits. BSU camera crews were busy filming. Writer Ivan Doig, author of the contemporary classic This House of Sky, and his wife Carol greeted the spirited audience that traveled from all parts West to hear him speak. Earlier that evening Ivan and Carol visited with 125 benefactors at the Warm Springs Avenue home of Dale and Ramona Higer. The food was excellent, and Doig spoke from his heart about his life, about writing and history, and about the life-changing value of a humanities education.

Playing a huge role in this memorable birthday evening was Boise Cascade Corporation, joined by The Idaho Statesman, and Idaho Public Television. The Idaho Statesman did an extraordinary good deed by publishing Ivan Doig’s complete speech in its September 27 edition. On behalf of the staff and board of the Idaho Humanities Council, we say thank you!
I D A H O  H U M A N I T E S  C A L E N D A R  O F  E V E N T S

The following calendar of IHC-sponsored events is based on information as of November 1, 1998. Before attending a public program, please contact the project director for the exact time and location of the event.

P U B L I C  P R O G R A M S

CHAUTAUQUA

Popcorn Forum/Symposium
April 5 - April 9 North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene

"LET'S TALK ABOUT IT" PROGRAMS

Please confirm times and dates for the following book discussion programs

"Individual Rights and Community in America" Diane Rice, Program Director (208)377-9656
Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 201 E 9th Street, Garden City, ID 83714
March: Democracy in America
March: The Republic
April: Coriolanus
April: The Social Contract
April: The Scarlet Letter

"Autobiographies"

Linda Hesse, Library Director (208)879-4267
Challis Public Library, PO Box 186, Challis, ID 83226
March: Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
March: A Mormon Mother: An Autobiography
April: Desert Exile
April: I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings
May: Black Elk Speaks

"Family"

Ann Tabor, Program Coordinator (208)788-2036
Hailey Public Library, PO Box 299, Hailey, ID 83333

"Tough Paradise"

Gerry Atwood, Program Coordinator (208)529-1459
Idaho Falls Public Library, 457 Broadway, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Jan. 12: Myths of the Idaho Indians
Jan. 26: Journal of a Trapper
Feb. 9: Lives of the Saints
Feb. 23: Sheep May Safely Graze
Mar. 9: Passages West

"Autobiographies"

Lisa Harrell/Brenda Wilcox, Program Directors (208)875-8628
Lucy Boyle Public Library, PO Box 610, Blackfoot, ID 83221
Jan.: Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Jan.: A Mormon Mother: An Autobiography
Feb.: Desert Exile
Feb.: I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings
Mar.: Black Elk Speaks

"Common Good"

Clotelle Dibble, Library Director (208)885-0175
Prescott Carnegie Library, 28 E. 6th St., Prescott, ID 83625
Jan. 12 7:00 p.m.
Habits of the Heart
Jan. 26 7:00 p.m.
The Great Gatsby
Feb. 9 7:00 p.m.
Ceremony
Feb. 23 7:00 p.m.
Bless Me, Ultima
Mar. 9 7:00 p.m.
Invincible Man

"American Characters"

Stacey Anderson, Library Director (208)464-2823
Pierce Public Library, PO Box 386, Pierce, ID 83546
Jan.: Huckleberry Finn
June: Walden
Feb.: Final Harvest: Emily Dickinson's Poems
Feb.: Their Eyes Were Watching God
Mar.: Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

"Not For Children Only"

Janice Moulton, Program Coordinator (208)774-2470
Stanley Community Library, PO Box 230, Stanley, ID 83278
Jan. 21: The Wind in the Willows
Feb. 18: Charlotte's Web/Bridge to Terabithia
Mar. 18: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry: An American

WORKSHOPS

"Idaho Association of Museums Workshop" Contact: Sharon Holmer (208)234-9976
March 1999: Idaho City
March 1999: Council
April 1999: Idaho Falls
April 1999: Lava Hot Springs

FESTIVALS

"Dickens Christmas Festival" Contact: Sharon Waldo (208)784-0821
Kelloge Chamber of Commerce, 608 Bunker Avenue, Kellogg, ID 83837
Dec. 11 4:00 p.m.
"Little Dickens" Film
Dec. 12 2:00 p.m.
"Night Before Christmas" reading at High Tea
Dec. 12 5:00 p.m.
"Pardon of Characters"

CONFERENCES

Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference
Conference on Reason and Rationality
Contact: Michael O'Rourke (208)885-7107
Department of Philosophy, University of Idaho
Apr. 23: Moscow Community Center, Moscow
Apr. 24: University of Idaho
Apr. 25: Washington State University

