

HUSLIA ^{Hindia}
Husliie ^{aloha}

May 24th 1963

Miss Toni Strassman
author, Representative
116 East 19th Street
New York 3, New York.

Sir

I have written a Book about
my life as I have been noted to
have an ~~exceptionally~~ ^{exceptionally} different type
of life than most people I
have been asked for many past
years by many people to do this
story so after one year of writing
I have concluded what several
different persons whom I have let
read the m.s. say it is an out
standing story than people I picked
at random some of them I knew
others I never saw before, so that
brought me to look for an agent
to handle the m.s. for me, and was
great person of whom you have had
some work for. Recommend your going
so I would like to know if you
one going to be able to handle this
for me.

I am a Hafe Bread Indian I have
 very little Education but I am a
 very good story teller and I have made
 many speeches before many hundreds
 of people. Part of my life you
 well knowen Some one in my back
 gave me a list I held the book
 to 100,000 words. I have typed
 it out so it is ready to read the
 only thing I haven't done yet is
 to dress up the old pictures that
 could go with the story but that
 will cost me three or four hundred
 dollars to get what I want as I
 would have to travel a lot to
 find them all and coming up
 here in Alaska can be expensive
 I am waiting here at Umanu
 now. so if you answer this
 letter soon write me here.

James Huntington

James Huntington
 c/o gutua Borze line Inc
 Umanu
 Alaska

Reason

Hustice Alaska ^{James}

June 27 1963

Toni Strassman

Sir your letter of June 4th was received today as I was away on my job. I am sending you a copy of my m.s. first I don't have any education and I have done the best job I could do and I know that it is not ready to be published but I would need professional help however I don't have the money right now to get this help and after you read it over of course then I would know if it would be worth putting any money into it. I don't think I would want the wording or any one of words changed too much.

The story is a true story and does not have friction in it.

The story is based on the my life as a half breed Indian of white a half breed has no wife and is not accepted by the whites so he lives a sort of lone wolf life. I have a natural ability to be a fair talker and a natural story teller. I do plan on writing about the superstitions of the north. if I can make a story out of it I am not sure I can.

P.C.
7/2/63

any way if you think the book
might not do well. just send it
back and I may shelve some short
stories ~~out~~ out of it for later use
now another thing I want to get a
copy write of this story of course
I believe you will take care of that
if you think its my good.
I will be working here at menara
until the middle of sept so you
can write me here any time up to
that date. after that I will be
at my home at Huslia.

Thanks

Jim

James Huntington
Huslia Alaska

Huskie Alaska
Sept 5 1963

TONI STROSMAN

Dear Sir
Receiving your letter of
8.8.63 concerning my manuscript I
will send you the original some
time this month most likely on
the last of the month. as I am
working for from home it is not
easy for me to just get it and send
it out. I would like very much
you return the copy before I send the
original. as I have heard your
very honest and I see where your
word frank so I have good trust in
you. but at the same time I have
been taken before and I am always
leary that same thing could happen
I do hope you will forgive me for
being the way I am.
I do hope to have some old pictures
for my manuscript when I send it out
this time.

I have a couple of short stories I
will try to have completed this
winter ~~fall~~ and would you be interested in
seeing them. of course I only write
when I feel like writing, so some
times I don't write for weeks.
do you believe I should get a copyright

of my book. Let me know about that
all correspondences to me after this
will be to my home address.

James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska

Hustler's slashes

Dec 1 1963

Miss Tomi Strossman

I must first apologize for the long delay in answering your letter of Sept 23. I had planned of giving you a quick answer. The I got to thinking I would go over the m. s. and see if I could improve it but I started to then the time for me to trap and make some money got in its way so to date I haven't done much with it but I will send it to you some time but I don't think it will be before next spring as I haven't got a type writer and when I make these changes I will have to do a lot of re-writing. I can't promise if it will improve it or not. All I can do is to tell the publisher that Red my m. s. that I live in the United States of America and not out of the Country and I am a citizen of the U.S.

Thank you

James Huntington

TONI STRASSMAN

AUTHOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

GRAMERCY 3-5030

116 EAST 19TH STREET
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

August 31, 1964

Dear Walter,

I am enclosing a letter I received this morning from James Huntington. Will you please make a copy for yourself and return the original to me.

I hope this will turn out to be what is needed to satisfy you.

Cordially,

TS:hm

Mr. Walter B. Mahony, Jr.
Reader's Digest
Pleasantville, N. Y.

Enc.

Toni

Huslia Alaska
August 24 1964

Toni Strassman
116 east 19th, st,
New York N.Y, 10003

sir

I have just got out of the hospital recovering from an accident , so i am answering your letter of july 22 .
as far as the chapter of my mothers death there is no one who knows the story better then my brother Sidney Huntington and my self,
it is as true to every detail .
there is some liveing white men liveing to day whom found us but i dont know how to get a hold of them
as far as the first chapter goes I had a hard time getting what little information i did get.
most of it came from the old natives who did not want to talk about it.
my father was the first one who told about the killing as it was told to him by my mother.
I was fifteen when he told me the story and i dont rember it all . i done a lot of building it up . as I know most of the country she went through and how and about what she went though ,
all the parts about the old tradeing and the war lines are the truth.
The man whom Killed Victor Biffelt . Has never ben seen since the year he was turned lose. the records of the trial should be in the records at nome if thay keep them this long . but if my mind severe me right the court house burnt some time in the early 1900s.
I have had the story rewrtien in this past year I have not read it yet as there is a little more to be done on it,
as soon as i getit back , i will send it on to you . this is all the work I am going to have done on this story .
so some time this fall you should be getting it ,
if you think takeing out the first two chapters will kill the book . I think we shoul wait for a while befor selling them to see what could be sold of some of the other chapters. what do yo u think on that. Let me know.
I will try to get some truth beyond a dought if possible , right now I dont know wher to get it from on chapter one.

James Huntington
huslia Alaska

Larry —

You don't live too rough
in W. Islip either!

Walter

October 19, 1964

Dear Toni:

Thanks for sending along a copy of James Hunting-
ton's most recent letter to you. He certainly has a
way with words, does he not?

I've passed copies of your letter along to Larry
Elliott and our book department for their interest.

Best to you,

WJSm

Miss Toni Strassman
116 East 19th Street
New York 3, New York

cc: Lawrence Elliott ✓
MTR

TONI STRASSMAN •

AUTHOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

GRamercy 3-5030

116 EAST 19th STREET
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

October 13, 1964

Dear Walter:

I received the following letter this morning
(His spelling) from James Huntington:

"I received your letter about the
Readers Digest being interested in my manuscript.
I also got my Manuscript back in a little better
form so I am sending it to you. I would be glad
to work with any one on the mancrip, if they want me to.
Time would be the big item if he could come to Huslia
it would be of great benefit for both of us as he could
get better back ground for my story.

