

March 20, 1959

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

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

The manuscript, The Lonesome Road is also going out Air Mail. It was completed Wednesday, but I held it up so the collator could scan some of the final chapters on which corrections had been made. And also, because I was confident I would hear from you as to your wishes regarding Sorority Row.

I am very much afraid now that the occasion will not permit going over this, personally with Miss Shore as I had hoped. And I am sure you realize the difficulty of remote explanation, discussion, etc.

I am hopeful that The Lonesome Road will come closer to coming up to your expectations. But if it does not, then the same must prevail as on the other. And I would agree with you that the thing to do is pack both up and return the manuscripts. Your costs will be immediately refunded. And you will recall that I told you, irrespective of any "percentages," I thought it fair to you to receive some compensation for "reading." And any other expense you have incurred can be adjusted, I am sure.

Incidentally, Mr. Gibson, Saxton's president who I believe must be quite ill (he is elderly) dictated a letter to me. (He has never dictated before). If the occasion warrants, I can obtain the slugs and negatives of the illustrations as "scrap" price. This was a tentative arrangement I had at time of publication, knowing from friends how these kind of publications go out of print and years later are sometimes revived. Even at the cost of scrap, the project is prohibitive at present, although I am sure that Saxton's will "sit" on them a time longer.

A Montana writer, Drinlow, regarded an authority on Patates, has published two books dealing with them, generally, and a year ago had a manuscript on Sarah Winnemucca which he has been unable to do anything with. The publishers want a "historical" novel, I understand, although I have not heard from him for some time.

I trust you will find time to drop me a note concerning The Lonesome Road, and also Sorority Row.

Sincerely and best regards

Click Relander

March 21, 1959

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

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

I wrote Friday and mailed the letter Saturday. This is a folo through, to thank you for your letter, received yesterday afternoon and the interesting information.

Regarding Sorority Row.

I spent considerable time today with Miss Shore and upon a second discussion, I am hopeful that more pertinent information will start congealing.

Of course I concur with you on the fundamental weaknesses of Sorority Row. But I am sure you appreciate how a person normally feels after going through the "wringer." But as I have mentioned before, both of us are capable of bouncing back pretty fast.

Weeks ago I had emphasized to Miss Shore that she continue to gather notes and information for just such a use as can now be put. She too is rather "wring out" with other efforts and family matters concerning a sister's engagement and duties thereto involved. But she is capable of contributing, as you suggest properly, a more determined attitude on the part of girls.

The faster start, more direct to the book may present the biggest problem, rather I should say the "sustained" action after the faster start. The problem is to bring in Teri Ann's girlhood character without losing momentum. "Weaving" in the "documentary," making it a part of a moving story should not be too difficult.

It is a matter of hitting a pace. These things have to simmer with both of us. Personally, I find many times that they "solve themselves" while I sleep. One morning they are clearer and then suddenly, a few mornings later, they are definitely clear cut.

I do have a carbon copy of the original from which we can work.

I think I need a little rest, not from physical needs but from the legarthy which follows a long period of concentration, typing etc. But it should not be long before it can be more creative rather than "automatic." And the same holds true for Miss Shore.

Frankly, both of us have in several ways been continuing to work on it, although we had the manuscript off to you.

No doubt you may wonder about The Lonely Road, thinking it a little short. We have a chapter, perhaps two, that could easily be added. We did not put them in shape because there was a considerable problem in my mind of sustaining the action there for Bruce and Selby. The "interval" is now rather extended between the times they are active. But of course, as I said before, we are not "formula" writers. Hence, your help is appreciated, your ideas are sound and well taken, and we are appreciative, believe me.

I trust that with your continuing persistence in our behalf, that we may be able to produce some works somewhere near the literary style and quality you need for your presentation to possible purchasers.

Even if we don't, this time, perhaps later we will be able to hit our stride. Miss Shore is coming along nicely.

Please keep us posted of your needs of us.

Of possible help to your thinking, our conferences will help straighten out a few things pertaining to material and approach, and I should have some revision started by the end of the week.

I have made arrangements to take a week of bonus days (I have them coming besides my regular vacation, later), starting about April 4, and continuing through April 13. And if the revisions come along good, I should be able to retype the manuscript during that period. But please keep us informed on information that while stimulating to us, we will not take as any more than a possibility.

Again, Most Sincerely

Click Relander

March 24, 1959

Maura D. Wilck Literary Agency,

14647 Dickens Street,

Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

Would it ~~be~~ be too much of an imposition upon your good nature to scan the new start on Sorority Row and see if it moves along as a start should?

We think it sets the story up, and opens it. You may discard the draft of Chapter I, enclosed.

Sincerely

Click Relander
Click Relander

1212 N. 32nd Ave.,

Yakima, Wash.