

August 29, 1958

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

Dear Miss Wilck:

I strongly suspect you might have gone east on a visit, or have become tied up on more important things. But I've been hopeful of word from you since the first of this month.

You will recall I wrote then, asking for return of the incomplete work so it could be used in making a final check out before retyping etc.

If it were sent, it has not been received. I'll refund you at once any additional expense incurred.

I have to report very good progress by the collaborator and myself. The fact of the matter is I've been delaying retyping until I hear from you as there were some things in the msep. you have, that would be helpful.

Perhaps there are other things involved. You will recall I do not know how your "literary agency" operates. I know only how - operate.

I think you will be surprised at the changes and progress made in the work. I am going to have three days this weekend when I could be typing it, to present you with something you could "show." It is tying together better. The additional chapters will run to around 30,000 to 35,000.

May I suggest that if you are available, why not give me a call, collect at Glencourt 27448, Tuesday or Wednesday night at 9:30 Pacific Standard Time (we are not on Daylight time here) that would be September 2 or September 3. I will ask the collaborator to be present at that number. Soon she will be unavailable. I think a call like that would be beneficial to all of us. She is about ready to take off on another projected work and I think she would do best to get this off her mind. You know how that is.

I have been a little puzzled because I have not heard from you. And on second thought, the Lonely People sounds good but there are books hitting the market (paperbacks etc) now every week that

might make that title misleading.

One of the first I have reference to is We Walk Alone. Since then there have been one and two out a week on that line (homosexuals). There is, as you may have observed, a big growing list of such titles. Even at that, I still like the title.

I am going to have some vacation before too long, but don't think I'll be able to come to California. I will have time then however to do a good typing job on good paper, and if it doesn't come upto expectations then something else can be worked out.

I'll be available at the phone number given, Glencourt ~~255x~~ 27448 next Tuesday and Wednesday nights and if you get this letter, call collect. I'd like to say hello to you anyway, And if the mscp isn't on its road back, move it along and we'll be that much further ahead.

Sincere regards

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

October 7, 1958

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

A note to report continued, and I believe highly favorable progress on the projected work, The Hungering People, The Lonely People, or The Hungry People----or what have you.

It runs 21 chapters and to a close estimation 71,840 words.

Your suggestion to put it away for a while and look at it with rested eyes is a procedure both of us have customarily followed. We are firm believers in "seasoning."

Some of the chapters stand up good. Others need some reworking. Some of the chapters are completed as to typing. So I do not think it will be overlong before it will be submitted.

I am not sure the final sections are "swung" properly to be crystal clear as to time, place and situations, but I doubt if they will be revised at this time. I think it better to present it, say in two or three weeks. This "timing" I refer to I do not believe would react against it if it has possibilities when viewed by a potential publisher, and could easily be rectified. And then perhaps it gives it a twist or a fresh handling, as is.

I will send it along when it is ready.

Looking over it I am wondering-- and I am sure you have it in mind--the possible consideration of some chapters as stories and then hit for the higher bracket.

I suspect some separates, of individual characterizations, may develop after the work is submitted. It might be kept in mind if some publisher is interested in the main work and wishes, for reasons peculiar to publishers, substitutions for entire chapters. And I still think it has paper back earmarks.

It was nice to hear your voice not long ago and have the opportunity of chatting with you.

The collaborator is as hard at work as I am on the project, even as to some quotation. We've dug up scores, some are close. He is also running checks on names of the fictional university, a sorority etc., in the most complete and best reference library in the Northwest, to be sure there are no complications.

With Sincere Best Wishes

P.S.

I received a letter from a college prof the other day asking if I would serve as one of the editors of Foreshadow. This is a memograph issued about semi-annually, listing various research projects.

It extends into various writing fields, not all scholarly.

One of these days I will type you out a list of various authors, addresses etc. While many are local and regional in scope, once in a while something shows up that might be of interest to you, if for nothing more than general interest as to work under way.

I think only a small percentage of this material will come into publication. Some is already assured through various grants in aid, etc. and some strictly on the regional level.

And occasionally you might have a manuscript on hand that the knowledge of a similar projected work would be of assistance to you.

For instance I note that Alvin H. Josephy Jr., Associate Editor of Time Magazine, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York lists: Nez Perce Indians: A history of the Nez Perce Indians and their role in the discovery, explorations and settlement of the Northwest. This is to be a book.---(he sez.) (I would relish seeing a new approach on the NP.)

Roger Conant--Editing a Journal of Roger Conant which he kept on a journey from New York to Seattle on the Continental, accompanying the famous female emigration prompted by Asa S. Mercer in 1866--Lenna A. Deutch, 1905 Alpha Road, Pullman, Wash. (I understand this is to be published by the University of Washington Press this winter) Her husband, Dr Herman Deutsch has assisted her. Herman is a good "researcher," so is she, but I don't know whether they can get a popular approach on the subject or not.