"or else more conformed, there is no road
house or any type of hotel but I would be glad to
put him up for a few days as we dont live to rough
now days."

When the manuscript comes I'll get it to you.

Best,

Toni
Mr. Walter B. Mahony, Jr.
The Reader's Digest
Pleasantville, N. Y.

Huslia Alaska

Nov. 24 1964

Mr Lawrence Elliott
Box 322
Babylon L.I. New York

Mr Elliott

In refrance to your letter of Nov, 9 th. Concerning your trip to Alaska . And your possible trip to Huslia ,I feel it would verry instresting to have you . you hear and to be able to work with you personly . First I must tell you that there is no road house hear . although there is a place where you could find borad . how ever you are perfatly welcome to stay in my place,

I have a fairly nice place at least we have runing water also a flush toilet. the only one in the village , we do not live verry fancy , we eat good wholesome food mostly widd meat.

I tell you all of this so that you will know what you are comeing to . If you feel that you would not feel like you could take the life out hear then I could possibelely come into Fairbanks , Although , I dont care to much about staying in Fairbanks to long, I could find time to be with you most any time in January , but After that month . I would be working at traping beaver , so that would take me away From home. a lot.

Let me hear from you Befor you decied to come .

I was actted By a bunch of wolfs six days ago , at night . still feel a bit shook up. I will be traping until the twenty first of dec, when I come home I read my mail an answer what I think needs answering , so some tãme it a while befor a person gets an answer, so if you dont hear frãm me on time you know some day you will get the answer,

thank you

James Huntington

Huslia Alaska
January 19 1965

99746

Lawrence Elliott
P.O. box 322
Babylon L.I. New York

Mr Lawrence

I recived a letter some time befor the first of January . stateing that you would not be comeing to Huslia or Alaska until the later part of May. How ever since writeing to you , Things have not gone so good for my story. An Old native built up another version of the first chapter of my story. as He claimed told to him by his mother. many years ago. he claims that my mother told his mother his story. and for five years I asked for any information concerning my mothers ~~death~~ husbands death. so that my word aginst His . It sort of gave me a let down feeling .but you proubly know how all small towns are are there is always some one . hateing to see any make any progress. with out thair benfit. I do not Know where I will be working this Spring but I will keep you posted .

Thanks James Huntington

yours truly

Jim Huntington

c.c. Paul Strassen
116 East 19th.st.
New York, N.Y. 10003

Huslia Alaska 99746
April 12 1965

Mr Lawrence Elliott
p.o.pox 322
Babylon L.I. New York
Sir

Thought I would drop you a line as to .the possiblêty of me wroking at Gelena
Alaska for the summer . I am not deffintly sure as to when the job will open up.
will keep you posted for sure . soon as I am sure you can fit a trip up hear
to meet some of your scuadles . the convênces of liveing at Gelena are not the
best, How ever there is a road house there. witch is not to bad , very nice
pepole run it. I also recived a letter from Toni Strassman of New York.
a copy of this will be forarded to her . as she is the agent for me.
I havent been doing to much . mostly traping and hunting for eats.
I was elected to the executive board of the Episcopal Churchh of Alaska.
so I will have to attetend a meeting on the 21 st. ^April .
It is still winter hear. although the days are getting longer, so we have lots
of light now to travel around the country,
Most ofthe travleing is with the sno Travle now days.tthe dogs have taken the back
seat now although thay are used verry much for sled dog raceing.
witch is a great sport up hear in the north.
well let me hear from you some time ,use this address as it is my home ,

yours truly

Jim Huntington

c.c. Toni Strassman
116 East 19th.st.
New York,N.Y. 10009

October 2 1965

Belena Alaska

July 11 1965

Mr Elliott

I will be working on the motor vessel Rampart as River Pilot for the Ballance of the season, it is secured & equipped

By meover Brad Inc. Hulling mostly between Feb & Belena. I'll see if I

can get you on one of these trips we could do the work that nessing I hope.

you could call meover Brad and talk to Ken meover at anchorage or call Bud works at Feb also meover Brad. and tell them what you want and I am sure they will be glad to help you out.

wife

as well one of the it sooner as. Huslia for the boat, listed in your letter

that is known today to be cooked. wiped off every week or I dont rember ever the house we lost had any thing to of many items for his

eyesit set heveyer it was three months be for I recovered

of sport. in the winte what we called foot f caribow hide. number of players some games went on for.

on the ground in orde d take hours to .

others claim that the race was completed first that we knew.

at we were to be paid, tigg and Refining

ou write it if you want l was coniderd a good

en the fun was over. could ask for a better w

Huslia Alaska
October 2 1965

Mr Lawrence
Received
the
winter
so now
I will
you
No. 1
No. 2
No. 3
No. 4
No. 5
No. 6
No. 7
No. 8
No. 9
No. 10
No. 11
No. 12
No. 13
No. 14

if you cant get on the boat
then get word to me and
I'll find time to see you

No. 1 Old Man Simon

No. 2 there were many attached is some

No. 3 as far as I can remember there was very little land or what is known today
as a source of food. It was in the store was dry and that had to be cooked.
The man was very dry and that was the worst for ware.
so. it had to be cooked before eating it. I dont remember ever
trying to eat it. I remember that when I had to save out of the house we lost
the use of the stove, in those days the trading posts never had any thing to
sell as they were long sold out. even the trader was short of many items for his
own use,

No. 4 from the whoppy that started in the eye of the eye never
in the left eye. as close as I can remember it was three months before I
the sight of that

No. 5 when I speak of fun it was. mostly some sort of sport. in the winte
r we played a game called foot
ball. but it was more of a soccer game. our ball was made of caribou hide.
stuffed with caribou hair. this had no limit of number of players
who were allowed to play. the game had no limit of time. the game went on for
six hours. it keep a person in good condation.
the goal was about four feet wide. and the ball had to stay on the ground in orde
to get through. it went through the goal. it was a hard game to play.

No. 6 she was my wife, Cecilia Lin.
No. 7 Lily Bouglas. I dont remember her skin name.
No. 8 some claim that the manager went west with the money. others claim that
there was not enough money raised. that the money raising system was
poorly handled, in hopes of getting the money raised. before the race was
run. When we got back to Fairbanks it was the first that we knew.

No. 9
No. 10
No. 11
No. 12
No. 13
No. 14

to be paid,
if you want
a good
over.
for a better w

Huslia Alaska
October 2 1965

Mr Lawrence

Received your letter of sept, 20 a week ago . could not answer it sooner as the freeze up was with us , and I had to get my family back to Huslia for the winter , it was along cold drive back up the river in a kicker boat, so now I find my self , back in my home. none the worst for ware. I will answer your questions the best I can, as you have them listed in your letter you can use your letter for no.refenc

~~xxxxxx~~

No,1 Old Man Simon

No, 2 there were many attached is some

No.3 as far as I. can remember there was very little ~~cleaned~~ or what is known today as prosse d food. what was in the store was dry food that had to be cooked. The ham in those days was raw dry ham . that had the mold wiped off every week or so. it had to be cooked as well as cleaned before eating it . I dont remember ever trying to eat it . remember that when we had to move out of the house we lost the use of the stove, in those days the trading posts never had any thing to sell as they were long sold out . even the trader was short of many items for his own use,

no 4 from the whopping cough that started inflaming of both eyes it set however in the left eye. as close as I can remember it was three months before I recovered the sight of that eye.