SPEAKERS BUREAU PROGRAMS

Carol Lynn MacGregor
Contact: Toni Sutton, Boise (208)377-9038
Kiwanis Club of Capital City
Dec. 12 Noon
7071 W. Emerald Street, Boise

Susan Swettman: "Idaho Women Writers"
Contact: Susan Palmer, Moscow (208)885-6616
Women's Center, University of Idaho
Jan. 26 12:30 p.m.
U of I Women's Center

Janet Ward: "Indian Wives of the Mountain Men"
Contact: Gwen Kimball, President (208)347-2381
American Association of University Women of Idaho
Feb. 6 12:15 p.m.
Alexander Room, Boise State University

William C. Johnson: "Theorema: Wilderness and the Wild"
Contact: Janet Callen (208)644-1085
Coeur d'Alene Chapter National Audubon Society
Apr. 19 TBA
First Presbyterian Church, Coeur d'Alene

CELEBRATING

IDAHO

HUMANITIES

COUNCIL

25

EXHIBITS

Idaho Homesteads II
Contact: Warren Case, (208)877-1614
Deary Public Library, Deary
December 8 - December 22

The Changing Capital (Photography by Leo "Scoop" Leiburn)
Contact: Kenneth Swanson (208)444-2120
Idaho Historical Museum, Boise
March 1 - March 30

The McBeth Sisters
Contact: Rose Huskey or Donna Hanson (208)885-7890
University of Idaho Library
January: University of Idaho, Moscow
February: Nez Perce National Historic Park, Spalding
March: Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston
April: Chamber of Commerce Office, Kamiah
May: Idaho Falls Library, Idaho Falls

Redcovering Lewis & Clark
Contact: Mike Vens (208)743-4787 or (208)743-9600 x210
Lewiston Morning Tribune
January 26 - March 5: Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding
March 8 - April 2: University of Idaho Student Union, Moscow
April 5 - April 30: Grangeville Bicentennial Museum, Moscow
May 3 - May 28: Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise

LECTURES

Times and dates to be announced for the following lectures

Redcovering Lewis and Clark
Presentation by Mike Vens (208)743-4787 or (208)743-9600 x210
Lewiston Morning Tribune, Lewiston

Jan. 25: Public Lecture: Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding
School Lecture: Lapwai Public School, Lapwai
Feb. 8: Public Lecture: Orofino Public School, Orofino
School Lecture: Orofino Public School, Orofino
Feb. 22: Public Lecture: Timberline School, Pierce/Wilung
School Lecture: Timberline School, Pierce/Wilung
Feb. 27: Public Lecture: Washington Chapter-Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, State Historical Society, Tacoma
Mar. 8: Public Lecture: University of Idaho Student Union, Moscow
School Lecture: Moscow Public School, Moscow
Mar. 22: Public Lecture: Troy Community Center, Troy
School Lecture: Troy Public School, Troy
Apr. 5: Public Lecture: Grangeville Public School, Grangeville
School Lecture: Grangeville Public School, Grangeville
Apr. 19: Public Lecture: Kamiah Public School, Kamiah
School Lecture: Kamiah Public School, Kamiah
May 3: Public Lecture: Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise
School Lecture: Boise Public School, Boise
May 17: Public Lecture: Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise
School Lecture: Boise Public School, Boise

* Tentative (Please contact Mike Vens to verify place, time and date.)
Thanks, IHC Friends, for Nearly $15,000

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Your Contribution Makes a Difference

“Because we are proud of our state and its heritage, we appreciate the great boost that the Idaho Humanities Council gives to help us continue the steady work of preserving Idaho’s history—at our museum and others around the state. We enclose this donation to express our sincerest thanks.”

Sister Carm Ternes
Monastery of St. Gertrude
Cottonwood, Idaho

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Yes, I/we want to join the Idaho Humanities Council’s exploration of the new millennium. Please accept this tax-deductible contribution.

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IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL
217 West State Street • Boise, ID 83702

Idaho Humanities 7
Grants
(Continued from Page 1)

The Lewiston Morning Tribune (Lewiston) and photographer Mike Venso received $5,200 to produce a photographic documentary retrac-
ing the Lewis and Clark journey from the Pacific Ocean to St. Louis. Venso has already begun the fourteen-week journey and is filing from the trail journal-type feature stories for the Lewiston paper. The grant is supporting Venso’s efforts after the expedition, specifically production of a modest photographic exhibit, publication of 20,000 copies of a twenty-four page tabloid for distribution to Idaho schools, and twenty public and school slide presentations about his journey. Venso will document and discuss changes on the trail, as well as the few pristine sites that remain.

