

Windsor Junction, N.S.,
December 30, 1944.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Tom,

At long last I'm enclosing prints of the picture taken in your study last September. I should let it speak for itself, though, personally, I think it is pretty good, showing as it does, the beast in his natural habitat, surrounded by guns, powder horn, snow shoes etc. I'm glad to have the snap of you in spite of its defects.

I managed to recover from the pneumonia to the sick-leave stage and have been able to spend the holiday season at home here with my wife and family. It is a privilege. We've had a delightful Christmas together. I'll be returning shortly to Rockcliffe to continue the course in Personnel Counselling.


Since writing you from the hospital I have read with pleasure your "Roger Sudden" and "The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek". "Roger Sudden" is excellent. I'm unable to decide whether I like it better than "His Majesty's Yankees" or not. I may remember David Strang longer, having seen and photographed his home, the Cobb house, "in the flesh".

My wife and I found "The Pied Piper" stories very enjoyable. You said last fall that having finished "Roger Sudden" you found it a relief to get back to writing short stories. I understand that better now. "The Pied Piper" stories seem to have been written with enjoyment.

And so Tom, I now have your picture tucked away in my album of Nova Scotia snaps. Through your books your picture recalls a lot of the past as well as the present. I'm proud of that album and the memories it recalls. I've grown very fond of the Maritimes. If it weren't for the bronchial asthma that troubles me here I'd seriously consider making a home in this province after the war.

Regards to your wife and with best wishes for your success in the coming year, I am,

yours sincerely,


Wm. F. Burke F/O

112 St. Clements Ave.,
TORONTO, Ont.

Sunday Dec. 8th. 1946.

Dear Sam.

Just a line to say how
much we enjoyed our evening with you.
I thought you were looking so much spunky
and more carefree than ever before. Gladys
from now on is one of your staunchest champions
also.

We heard you over the air on the
Sunday evening, having waited up for the
broadcast. We didn't care much for H.M. but we
thought you handled it beautifully, especially that
Halifax to Liverpool in one day.

I have read Piel's Family with
great interest and have some outside comment
for you. I think it's the best written
you've done yet - I think your writing
has gone to new highs in that book. My only
disappointment was that there wasn't three
times as much. You could well do a
sequel commencing right where you left off.

would be the kind of book I like."

I think you are Tom - one man's opinion and another.

However I did enjoy it personally and I think the writing was magnificent - just sheer artistry. My only regret was that we didn't see more of you and get a chance to take you around these parts. However they do not begin to approach Nova Scotia.

"Haida" has been held up until the end of January. The printer could not get it out in time for Christmas. I had hoped that would be my Christmas card to you Tom but you will get a copy the moment it is off.

Meanwhile all the best to Mrs. Radcliff & the family and a cozy fire for the winter.

Your friend,
Bill

2

I think that's the art of a great story - it has no real end or beginning but simply cuts into life at one point and cuts out at another. One could feel all the history of Nova Scotia behind it.

how for the brickbats & bouquets.

That night, leaving the hotel, we met three insurance managers who insisted we join them for a drink. They had all bought the book and enjoyed it but one of them said the last 100 pages were spoiled for him by one thing - the cover illustration. He said it gave away the ending before he came to it and made him wish the cover illustration had been drawn from another part of the book. I pass it on to you as one of your reader's thoughts.

Item #2. A truck driver of my acquaintance, with a wife and family gazed long and hard at a display of books in a window. After some 20 minutes he walked in and bought Pidel's *Fancy*. I asked him why. He said "I liked the cover. I knew by that it

P.S. I bought the stationery personally & I
hope my good lady puts the
proper postage on it. Bill