

[1959?]

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

We place The Lonely Road in your understanding hands.

You will find it much changed from the sketch of chapters sent you some months ago.

The length of the work is slightly over 70,000 words. It has wide variety, and may have other possibilities other than a paperback original for which it was intended before embarking upon a more pretentious work. I think you will conclude, from your experience, it has had work put in it

You know your business. We do not know whether any of the chapters are of potential "Esquire" type stories or not, subject to reworking. None of this material has ever been submitted to anyone. You will recall the original letter to you.

And if some publisher is interested, objectionable chapters could be replaced, with no long delay, with others.

In that relation, should some publisher see a potential in the style or ability of the two writers, remember that sound research has been under way for several years into the civil war that would lend itself to a historical novel. This would not be a historical work nor would it be "dry." It would have considerable more of a plot, a single story rather than "disjointed." We did not attempt to make a "standard" work of The Lonely Work, nor was it deliberately intended to be "different." It just was.

We point out that the centennial of the Civil War is nearly upon us, and if you find someone interested, the more pretentious and sound work could progress on a timetable.

We also point out that there has been considerable research gone into The Lonely Road (or some title to your liking), which gives it authenticity. We believe it exceptionally sound from that viewpoint. It is not shallow. It is hoped that it's very difference is an advantage. There is too much "pattern" material written now days.

The little dissertation, two pages enclosed concerning the lonely road was included to give the general feeling of the authors after studies, observations and after completion of the book. It could be called a summation.

We trust you and Mr. Wilck will enjoy the Valley apples. They are Delicious variety, not like Winesaps which are best for cooking, although these are all-around, all-purpose. They are best, refrigerated and eaten cold. Try them that way.

We make no apologies for the "regional" flavor of the book...or the apples...for while this is the top producing apple country in the nation, they are grown commercially and in big tonnage in New York, Michigan and near big centers of population.

And no apologies are made for the Indian material, which has been boiled considerably. If you will examine the Indian material, I am sure you will conclude there is more Indian psychology and much that is not Indian in those chapters, than you will normally find. There is more real Indian material in two short chapters than you will find in any book in publication. It is not necessary to defend it against "readers" or publishers who are beleaguered with ham and egg material. I am qualified as an expert ethno-historian, whereas some of your Indian experts who publishers ask advice from are qualified only as an ethnographer or a historian.

On page 69, in the one sentence "...the thoughts of a great people ended with his strength, nor would they live again in any other generation..." is the very death of the Indian people as true Indians. It is clear and plain and compact and does not take a book to say it. It will stand up 100 years from now.

In event of correspondence, please enclose "carbon" copies to facilitate keeping the authors equally posted.

Also, please let me know the cost of mailing the manuscript, either elsewhere or for its return, and I will reimburse you.

We hope you will see fit to give it another "once over" and pursue it energetically as to publication, or have some ideas as to someone who would.

We could not afford an "expert" typing job, but hope this is satisfactory.

Please let me know your immediate and subsequent reactions. And also please keep in mind the use of the many stories have not drained out supply of material. Our pooled resources include 200 pounds of typescript material, notes and research, scores of notebooks etc. that is from original sources to combine with our imaginations and poor abilities.

We hope you like the apples. But more so, we hope you like The Lonely Road.

Sincerely

The Authors

3701 Commonwealth Dr.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

[1964?]

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

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

Hope the fire I heard reference to on the radio this afternoon isn't uncomfortably close, for you.

Enclosed is ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xx~~ copy of The Lonely Road.

As I wrote I had butchered it up considerable and had begun to completely redo it, and had put it aside for the time. So I had no complete copy to send you without finishing it, redoing some of the chapters, etc. So here's the whole ball.

Incidentally if the story shapes up as a story now, the first copy is available to you to go to work on as you see fit.

And as you will see, the "professor" has been completely eliminated from the story. The Indian, Joe Leather is a modern Indian with Indian problems (even to the closing crack about Marlon Brando).

I am interested in a chance at some TV material. And if it's people with problems, The Lonely Road people have them. Witness: President Johnson's message on poverty! You can't be more "modern" than that. Sophistication is something different.

I do hope I've provided some material that will be of benefit to both of us. I think I have. For every character in The Lonely Road there are thousands like them, all over the country.

Sincerely

Click Relander