

Sunday Nov. 27  
A. Island

(76?) 1977

Hi Rosa and Murray:

Your letter was a surprise missive when we arrived home in a pouring rain the morning after Thanksgiving at Jim's, and welcome indeed. Thanks heaps. Besides the enlightenment therein, your words gave me a good laugh... You see, I had written a kind of tongue-in-cheek piece about the search for Leander that has gone on down the years and was given fresh impetus with this COINS piece, which had him killed on May 1, 1848 and, a few paragraphs down, on May 1, 1849 and had Patkanim both Snoqualmie and Snohomish. Mainly, it is Rick Anderson and I of the Historical group who are most interested in the history of the Island and the origin of the old house. Russell Cammon, Bessie's son, was interested mainly at the prospect of digging for some of these fabled foreign coins. He's a collector... And that's all the piece I sent Lane was about, the blind leads, pseudo funny. When your letter came I sent her a hold order in case she were inclined to publish same. Told her I needed to make corrections and revisions... Oddly, save for my letter from the author of the COINS piece, and yours, I have had no answer at all to my several letters, all accompanied by stamped envelopes, not even from Bruce LeRoy, Nancy Prior at the State Library, or the Cowlitz County Historical Museum. I should have leapt into my saddle and gone around, I guess. But I'm very busy at other things and pressed for time, to say nothing of energy, and I'm not writing about the history of A. Island. I just feel I owe Lane for my free subscription. I will certainly share your letter with Rick, who will want to xerox it. He keeps a bulky file. Your pp about the HBC ships was an eye-opener, and I wonder, too, now, about the foreign coins. Most of his shingles, the piece implies, went to the gold rushers in Calif., but the coins, the man says, were from all over the world. They also included, he sez, bags of gold dust and the "Oregon Beaver", one denomination of which was designed by Leander's brother Victor... Well, I do believe this much, that the Island was really named for Leander and that Leander lived here, maybe not in said old house, but somewhere. The story sort of jells.... I giggled, too, about your Dixy comment... And I see that Margaret Drabble's new book, "The Ice Age" is advertised in N. Yorker. I'll ask co. library for it... Do you get home in Jan? I'm ordering "One Man's G.R." for my favorite sis-in-law, a fan of yours, for her Jan. birthday and would like an autograph... Could we think about begging you and you to come over again some time in spring and talk to us about your new gleanings or something? Rick keeps saying wistfully, "Do you suppose Murray would come back?" I wish we could afford a fee. It's all / and there's not much of it, gone into shakes. We're still not tax exempt and our insurance (liability, we can't get fire) up there is purely awful... Isn't it fun to see Lane's name on masthead as man.ed?

Love you both,

Hazel & Earle

Heckman  
Anderson Island  
Washington 98303

USA / 22c



The Murray Morgans  
43A Lennox Gardens  
London SW1  
England

AEROGRAMME  
VIA AIRMAIL  
PAR AVION

② Second fold

Additional message area