

Index to  
*One Who Walked Alone*  
and  
*Day of the Stranger*  
by Novalyne Price Ellis



Compiled and with notes by Bobby Derie



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## Introduction

The man who chooses to follow a dream to its bitter and ultimate end, walks alone.

– Novalyne Price Ellis, *One Who Walked Alone* 177

While they were acquainted for only about 22 months between the autumn of 1934 and the summer of 1936 (with a brief meeting in 1933), Ellis' remembrance of Howard is the longest and most intimate memoir from anyone that personally knew him to be published. Comparison with Robert E. Howard's surviving letters, newspaper archives, and the recollections of others also show that the events depicted are fairly faithful and accurate – even if the young Novalyne did not quite appreciate the severity of Hester Ervin's illness, or show much interest in Howard's weird fiction.

Whatever quiet editorial alterations they underwent for publication, the diaries and journals present Cross Plains' teacher of oratory as fiery and uncensored, fiercely independent and unsparing of her personal thoughts. While this may on occasion make her appear self-centered, this is an artifact of being *personal* journals – we are all the protagonists of our own narrative.

There are (depending on how you count) 78-80 entries, ranging in length from less than half a page to 11 pages in length; the timeline is alternately compressed or decompressed depending on how prominently Robert E. Howard features in the narrative (we can assume entries not featuring him were edited out or combined). These indices, timeline, and notes will hopefully be of interest and use to readers.

*Day of the Stranger: Further Memories of Robert E. Howard* (1989, Necronomicon Press) is a complementary work, the result of Rusty Burke's keen efforts on behalf of Howard scholarship. The interview and speech included in that chapbook touch on many of the points brought up in *One Who Walked Alone*, and is a valuable accessory to Ellis' memoirs.

## Notes on the Index

A page number in brackets refers to an entry that is alluded to but not named or mentioned directly; e.g. Ellis' quote "divinely tall and divinely fair" on page 31 is a reference to Lord Tennyson's "A Dream of Fair Women," but as the title is not given in the index the entry is: "A Dream of Fair Women" (Tennyson) [31]. Titles of short stories, songs, and poems are contained in quotation marks, while films, novels, plays, and magazines are italicized. Short stories, novels, plays and poems have the last name of the creator in parentheses following the title; films the year of release.

References to stories by Robert E. Howard that are not named but can be determined by context have been included, and the page number is placed in bracket; e.g. on page 205 "[...] the one you say is coming out in *Weird Tales* – the one you like about the Picts [...] The triumph of a dog and the barbarian." given the date (early 1935), magazine (*Weird Tales*) and the subject (Picts, dog, barbarian), the only story that fits is "Beyond the Black River" (*Weird Tales* May-Jun 1935).

Many names for individual persons, first or last, are not given in the text. Those that could be positively identified have been silently filled in; e.g. "Miss Peavey" is listed as "Peavey, Janie." The rest are left as Ellis had them in the text.

Included in this index are entries for *Day of the Stranger: Further Memories of Robert E. Howard*. The entries for *One Who Walks Alone* are always listed first; the page references for *Day of the Stranger* are preceded by the letters DS.

A comparison between the first printing, first edition (1986) and final printing (1996, to correspond with the release of *The Whole Wide World*) reveal no difference in pagination; this index should work with all printings of *One Who Walked Alone* to date.

Book, magazine, play, and film titles are in italics; poem, story, and book titles are followed by the author's last name in parentheses.

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† It is not clear which edition of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* that Novalyne Price Ellis referenced, but certain of the verses she cites do not appear in all editions, so the numbering of the quatrains differs. The numbering here refers to the 1909 Houghter and Stouton edition, which contains all verses that she cites.

†† Young's verse reads: "Why all this toil for the triumph of an hour?"

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## Timeline of *One Who Walks Alone*

It is not possible to give precise dates for every entry, and some dates (i.e. "Sunday") are ambiguous or suspect, as the nature of the work suggests that many separate entries were silently edited together. However, the sequence of entries is generally linear and dates for specific events can be corroborated by other sources, predominantly the *Cross Plains Review* (CPR), the *Collected Letters of Robert E. Howard* (CL), and *A Means to Freedom: The Letters of H. P. Lovecraft and Robert E. Howard* (MF). These have been used to give an approximate timeline for *One Who Walks Alone*.

