

Nice Tom Averill.

Indeed I was not in the least mad. I was a little concerned lest snobishness be added to the roster of Stan's shortcomings; that's all. Years ago a J & G gal named Mary Spessard — accent on the Spes — paid a visit to somewhere in the East. I believe it was to Pennsylvania. She returned home announcing to all and sundry that in the Eastern states she had been called Spessard — accent very definitely on the second syllable. The town never forgot it. In that Colorado phone call Hawley / Reesman reminded me of it!

Here I am called both ways and Jay noticed to it. New Yorkers of the name accent the second syllable. It's easier to say, especially over the phone, but J & G would have none of it I'm sure.

I'm curious about the retired shoemaker. Could it have been Keith Hemenway? He was an executive with a shoe manufacturing firm in Maine. It's possible he considers himself more of an authority on Stan than anyone else, Had Stan and — I think a Cowan

boy roomed together for their first few months at
K.U. Keith's copy of Rome Hanks is full of his personal
notes and comments. I know this because he
lent it to Peggy Allen and he asked my help in
getting it back. I really know Keith only by
what others have told me. When Peggy wanted
names of J.C. persons she could interview about my
brother and his photos I gave her a letter to the
Montgomerys, John D and Mary Liz, they were off
to Helton Head, S.E., so Mary Liz turned Peggy over
to Keith. Several months later he wrote me
for her address. She had not returned his book.
I called her. She was apologetic. She wanted to
peruse all those personal notes and simply had
not had time to do so. She agreed to return the
book. Some time later I got another letter
from Keith. I had promised to write something
about my school at Fort Riley for the book Irene
Jeffries was doing about Geary County Schools. I
had been as dilatory as Peggy Allen and Keith
was prodding me for Irene. He said if I couldn't
get material to her within three weeks it would be
too late so he would write something about
the school in my stead. That set me down at

my typewriter pronto. What he could possibly know about my school was beyond me. But he also thanked me for helping him get back his Rome Hanks.

The other possibility is that the retired shoe salesman was one of the Cowans. I think all the Cowan boys worked in their father's shoe store at one time or another. I know nothing about any of them.

What puzzles me is why he should ask about Stan's belief in God. What earthly business could it be of his, or was he implying that you were promoting someone who — being agnostic or whatever, did not deserve to be so honored? Oddly enough a literary agent asked me the same question. He was curious because Stan's obvious familiarity with the Bible didn't seem to jibe with the — ambience, would you say — of Rome Hanks. I couldn't answer. I know he believed in a Power beyond the human because when something alarmed him about his health he would phone to ask me to "pray to St Luke" for him. The more I think about that question the more I doubt that either Hemenway or Cowan was the belligerent questioner. He must be someone I don't know. Hemenway's, from all the beads

a bit eccentric but not in that way.

I sent the brochure you gave me to June Misco in Seaside. She was devoted to Stan, good to him when he needed it most and deserved it least. She was delighted to hear about your program. I think she is the one sincere friend he made in Oregon.

If you get any inkling as to who the belligerent man was, do let me know. Rome Hawks obviously disturbed him!

Cordially -

Beulah Pennell

Mar. 9, '80

Answered - I was lower
old health Southall