

It is going fairly fast...I started Monday. Perhaps too fast. Perhaps you will think these stories need a lot of padding. If so, I can do that. I think I have my material fairly well organized. I have made a complete file, one folder for each character, of which I have ~~now~~ fifteen. Any number could be added or ~~Some~~ could be subtracted. There is certainly no lack of material. I have thought of having a chapter or so on some event, sort of summing up characters after their stories have been told. Such as : a chapter on the nitro glycerine explosion, or on the all-day picnic the town had for the returned soldiers of World War I. They waited until all were home, ~~of course~~ (that is, all those who were returning) In spite of the legend that "he who drinks from the town well will return to drink again", a remarkable number did not come back.) I was just a child of course, but I think I knew that day how restless and unhappy and changed many of these boys were. Perhaps that was because I had two brothers who had enlisted at 17 and 18, had gone overseas, one of them to fight in all the major battles and come back with a gas cough; and I knew how they felt. There just didn't seem any place for them.

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About Steinbeck's "Pastures of Heaven": It's fine. But his people all seem to be sort of obsessed by something or other. Surely it is not necessary for a man or woman to have an obsession to be story material. We all have weaknesses, yes; but I don't think many of us have obsessions. I don't; and I doubt if you do. And I'm sure Rosa doesn't.

Sincerely,

Hazel

Hazel

P.S. "Sea of Cortez" is wonderful. I mean to own a copy.