

A. Island has a newspaper now. It's just plain wonderful. I have nothing to do with it of course. But I wrote a note to the Trib a week or so ago telling them they ought to have a story about it. They didn't answer. Yet. The ed in chief is a 15 year old girl. It's put out by 11 kids, and it's a thorough and excruciatingly funny job. It has caught on, too. No one on island would think of missing it. They have a circulation of 148, several copies going to Europe. They sell ads at 10 cents a column inch and have bought a mimeograph. News is strictly islandish, exhaustive, and very very folksy. One old lady is running a column of island history. Fillers consist of such lines as "Happy Birthday Rudy", Rudy being one of the solemn old bachelors who still sell milk for ten cents a quart because they can multiply by ten. The paper is usually five long newsprint sheets stapled together. Carries a map of Anderson Island on the masthead. Name: ANDERSON ISLAND GOSSIP GAZETTE. After school starts it will be a monthly. It's wonderful.

Jim took pictures of the staff when he was home last Sunday. The Trib really ought to have a story about it. The weekly cartoon, done by one of those Berg boys with the flagsail ears, is hilariously pointless.

1955.1

Also Rosa.

Yoman, Washington
Wednesday

ca 1955

Jim is on The Columbia Basin News at Pasco. Having a real hassle with Pasco City Council. I don't think she enjoyed it much. People kept coming in & it all became a little confused. I was sorry. But that's the way people are here.

Dear Murray:

Thanks much for your note of August 13 and the clipping. That same day I received a letter from a Mr. Alexander W. Williams, an associate editor of Little, Brown, telling me the news of Mr. Wreden's death and how shocked they all were by it and saying that he was taking over my interests at Little, Brown. I was glad to have the clipping you sent, too; and do appreciate your thinking of me.

I had expected to see Mr. Wreden in Seattle this fall. I thought he was the nicest guy I had ever met in connection with the publishing business. And one of the nicest guys I had ever met period. I feel very sad.

Yes, I stay on island. Put on shoes about every two weeks and come to town, but only on the night ferry and back on the early one the following morning. Our little library here orders any books wanted, and we eat off the land. The old man in the chicken house above us tends my garden just for the exercise, and lovingly; because he cleared this land and built this house. I wrote a 6000 word story about him this summer. Have one classic editorial comment on it. From Woman's Home Companion. "I liked the Hazel Heckman story very much, but we couldn't think of buying it. We try never to remind our readers that they are not immortal."

Blessed be the readers.

I have also done another short or two, one with a western Oklahoma background, which I liked rather. And have done ten million words on SABINA, without rounding out anything I want anyone to see. Just yesterday I finished (I think) a 50,000 word novelette (or something) with an Anderson Island setting. Probably gag when I start reading it; and I don't know what anyone would do with it in any case. As Jim Brown says, my material is "very difficult marketwise".

Very difficult typewriterwise, too.

That's the latest from my corner. I keep writing. What's with you?

If you have a free half day or so some time and nothing better to do, why don't you paddle or ferry over and bring the wife and child? Nothing would make me happier than to see you three on my doorstep.

(over)

Affectionately and gratefully,

Hazel H

Ps. I don't think I said how much I liked your Destruction Island piece. Has the Colliers one come out yet?