5
No 5 Mostly when we speak of fun it was. mostly some sort of sport. in the winter we would skie over steep river banks . mostly we played what we called foot ball. but it was more of a soccer game . our ball was made of caribow hide. stuffed with caribow hair. this game had no limit of ~~number of~~ number of players who were allowed to play. this game had no limit of time some games went on for six hours . it keep a person in good condation. the gold was about four feet wide . and the ball had to stay on the ground in order to get the point as it went through the gold. some times it would take hours to get the ball through the opposing gold.

No6 she was my wife, Cecilia Olin.

No. 7 Kitty Douglas. I dont remember her eskimo name.

No. 8 some claim that the manager went west with the money. others claim that there was just not enough money raised, that the money raising system was poorly handled, in hopes of getting the money raised .before the race was completed they let the race be run. When we got back to Fbx, was the first that we knew. that there was no money, for the prize money.

no. 9 the two thousand dollars was for the payments that we were to be paid, from the mining ground that we sold to the Fairbanks Smelting and Refining co.

No. 10 Meeting my second wife . was not so hot, I tell you write it if you want she was a nice looking girl. and being that I had no wife I was considered a good prospect. she was young , as well as a lot of other girls. I was having a ball . until this one became pregnant. then the fun was over. and marriage it had to be. for the first ten years no one could ask for a better wife

No. 11 Johny cook

No. 12 Huslia was the first village to be built on good dry ground. as well one of the first villages that built thair houses at least one hundard feet apart, giveibg every one plenty of room .and keeping the place clean. this seam to stop the spread of the T.B. witch was the killer at that time

No 13 Don Stickman . was a indian bush flyer. one of the first, and a verry good one. he was born and raised at Nulato on the lower Youkon river, l knew him from child hood.

No. 14 the bounty was fifty dollors pr. wolf hide

no 15 petter wholechease

No .16 Bobby Vent

No 17 Monkey was my owen dog. he was raised from my owen team, l trained him my self. a number of pepole tryed him out at diffrent times . no one thought he was any good. he was more of less a one man dog.

No. 18 Clarnce charlie

No . 19 l quite raceing , because it took me three months befor . l was back to normal helth. it took to much out of me. l knew if l keep it up sooner or later it would get the best of me,

No, 20 Chistine ,From my first wife, . age TwentySeaven

Dinia from my second wife age twenty two

Vergnia age twenty

Joesphine age twenty

Clyde age seaventeen

stanly Knowen as moon light age twlef

Wayen age Ten this is the one who l thought was in the burning house

Overill age eight was a baby at the time of separteing , she keep him for four years, as her husband was not to good to him she gave him back to me. he is a verry smart boy.

No. 21 Huslia . was always the name of the Huslia river, when we moved Cuttoff we decided to name after the river

No 22 she was Athasbacen

after

No, 1 from letter of sept 27.1949 There was Sixty Pepole ~~whan~~ we all moved from Cutt of Now there is around hundard eighty.

No. 2 her name was annie . His name was Hog river old man

No 3 eskimo lce cream can be made seaverl ways . one of the best it made from , fresh cooked white fish rubed toughterbewteen the palm of the hands until it becomes a mealthen fish or seal oil is mixed in to it . then some low bush cranberries. after thease are all mixed good then your ready to eat. if the seal oil happens to be bad . god bless you. you have had it.

One fall when the youkon river, was freezèing up . when boats could no longer be used. and befor dog teams could be used . the mail men had to pack the first class mail on the ir, back . walking along the side if the river on the shore ice.

as it took the Youkon river a long time to stop. on this fall it snowed shortly after the shore ice froze . makeing it hazordes . as the snow acted as insluation and prevented the ice from freezeing good. some where above what is now knowen as Kockrine , it was getting tword evening . he was walking along at a brisk pace , when all of a suden he fell through the ice. he throw himself foward , to try to spread his weight out . but the ice gave way, sending him into the ice cold water. he had lost his axe . and the curent keep pulling him under, many times he tryed to get himself on top , scRapeing with his hands , thay soon became raw and bleeding, he couldent get the pack off his back. every time he tryed he would go down futher, into the water, now he knew if he was going to get out he was going to have to get his jack knife out . so trying to hold on with .one hand and get the knife out of his pockett was no easy chore. it took some time. he got the knife opend with his mouth by biteing the blade . and useing his hand to pull it open . his hands wfe becomeing numd. and he found it hard to hold the knife. he would chip a hole in the ice .then he would pull him self foward . he keep this up untill he would , almost get him self out then the ice would slowly settel and give way once more and he was back where he sratted from . but he keep it up . untill he was on stronger ice , when he got on strong ice he found he could hardly stand, for he had been in the water so long that .he was numd . with col d. and exusaed. He made his way to the river bank. for he knew that he had to get a fire going befor his clothes became a solid chunk of ice. Soon as he got up on the bank.he gatherd birch bark . then got him self a pile of. dry spruce limbs. then he dug. into his pocket . to pull out his last hope of staying. alive . as he twisted it open .and looked into it .the matches were nice and dry. the safty match carry is siill the outdoor mans best friend.

After carrying mail for some years . he found that he had pertty good luck at playing pocker. l suppose that he must have been pertty good, for he played with the best of them At the end of one of the long sesscions of playing he found him self five thousand dollors to the good. naturely there were some bad lossers . so a trap was set for him. he was soposed to given a lndin a drink of whisky. the lndian was later so drunk he couldent walk a part of a bottle of whisky was found on him, this was the bottle that dad was sopose to have bought from the bar or better knowen at that time as the sloon. a warrent was sworn out for his aresst. the marshal at that time was in fairbanks, witch was a new town then , there was a stag witch drawn with horses. but this stage did not have wheels . insted that had runers and thay use to hule pasangers. of course as the marshal . made his way from . fairbanks to Tanana. witch was fort Gibbon Then. every one wanted to know who it wa s going to be this time. the marshal made no bones about it he was going down to bring Jim Huntington. back for bootleging to the Indians , dad had made many friends in his years along the mail trail. also. some where around Baker creek on the tanana River, there was a road house, there was no gaurd . for the prisnor . as it was considerd almost impossible for any one to escape. the prisnor had to help put the horses away in the barn. as the nights were cold. as soon as ariveingz ariveing the marshal. went it to the warm road house. the the road house owner. went to help put the horses away also. he told the prisnor theres a packwith what you will need. and a axe .and a pair of snow shoes . back of the barn . its up to you . he told dad ill stall as long as i can. so dad made the start of his get away. the marshall didnt miss his prisnor till it was time to eat.supper. then he asked where the hell is the prisnor. no one said a word . well ill go out and get him. so the marshall put on his over coat but the prisnor was no where to be found, darkness had lang closed out the last part of the short day light. many hours ago. with a coal oil lantren he couldent tell or find witch way the prisnor left. old dad at that time was in the prim of life. and trail hardend ,from his many years on the mail trails, so traveling by . night was noting new to him .

