

Midlothian, Texas
May 21, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

Penn may possibly have written you - but I doubt it. He just doesn't like to write letters. Also, we have been going slightly nuts on the book. All mechanical difficulties. Everything that shouldn't have happened DID. We have thrown, I believe possibly 64,00 pages.

Now so far as paper is concerned, that's not too bad. But the labor costs were overwhelming.... Now, for instance, I proofread, (and any damn fool can do that). But the editing, the re-write. (U do this) Neither Penn nor I ever had a course in journalism.... My only qualification is that I read so much: Seven daily papers, possibly 30 weeklies, and maybe 5 books a week. So far as my intelligence, I'm just not in Penn's class. (I used to wish that I had a mind such as his, but, believe me, ONE IN THE FAMILY IS ENOUGH). What I do is a somewhat superficial thing. I have read so much, a sloppy sentence, or a word wrongly spelled, simply jumps out and BITES me.

So we work rather well together. I have been cleaning up his editorials for years. But I couldn't write an editorial.

Why did Penn get such a stack of copies on the Subject Index? Because he wanted them, that's why. True, he possibly needed only one - but when several of us are working - then we need more.

Rather selfishly, these books may increase in value. "Profiles in Courage", autographed, sells for \$250. We have one. And we're not about to sell it.

The RAMPARTS people have been here again. And, believe you me, they are extremely intelligent, objective. Very, very good. The youngest one (David Welsh) is a graduate of Harvard. And Mr. William Turner, who came with him ~~can~~ WRITE WRITE WRITE.

And they share their knowledge with us, and we are equally frank. I trust these RAMPARTS people.

Now, Sylvia, my dear, nobody's mad at you (as you suggested in your letter of May 19). We're just extremely busy...I wish you could meet Shirley Martin. She's not only very personable - that gal works. And works. Come to see us. And meet Shirley.

With friendship,

cc: Shirley Martin
Hominy, Oklahoma

R. A.