

people have run through previously untouched woods. I'll bet the total is appalling. There are so many networks by now that I will never be able to cover them all, but can get some rough notion, I think.

Your newscasts have been coming in clearly since the election. I find this odd, as they were hopelessly garbled until that time. I was never able to get them on our FM, which isn't too good. Fades. I find them both interesting and delightful, as always. Boy, Tacoma politics is a comedy of errors.

We are going through an uneasy time about Nancy Schutte. You know she underwent a radical two years ago in February. She developed a sudden tumor on her neck two weeks ago. It was removed last week. The biopsy report had not come as of yesterday when I called Ann Johnston, who is keeping in close touch through the surgeon's office nurse. Ann herself is a retired surgical nurse you know. I am very fond of Nancy.

She sent her book manuscript about a boy and a beaver (juvenile) to Luther Nichols, who sent it to the Eastern editors with a recommendation that they publish it. It didn't receive sufficient votes there, which was a considerable disappointment<sup>ment</sup> to her, I am sure. Last week Ann sent me a short story Nancy had written that was heartbreakingly autobiographical, the best thing of hers I have ever read, as good, I thought, as Tillie Olson's "I Stood There Ironing."

I'm delighted by these kids' interest in environment. Hollie (13) spent her last visit here making posters and gathering pictures for Earth Day. I'm constantly impressed by what these kids know, and care about. And by the stories Dorothy tells me about the Wilson High kids. I'll bet you had fun with Lane's crowd.

ISLAND I T S has gone into third printing, I guess I told you. I want to write fiction again. On an impulse I wrote the director of the University of Kansas Press about the Picket Rock stories. He wrote back and sent my letter (to him) along to the director of Kansas Quarterly, published at Kansas State University. I sent him three of the unpublished stories. He has them. Wrote me that they do not report for two or three months. K. U. Press director says they publish a very small list of books. I know they're new.

Bessie's book has done well. She sold out, and boldly ordered another thousand copies (First printing was 500) because she could get them for \$3 a copy in thousand lots. She's quite a person. I wish you could meet her. We talk some of trying to come in for the annual Historical Society dinner in June. I took her last year when her book was launched.

Thanks again, much, Murray, for all your trouble and for making me a copy of your report. Also, to be sure, for your recommendation.

Please give my love to Rosa.

*Over,*

Affectionately,

*Hazel*

Tuesday Morning 28 th

Dear Murray:

I opened this to say a couple of things. In your resume you mention illustrations. Patsy asked me, when I took the manuscript in, what I wanted to do about illustrations. I told her I would like to have Helen Hiatt illustrate, and Helen wants to do this. The last time, you know, after all that fiasco about Steinbrueck, I footed the bill for Helen's drawings. Should I talk to Don about this? What is customary? I know the U. Press runs on a close budget. But they did do all right with ISLAND I T S and of course gave me a very small percentage of their take from Ballantine for the paperback rights. I'm coming to see you presently to talk about some of these things.

Also: Ann Johnston called me yesterday after I had sealed this. Nancy's diagnosis is not good. She goes in on Thursday to start more cobalt, obviously. For some unexplained reason her cobalt treatments two years ago were given without benefit of shield and she developed some liver damage and a bout of hepatitis. Ann, who does not believe in cobalt in any case, is furious about this. I'm just plain sick. At the moment I just can't conceive of my world without Nancy in it somewhere.

H.