He put better then thirty miles bewteen the marshall and him befor day light, the next day when the marshall came back in the road house . he told them hes gust another one who think he can escape . well ill tell you. guys some thing , when he trys to sleep out there with o out food and blankets he be back in two days begging to be taken prisnor agian. so the marshall waited. for the next stag. to come hoping his prisnor would rutren as soon as any person or dog team would show up the marshal would rush out doors asking if thay had seen any one heading toward Fairbanks. but no one had seen the prisnor. for he had cut across the Minto Flats. beating the stage into fairbanks by three days, dad sneaked into Fairbanks durn the night , to an old friends house. he told him the fix he was in. he told dad to rest hear to day, and we will get you out towmrow night so his friend gave dad what he would need for the long walk . to Valdaz. when the time to go came . his friend told dad ill take you as far as i can to night by dog team. but we cant take a canch of . hulling you any further. for some one will fuiger it ou, out as soon as the news of your assacpe becomes news, and that will be when the stag gets hear. so he huled dad about thirty miles or so . witch is good going . of cours thay were , some of the newly made Valdaz trail. as thay were parting , he told his friend . it will proubly take me some time to get to Valdaz . for l wont be fallowing the trail. l cant take a canch of being seen. he said when l get across the divid ill follow the copper River Vally. ~~awz~~ a week or more later he found him self some where in the head water s of the copper vally. If he knew he said in later years , what was ahead of him in that vally , he would have took the canch of tralveing some where near the trail. but there were many cheecker. traper in the country as well as prospectors that geting From Fairbanks To Valdaz with out being seen was almost impossible. for the Marshalls offices still did not know witch way the prishor went , he could have gone back down thr tanana river or he could have cut across to the upper youkon river , and out by way of dawson . and that was the most likly way for him to go. as he started down the vally he found thee snow loseand deep. this made the going slow. but he had no choic now there was no truning back. the deep snow made camping out verry tough although the weather was a lot warmer the it was in the intiory. for his fire would sink so far it to the snow that it lose all its heat . and become. noting but a smoke pot or it would go out . so he sleep verry poor. on his fourth day he stumbled on to a prospecters cabbin befor he had a canchto get back out of there. the dogs spotted him and let thair famous howl as thay do when thay havent seen strangers for months. the old psospector came out rubing his eyes , he couldnt belive his eyes, he told dad l am sure glad to see you. l have been in this ~~gm~~ god forsaken country for almost a year and your the first person that l have seen. of course he wanted to know what ~~what~~ dad was doing there. he told him he was scouting f for a possible trail to the head of the tanana vally. that seam to satsfi the old prospecto: all the old fellow had was beans not a darn thing to go with it. he said well son what l got is yours but it aint much. but eat to your harts content. and that dad did. that night as thay talked of what happend in the past year. the old prospector. said well son l am ready to get out of this part of the country, so l think ill hitch up my dogs and fallow you and then dhe dogs can hull your pack for you . dad couldnt say no. although he wanted to. for he knew it would slow him down. for when is as deep as it was there its, pertty tough for dogs to keep up with a man on snow shoes, on the verry first day . thay moved down on the ri ver at a good pace. as the river had been overflod. some time befor and was frozen, yhay ware about hafe way down the river on the second day, when thay heard a terrible rumbleing sound, not far ahead of them . the old man yelled to dad. to get off of the rive r. as thay moved up on the bank into the deep snow . thay left the dogs there and walked acrosss to the next bend. what thay seen there was some thing verry few pepole .have ever seen. the water had had been under such prussure that it busted ou t a chunk of ice four feet in dimianter ~~no~~ no one knows how thick. the water shooting up ih the air six feet, and flowing down river on top of the ice. evedantly the river had frozen to the bottom below that point, or had gotton blocked some other way .witch caused this to happen. its not uncomen in Alaska for small rivers to freeze to thair bottoms. so it ment one thingthey would have to keep off of the river. some seaverl days later

Tired hungry . the dogs hadent eaten for two days , and all in from wallowing in the deep snow. standing on a river bluff thay could see the river , looking down stream that the .river ice had snow in it whitch ment that the big overflow hadent reached that fa far yet, and that would mean easyer going, thay got to the river as fast as that could . and what a god send that was, thay dident dear stop . as there was only four inchs of snow on the ice . the dogs moved ri right along thay dident have to wait for them any longer. thay hadent gone to far proubly two or three miles . when thay seen a Indian woman , walking on the river , she was looking at her rabbit snars. and was packing three rabbits in her hands. when she seen dad and the old man . comeing down the river, she let out a screem . drpoed the rabbits and truned around . she ran for all she was worth at the same time the dogs heard her and smelt the rabbits , thay tore on down the river when thay got to the rabbits there was , all you could see was hair flying. dad ran after them . but he was to late to save any of the rabbits. thay knew that thay were not far from . some one now. about two miles futher on thay came to the native camp. there were three fainlys there . there was boiled rabbit . as well as hafe rotten samon. to eat , thay dident care if it was all rotten , thay were to hungry to care . so thay both dug in . the Indians dident know but verry little english if any. none of them could understand each other. thay were both welcome . as far as thay could tell. so thay both sleep on the ~~dzizzfiooz~~ spruce bough floor that night. the next morning . a young buck . got up . he keep pointing to him self. and mumbleing some lingo. thay both of them dident under stand. it was not until thay were ready to go that thay found that he was going to show them the way. and that he did. thay reached Valdaz. the next day, dad keep seeing smoke but only the roofs of some houses. there were tunnles going into the door ways . he went it to a store bought the indian some tabaco . a few grocerys, . he wasa plased indian. dad found that there was a boat leaveing for seattle. the next day, so he got passage on that boat. from there he went to Blufo new York. where his. mother lived, he bought her a nice home. he stayed there for one year. then he gust had to head north agian. at that time there was some thing in the law that stated that if you dident bring your prisnor to trial withen two years that he was a free person . well dad happen to be a pasanger on the same steam boat that . the marshall from who he escaped two years befor. dad always said that he was sure a mad marshall . when he seen dad on that baot.

please for give my spelling. I have no one to help me this time,
I do hope you dont find it boreing.

