Irene Bewley
Southern Mountains
Character Sketches
Greeneville, Tennessee

June 10,1937

Miss Ida M.Tarbell
New York,N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You may or may not,remember the meeting with me in Chautauqua at Washington Courthouse Ohio in-well,let's see it must have been almost twenty years ago.Later you were good enough to allow me to present Zona Gale's one-act play "Neighbors" in your apartment in New York,after which you gave me a word of commendation.

The enclosures have to do with my "main line"--the writing and presenting mountain monologues.These enclosures are sent with the hope that they announce,indirectly that a certain standard is ~~kxxin~~ maintained by me in my professional work;that any matter which I might handle would be treated with the same comron-sense and dignity which I have tried to use in my profession.

To the object of this letter:-I ~~wish~~ to enter the field of radio: wish to offer not only a mountain series founded on material used for my monologues for platform,but also another,and an entirely different ~~series~~-a compiled affair,which I shall call"Superior Spinsters".

I hold that unmarried women have achieved in every line;that the ugly and now obsolete term"Old Maid",the less offensive,but often mis-applied term"Spinster" are repudiated by the the activities of the many distinguished women who are unmarried;women who are doing such constructive things in the world.

For the radio I wish to interview before the microphone various women who are distiunguished because of such activities.The series willconsist of thirteen,perhaps twenty -six,episodes of fifteen minutes each.Each episode will be made up of an interview with some one person on thelist.If I follow my tentative plan to make the episodes fifteen minutesin length,it willmean that the interview,exclusive of announcements and theme-song,will occupy ten or twelve minutes.

The plan would be for me to ask a series of questions ,to be replied to of course by the person who is being interviewed,making the affair informal-sort of a fireside chat,as it were.These questions would bringout certain points about the life and the work of the woman who is at the microphone with me.It goes without saying that the "interviewee" would have the privilege of "passing"

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on all material to be used in the interview.Suppose,for instance, you consent to being interviewed.I would take the material which I have at hand about you and your work,"block" out an interview which,in my opinion,wouldappeal to the general radio public.This material would then be submitted to you for you to eliminate,substitute as you see fit.Naturally ,in any interview of this kind, mention of your varivos books would hold a large place."Human interest" incidents are always good.I am wondering if the first meeting I had with with you would be usable.You were so kind to a wide-eyed country girl excited at her first contact with a flesh-and-blood writer.You took me to your room at the hotel in the evening. I know that lemonade y u had served was the most stimulating I ever had! In the afternoon I had discovered that the swollen ankle--result of a sprain--would prevent my wearing fancy pump for my program.I was being forced to wear a large walking shoe.You offered to loan your white ones.My heart missed four beats!The privilege! Just then the platform manager appeared,said the high board in front of footghtlights would hide walking shoes.I can truthfully say that after all these years I am angry with that manager.But for him I would have known how it felt to be in your shoes!The foregoing may not be usable.If used I'd need to give less of my re-action(I might change it as if I were not the recipient of your kindness)and/more revelatory as to your heart.

You probably know that all such radio series--or most of them--are financed by some firm using this means of adverising.A firm would pay for the time on the air,which is very expensive,and pay me for my idea and for the time in gathering and arranging material and for presenting.It would seem that good firms would be attracted by such an idea.You may "pass" on the advertiser if you so desire .

My object in planning such a series is to earn the money which such a firm would pay me .I do not see that you would benefit by such an interview unless you have written a new book.If so and if it were highlighted",reference to the book on a radio network should serve as excellent publicity in pushing sales.If you are especially interested in any public movement,any charity,that of course could be mentioned.Frankly I make bold to ask you to do this as a favor because I need the money I would earn from such a series,if sold.Getting your consent would help in approaching other people on my list whom I have not met.Then too I cannot offer the idea for sale until I have first obtained the consent of the variuos people to be interviewed.The names will help sell the

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idea to a prospective advertiser or sponsor.

As for the actual interview,it could be arranged so that each person could go to the radio station nearest her home--in your case it would mean a New York studio.It may be that a n arrangement by telephone can made which would allow theinterview in your home andthus make it unnecessary for you to bother to go to a studio.Of this I am not sure at this writing.To reiterate in this rambling letter,I hope I have made it clear that a fifteen-minute episode series,the kind Ihave tentatively planned, would mean that you wouldneed to give only about ten or twelve minutes one time.If a half-hour episode series is planned,it wouldmean about eighteen or twenty minutes, for one time only. You probably know all about radio and know that such an interview would be carefully typed into a script and if so desired could be rehearsed beforehand.

The enclosed partial list was made some years ago when a newspaper syndicate was interested in the idea. I had meant at that time to used the names of distinguished women both living and dead.Some on this list may have died or married.Ishall within two days check with Who's Who,want this sent off before Ileave for a cooler spot in high mts.,~~xx~~ therefore send un-checked partial list.

Will you help me?If so may I hear at an early date?.I am told that sales for fallseries begin in August.I wish to line up people on list, prepare material andhave ready to submit by August first.Since the idea first came to me I have seen similar ones in articles. Want to get this marketed before it is too late.

Forgive my amateur efforts at typing.My home town is scarce of capable stenggraphers.I wish to get this off today.

With pleasant memories of your past kindnesses to me,believe~~xx~~ me

Sincerely yours

Irene Bewley

P.S.Believe I will ask you to return clippings (Those which are original.Do notbother to return reprints of clippings,nor the "cabin" folder.I.B.

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Judge Florecne Linwood Allen

Evangeline Booth

Maud Adams

Martha Berry(Founflerof Berry Schoolin Georgia.School has done a great work)

Eva Le Gallienne

Mary Garden

Anne Morgan

Lucy Furman

Maud Powell

Jeannette Rankin

Chrl Williams(Pres.Natl Federation, Business and Professional Women's Clubs) and Field Sec'y for Nat'l Education Association)

Maud Royden(English Preacher)

Margaret Widemer

" Slattery

Helen Keller

Anna Jarvis(Founder of Mothers'Day)

Julia Lathrop(was head of Children's Bureau)

Miss Bancroft(Duaghter of histroian)

Tallulah Bankhead

Minta Carter(Tenn.mt.woman who learned to cook at 7,spin at 10-Mothered her littlre brothers and sisters,championed the law(turned instills)Struggled thru college.Teaches school)

The New President of Wilesley College

Esther Willard Bates--Pinoeered in bringing drama back to its mother--The church.First to make a study of drama production for modern church.)

Edna Ferber

Anna A.Gordon

Jane Harris Hall(Founder of Three Arts Club)

Margaret Wilson

Margaret Bonfield(Ex"First Lady of Parliment")

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