Entry	Pages	Date	Notes	
1	15-22	Mar-Apr 1933	Novalyne Price graduated Daniel Baker College May 1933.	
2	23-24	Jan-May 1934		
3	25-29	Aug-Sep 1934	Novalyne Price elected to teach at Cross Plains High School, <i>CPR</i> 31 Aug 1934 (1). Cross Plains school year begins 10 Sep 1934, <i>CPR</i> 7 Sep 1934 (1).	
4	29-30	Sep 1934		
5	30-38			
6	38-41			
7	41-44			
8	44-55			
9	55-66			"The Devil in Iron" published in <i>Weird Tales</i> (Aug 1934)
10	66			
11	66			
12	67			
13	68-70	27 Sep 1934	Dated letter.	

14	70-76	Sep-Oct 1934	"The People of the Black Circle" published in <i>Weird Tales</i> (Sep-Oct-Nov 1934)
15	76		
16	76-81		
17	82		
18	83-90		
19	91-101		
20	101-102		
21	102-105		
22	106-109		
23	110-117		
24	117-118		
25	118-120	31 Oct 1934 – 2 Nov 1934	Halloween frolic attracts 800 attendees. <i>CPR</i> 2 Nov 1934 (1).
26	120-123	Nov-Dec 1934	"A Witch Shall Be Born" published in <i>Weird Tales</i> (Dec 1934)
27	123-124		
28	124-128		
29	128-131	c. 17 Dec 1934	First letter to Emil Petaja is dated 17 Dec 1934 ( <i>CL</i> 3.259).
30	131-132	Dec 1934	
31	132-133	21 Dec 1934	Dated entry.
32	133-138	22 Dec 1934	Dated entry.
33	138-142	Dec 1934 – Jan 1935	
34	142-146		
35	146-157		
36	158-163		
37	163-164		
38	164-172		
39	172-177		
40	178-181	Jan-Feb 1935	
41	181-182	Mar 1935	Robert E. Howard spent a month in Temple, TX where his mother received treatment. ( <i>CL</i> 3.306, 309-310, 366; <i>MF</i> 2.838)

42	182-186	22 Mar 1935	County Meet scheduled for 22 Mar 1935, <i>CPR</i> 25 Jan 1935 (1).
43	186-192	30-31 Mar 1935	Novalyne Price' illness reported <i>CPR</i> 5 Apr 1935 (1).
44	192-200	May 1935	
45	200-205		"Beyond the Black River" published in <i>Weird Tales</i> (May-Jun 1935)
46	206-208		Hester Howard developed an abscess requiring treatment in Coleman, TX. (CL3.306)
47	208-212		
48	213-217		
49	217-223		
50	223-225	Late May 1935	Cross Plains school year ends 24 May 1935, <i>CPR</i> 24 May 1935 (1).
51	225-228	Jun 1935	"Hawk of the Hills" published in <i>Top-Notch</i> (Jun 1935).
52	228-234	Jun-Jul 1935	Dated letters. Robert E. Howard and Truett Vinson leave Cross Plains for New Mexico on 19 June, and return five days later. (CL3.343-356, MF2.865-875)
53	235-236	Jul-Sep 1935	
54	236-240	Sep 1935	Cross Plains school year starts 9 Sep 1935, <i>CPR</i> 6 Sep 1935 (1).
55	240-247	Sep-Dec 1935	
56	247-249		
57	250-251		
58	251-253		
59	254-256		
60	256-260		
61	260	25 Dec 1935	Dated entry.