Huslia Alaska
December 14 1965

99746

Mr Lawernee Elliott
Babylon New York N.Y,
Sir

I have been verry lasey as not to have witten you befor this. I havent trapped this winter as there is verry little fur bearing animals to trap , du to the high water of the past two years . how ever I will trap beaver after january, it looks like we will have a good spring for muskrats . as we are geting a lot of early snows. this is the only thing that helps keep the muskrats from freezing .

we havent had a cold spell so far . hew vere we are due for one. well I have four buftfull black bear skins. all are big full prim skins. I havent dryed any of them so far. there is a big demand for such skins. now on the market. I am going to ship thease skins to Jones Bros, of Seattle Wash . you can write them and have them give you a price of what thay will charge you to make one of them into a rug for you. thay have a verry good name. and I think thay have a good price also. there will be a ~~freight~~ air ffeight charge also it wont be cheep.

I will have one of them set aside for you until .thay hear from you. the way mail goes out of hear . thay wont get to seattle for some time. but thay will get there some time my twäläf year ond boy got one of them. with a twenty two. rifel.

if the price is to high for you .then I will have them buy the skin. as the ffeight charges will be to high to return it. it will be the cheepest. way you will ever geta .bear rug . and thease skins have verry good fur, thay are in thair best,

have been out with my Mustang sno travler made by Poloris . ist a wounderful michine it makes winter a lot of fun, I see moose by the dozen almost every day, I am trying to learn to snar timber wolfs, but havent got one so far, I will keep on trying.

yours truly Jim Huntington

August 29, 1966

Huslid slothe
 May 18 1966

Mr. Elliott

I Received a letter concerning the bear skins, well I'll tell you the Jones Bros. one suppose to be a good out fit to have your work done by. but they sure gave us a screwing on our bear skins they gave us 10⁰⁰ a skin for them when we could have gotten \$35⁰⁰ for them at anchorage with out sending them out and the cost of sending them out we would have been in the hole to them, if it hadnt been for you paying the freight. So thank you for saving us that much. and hope you get a good Reg.

if you think there will be a good couch of setting the script published I will come up with more story about the change of life concerning the mechanical leg at sno 90.

I have Reg. your condensed version of the script. The only suggestion we to cut the name Douglas out

Mr Larry Elliott

Ba

M-

and put the name Henry in as that
was his name. and there are
many Douglas's living in that era.

change the reactions of Eddie
Gallhorn and Clarence Chorbil
as it was, as both are being
Eddie Gallhorn, was the man
I caught at the firmish.
I had put Clarence Chorbil out
on the trial.

only do this if you think
it's important enough.

I give you the Right to get Reddin
Digest go ahead and publish the
script as is, I need

James Huntington

Huslia Alaska

August 29 1966

February 21 1967

Mr Larry Elliott

Babylon New York N.Y.

Mr Elliott

Thought I would write you a letter to see if your back from .your trip around the world. I was intertead in when do you think you would be in Alaska. it was good to see that the condesen version . of the book went over good. I have recived many letters from all over the u.s.a. thers a great interst in the forth comeing of the book. from all lndactions it will be a good seller. one of the best. I will try to put every thing iuto geting it sold up hear in Alaska. I feelthat Alaska will sell ten thousand or better. as this is the comeing of the Alaska centnial. and the book is perface for the acssion. I have sent all the information that I get to Toni Strassman . to be foward to Crown. I have been Asked to appear ~~per~~ on television and raido. At Anchorage as well as Fairbank L will sell the two hundard I orderd right at Gelena. I have almost a hundard ^{XX} that pepole haved. orderd already from many difrent places. the two hundard ~~ay~~ not be enough. but this is new to me so I dont know gust what I will be able to sell. if thay get this book out befor christmass. that will make a lot of difrence in the sale for the christmass sales. Asspicley up hear in Alaska. the big supprise for me is that I didnt expectthe book to go verry good up hear. the digest version realy went over. all news stands in the iinterio were about all sold out. it would be good to know. what ruslets the digest thought of the aygest sales . although it would be hard for them to tell. I liked the book much better my self. I was going to work on another story I have most of it writen in its first . script it wont be much mostly about trapping beave by sno travler. well let me know how things are with you. . when you get time.

thanks JIM Huntington

Well Larry though is enough. write us when you get to Alaska . let us know if you have any good advertising material. I will have to let up some place where the book will have a good out lot in Fairbanks . if old Adler dont get will be but. Friend JIM

Huslia Alaska
February 21 1967

Mr Larry Elliot
P.O. Box 322
Babylen L.I. New York

HUSLIA ALASKA
FEB 22 1967

Mr Elliott

Received your letter . about your trip to Alaska. I am making my ~~trip~~ trip to Anchorage tomorrow so I don't think I will see you.

The book cache in Anchorage has bought another three thousand of my books . so I will autograph for them Saturday the 24th. This will be my second trip to Anchorage for the book . I made a video tape in November. it went to all of the midnight sun broadcasting co. stations here in Alaska.

Shortly after that there were no more books .to sell but many people enjoyed the tape. I will be making . another tape for crewen for us in the outer forty eight. if they think its good ~~enough~~ enough for tv out there. I am in hopes of doing the tape with Al Bramstead. say Larry if you cant use the stories I sent you last spring . I would like you to return them . the one on the snow machine I thought was pretty good. as theres so much interest in the snow machines these days.

I might do some of it over and sell it to some outdoor magazine. I am slowly working on another book .it will be about the superstitions of the north. what I have done is pretty good if I can keep it up. its mostly a true story of one of the past big medicine men of the north.

I don't know how long I will be in Anchorage but it will depend on ~~the~~ what the doctors find ; they believe at this time that I have the start of a cancer in my nose. so they are going to take it out. we will find out for sure then what will be. they sure missed a bet on the first printing of the book printing only five thousand. it was less than thirty days from the day of release to the day of no more books.

I was in Anchorage when there was the last five hundred , bought that was available I went to ~~the~~ Fairbanks for an autograph party. it was a sorry affair hundreds of people came in for books only to find that there was no books to have. I had written all book stores in Alaska warning them that this was going to be the book that Alaska had never seen / one that they should not start with no less than five hundred. and when you travel up here north of New York . visit the book stores and tell them that this is going to be Alaska's biggest seller in 1967. you wont be wrong. Alaska going to have a big summer . and we are going to make all we can of it. I know Alaska will sell ten thousand of the books in the year of 67 these who don't believe me will see.

One other thing I will tell you . this is the first book that Indians and Eskimos buy you never see them buy books. so it should go good in Canada etc

Well Larry Enough is enough. write me when you get to Alaska . let me know if you have any good advertising material. I will have to set up some place where the book will have a good out let in Fairbanks . if old Adler don't get off his butt.
Friend JIM

P H S Hasbital

HUSLIA ALASKA
MAY 22 1967

MR LARRY ELLIOTT

DEAR LARRY

I JUST GOT HOME. FROM THE HOSPITAL. FEELING MUCH BETTER BUT FAR FROM WELL I AM SOPOSE TO TAKE IT EASY FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS. BTU I WILL KEEP MY EYES OPEN FOR AN EASY JOB, I LOOKED AT THE CENTINAL JOBS BUT ALL THE GOOD JOBS WERE TAKEN BY , PEPOLE FROM THE OUTER FORTY EIGHT. MOSTLY POLITICAL FAVORED DEPENDENTS.

