

Nov. 3, 1958

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

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

My collaborator and I have encountered an early problem on the "Civil War" material I have mentioned.

Of course I am presuming that something of such magnitude will have interest to you. And while we do not wish to "put you on any spots" I believe it would help get us off to a goodstart.

The problem is: To what extent should we use names of actual individuals in this novel. The names would involve such persons as Grant, Sheridan, Archer, Garnett, Pickett, Johnson and half a dozen and more men who were trained in the Northwest, helped build or commanded such forts as Fort Simcoe in the Yakima Valley, Fort Vancouver, Fort Dalles, Fort Walla Walla, Fort Yallah, Fort Colville.

I believe we should use their names but in dealing with their "associates" should use fictional names: IE: The sweetheart of Archer, the two principals in the plot. (He never married and there are no descendants of the family that we have been able to contact in some two years)

Perhaps we should use "fiction" names for Archer and his sweetheart and other characters, and leave in names of other notables.

The setting of the novel would begin in 1847 (The War With Mexico) and continue through until 1868 or 1870)

Prolonged research that has continued for years has unearthed a wealth of good source material that has never been touched upon. The action would originate in Maryland and New York, swing into Mexico, back to the west coast and Northwest and then back to Maryland and the south. It has terrific possibilities. The plot would be solid, from start to finish.

It is possible the collaborator would, in connection with special studies, spend some time for "atmospheric" observations and studies in Maryland. I would do the military aspects or at least make my research, including such microfilm, available to her. But as you know, while these characters have been living in our minds for some time, if they are to be the kind of real and genuine ones necessary for a good work, we want to start thinking of them NOW as certain people by certain names with certain backgrounds and surrounded by certain situations.

February 8, 1959

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

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

Just to keep you informed of progress.

You will recall that last December I estimated and gave you a probable delivery date for the college life (with libido) of February 15.

I am pleased to inform you that you may expect the manuscript either late this week or early next week depending upon the time required to type the last two chapters and retype about 15 pages to make corrections neatly.

The collaborator slowed up somewhat due to an eye cyst (just below the eye) ...which is the darndest thing because in the original msct. Teri Ann had an inflamed and sore eye that made her studying tough... but I believe it is along as far as we can bring it. It's a rather simple story, quite a change of pace from The Lonely Road. And perhaps worth consideration for a paperback if it doesn't gain much interest elsewhere.

However it has the possibility of a darn swell theme song in the pinning ceremony, where the sorority girls stand in a circle and pass a lighted candle and the one who has been pinned blows out the candle when it reaches her.

I've also put in a lot of work on The Lonely Road. It has a good plot, or at least more sound than the college life deal.

Managing Editor,

Nov. 14, 1959

Monarch Books, Inc.,

Capital Building, Derby, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Two things came to mind tonight after reading Jailbait Street.

1-(Don't think me presumptions, since I'm a city editor and have my daily round with typos)

I noted two in Jailbait. You've probably caught them. One is p. 76, 9th graph, go for got. The second is p. 89, 4th graph, he for the.

The second is I've just written an agent (Laura Wilck) who I do not know personally but who has had one of my manuscripts. After seeing second draft she had publisher and movie producers wanting a good look. She's had it four months and I've heard only once, and then about another manuscript on which I was working.

The manuscript, 65,000, is a college life deal, Sorority Row. Vic Hurley my friend here who has sold 250,000 The Parthian to Fleet likes it. It's the story of girls wasting their time in college ~~xxxxxx~~ husband hunting etc. inst ad of getting an education and deals with a subject and trend constantly moving into prominence, like Atlantic's current Sex and the College Girl. I don't know who Laura Wilck has contacted or the reaction, but if something like that appeals to you, seriously, I can retrieve it or you can write to her at Sherman Oaks, Calif.,