And there's another: Range Detectives: The exploits of the range detectives hired by the various states Cattlemans associations or Livestock Commissions during the period 1876-1900. Any interesting material within a reasonable time period or after the above dates would be welcome--Col. Ayres W. Johnson, retired, 1251 So. Smithwood Drive, Los Angeles, (Sounds like TV material now days, but maybe he's pretty elderly.)

regards

CR

Nov. 7, 1958

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

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

Our apologies for causing you justifiable apprehension regarding titling of the proposed The Lonely Road. I was somewhat fearful and for the same reason, but figured there was plenty of time for that. The context is what counts.

Miss Shore telephoned me after receiving your letter and suggested a combination name which immediately agreed with what I had in mind.

In the first place please understand the work is a distinct collaboration, and that Miss Shore is a capable newspaper woman with professional status, having attained working and job proficiency above that of journalism school graduates from Columbia, Missouri, U.S.C., U.C.L.A., Stanford and California, with whom I have been in contact.

In the second place she did not wish to incur difficulties with any sororities who would link her actual name to material that in no way relates, but is a general pattern. And it was to take her "off the hook" on that score that the title was given tentatively as was. You will recall I mentioned earlier the titling problem.

She is also capable of undertaking and completing a book. But what we are attempting to do is add something different to writing, production that is sound and to be sound time-consuming research is required.

We would break down the chapters, they come out about even as to actually who wrote what. But that still does not solve the problem.

She suggested Jo Curtis as the name to use, a combination of her name and my second name, a family name. (And you may be familiar with that in your Civil War reading)

My name adds nothing to a book of the character, nor would it add anything to a Civil War historical novel. The soundness of the research would speak for itself. And then, please do not forget I still have a sculpturing project to undertake when conditions are proper.

Writing is Miss Shore's career. Newspapering is my career. We are both already "protected" in the event one or the other of us should walk out in front of an automobile accidentally etc. All of our research and other material would pass to the other person. And I don't think we have to worry about a contract just yet. There will be no difficulty on that score if we are fortunate enough to connect, through your good work. We would both sign it, our respective rights passing over to the other

in event of the accidental or untimely death of the other.

And I believe that the name, Jo Curtis would be as suitable on the projected work as any ~~thing~~ name. He is not the kind of a person who would intend to go around having to explain to everyone "these are not personal experiences." It is sound writing, based on sound research, and the only thing wrong with it is it's "dis-jointedness." Perhaps it would have been best to have retained the work as individual stories, which still could be done if it resolves down to that. And if it stinks boomuch why then it just stinks, which will not detract from a red. It has a message, in fact many messages and it contains new material.

The research and our discussion regarding General Archer et. al has been under way several years. It is something that much work, the hardest in fact has already been carried out. We may not be "flash" workers, capable of turning out something with one revision, but we sure put in the time on it. Our working time, during a portion of the year, runs equivalent to 10 or 12 hours a day or more.

The fact you aren't too familiar with Gen. Archer is one reason his story, and that of his times, is a story.

Even in 1952 we were in a position to provide the late Douglas Southall Freeman with material concerning not only Gen. Archer but Gen. Robert Selden Garnett (who designed the California seal).

The years on end experiences of these Civil War men in the Northwest have hardly been touched upon. Grant, as a lieutenant, operated a distillery at Walla Walla. Archer, a captain, turned over the command of his military post to Lt. Sheridan. I am not sure yet whether the Lt. Winder who was stationed at Simcoe is the same Winder as appears in Andersonville (but when the material on hand is scanned it can be determined easily enough.) Gen. Pickett, while stationed on Puget Sound was a close friend of Archer.

Our research established, for Dr. Freeman the difference between the Generals Garnett (there were two) and some of the recognized historians list the wrong one. We also located the ~~xx~~ burials, marriages etc. (both Garnett and Archer are buried in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond. Research from Army records the Civil War Experts overlooked provided information on these men also to such men as Dr. Roy Cook, Board of Pharmacy, Charleston, who Dr. Freeman listed as "the great authority on West Virginia Confederates."

The land mine, military handbook (Hardie) etc. were developed by the Northwest Indian fighters. Archer was breveted a major at the battle of Chapultepec, his brigade was at engagements of the Seven Days, Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, where he was with Jackson in the Flanking march and Gettysburg. He was in the Gen Heth and was captured in the blank movement of the same. Later sent south, exchanged and did soon after his release. Garnett was first either Union or Confederate of general's rank to be killed in the Civil War (Carrick's Ford.)

A "private" museum and repository in Maryland has a vertical file full of "untapped" material on Archer, who the librarian says was lost to history but was "indeed an outstanding man." (Hence the necessity of Miss Shorespending some time in Maryland.

Meanwhile we'll whip problems arising in connection with The Lonesome

Read one by one. If you have suggestions as to the "Lonesome