

120 East 19 St., New York City,

August 20, 1921

*Journal*

Mrs. Elizabeth Henry Clearwaters,  
Yakima, Washington.

My dear Mrs. Clearwaters:

I have your letter of August 10. It is the first reliable word that I have had about Anna Henry's death. It was an accident, was it not? I should like to be able to say that authoritatively as there has been a rumor here that it was suicide, and I should like to be able to say from you that this was not so.

As to advice about the work which you have in hand, I am afraid I can be of very little use to you. In the first place, I do not myself know anything about the movie world. I think that if you could get hold of half a dozen or more numbers of a good moving picture magazine - I believe there are at least three or four - and study them you would get some real help from people who are in the business. You would also find there, I feel sure, either advertisements of books or articles on the preparation of the scenario. Studying the moving picture itself, as you see it in Yakima, is an excellent guide.

As to what the picture companies want, I rather think no man knows that. They want whatever promises to be a good movie. If you have an idea in which you have faith, the soundest thing you can do is to develop it as far as you can, and then get hold of an agent handling such material and get his judgment on it. You will find the addresses of agents in the moving picture magazines.

As for the trapper's story, the thing for you to do is to develop it in the most interesting way that you can, and then submit it to the magazines. Make it a good and convincing story, well written, a story that has a start and a logical finish. Work on it until you have it as good as you possibly can, and then submit it. No editor in the world could tell you whether or not he wanted it until he had read what you had made of it.

If you are really serious in wanting to write either moving picture scenarios or fiction, there is one way to do it, and that is, to begin, do the best you can, learn by your mistakes, study, keep it up. It is a serious business. If you are to get results, you must go at it as anybody does at any other kind of profession or business. This is the best advice that I know how to give you.