

Bath, Kentucky
April 22, 1949

Dear Dayton:

It was a wintry winter out west. The steady chill in Southern California never relented during my eight-week stay. San Francisco, though never 500 miles north was warmer-- --actually--but the weather was a mizzle when it wasn't a drizzle and a pour. Only San Antonio, the only city in America I love, did right by me--warm, cloudless, air like glass...I dipped slightly into Mexico, into the states of Chihuahua and Baja California. Dry and pleasant there naturally.

Alas, I didn't see Katherine Ann Porter. One day I suddenly journeyed down to Stanford via "tourist bus" and had no chance to look her up...Ran across one of your Virginia writers ~~one evening~~ in the Associated Arts Gallery in Beverley Hills--John R. Weaver...Recollect Maristan Chapman--Mary & Stanley Chapman-- authors of HOMEPLACE, etc.? Had two good visits with them...All in all my Southern Cal. sojourn was fraught with social life. Never have I attended so many parties, teas(spiked), dinners, etc. Got to know a lot of university people--U. of C. (LA), U. of S. C., and Santa Monica Jr. College...I was fetched about sightseeing quite a bit--from the Rose Bowl to Santa Anita. Held Princess Orsini's "book"--who is she?-- at the Santa Anita Turf Club one curious day. &-Etc.

Yes, the narrator in RIVER OF EARTH has a name. But I've never divulged it. Ask me some day...The publication of a short story usually brings a dab of mail. My January Atlantic item brought three from university presidents! What's the catch?... "Mole-Bane" will appear in a college omnibus volume edited by Carrol Towle & John Holmes (the poet).

I'm surprised you're finding the Faulconer novels difficult to locate. I own THE UNVANQUISHED, THE HAMLET, SANCTUARY. Want to borrow one, or all? You asked ~~what~~ I think of Faulconer. My reaction is more emotion than ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ thought, and mixed emotion at that... At present I'm reading Sasson's ~~SIEGFRIED'S~~ SIEGFRIED'S JOURNEY and Forster's ASPECTS OF THE NOVEL.

And I'm busy in the garden these days.

Ever,

James Still