62	260-261	Jan 1936	
63	261-264	13-14 Feb 1936	Dated entry, dated letter.
64	265-271	Feb 1936	Dated entry.
65	271-272		
66	272-275	Feb-Mar 1936	Dated letter.
67	275-278	Mar 1936	Dated letter.
68	278-280	Mar-Apr 1936	
69	280-282	Apr 1936	"[...] a rabbit drive people were planning." (281), a rabbit drive was scheduled for 23 Apr 1936, <i>CPR</i> 17 Apr 1936 (1).
70	282-291	Apr-May 1936	Cross Plains school year ends 22 May 1936, <i>CPR</i> 15 May 1936 (1).
71	291-294		
72	294-295		
73	296-297	27 May 1936	Dated letter. Robert E. Howard writes to Lovecraft "renewed an old love affair and broke it off again" ( <i>CL</i> 3.460, <i>MF</i> 2.952)
74	297-300	Jun 1936	
75	300-308	15 Jun 1936	Dated entry. Robert E. Howard commits suicide on 11 Jun 1936.
76	308-309	Jul-Aug 1936	
77	310-313		
78	313-317	Aug-Sep 1936	Cross Plains school year begins 14 Sep 1936, <i>CPR</i> 11 Sep 1936 (1).



## Notes on *One Who Walked Alone*

The following are a series of notes on specific passages in *One Who Walked Alone*. Howard scholars have likely gone over all these and more in greater depth and detail, but for readers who haven't attempted to cross-reference some of Novalyne Price Ellis' memoirs with other materials. Primary points for comparison are Ellis' introduction to *Reports on a Writing Man & other reminiscences of Robert E. Howard* (1991), her interview in *Day of the Stranger* (1989), and the quotes from her interviews and letters with the de Camps reproduced in *Dark Valley Destiny* (1983) provide essentially all of the explanations, expansions, omissions, and variations on events in *One Who Walked Alone* in print—with the caveat that *Dark Valley Destiny* is being filtered through at least one or two other sets of hands, so is less reliable.

Robert E. Howard wrote rarely about Novalyne Price in his letters to others, so scholars do not have a direct version of his side of the relationship. However, many of the points in *One Who Walked Alone* correspond strongly with elements in Howard's life we can read of in his letters, right down to the language she ascribes to him—and it is worth noting that at the time Ellis published this book (1986), the majority of Howard's correspondence had not been published or collected (the *Selected Letters of Robert E. Howard* were published in 1989). Likewise, there are various scattered Howardiana which may also expand on a few specific scenes and references. Finally, a few notes exist on historical references in the text.

These are not intended in any way to be exhaustive annotations, but as an assistance to the reader.

Page	Text	Note
9	"We didn't call it speech when I was a boy in Coggin Ward School."	"There were at least two groups of the seventh grade classes in Brownwood Coggin Ward School, which we attended. I was in one room; he was in the other. The only class we shared was an extra-curricular class called 'expression' which was another name for 'speech' in those days." ( <i>ITCS</i> 5)
10	"Herbert Klatt was the first to go. Dave Lee followed."	Herbert Carl Klatt died 10 May 1928. Dave Lee died 21 May 1976.
16	"brown pants that only came to his ankles and the top of his high-buttoned shoes"	"His trousers didn't come above his shoe tops, but that was because he always wore high top shoes. He didn't want to get entangled in his trouser legs, and he wanted the shoes to support his ankles." ( <i>SFP</i> 225) Ellis calls these his "fighting pants" ( <i>OWA</i> 240).
16	"Bob's a big man. Not as tall as Clyde, but at least six feet tall. [...] He must weigh two hundred pounds. Maybe more."	Robert E. Howard described himself in a March 1933 letter: "I'm somewhat overweight, at 200 pounds, for my height, which is only 5-11." ( <i>CL3.44</i> ) His weight varied, and he sometimes gave his height as 6" or a fraction of an inch under. ( <i>CL3.249</i> ; 4.21) Smith was described as "slightly over six feet tall, rangy[.]" ( <i>ITCS</i> 5)