Craters of the Moon Natural History Association (Arco) received $3,110 for Boisean Clark Heiglar to present six chautauqua perfor-
mances as the historical character of Robert Limbert. The performances are planned for libraries in Arco, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Ketchum, and Boise through September of this year. Limbert was a flamboyant turn-of-the-
century adventurer and businessman who trav-
elled around America promoting Idaho. He creat-
ed an acclaimed Idaho display at the 1915 World’s Fair in San Francisco and had a vaude-
ville style of portraying the Idaho cowboy in these promotions. As an explorer of Idaho’s backcountry, including the Craters of the Moon, Limbert took photographs of the state’s spectac-
ular natural beauty that he presented throughout the nation. Heiglar will first present Limbert as the eccentric “two-gun” cowboy promoter and then remain in character to show slides of Limbert’s Idaho photographs.

Boundary County Library (Bonners Ferry) received $2,511 for librarian and educator Shannon Stevens-Commers to perform in five north Idaho communities as the western writer and colorful historical character, Carolyn Lockhart. Lockhart was a feisty cattle rancher and journalist who authored a number of westerns in the early part of this century. Stevens-Commers will travel North Idaho back roads in character and on horseback, much as Lockhart did, to promote her historical dramatizations scheduled for September and October in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Priest River, Coeur d’Alene and at Farragut State Park in Bayview.

Lewiston-Clarkston YWCA (Lewiston) was awarded $1,962 to organize, catalog, and preserve historical records in preparation for the organization’s 80th anniversary in 1999. Once inventoried, the records will provide a valuable window to women’s history in the Lewiston and Clarkston area. Grant funds will also assist the development of a slide presentation and accompanying narrative on the history of the organization to be presented at public gatherings, including an 80th anniversary open house next spring. Tutti Sandmeyer is the project director and Carole Simon-Smolinski is the historian for the project.

The Festival at Sandpoint (Sandpoint) received $1,915 to hold a free public symposium entitled, “Interpreting Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony” as part of this summer’s music festival. Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar, educator, composer, and conductor Gunther Schuller, who since 1985 has been the Festival’s Music Director, will present the symposium. Schuller has been honored for lifetime achievement by the American Academy of Arts & Letters and has received two Guggenheim fellowships and the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Award. He is the author of a recent book, The Compleat Conductor, in which he examines over 400 performances and recordings along with the original scores of eight major compositions. The symposium is designed for music appreciators and students and is focused on the interpretive nature of conducting. Festival director Diane Ragsdale is the project director.

Cascade Public Library (Cascade) received a $300 grant as one of its start-up funds for a sum-
mer reading and learning program for children. The program will draw from the Idaho State Library’s theme, “Ride a Wild Tale,” and its accompanying program manual. The readings include folk tales, myths, legends, and stories of the old west. Library administrator Alyce Kelley is the project director. Three Teacher Incentive Grants were awarded to five Idaho schoolteachers.

Mallory Clark (Boise) received $1,000 to sup-
port Mary Anne Davis, an archaeologist for the Idaho State Historical Society, to co-teach a semester-long workshop in archaeology and to help develop curriculum in paleontology at Foothills Schools for the Arts & Sciences.

Dan Prinzing and Janet Adams (Boise) received $1,000 to enrich the American History curriculum with historical literature applicable to reading levels within their classroom at Les Bois Junior High School. The grant will support the purchase of novels in order to integrate a holistic approach to literacy acquisition by promoting reading, writing, thinking, and speaking about perspectives in U.S. history.

Janel Keating and Pat Ekwortzell (Sandpoint) received $993 to create “Bommer County Timber Days” at Stidwell Elementary School. The week-
long event will look at the historic and contem-
porary role of the timber industry in North Idaho. Involving teachers, parents, local business, arti-
sans, timber workers, and representatives from state and federal agencies, the activities will include historic films, tools and equipment, and local timber experts.

Bemis
(Continued from Page 4)

about Polly Bemis’s life. However, because this is a work-in-progress, more new information in the form of letters and/or diaries may yet emerge to resolve these questions more satisfactorily.

