

Willow Creek, Calif.
Feb. 4th 1950.

Dear Mr. Haan,

We received yours of the 21st ultimo (SP?) and we have been thinking good deal over the shooting of Joe Hill.

In our of the letter to Virginia Hilda stated that going home on a Sunday, which was her day off from her work, she found Joe lying on her grandmother cot wounded. She asked him to tell her who had shot him. Joe replied that Otto (Applequist) had shot him. However, Virginia knows that Hilda, some time after the Joe execution, had been accused of treachery in the Joe Hill case and a young man by the name Anderson who was engaged to be married to Hilda broke off the engagement over the accusation. The said Anderson was a member of Joe Hill defense committee and he must have thought that Hilda had done something terrible to break off the engagement.

I have been thinking of the probability of the truth of this imbroglio and it is perhaps better that I consider it so you and but you use your own judgement for what it is worth. At the same time get it off my chest.

In regard to Agnes Thecla Fair, I met her in Spokane, Wash. in the early summer of 1909. She came to the I.W.W. hall and introduced herself as a fellow rebel and that she had just come from Alaska. At that time I was secretary treasurer of the Executive Committee of the I.W.W. Locals in Spokane. Agnes came to the office a couple of days later and brought a bundle of manuscript some in prose and some in poetry and wanted me to look them over with her as she wanted to get them printed. She said that she was going to call that collection of writing "The Sour Dough Bible." She got some of the lot printed but I don't know how much.

The Spokane free speech fight started some time the following November (as I remember) and Agnes took part in that, but I can't say how long she was in jail there.

Virginia met Agnes in Salt Lake City during the railroad shopman strike. Virginia gave her meals and lodging and Agnes would go and speak to the strikers once or twice a day.

In 1913 Agnes showed up in Eureka during the time that Alexander Mac Kay was secretary of the I.W.W. local there. She passed through Willow Creek speaking in all places along the trail to Weaverville.

I saw her for the last time for a short while in San Francisco during the Pan American World Fair. Sometime after that we heard that she had thrown herself in front of an electric car in Portland, Oregon which resulted in her death.

I have been told that Agnes was a very good public speaker, a friend of ours said that Agnes was a better speaker than Emma Goldman. She certainly would have to be good to beat Emma.

Agnes was devoted to the cause of labor and I think that she wouldn't stop at anything in order to advance the labor cause. She showed at times of being a little erratic, but that may have been that she was carried away at times by exuberant enthusiasm. When Joe Hill was waiting to be executed, Agnes wrote a letter to our governor of Utah from some place in Nevada, saying that she was willing to be executed in Joe's place.

In referring back to the Joe Hill's case, it doesn't seem quite possible that you did not run into the story that Joe was shot by Otto Applequist while you were doing research work in Salt Lake City for the Joe Hill case. There is a remote possibility that young Anderson got the story direct from Hilda of how Joe was actually shot and he could not help thinking that Joe's life would have been saved if Hilda had told the story at the trial. There wasn't anything else for Anderson to do but to break the engagement, accuse Hilda of treachery and keep the truth of the story to himself. We have heard through Hilda that Anderson passed away a couple of year ago. At the same time we are not forgetting the power exerted by

police deputies and detectives to frighten Hilda and family into silence.

We are hastening the arrival of summer in the hope of seeing you.

Sincerely yours, Constantine

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