17	“I tried a lot of other jobs”	“I’ve worked at several jobs, but wasn’t a success at any of them; I’ve picked cotton, helped brand a few yearlings, hauled a little garbage, worked in a grocery store, ditto in a Jewish drygoods store, worked in a law office, jerked soda, worked in a gas office, tried to be a public stenographer, packed a surveyor’s rod, worked up oil-field news for some Texas and Oklahoma papers – etc., etc., and also etc.” (CL2.199)
18	“The confessions [...] I sold them a yarn or two.”	Robert E. Howard wrote several confession-style stories, but never appears to have sold any. He did sell “The Apparition in the Prize Ring” to <i>Ghost Stories</i> (Apr 1929), a pulp of weird tales told in the style of confession stories.
19	“‘Damn,’ Clyde said”	Clyde Smith, in reviewing the manuscript for <i>One Who Walked Alone</i> , said: “Novalyne, you’ve got me saying ‘God damn’ too much.” Ellis’ reply was: “I laughed and agreed to cut some of them out.” (ITCS 6)
20	“If they’ve been the rounds, I throw ‘em in an old trunk I have.”	In her 1977 interviews with the de Camps, Novalyne Price Ellis mentioned Robert E. Howard “had a trunk filled with things.” For more on the trunk, see Rob Roehm’s article series “The Legend of the Trunk.”

20	"Conan the Barbarian"	By May 1933 Howard had sold four Conan stories in <i>Weird Tales</i> – "The Phoenix on the Sword" (Dec 1932), "The Scarlet Citadel" (Jan 1933), "The Tower of the Elephant" (Mar 1933), and "Black Colossus" (Jun 1933).
21	"H. L. Mencken, the man who looks in the mirror and thinks he's shaving God."	Robert E. Howard was quite critical of Mencken in his letters. (cf. CL2.518, 3.38; MF1.510, 2.550)
25	"If she comes to school next year, she'll take home economics!"	This anecdote is repeated in ITCS 6. Ironically, in 1926 Novalyne Price was vice-president of the Home Economics Club at Daniel Baker College, guided by Miss Peavey. ( <i>The Trail</i> 1926, 59)
26	"they just taught to the tenth grade."	Because Cross Plains only went to 10th grade, Howard went to Brownwood High School for his final year. (CL1.xi)
28	"they could have been zombies"	Zombies had recently risen in popularity in American culture, following the release of William Seabrook's book <i>The Magic Island</i> (1929) and the film <i>White Zombie</i> (1932).
36	"There will be no drinking"	Callahan County held a referendum on 21 April 1934 making 3.2% beer legal in Cross Plains until 1935. (CPR 30 Aug 1935 (1), cf. CL3.212).

37	“In some schools you were paid in script [sic]”	Several schools in cash-strapped counties during the Great Depression paid teachers in scrip in place of cash.
39	“That’s Dr. Howard”	Cf. <i>DVD</i> 314, 317; the gist is the same, though the exchange differs.
41	“No. Robert isn’t here.”	E. Hoffmann Price makes reference to Hester Howard deflecting a phone call for Robert during the 8-11 Apr 1934 visit to Cross Plains. ( <i>BOD</i> 76-77) The incident is referenced in a letter to <i>The Acolyte</i> (Fall 1945, 32), and in Price’s letters to L. Sprague de Camp from the 1970s. ( <i>IMH</i> 304, 335) The dates don’t line up for this to be Novalyne’s call.
48	“I’m working on a Conan yarn now.”	Probably “The Jewels of Gwahlur” ( <i>WT</i> Mar 1935) or “Beyond the Black River” ( <i>WT</i> May-Jun 1935), given the date (c. Sep 1934).
48	“My car is just outside.”	Robert E. Howard owned a 1931 Chevrolet Coach, purchased in 1932. He later purchased a 1935 4-door Standard Chevrolet Sedan, although it is not clear when. Ellis does not mention any change in Howard’s vehicle in <i>One Who Walked Alone</i> , so it is unclear which vehicle or vehicles is referred to in the text. For more details, see Rob Roehm’s article “Robert E. Howard’s Automobiles.”

54	"I've got to give my mother a dose of medicine."	Cf. DVD 315, the quoted exchange differs.
54	"Clyde is a great guy. He's married now."	"While Clyde and I were dating, we dated other people. We knew it, but we never talked about those other dates. I didn't know about Rubye. But almost as soon as I got to Cross Plains, I heard that she and Clyde were married. It hurt my feelings that Clyde had not told me about his plans to marry. It made me so mad I was sure I'd never speak to him again." (ITCS 6)
58	"That cover!"	A fairly accurate description of Margaret Brundage's cover for "The Devil in Iron" for <i>Weird Tales</i> Oct 1934.
59	"He mentioned Kline, his agent."	Howard took Otis Adelbert Kline as his agent in the spring of 1933. (CL3.82)
59	"I'm working on a yarn now that will go straight to Wright."	Howard's agreement with Kline was that he would continue to sell stories to <i>Weird Tales</i> , edited by Farnsworth Wright, directly.
64	"A great man, Jenghiz Khan. My favorite barbarian."	Robert E. Howard mentioned Genghis Khan many times in his letters (CL1.13, 18, 27; 2.47, 75, 90, 185, 331, 343, 347, 389; 3.128), and several of his stories.

