

November 9, 1959

Laura Wilck Literary Agency,
14647 Dickens Street,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

I've been expecting some sort of word from you regarding Sorority Row. Of course I know how those things go, but by this time the New York contact should have had access to more than one publisher.

So, I'm wondering, where do we go from here? I notice the trend is still in favor of the context, with such articles as Sex and the College Girl, Atlantic, current anniversary issue: presidents of two colleges in national statements along the line that the greatest waste in the U.S. today is that of girls going to college husband hunting etc.; ~~xxx~~ appearing with increasing frequency.

I think it is time to withdraw it from anyone having it on hand unless they have definite ideas about it. As you know, I put in too much time and work on it to just let it get a quick glance. And most surely believe me, I blame you in no way, because it just probably "didn't have it."

That raises the question again, where do we go from here? I don't believe I'm in a frame of mind to re-work it, unless there is something definite. I'm just getting out from under the ~~xxx~~ torn ligament and its distracting pain, and haven't felt up to digging into the Lonely Road.

I'll of course pay "return postage," on the two copies and let me know if you've been out any other especial expense, and what has been done or the contacts made.

I was by the PUD office in Ephrata the other day (builders of the two major dams on the Columbia) and one asked me how - was coming along on an Indian plaque for the lower dam, now in production and to be dedicated next summer. I haven't touched that. Since they had the political row I've been waiting for an "authorization." It was mentioned too they were thinking in terms of a vista house and show place for the upper dam, just started, and it was the one they were counting on a heroic size statue of an Indian. But I haven't touched sculpture for months and in spite of the great opportunity I think I'll wait for actual authorizations.

About Fleet and Vic Hurley's Parthian and between us. His advance was \$1,000. They are making duplicates for 1 to go to England and for some movie contacts. Howard Hawks has been keenly interested in it.

Of course with Ben Hur as it is, a manuscript of the kind Vic had was probably the only one of its nature in the country at the time, and he no doubt knows it. Incidentally Fleet has the wherewithal, and is in a position for a top job, more than any publisher to publicize it. You no doubt know they were formed by General Features which has 100 or more feature outlets to newspapers, magazines etc. of various ~~XXXXXX~~ classifications.

I suspect Vic will be heading south ere long to renew friendship with his old friend, Allan LeMay.

Incidentally, too, Fleet offered additional advance if Vic wanted it but because of taxing he decided not to. Fleet now has two other manuscripts of Vic's that I believe should go better than the Parthian if they are accepted. If they do not take them, Prentice Hall has been after them, though I quite can't understand that. Vic however has other material that is as unusual in its line as the Parthian. McCallum's The Family from Abilene and Scooper (Scoop Conlon) are due out in a few weeks. These are the books Vic edited and Torchy Torrance of Seattle is publishing. Torrance has high ideas but I think they have a problem of distribution, although such things as big women's groups are tying into the Abilene deal (\$1.50 a book to the club). McCallum has signed to do the Jimmy McLarnin story (introduction by Crosby) which Vic will edit, etc. and he has called a half in further work. McCallum is quite a salesman and can get the information.

This is all confidential to you, of course. And if the Parthian clicks, Vic will probably be pretty hot for a while, having the manuscripts on hand he's never done anything particular~~xx~~ with and which need only slight work to be ready. All of which does me no good of course, although Vic is my very good friend and has been very helpful in giving me quite a few new insights on writing. He's a master at "conversation," etc. He and LeMay had quite a bit in common in years past and it stands him in good stead now.

Now that I've brought you up to date, I'm still wondering, what now? You've been most kind and generous. Perhaps you have some idea, or know something by now, or perhaps it is wisest to no longer hold out hopes for an "unknown."

Sincere regards and best wishes

Click Belander

Nov. 16, 1959

Laura D. Wilck Literary Agency,
14647 Dickens Street,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

"Intercepted" at the office today a North American
Newspaper Alliance eight column feature, as laid out for the Boston
Globe for Nov. 25 : Should College Girls Marry?

The Alliance, as you know, is a syndicate with a considerable
clientele. Thought you would be interested, and of possible use to you,
the continual rising trend in Sorority Row theme.

The feature continues.: "No, says Smith President, (A Man)

Yes, says Barnard president (a Woman) It is illustrated with the
pictures of the college presidents and three two col line illustrations:

Marriage O.K. if financially reasonable. Girls are too preoccupied with
catching a mate. And, Once, when students married, they were asked to
leave.

It leads off: "The controversy over early marriages broke into the open
recently when Mr. Mendenhall, newly inaugurated as sixth president of
Smith College deplored the mania for teen-age campus weddings. Smith is
the largest college for women in the east.