IT IS A SHAME THAT THIS ALASKA PROCGET HAD TO BE WAY LAYED. THE SEAMEN PEPOLE L MEET DIDENT KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT ALASKA. ONLY WHAT THAY SEEN FLYING IN FROM THE OUTER FORTY EIGHT. THAY TOLD ME THAT .THERE WERE SEVENTY JOB OPENINGS AND THAY HAD ONE THOUSAND APPLICANTS. AND L COULD MAKE APPLACATION FOR A JOB AND THATL I WOULD BE PUT IN LINE . AND I MIGHT GET ONE OF THOSE EIGHTY DOLLOR WEEK JOBS. BY THE TIME YOU PAY RENT AND FEED YOUR SELF YOU WOULD BE IN THE HOLE FIFTY DOLLORS OR MORE.

THE FERRY DID TAKE FIFTY. BOOKS , AS A STARTER. SO WE WILL SEE HOW THAT WORKS. THE FAIRBANKS NEWS AGENCY. HAS SET UP IN FARIBANKS, AND ARE WERRHOUSEING THE BOOK. AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER BOOKS . I TRYED TO CONTACT THEM BUT WAS UN. SUSFULL. HOW EVER I DO BELIVE IT PARTLY OWEND BY THE ANCHORAGE NEWS AGENCY AND IF IT IS THAY WILL DO A GOOD JOB.

I SEEN THE BOOK IN ALL OF THE LARGER GROCERY STORES. THERE WILL BE TWO PLACES AT THE SITE THAT WILL BE HANDLEING . ALASKA BOOKS. I WAS NOT ABLE TO PIN THEM DOWN. BUT ONE ONF THEM SAID THAT THAY WOULD DEFFINTLEY HANDLE IT. I COULDENT GET A POSSION AT NEITHER PLACE. THAT WOULD GIVE ME AN AN ADEVANTAGE. I AM WONDERING IF THE JAPENISE OUT FIT WOULD PAY MY WAY TO JAPAN . FOR ADEVERTISING, POREPOSSES. SUCH AS HAVEINF ME AUTHGRAPH . BOOKS. JUST A TOUGHT. LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER HEARD OF THIS DONE. BE A GOOD TRIP.

WELL SO MUCH FOR NOW. I WILL BE LOOKING AROUND FOR SOME PICTURES SOON AND WILL SEND THEM TO YOU.

THANKS JIM

P.H.S. Hospital
anchorage Alaska
4 Feb 67

Hi Larry

Received your letter of 21.67. was
interesting hope they find Room on
the ferry. I Received a application
from A 67 Fairbank. but the guy
John Sackett who is in the House
of Reps. and is handling the jobs
for the indians. well he sent me
the application but I dont expect
I get on first base there. because
he hates me on account of his mother
I havent wrote Crown as of yet if
I could sell books in Alaska or not.
but Ill wait until I find out for
sure if I am going to get a decent
job in the 67 site.
for if I get a job where I cant
sell the Book it wont be worth
my time as I have to pay so much
for Rent & Board.

well both me and my wife are still
in the hospital.

I will be here for another 2 weeks,
and she will be here for 3 months,
our cook is still selling steady heat
did you see the side tape and did
they have a chance to show it
I haven't heard from Tom at all.

I will let you know how things go
with me in the next couple of
weeks.

Thony

Jim

November 7, 1964

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska

Dear Mr. Huntington:

The Reader's Digest, through Toni Strasman, has sent me your manuscript biography and asked me to look into the possibilities of working with you to produce a Digest version of your very intriguing story. Having covered Alaska for the Digest for some years, I greatly look forward to it and feel confident that we can turn out a first-rate piece.

I plan to be in Alaska some time in January and wonder if this would be a convenient time for us to get together. It would certainly be possible for me to come to Huslia, if that is agreeable with you.

Sincerely yours,

December 5, 1964

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska

Dear Mr. Huntington:

Thanks for your kind letter of November 24th. I would be very happy to come to Huslia to see you if that is more convenient.

I believe I will be arriving in Fairbanks around January 20th. Is there some way I can contact you from there to let you know exactly when I will be flying into Huslia?

I certainly hope you are fully recovered from your experience with that wolf pack!

With good wishes for a happy holiday season, and looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

December 19, 1964

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska

Dear Mr. Huntington:

I'm afraid it has become necessary for me to change my plans about a trip to Alaska next month. A book that is taking longer to finish than I had counted on will keep here until May and, since one of the main reasons for my coming to Alaska in January was to see you, I sincerely hope that this delay poses no serious inconvenience for you.

I imagine I will be arriving in Fairbanks around the end of May or early June, and since I'd be staying in Alaska for four or five weeks, I can adjust my schedule to fly out to Huslia at any time in that period that suits you best.

Please forgive me for what must be a disappointment to you, and let me repeat my enthusiasm -- and the Reader's Digest's -- for your story. Meanwhile, let's stay in touch. I greatly look forward to my visit to Huslia.

With every good wish for a happy holiday and a fulfilling new year.

Cordially,

February 6, 1965

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Mr. Huntington:

It was good to hear from you, and I am glad that the postponement of my trip has not complicated things for you.

Please do not be too concerned with the new version of the first chapter of your story just told to you. I know exactly what you mean when you say that there are always some people who hate to see anyone else get ahead. But the thing is that your story is so good and so dramatic that I don't believe anything any outsider can say about it will seriously harm its possibilities for the Reader's Digest. If you think it is necessary, we can change the part of the first chapter concerning your mother. Or maybe you will decide that what you have written in the first place is really the truth. Either way, I am sure that when we get together we can work it out with not too much trouble. Incidentally, is it possible for you to send me this second version?

Please take care of yourselves -- no more fights with wolves or bears, if you can help it -- and I greatly look forward to seeing you early this summer. Drop me a line from time to time to let me know where you are and what you are doing, and I will do the same.

With all good wishes.

Cordially,

April 19, 1965

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim Huntington:

It was good to hear from you as the time for our meeting draws near. If your job at Galena works out, I am sure we can get together there without too much trouble.

According to my present schedule I will leave here around July 1st and should be in Anchorage by around July 20th. In Alaska you can always reach me through Herb Hilscher, Box 846, Anchorage. Where can I leave word for you should you be out in the bush when I arrive?

Congratulations on your election to the executive board of the Episcopal church, and best of luck until we get together.

Cordially,

cc: Toni Strassman

June 22, 1965

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim Huntington:

My plans for this summer's Alaska trip are now firmed up. I will be leaving here in two weeks, arriving in Anchorage on July 22nd.

Although I will be staying about a month and can see you anyshere at your convenience, I'd like to do it as soon as possible after my arrival. But I leave that up to you.