65	"Stephen Costigan, John—"	"Stephen Costigan" was either Howard's boxing sailor Steve Costigan, or more likely the protagonist of his weird detective serial "Skull-Face" ( <i>WT</i> Oct-Nov-Dec 1929); "John" may be a reference to another of his weird detective characters: John O'Donnell ("The Children of the Night" <i>WT</i> Apr-May 1931), John Kirowan ("The Haunter of the Ring" <i>WT</i> Jun 1934), or John Conrad ("Dig Me No Grave" <i>WT</i> Feb 1937).
69	"You can keep books for some store."	Robert E. Howard had taken a course in bookkeeping at Howard Payne Business School in Brownwood in 1926-1927. ( <i>CL</i> 2.249; cf. <i>DS</i> 15)
70	"sombbrero"	"I never wore anything before but a cap or a broad-brimmed sombrero." ( <i>CL</i> 3.280; <i>MF</i> 2.821)
71	"Yasmina Devi"	The Devi Yasmina was a character in the Conan story "The People of the Black Circle" ( <i>WT</i> Sep-Oct-Nov 1934), which was being published at the time.

73	<p>"I reached down and opened the glove compartment of his car. In it was a big thirty-eight revolver."</p>	<p>"He dug a .38 Colt automatic pistol from the glove locker." (<i>BOD</i> 77) In a 1944 letter Price wrote: "It was an automatic; whether a Colt or a Savage I do not remember. It is my impression that it was a .32, but whatever it was, it was big enough. I do know positively that it could not have been heavier than a .38 [...]" (<i>The Acolyte</i> #7, Summer 1944) In his letters, Howard mentions owning a Colt .38-40 revolver (<i>CL</i>3.17, 46), a Colt .380 automatic (<i>CL</i>2.371, 3.45, 363), and a "hammerless five-shot .32" (<i>CL</i>2.371), possibly a Colt 1903 Pocket Hammerless.</p>
77	<p>"I'm getting a little tired of Conan [...] This country needs to be written about."</p>	<p>"In the Conan story ["Beyond the Black River"] I've attempted a new style and setting entirely – abandoned the exotic settings of lost cities, decaying civilizations, golden domes, marble palaces, silk-clad dancing girls, etc., and thrown my story against a background of forests and rivers, log cabins, frontier outposts, buckskin-clad settlers, and painted tribesmen. Some day I'm going to try my hand at a longer yarn of the same style, a serial of four or five parts." (<i>CL</i>3.274; <i>MF</i>2.817)</p>



78	“Didn’t you and Clyde write some stories together?”	Howard and Tevis Clyde Smith had collaborated on the unfinished “Under the Great Tiger,” “Diogenes of Today,” “Eighttoes Makes A Play,” and “Red Blades of Black Cathay” ( <i>Oriental Stories</i> Feb-Mar 1931).
80	“Greed. Corruption. Selfishness. That’s our civilization.”	A debate on civilization vs. barbarism formed a significant portion of the correspondence of Robert E. Howard and H. P. Lovecraft, which can be read in <i>A Means to Freedom</i> . “Beyond the Black River,” which Howard may have been writing at the time, ends with the famous line: “Barbarism is the natural state of mankind, [...] Civilization is unnatural. It is a whim of circumstance. And barbarism must always ultimately triumph.” (cf. <i>DS</i> 16)
80	“They didn’t exist in that Hybo – wherever it was Conan lived.”	Howard named the setting of the Conan stories the Hyborian Age, first mentioned in a letter to H. P. Lovecraft in 1932. ( <i>CL</i> 2.329, <i>MF</i> 1.279) He would later write an expansive background essay titled “The Hyborian Age.”
81	“My mother isn’t doing well.”	Although Hester Howard’s illness is never specified by Ellis in <i>One Who Walks Alone</i> , she suffered from tuberculosis. For more details, see Barbara Bennet’s article “Hester Jane Ervin Howard and Tuberculosis.”

