

I had hoped to get over to see you before now, and may yet. Nancy Schutte underwent a radical operation for breast cancer two weeks ago and is at home now. I will be going out to see her one of these days and can perhaps stop in. Maybe next week.

I seem to have too much to do. You may know that Don and Co. decided not to publish the P. R. stories. So I wrote to Howard Cady of David McCay, who had expressed an interest in them a year ago last summer when I talked on Ramona Weeks' panel at PNW Writers Conference. I told him I was working on this "Island Year" thing and also that I had a notion to do a lightish book about the experiences of my retired veterinarian brother, Dr. Willet Price, who lives here now. Somewhat to my dismay, he expressed great interest in the latter idea and asked me to write him a "long winded continuity" describing its contents so that we might work out a publishing agreement. Cady is no longer with David McCay, I forgot to say. He is senior editor for William Morrow Co. He has been with both McMillan and Doubleday. He said he was still interested in the short stories, which he has not seen, but would rather talk about doing them after I had a "national reputation."

I am at work on the continuity. But this is a foreign field for me and the lingo unfamiliar, so it goes slowly. It will be, in a sense, a story of Willet's practice in dustbowl country (Woodward, Oklahoma), Corn Country (Wisner, Nebraska), and Basque country (McGill, Nevada), in between hitches with the army as a K rations inspector, milk inspector, work with T#B. in hogs and chickens for the BAI and work for Uncle Sam in brucellosis control. He won an award for clearing Nevada of that. He was a dedicated veterinarian and is a great storyteller. Now he works part time as a federal inspector in chicken killing plants around Washington and Oregon. Well, poultry...it includes turkeys.

It is good to hear your voice each week-day morning. Sounds as though you're having a lot of fun and doing a lot of good. Dorothy Barnard said she saw you both at the Y. W. dinner where Roberta Byrd spoke, but didn't think you knew her.

How is Lane?

We have a telephone now, since last Friday. Our number is 884-2012. That's a Lakebay number. We have direct dialing.

Love,

*Hazel*