In June 1987 Polly’s restored home, now on the National Register of Historic Places and easily accessible only by the road from Riggs, was dedicated as a museum. Polly’s remains were removed from Grangeville’s Prairie View Cemetery and reburied adjacent to her former home, so she is across the river from her husband, who is buried at the Shepp Ranch.

People often ask me why Polly Bemis is so important. I think it is because she represents all the forgotten Chinese women who came to the United States during the late 19th century, women who arrived often unwillingly, without knowing English, and with no prospect of ever returning home. While here, these women faced racial prejudice from Caucasian people, and sexual discrimination from Chinese men. Polly Bemis lived in Idaho for over 60 years. During that time, her strength of character enabled her to rise above adversity, winning respect and admiration from everyone who knew her. Despite the ambiguities and contradictions about Polly’s life that still remain, there is one thread that joins all the inform-
ts together. In one way or another, they have all said, “Polly was a wonderful person, and everybody loved her.”

Dr. Priscilla Wegars edited Hidden Heritage: Historical Archaeology of the Overseas Chinese (Baywood, 1993) and lectures for the Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau on Polly Bemis and other topics. Each summer, she leads a University of Idaho class up the Salmon River by jet boat to visit Polly’s home and the two graves.

217 West State Street • Boise, Idaho 83702
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Dear Patty—

Many thanks for having my check awaiting me at the Heritage Inn—prompter than prompt! Here's the last financial detail, our expenses to and from Boise. The meals and rooms (receipts enclosed) totaled $177.43, and our total mileage for the roundtrip was 1,070.

I really appreciate how great you were to work with, and I for one was certainly pleased with the Friday night event.

all best,

[Signature]
November 9, 1998

Mr. Ivan Doig, Author
c/o Simon and Schuster Publishers
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Doig,

Forgive me, (it has been my loss up until now), but it has only been recently that I have come across your work. I bought a copy of your book, This House of Sky, just recently, on the whim that I might like its contents. You see, I love reading western fiction (and non-fiction) and hoped that it would measure up well against other books that I have loved.

Some of my all-time favorites are A.B. Guthrie, Barry Lopez, Jim Harrison, Pete Fromm and Rick Bass. However, and keep in mind that I am only two/thirds of the way through with “House of Sky”, the quality of your writing is unmatched by any of those mentioned above. After reading a few dozen pages, I couldn’t help but tell my friends about the book and how it has touched me. In fact, another acquaintance of mine immediately gave me a copy of your book, Bucking the Sun, and said that he liked that one even more.

I was unfortunately raised in the suburbs of a large Eastern city, but have tried to travel out West for the last several summers, usually finding my way into Wyoming and Montana. Even out there, I try to get away from the “popular” places and end up in obscure areas like Ninemile Creek for hiking and fishing. Your book has brought to me such a feel for how Montana was not that long ago. It’s not too bad right now, but how I wish I had some of the same experiences, difficult as they were, that you went through.

Trying to keep this short (or shorter at least), I am wondering if I could send these two books out to you and have the honor of your autographing them for me and my family. I have been trying to put together a library of great books for our young daughter and your work certainly has earned its way in with the others.

Please let me know. I can send them with return mailers, so that the inconvenience to you will be minimized. We all hope that you can do this for us and let me thank you in advance for your consideration.

All the best,

Paul Kellen
Dear Mr. Keller--

Appreciated your good words about my books. I can't keep up with the requests to sign books by mail any more, but I'm glad enough to do it in person when I'm in bookstores. You might check with the Country Bookshelf in Bozeman, if you're going to be in Montana next summer, as to when I'll be doing a booksigning there for my next book, Mountain Time. Publication date is August, so the booksigning could be September. The Country Bookshelf, incidentally, generally has signed copies of my hardbacks, except possibly for This House of Sky which is now worth a lot in signed form. Anyway, if our paths ever cross, bring your books, okay?  

best wishes,
Valier High School
C/o Mr. Ballantyne
804 4th Street
Valier, MT 59486