82	"some news stories to give to Jack Scott for the paper"	Jack Scott was editor of the <i>Cross Plains Review</i> . Ellis is mentioned several times in <i>CPR</i> columns from 1934-1936. He often misspelt her name as "Novalyn."
82	"Do you remember the night you went over to see Robert?"	Cf. <i>DVD</i> 314-316; Mrs. Smith is not mentioned.
84	"Fool! Dog of hell. Die!"	The exact phrase doesn't appear in any extant Conan story, but "Dog of hell" appears in "Shadows in Zamboula" ( <i>WT</i> Jul 1935) and "Red Nails" ( <i>WT</i> Jul-Sep-Oct 1936); from context, Howard likely meant the former.
85	"a fighter we had in Brownwood, Kid Dula"	Arthur Dula was a favorite of Robert E. Howard, who wrote the article "Dula Due to Be Champion" ( <i>Brownwood Bulletin</i> 18 Jul 1928) and mentioned him in several letters. ( <i>CL</i> 1.135-136, 216-218, 226; 2.163, 296; 3.253- 254)
90	"I suppose you hated Lincoln?"	Howard denounced Abraham Lincoln's role in the Civil War. ( <i>CL</i> 2.344-345)
92	"[...] that one by Cabell."	James Branch Cabell was a popular and prolific writer, best known for his novel <i>Jurgen, A Comedy of Justice</i> (1919). Howard had a copy of Cabell's <i>The Cream of the Jest; A Comedy of Evasions</i> (1917) in his library at the time of his death. ( <i>DB</i> 188)

103	"He put his arms around me to kiss me"	Ellis was quoted on kissing Howard: "He was very good at that." (DVD 318)
112	"The Cro-Magnon man had it all over us modern men. He saw a woman he wanted, grabbed her by the hair of the head and dragged her back to his cave."	Robert E. Howard drew a cartoon of such "a love-affair in the Old Stone Age—a 'wooing and winning.'" (CL1.4)  "Look, girl, if this were Conan, he'd bat you down and drag you by the hair in the dust!" (DVD 319-320)
114	"Ed Price."	E. Hoffmann Price had visited Howard in Cross Plains 8-11 Apr 1934, and again in Oct 1935.
116	"Derleth whose name I had seen in a writer's magazine"	August Derleth's articles "And Did They Write!" and "Novels--at 10,000 Words a Day" appeared in <i>Writer's Review</i> (Jan 1934).
118	"We had such a large crowd that people had to be turned away."	"More than 800 people attended the Hallowe'en carnival at Cross Plains high school Wednesday night. 600 paid admission were recorded at the high school auditorium, where a musical comedy under the direction of Miss Novalyn [sic] Price was presented. At least 200 others, it is estimated, arrived later and attended the frolic in the gymnasium." <i>CPR</i> 2 Nov 1934 (1).

123	“I would have enjoyed hearing the story of San Saba’s lost mine.”	Robert E. Howard wrote about the lost San Saba gold mine to H. P. Lovecraft (CL3.49-52, 87, 100; MF2.587-588, 609, 614) and August Derleth (CL3.94).
125	“he sometimes wrote down conversations that he, Clyde, and Truett had”	Possibly a reference to Howard’s semi-autobiographical novel <i>Post Oaks and Sand Roughs</i> , which includes conversations and letters with thinly-veiled versions of Tevis Clyde Smith and Truett Vinson and others.
128	“a man named Petaja”	Emil Petaja, fan and later science fiction writer. The first letter from Howard to Petaja is dated 17 Dec 1934 (CL3.259-260), and Petaja wrote to Lovecraft around the same time. Howard’s letter to Novalyne suggests it was mailed some months after he had received Petaja’s sonnet – that is, several months later than it appears in <i>One Who Walked Alone</i> , c. Feb 1935. Probably in editing the journals, the two sections – the first mention of Petaja, and then Howard’s letter to Price containing Petaja’s sonnet – were quietly combined.
132	“Bob rails against death that takes life from the old because, he says, that slender thread of life is all the old person has left. To	“Death to the old is inevitable, and yet somehow I often feel that it is a greater tragedy than death to the young. When a man dies young he misses much suffering, but the old have only life as a possession and somehow to me the tearing of a pitiful remnant from weak

