

Jan. 10

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Hi Rosa and Murray:

Thanks much for autographing the so-big book for me. This is for my favorite sister-in-law and one of my very favorite people, who has always liked your work very much. She is my youngest brother's wife and lives in the house in Kansas where I was born. They came out this September and she was enamored of the Northwest. This is a pretty book, and very good I think. I reckon you would call it a conversation piece book. Your foreword is just right.

It gave me a bit of start when Dorothy phoned Earle on Sunday to say she had taken it out for your autograph. You see, she has been in the Northwest Alcoholics Center, under restrictions, and got leave on Sunday to do this. I had gone in to have lunch with her at the hospital on Sat. and she insisted I leave the book, saying she would take it by the college yesterday and get you to sign it. I was afraid you might have offered her a drink at home. But I guess she came very early in the morning, as she told me Rosa wasn't up. She also told me she got lost and that you very kindly escorted her part way back to Tacoma.

She has another year (no, two) of teaching^{*} before she retires, but she is on sabbatical this year for rest. She has lots of problems, was almost manic depressive and had strong suicidal tendencies, so I prodded her into seeking professional help, and was a little bit scared afterward. I visited her twice at the center and was rather impressed by the personell there. They work closely with AA. It's in the old Mountain View San.

I have enjoyed your pieces in the Trib, Murray. I'm tucking the clippings from the Trib about your teaching (tough) and the piece from the P. I. into Irene's book.

I'm keeping busy. Don't know how my new things will come out. Also, Don Duncan and Lund want me to do some things about A. Island for the Tahoman Mag. First one they want is about the Island chapel. I have that done and am waiting for Jim to come take pictures.

She's a super teacher.

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Happy

Love to Lane, too,

I'll probably be tared and feathered when the piece Jim has written for the Times Mag. comes out. Should be some Sunday soon. Watch for it. I wish he had more time, and inclination, to write. He's very good at humor I think. Did you see the story of his battle with the telephone company? It had a funny aftermath, too. The district director for Ma Bell, a man named Holloway, lives next door to him, as he mentioned. One day Holloway's nine phones all failed to function at once and he sent his wife over to Jim to call the company. His wife told Lane, "He said that if Jim was at home I was not to answer any questions." There's bad blood here, stemming from way back, when Jim's youngest daughter Lael said one day to Mr. Holloway, "My dad thinks you're a schmo."