December 3, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

Our junior class is making a video and book called, "The Passing of the Millennium: The History of the Rocky Mountain Front." This will include the towns of Valier, Dupuyer, Robare, Williams, Manson, and Heart Butte. We were wondering if you would be interested in taking part in our project through a telephone interview or even by speaking to our class if you are going to be in the area between now and May. You are the most recognized author to graduate from Valier High School, and we would be interested in stories you have to tell about growing up in the area. If you would be so kind as to take part in this project, it will be greatly appreciated by everyone in our class and in the area. You can contact us by telephone at (406) 279-3613, by mail or by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wangseng          Blair Durham

swangseng@hotmail.com    spanky66@hotmail.com
Dear Ms. Mangle and Mr. Durham—

Well, I wish I could. But I won't be back in the Rocky Mountain Front country between now and May and because of the work I have to do to finish up my next book and then a series of speaking engagements I'm committed to, it would be March before I'm catchable for a phone interview. Here's a suggestion which may or may not help: when I was given a Governor's Award for the Arts in '91, a video (a short one, 3-5 min.) was made from pictures I provided. You might check with the Montana Arts Council in Helena to see if they can provide a copy, and give you the right to excerpt from it if it fits your project. If that doesn't work, you can try me by phone in March, but that wouldn't help the visuals of your video very much. All good luck with your project.

sincerely,
April 16, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig,

I'm writing to inquire whether you are Ivan Doig the author, and if so, if you might lend me some advice. Like you, I am a Montana native (Deer Lodge). I'm writing a nonfiction book about Montana's 1959 prison riot, a subject I've been researching the past three years. (I'm not new to writing: I published a biography of Jeannette Rankin in 1980 and have been a newspaper editor and reporter for 24 years.)

The riot was widely regarded as one of the most spectacular of its time. It was led by a former federal convict who had done time at Alcatraz Island and other notorious places. For these reasons, I believe the market potential to be wider than, let's say, a "Montana book." I admit to being overwhelmed as I "shop" for publishers. Please give me some advice: should I start with a literary agent instead of a publisher? Do you recommend anyone?

I would appreciate your help. I feel uncomfortable making this imposition, knowing that you must be inundated with such requests, but I do know Montana people tend to have some tolerance for one another. I might add, and not gratuitously, that I drool at your fine writing. Last summer I came across a stalled car on I-90, eastbound. I gave the young lady a ride, and later as we traversed southern Montana your book, "Ride With Me Mariah Montana" entered our minds. (I ended up driving her to Red Lodge, where she joined a MSU study trip.) Turns out this woman is a White Sulphur Springs native. Her name, if I recall correctly, is Tess Brennas. I think she said that as a child, she had met you. She talked fondly of the encounter.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

Kevin Giles
824 Camellia Lane
Bismarck, ND 58501
e-mail: kmbs71f@prodigy.com
June 12, 1998

Ivan Doig
17021 10th NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

As you may recall, we spoke a few years ago regarding my book proposal about kayaking the Inside Passage. At that time, Richard White suggested I contact you. Well, I wanted to let you know that my wife and I survived the journey, paddling from Glacier Bay, Alaska, to the Nisqually Delta from April to early September 1996. And, equally as significant, I have survived the writing and editing of my first book, *Homelands—Kayaking the Inside Passage*, which will be published by Bard/Avon. I wish to thank you for your guidance at that early stage. Your encouragement proved most durable.

So, what next? I feel I'm at a turning point. I would be eager to learn about the thoughts you had while completing your first book. What was your next move? How should one think about a first book in these tumultuous days of publishing? Should one return so quickly to freelance magazine writing? I realize that you may have limited time, but perhaps we could meet for lunch or coffee sometime. Feel free to phone me at the above number. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Byron
September 15, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Doig:

The King County Library System Foundation (DCLSF) cordially invites you to be a special guest at our sixth annual Literary Lions Dinner. The Literary Lions program honors those individuals, organizations and corporations working to promote lifelong learning and literacy.

This year’s award recipients will be selected soon, and past honorees include: Kitty Harmon, Washington Mutual Bank, Joel Pritchard, Mari and Malcolm Stamper, Julia Shaw, the United Parcel Service Foundation, John Stanford, and the law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine.

Books written by the authors attending the dinner will be available for purchase, with profits benefiting the KCLS Foundation.

The Literary Lions Dinner will take place Saturday, March 13, 1999, at the Bellevue Regional Library, located at 1111 – 110th Avenue NE in Bellevue. An Authors’ Reception will begin at 6:30 pm, with dinner served at 7:30 pm.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us next March 13th. This event has come to mean a great deal to patrons, sponsors and past attendees. You may write us at the address above, call the phone number above, or send a fax message to (206) 684-6690. Your response on or before November 15th will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

Mary Burns
Board Member

King County Library System Foundation
Dear Mary Burns--

Again I appreciate the invitation to be a Literary Lion, but as usual I have other plans for that time of year. My regrets.

best wishes,

[Signature]