	Bob, the death of a man in the full vigor of his manhood is not sad. Such a man has more than just his life."	old fingers is more tragic than the looting of a life in its full rich prime. I don't want to live to be old. I want to die when my time comes, quickly and suddenly, in the full tide of my strength and health." (CL3.437)
132	"Friday, December 21, 1934"	The <i>Cross Plains Review</i> published several letters to Santa Claus on this date, including one from Novalyne Price. CPR 21 Dec 1934 (3).
134	"Mammy was talking about the hardships her people encountered during the War."	This episode of Civil War torture was included by Robert E. Howard in a letter to H. P. Lovecraft; his version is slightly different, and makes the victim Ellis' great-uncle rather than her grandfather's friend. (CL3.294, MF2.831)
137	"Mrs. Howard did not look at me with any hint of friendliness."	Ellis is quoted saying Hester Howard "glowering at me as if I were some sort of venomous reptile." (DVD 320)
139	"One for <i>Spicy Adventure</i> magazine."	Robert E. Howard's first story in <i>Spicy Adventure</i> was "The Girl on the Hell Ship," accepted 23 Oct 1935 (CL3.375n353) Howard wrote in a letter to Lovecraft: "I sold the first yarn I tried" (CL3.393, MF2.909).

140	"I'm working on a yarn like that now – a Conan yarn."	Probably "Red Nails" ( <i>WT</i> Jul-Sep-Oct 1936) given the date and context.
143	"He also brought a recent magazine with a Conan story in it."	Probably <i>Weird Tales</i> Dec 1934, which included "A Witch Shall Be Born."
144	"I listened to the story of Bob and his dog, Patch."	Compare with Tevis Clyde Smith's version of Robert E. Howard and Patch ( <i>SFP</i> 219, 223).
145	"These western heroes were men strong enough to resist a woman's wiles."	Howard played courting and marriage for laughs in his humorous western stories, with such sentiments particularly strong in "Sharp's Gun Serenade" ( <i>Action Stories</i> Jan 1937).
146	"Then he said that was because I was a college-educated career girl and wanted to work instead of staying home and keeping house for some man."	Ellis is quoted as responding to Howard: "If I married you, it would be just to cook three meals every day and iron your shirts!" ( <i>DVD</i> 319)
147	"Ever read <i>Coronado's Children</i> ?"	This book was in Howard's library at the time of his death ( <i>DB</i> 190), and is mentioned in his letters. ( <i>CL</i> 2.162n72; 3.60, 94)

150-151	<p>“Now, a friend of mine wrote a yarn a few years ago. It was one of the greatest yarns I ever read. I think about it a lot. [...] Lovecraft.”</p>	<p>Possibly H. P. Lovecraft’s “The Silver Key” (<i>WT</i> Jan 1929):          “I remember ‘The Silver Key’ – yet remember is hardly the word to use. I have constantly referred to that story in my meditations ever since I read it, years ago – have probably thought of it more than any other story that ever appeared in <i>Weird Tales</i>.” (<i>CL</i>3.100, <i>MF</i>2.614)          Another possibility is “The Rats in the Walls” (<i>WT</i> Jun 1930), which instigated the correspondence between Howard and Lovecraft.</p>
151	<p>“pseudo-scientific”</p>	<p>An early term for science fiction; Howard uses the term a few times in his letters. (<i>CL</i>2.197; 3.148, 149)</p>
153	<p>“You have to be careful with something like that.”</p>	<p>Possibly a reference to Howard’s semi-autobiographical novel <i>Oak Posts and Sand Roughs</i>, set in the thinly-veiled town of “Lost Plains” featured some thinly-veiled analogs of his friends.</p>
160	<p>“He talked about Atlantis”</p>	<p>Howard is quoted via Ellis: “Look, girl! Once upon a time, long ago, there was this vanished civilization of Atlantis, on an island in the ocean....” (<i>DVD</i> 324) He wrote of Atlantis in his letters (<i>CL</i>1.20, 237, 311; 2.21, 31, 72, 229; 3.47n31, 209, 473-474) and it formed a part of the background to many of his stories.</p>