I will be staying in Peter Bading's house, and you can reach me c/o him, box 6222 annex, Anchorage; or c/o Herb Hilscher, box 846, Anchorage. If necessary, you can reach me at this address until July 3rd.

I look forward to seeing you.

Cordially,

LE/ldt

September 20, 1965

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I have been back about a week now and have had a chance to discuss your story with the Reader's Digest Editors and Toni Strassman. Everybody, especially me, is very enthusiastic about its possibilities and I have already gotten to work on it as my first order of business. With good luck I should be finished by the end of the year.

Going over the second manuscript, I find several questions which need answering. It would be very helpful to me if you could find time in the next week or so to send the answers to me, with as much detail as you are able to manage.

No. 1, page 12: What is the name of the native who wouldn't eat bacon and lived to be 90?

No. 2, page 13. You mention other stories of you Dad's mail-hauling days. Can you give me any?

No. 3, page 20 & 21. Why couldn't you and Sidney and the baby eat the ham that you fed to the dogs? Wasn't there anything in the store besides candy that you could eat?

No. 4, page 30. How did you lose the sight of your left eye? When did you recover it?

No. 5, page 67. You write that there was no one to have fun with. What did you usually do for fun at this time?

No. 6, page 96. What was the name of the girl (I presume this was your first wife)?

No. 7, page 118. What was the name of the Eskimo girl?

No. 8, page 128. Can you tell me specifically why you weren't paid for that race? Where was the money supposed to have come from? Weren't the other mushers angry?

No. 9, page 129: What do you mean when you write, "We had three more years to be paid in, \$2000 a year"?

No. 10, page 130: Can you give me any more details about meeting your second wife?

No. 11, page 134: What was the name of your "long time" friend?

No. 12, page 145: Can you be a little more specific about what the doctors and the army found with regard to Huslia's good health? What I mean is, what were the typical diseases of other willages that Huslia was free of?

No. 13, page 148: What was the pilots name and how did you meet him?

No. 14, page 148: Was there a bounty on wolves? How much?

No. 15, page 155: What was the name of your helper in Fairbanks?

No. 16, page 156: What was the name of the friend that you beat?

No. 17, page 156: Can you tell me some more about Monkey? Was he yours or borrowed?

No. 18, page 157: What was the name of "young Indian"?

No. 19, page 158: When you quit racing was it because of your age or were you actually in bad health?

No. 20, page 159: Can you list the names and ages of your children for me and especially the name of the boy who you thought was in the burning house?

No. 21: Does Huslia mean anything in English? Was it always there or did you name it when you moved down from Cutoff?

No. 22: What Indian tribe did your mother belong to?

I know this seems like an awful lot, Jim, but it is important and I'd be most appreciative if you could send it along.

I hope you have had a good summer and I am only sorry that I did not get to ride all the way down the Yukon with you. Maybe next year. It was a real pleasure to meet you -- my children still talk about you. I hope you have not forgotten that bear skin. If you can figure out a way to ship it to me tanned, I will pay all the costs plus your time and trouble.

Incidentally, the Digest is sending me a check for transmittal to you covering your telephone and taxi expenses when we got

September 27, 1965

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

Here is the Reader's Digest's check for \$25. I hope this covers your telephone and taxi cab expenses when we got together last month.

I have a few more questions:

1. When did you move from Cutoff to Huslia? About how many people were there in Huslia in the beginning? How many are there now?
2. What was your mother's name? What was her father's name?
3. You mention Eskimo ice cream. What is that made of?

I know these questions are making extra work for you. But they are important to the story and I hope you will find time to answer them soon.

The writing is going pretty well so far.

Good luck,

LE/ldt
Enc.

October 19, 1965

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

Thanks very much for the complete and detailed answers to my questions. I am sure they will be helpful. It may be that I will need help with a few more as time goes by, but so far the writing is going smoothly.

I thought you would like to have a copy of one of the pictures I took.

Take care of yourself and let's stay in touch.

Sincerely,

LE/ldt
Enc.

January 10, 1966

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

Thanks for your letter which just arrived today. I certainly appreciate your remembering my request for the bear skin and will write to Jonas Bros. as you suggested. It would be nice to think that I'd get the skin from the bear that your boy shot with a .22.

The story is going wonderfully well. I am almost half finished and think that another couple of months of hard work will see it through. Toni Strassman is staying in close touch -- I had a note from her last week.

Look out for those timber wolves and stay well.

;Your friend,

LE/ldt

April 25, 1966

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

The book has been finished for some weeks now and I have been hoping to have final word from the Reader's Digest before writing to you. I know they like it, but the editors have been tied up with another manuscript and have not yet finished "cutting" the full version I sent them to Digest length. It shouldn't be much longer.

Meanwhile I have sent a copy of the manuscript to Toni Strassman -- she liked it a lot -- and she will probably be in touch with you soon. After the Digest uses the condensed version, we are hopeful of finding a publisher to print the full story and that is what Toni Strassman and my agent are busy working on.

They tell me that for the full story they will need another page or so about what you have been doing since 1963. I think I have most of that, but anything you can add about your work and your family would be helpful. Also, I'll need a little about your wife -- where you met her, what she's like and so on -- and some more specific reason about why your second wife left. Did she just want to see the outside world? Was she tired of life in Huslia? Any reason that suits you would work for the book.

As you may know, I have been in touch with Jonas Brothers and arranged to buy one of your bearskins. It should be along any day. I also told them I would pay for all the costs you incurred shipping the other skins to them from Alaska, so don't let them charge you for that.

As soon as I finish about 101 stories I'm now working on, I'm going on a trip around the world for the Digest. When that's over, I'll be coming up to Alaska, probably in November. Maybe we could get together -- I'd like that.

My kids still talk about you -- you were absolutely the favorite person they met on the entire trip -- and my wife and I think of you often. Please let us hear from you soon.

As ever,

April 28, 1966

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

One thing I forgot to mention in my letter of the 26th -- and it's important now that we're getting down to the wire -- was confirmation of our talks in Fairbanks last summer about the financial split.

As I explained, the Reader's Digest will be paying you a fee for the article version in the magazine -- assuming, of course, they accept it, which I still haven't heard. As for the book, the 50-50 split we discussed is still fine with me, ~~_____~~.

I will let you know as soon as I heard anything. Meanwhile, take care of yourself and I hope to see you in November.

All best,



Lawrence Elliott

CC: Toni Strassman
Julian Mach

May 9, 1966

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I am sending the "cut" version, or condensation, that the Reader's Digest plans to use directly to you at Toni Strassman's suggestion. Since the story is tentatively scheduled for the August issue, the Digest would like to have a note from you saying that it is okay as far as you are concerned. They will need this just as soon as you can get it back to me.

If you do have any corrections or important changes to suggest, just write them alongside the page and line number. I have the same copy as the enclosed and can easily fix it.