"While any of us would welcome a happy marriage as a by product of
college education," Dr. Mendenhall said, "to make it a first purpose
is as wasteful of the precious resources of a college as it is dangerous
to the good health and the value for which the college stands."

...A spot check of 20 typical colleges etc... (indicates increase
of from 1 and 2 per cent of undergraduate students married 20 to 25 years
ago to upwards of 20 per cent now.

Deals also with. "Many girls are "pinned" while still in high school
and get married either before or immediately after they enter college."

(All this, plus Loretta Ford's accompanying "Never Too Late to Get
Engaged," confirms the extensive "check" made and the trends shown in
Sorority Row. Marriage deal has extended into high schools now to such an
extent in the Northwest that school boards all over are establishing
marriage policy rules. This subject was covered by Teri Ann et al in
their conversations.)

Maybe the paperback market is still the market. Hope the flu hasn't got
you again.

Regards Click Relander

November 26, 1959

Laura D. Wilck Literary Agency,
14647 Dickens Street,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

I have received no letter from you---unless it has gone astray---since writing about the manuscripts, Sorority Row early this month. The last letter I have received from you was October 2. So I thought I should write for specific information.

It seemed that some report indications should have been made by this time, since the manuscripts, two copies were turned over to you last August. And in view of such a period it would appear that no one is interested.

As noted early this month, unless there is something definite on the fire I should think it advisable, to relieve you of further bother, to return the two manuscripts, collect. Your returns have been made in this manner and I do not know how much to send for the carriage. Perhaps I will feel like a slight revamp as to characterization and conversation. I hope too, that I will be able or feel like proceeding with another manuscript with which you are acquainted. Developments then will fall into place, natural.

Monday night I met a resident of your area, the retired Herbert C. Holdridge, brigadier general. I am enclosing a clipping about his visit to Yakima. Someone doesn't have the right perspective. I mentioned contact with you and in what regard and he asked for your address when I noted he might have the chance to pass on my regards to you. Then he mentioned he had some manuscripts, but I'm sure after hearing him speak it is material of a type far from your interest. In fact the remarks he made (see clipping) are an indication, or more so. The group bringing him to Yakima was a small group, some of whose parents were "erroneously" allotted land in years past. Things get quite complicated with Indians. Also so Holdridge I suspect is the man who has been quite ~~an~~ active and I'm sure what he has written, if along Indian lines, is very much "one sided!"

I do hope you've word for me about Sorority Row now, or find it possible to get the manuscripts on their road back.

Hope you and yours had a nice Thanksgiving and that Christmas will be happy for you.

Sincerely

Click Relander

December 8, 1959

Laura D. Wilok Literary Agency,
14647 Dickens Street,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Wilok:

I'm puzzled that despite two widely spaced letters I've had no reply from you, nor reference to Sovority now. I hope there has been no tremendous amount of work for you or if so, it has been productive.

If you wish to phone me--taking advantage of evening rates--please feel free to do so, collect. The number is Glencourt 27448. I am normally home each evening except when I may be out for dinner or some rare social engagement. (and they are rare). I am always a firm believer in laying everything out on the boards, and in that manner I'm sure that in time -- with breaks and persistence etc.--what doesn't work out one time may do so another. If the manuscript fell flat on its face, why then there's nothing to do but rare back, look at it that way and go to work on something else. And if you've given the manuscript a fair shake down as I know you have, then it's a waste of time to fool longer with it.

In any respect, please let me hear from you and don't hesitate to turn them back. It's the "not hearing" a word from you that stops me all the way around.

Enough of that. And call if you can do that easier.

Hope that "General" Holdridge has been no trouble to you. The way I have him figured out now, he's way out on a limb and on a "left wing" limb that that. He mentioned, in the few minutes I saw him at the Indian council he'd written a book. I supposed it was about Indians, told him to send me a bill and a copy. He did. The book was a parable dissertation on economics, what our country is headed for (in his opinion), how to "chase the money changers out of the temple, etc. etc. He has submitted a memographed "report" on the council to Secretary Seaton and apparently has had dealings there before concluding it with an insulting remark that he supposes it will be ignored like all his other reports and the blood of the land will be on the Department's head! Some people never learn that all Indian problems are individual problems and few will be solved in our time any more than they were solved in earlier days. So my apologies to you for mentioning you. You're probably already familiar with the operations. Sounds like a typical rable rousing situation. (I'll watch myself after this).

Forgot whether I sent you an "Indian clip" like enclosed, so am sticking one in, just general info.

Sincere regards

Click Relander