

December 22, 1966

Mrs. Rose Labrie,
127 Middle Road,
Portsmouth, N.H.

Dear Mrs. Labrie:

First let me offer my congratulations on your success in the field of art. I remember you saying something about your painting when I was in Portsmouth, but you were much too modest about it. I read the article in the Portland Sunday Telegram with the deepest interest and pleasure.

You ask about my own work. Since publication of *The Governor's Lady* in 1960 I spent about three years in revising my history of Halifax N.S. ("*Halifax, Warden of The North*") and bringing it up to date for a new edition, which was published by Doubleday in the United States and Canada in 1965.

In 1963 I started research for another historical novel, this one dealing with Halifax as a British naval base during the Napoleonic Wars. In those days hundreds of French prisoners of war were kept in Halifax, many of them on parole and working at various jobs in and about the little town. My leading male character was one of these prisoners. The novel was published in the summer of 1966 under the title "*Hangman's Beach*". As before the publisher was Doubleday in the United States and Canada.

I now have, nearly complete, a collection of true stories having to do with Nova Scotia in one way or another. This is for publication in 1967, and the tentative title is "*Footsteps On Old Floors*".

My present winter writing schedule includes some scripts, both radio and TV, for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, also a number of articles for newspapers, having to do with Canada's first hundred years as a nation. (There is to be a great celebration of the centennial birthday in 1967.) When all that had been cleared off my desk I shall be free to consider the subject for another book.

Congratulations again, and my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincerely,