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Monday Morning

Dear Rosa:
Dear Murray:

Gee, thanks for selling "Island" so hard. I turned you up loud pedal so Earle could hear. This is real therapy for Earle, and did me a lot of good, too.

Book is going well locally. I mean it is being received well (thank Jehovah) as well as sold well. The big source of supply seems to be Opportunist Neal LaRue of Steilacoom Dock Lunch. I'm embarrassed by people who buy enough copies to have bought a Random House Dictionary.

I'll be glad when all the furor of plugging ends and I have more time to stay home and write.

Did Rosa tell you I had a nice note from Steinbrueck? I passed it along to Helen Hiatt. I very much appreciated your coming to the luncheon, Rosa. I had vainly tried to persuade Rega not to give it, but found it very pleasant and a lot of people there I genuinely like. Isn't Alla Crone a distinguished girl? Her husband is commanding general, or whatever, at Madigan. I keep wondering if you met Ann Johnston. She was just beyond Dorothy Barhard and Nancy Schutte down the table from you. Ann, from Kent, has raised a negro girl who was left on Auburn hospital steps as an infant. She has had in her home and now has permanent custody of two Colvilles and a Muckleshoot Indian who were brought into the hospital as babies suffering from extreme malnutrition. They're handsome and well fed now, several years later. Liane and I try to help with clothes and such.

Ann has taken in and kept for long periods several negro girls in trouble, has kept in touch with them afterward, and has looked after their babies, even keeping them in her home over long periods. Juvenile court of Seattle calls her, and she's a girl who can't say "no." She's the only person I've ever met, I think, who is genuinely unaware of skin color. She has troubles of her own, including an alcoholic husband who is on record from IWW days. He's fine, too, really, about the children. Ann was a surgical nurse until incapacitated in a car wreck. She is still on call at Auburn hospital for post surgery sitting, because she's a real morale builder. I hope Rosa remembers her. She is quite large, has dark eyes and hair (graying) and a beautiful shining face. Meeting Ann, and Nancy Schutte, were the two rewarding factors of my year of teaching night class at Auburn. I wouldn't have missed knowing either.