

Hazel H

April 27

1970

Dear Murray:

Thanks ever so for your kind note from the SS Ile de France. Gave me a start. She's been scuttled hasn't she?

Yours was the first response since the manuscript went in, except for Patsy's note saying she thought we had "the makings of some thing special," and a later note saying it was out with "a reader." I don't know what the policy is. According to this new method, with the questionnaire regarding your "purpose and intention" and all, you submit three suggested reader names. Besides yours, I suggested Mr. Nichols, the editor of Sacramento Union and Margaret Coit, who reviewed ISLAND I.T.S. for Saturday Review. I don't know whether it has gone elsewhere, but should be hearing soon I reckon.

I think your remarks were well-taken. I never question your judgment you know. As you know, some of this, or at least a thing of this sort really preceded the manuscript of the first book, or combined with it. I knew there would be a good deal of work to be done and will set to work as soon as I get the rest of the comments, if any, and Patsy's summing up. I'm not sure whether I've met Mr. Cunningham. I usually just see Patsy and Don when I'm in, which is rarely. Did he more or less take Ramona Weeks' place?

Meanwhile I've been going over the vet book manuscript I sent to Luther Nichols. I'm almost through it a second time and have it almost illegibly red-penciled. I think it's interesting and I'm not tired of it. I managed to cut and tighten it a lot and do a lot of re-writing and will do more before I'm finished ready to retype. Then, I always try to remember your admonition not to do any changing unless I get up and walk around the chair first...I mean during retype.

I don't know what I will do with it. Send out some queries I guess. I don't know just where. For its kind of thing, I think it's a pretty good book. Except for FIFTH AVENUE VET, I think it's the best book I've ever read about the profession. This isn't going to be a simple process, as my brother has departed the Island for Nebraska, his old stomping grounds, and I don't like him very well for having built this house and left it too close to us, next door. Tom Carstens of Autohaus bought it, so when we have neighbors at all they're jet setters. Not that I mind Tom. I think he has a lot to recommend him really, toughness and good sense and, above all, kindness. I just wish I could wish the house away and that we had the lots back as a buffer.

*Riviera house is about level - opening more than one ft with of the land mass now level 1 1/2' higher.*

We are in the process of picking up another acre or so at the head of our creek that feeds Higgins Cove, as a buffer against another 120 acres recently acquired by Lake Josephine Riviera. If we get too many septic tanks along that creek there go our oysters. Next weekend I'm going to ask Dorothy to ride along with a notepad to compute the number of miles of wide roads these