

Nov. 19, 1958

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

Yakima, Wash.

Mr. Donald H. Clark,
Cannon House,
Lawton Wood, Seattle, 98, Wash.

Dear Don:

I suspect you think I've forgotten. I haven't. I'm like one of those GOP Elephants.

And to show you I haven't, witness the following:

a-I am looking forward to the time you and Mrs. Clark will be in this region and may sample the simple fare of the Yakima beaneries.

b-A small and humble contribution to the "commissary funds" of CHAOS.

c-A report that I'm still trying to corral "Dr. Campbell," who seems to be out of town or up at the Elks playing cards or something. But my conversation with him over the phone indicated he's "far afoot."

d-Tear "sheets" from one of the sex-orgy magazines regarding your companion in misery, Elliott White Springs.

e-Some very "elementary" notes concerning munitions gleaned from a continuing research into the Fort Simcoe "characters," as they found their way onto the field of Civil War. This is probably old stuff to you, but maybe it will add another little bit to your large collection of that type of material. And I will keep my eye open for other such references.

f-And what should have been first, my congratulations and condolences upon your election as the chief ram-rodder of the Pacific Northwest Writers Conference. I know that's a big job but you're a good man for it, and if anyone can pull it out of the doldrums into which it has fallen, you are "he."

The collaborator and I have in our divergent ways been assembling

Civil War material. Neither of us are counterparts of Bruce Catton, MacKinlay Kantor, or Don Clark, but I think, although we are some distance apart, getting considerable more background than would be necessary to turn out a "Gone With the Wind," "Andersonville," and "A Stillness at Appomattox," together with a written-down version of "War and Peace." The social life of the Marylanders, Virginians, and the social life around the military forts and posts interests my collaborator. I go in for peaceful characters like Mosby, the rebel raids out of Canada on the Union Prison at Johnson's Island and the Knights of the Golden Circle and their operations on the Pacific Coast (not to speak of some 400 pages of Gen. James J. Archer material extending from the Mexican War, through the Indian campaigns, the Boundary Survey, etc. etc. capped off with three years campaigning and a prisoner at Johnson's Island in the Civil War. (You know of a nice simple plot for it all?)

We finally got the sordid thing off to a literary agent with which you have late hour familiarity. It came up under the name *The Lonely Road*. And what do we get back: She wants two books, which was what I was sure she would want but we continued to make one out of it. About the first she says "It has great quality and compassion." About the other, "if you take this portion out and present it, expanding the ingredients into about 65,000 words it can become a very commercial piece of work with a good movie sale, too." I knew it all the time but I wanted to get it out the easy way for a "paper back."

Meanwhile I'll either rest up, get the collaborator going on the one revision and I'll take on the other, or go on through with *War and Peace in the Yakima Valley Across the Patomac with Jeff Davis* *Treed up a Sour Apple Tree in the Garden of Eden*

I hope you are productive. If you need some help at reducing material down to simplicity, as above outlined, don't feel free to call on me.

The best to Mrs. Clark and you'll be hearing from me again if I