

Willow Creek
June 49

Dear Mr. Haan:

Not knowing Hilda's character at all, I can only think that your letter may have suggested to her the idea of making up a romantic story with herself as heroine. Yet, I feel sure just such an incident might have really happened at that boarding house in Murray, but any common, ordinary run of the mill girl would have afterward, at the time everybody was aware Joe's life was at stake, would have made some effort to save him, as it was so plain what effect her story might have had.

On the other hand I can not think that Joe Hill himself could be such a confounded egotistical stubborn fool as to be silent about this. And besides the whole family must have known all about it.

There is one terrible suggestion that occurs to me, that is, that as this story would of course help the defense, the whole outfit at that den at Murray, might have been by means of intimidation and threats, paralyzed with fear, into complete silence.

Any answer she might give to leading questions would have no meaning for me, in view of the saying "she was surprised when she heard of the shooting etc" But I also "am curious."

Sometime after the close of all this, Hilda was accused of treachery of some sort by the boys of the Defense, and one of them broke off his engagement to the girl on learning of it. This was communicated to me after I had left Salt Lake.

One other thing that influences my thinking is that an interview with Ed Rowan made plain to me that a strong pressure had been brought on the boys to stop their defense activities, in fact they were plainly scared.

Sincerely,
Virginia S. Filigno

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