Toni Strassman and I have been in close touch right along, and she wanted me to point out to you that this copy is only the Reader's Digest version. The full manuscript, about three times as long, is now being read by a publisher for a possible hard cover book, and we should be having word about that shortly.

Meanwhile, I think the money from the Digest ought to be coming through this week or next. I know you'll hear from Toni directly about that.

I hope you feel that I've done a good job with the story of your life. It was fascinating to write about.

All the best,

cc: Toni Strassman

June 6, 1966

Dear Jim:

Thanks for your two good letters, and for the enclosed stories which came today. I will read them carefully in the next day or two and write to you about them. I don't know if I will have time to work on them for quite a while. I am leaving on June 20th for a trip around the world for Reader's Digest and won't be back until the fall. Maybe we could talk about the stories more when I get to Alaska in November. Anyway, I'll write you more about them.

Jim, Toni Strassman is having a hard time reaching you. She has quite a bit of money to send you but is afraid that you might have left Huslia. I am sending two copies of this letter to you -- one to Huslia, one to Galena. As soon as you get it, please write immediately to Toni or me so that we know where we can reach you by mail. Besides the checks she has for you, she will have to send you a contract for the book so you can sign it. Until you sign it, the publisher won't give us the advance money due on the book. So let one of us hear right away as to where you are, how long you'll be there and the best place to write to you.

Jonas Brothers certainly didn't do you any favors, giving you \$10 each for the bear skins! They charged me \$112, including the mailing, but I haven't seen the skin yet. I hope they did a nice job.

Hoping to hear from you very soon.

Best regards,

September 14, 1966

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I am just back from my long trip and I wanted to thank you for your nice letter of August 29th, and to send you these two letters from your fans.

I am glad that you liked the condensed version of the book and that it has attracted so much attention in Alaska. I too thought the Digest did a nice job and I think Crown will do at least as well with the book. Any radio or TV appearances that you can arrange in Alaska are sure to help the sale so go to it and good luck. The last I heard Crown still planned to have the book out this month but I haven't yet seen a copy.

I expect to be in Alaska in March and I certainly hope we can get together to talk about the book and maybe to discuss some of your other story ideas. In the meantime I will keep you informed about any new developments on the book.

All the best,

LE/ldt

P. S. The bear rug came while I was away and it is a beauty. I hope you got a good price for the rest of them.

December 23, 1966

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I just saw the terrific story about ON THE EDGE OF NOWHERE in the December 9th issue of Tundra Times, as well as the ad by Adler's bookstore. I'm delighted to know that the book is going so well up there -- it's doing nicely in the South 48 too, I hear.

One small thing. I'd really appreciate it if in future stories and ads you see that my name is mentioned too. I really don't care how you put it -- that I helped, or that the story is "as told to," but I think you can understand that a writer's reputation depends on people seeing his name. As you know, the contract specifies that both of us get equal prominence in all advertising. And anyway, having written stories about Alaska for nearly ten year, it might be that I could sell a few books to people who are familiar with my earlier stories.

I still expect to be in Alaska in March and look forward to our getting together. We owe each other a small celebration, and maybe we can line up a couple of radio or TV shows together.

May this be the merriest of Christmases for all the Huntingtons, and may the coming year be your best ever.

As always,

February 6, 1967

Mr. James Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

Here is a letter addressed to you that has just reached me.

I guess you heard the book is in a second printing, so can't be doing too badly. Now if only the movies would buy it.

I hope to be in Anchorage around the middle of March, maybe the 15th. I hope we can get together -- I think we deserve a celebration on the Reader's Digest. If you can't get down to Anchorage I'm pretty sure I'll be in Fairbanks sometime. Write and let me know your plans if you have time. Or you can leave word at the Captain Cook hotel.

Looking forward to seeing you.

All best,

LE/ldt

March 2, 1967

Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I am sorry I won't be seeing you in Anchorage. Is there any chance we can get together in Fairbanks?

I hope the problem with your nose turned out to be a simple one and that you are fully mended.

Of course I am delighted by your news of the book's reception in Alaska. You have certainly been energetic in promoting it and I know you will keep up the good work. I feel as badly as you do about how Crown has dragged its feet in getting copies of the book up to you. But it's a funny thing about publishers: they all seem to do business in their sleep. As you may know, the book is now in a second printing and I would surely hope that the Alaskan book stores now have all they need. Anyway, I will write to Crown today and try to goose them into some action.

I will bring your other stories to Alaska with me in the hopes we can get together and talk about them. If not, I'll mail them to you in Huslia from Anchorage.

Take care of yourself.

All best,

LE/ldt

April 21, 1967

Dear Jim:

I've just had a reply to my letter to Governor Hickel. He writes:

"I have written to Mr. Dennis Cook of the Alaska Centennial Commission regarding Jim Huntington. I expect I will hear from him shortly.

"As to your second point, I have turned the matter of selling On The Edge of Nowhere aboard the ferries to our Marine Transportation Division. I am confident something will be worked out."

So it all looks pretty good and the important thing is for you to get back in Al physical shape so you can take advantage of whatever good opportunities come along. If the Governor or Mr. Cook gets in touch with me about the Fairbanks job I will send the word to you as quickly as I can, and if you hear anything please let me know.

I am wondering if you are out of the hospital and how you and your wife are feeling. Drop me a note when you get a chance. Meanwhile, I have had a chance to do a little work on your snowmobile story and it is coming along well.

All good wishes.

As ever,

May 15, 1967

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia, Alaska
99746

Dear Jim:

Some good news on the book. Strassman and Bach have sold Norwegian and Japanese rights. The guarantee won't make us rich -- \$350 in one case, \$300 in the other, also to be split with the publisher. But as long as it keeps moving that's good. I'm sure you'll be hearing in detail from either Strassman or Bach.

How are you feeling and how did the job at A67 work out? I'm working -- slowly -- on the snomobile story. Let me hear from you.

All best,

LE/ldt

June 8, 1967

Mr. Jim Huntington
Huslia
Alaska 99746

Dear Jim:

I am certainly glad to hear you are back home and feeling better and hope your wife is coming along too.

I've just heard that *On The Edge Of Nowhere* was named best book of the year by the Alaska Press Club. Did you get any kind of an award? If you could manage it, some posters announcing that the book took first prize ought to help sales in book stores, at A67 and on the ferries. Herb Hilscher (Captain Cook Hotel) can help you have them made up and Crown will bear the expense.

Too bad you weren't able to land one of those good jobs at A67, but as you say, politics is politics. Getting the books on the ferries is a good start, though, and I'm sure you will take advantage of every sales possibility. I doubt if there is much chance of the Japanese paying your way over there to promote the book: such a large expenditure would scare off nearly any publisher.

I'm leaving for Europe on June 27th but any mail to this address will be forwarded. Meanwhile, I hope to finish working on your snow-go story and have it in Toni Strassman's hands before I go. You might send any pictures directly to her.

All best,

LE/ldt