166	"I wouldn't have any troubles, if editors paid me what they owe me."	<i>Weird Tales</i> was in arrears in payment to many of its writers. This prompted a letter from Howard to Farnsworth Wright begging for payment 6 May 1935 (CL3.306-308) By the time of his death in 1936, <i>Weird Tales</i> owed Howard over a thousand dollars. For more on <i>WT</i> finances, see Scott Connors' essay " <i>Weird Tales</i> and the Great Depression."
167	"She's got to have an operation"	"My mother was forced to have her gall bladder removed, a very serious operation" (CL3.306)
167	"It takes all his time to take care of patients who don't pay him, or pay him with meat and vegetables."	<p>"We have been taking cattle, hogs and canned stuffs on debts, as well as grain and feed." (CL2.297, MF1.259)</p> <p>"Day before yesterday my father and I took some wheat to mill, that he'd gotten on a bill [...] and eventually sold it at twenty-five cents a bushel for chicken feed. My father allowed the farmer thirty-four cents a bushel for it, so you see how much we made on it. But the fellow had nothing else with which to pay his bill." (CL2.450, MF1.396)</p> <p>"[...] yet his dad was still doing a lot of doctoring in exchange for vegetables and meat and things like that. A lot of people couldn't pay a doctor bill, but they could give a dozen eggs." (DS 10)</p>



170	<p>“When ol’ Clyde was working on his history of Brown County, he said the last Indian was killed over on the Sears place.”</p>	<p>Mentioned in Tevis Clyde Smith’s <i>Frontier’s Generation</i> (1931/1980) 39-40.</p>
175	<p>“But, hell, I ain’t seen ol’ Clyde in several months.”</p>	<p>Smith claimed his last meeting with Robert E. Howard was Jan 1935 (9). Since this entry was written c. Jan 1935, Howard’s statement was probably made before that final meeting.</p>
178	<p>“I sold Wright a yarn like that a few months ago. [...] I’m damned surprised her took it. It’s different from my other Conan yarns...no sex...”</p>	<p>“My latest sales have been a 23,000 word Oriental adventure yarn to <i>Top-Notch</i>, and a two-part Conan serial to <i>Weird Tales</i>; no sex in the latter. I wanted to see if I could write an interesting Conan yarn without sex interest.” (CL3.256, “Beyond the Black River”)</p>
180	<p>“He was going to take his mother to Temple for a serious operation.”</p>	<p>Robert E. Howard spent a month in Temple, TX where his mother received treatment. (CL3.306, 309-310, 366; MF2.838)</p>
181	<p>“Whether Roosevelt’s Work Relief Bill would pass”</p>	<p>Congress passed the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act in April 1935.</p>

181	<p>“We believe she is going to get better. [...] Robert will be all right now, I think.”</p>	<p>“As the months grew on, his mother showed some improvement. He accepted her condition as one of permanent improvement and one that would continue. I knew well that it would not, but I kept it from him.” (<i>IMH</i> 64)</p>
187	<p>“At eleven o’clock, Nat took me to a hospital. I became deathly sick, vomiting constantly, passing out.”</p>	<p>“Just before time for them to ‘go on’ Miss Novalyn [sic] Price, the director, became critically ill with acute indigestion and hail to be rushed to a Breckenridge hospital[.]” <i>CPR</i> 5 Apr 1935 (1)</p>
201	<p>“Bob said he had an idea for a Conan yarn that was about to jell. Hadn’t got to the place where he was ready to write it. All he’d done so far was make a few notes.”</p>	<p>Patrice Louinet in “Notes on the Conan Typescripts and Chronology” in <i>The Conquering Sword of Conan</i> lists only three entries after “Red Nails” among the Conan manuscripts: a page of untitled notes (“The Westermarck...”) and two drafts of “Wolves Beyond the Border.”</p>
201	<p>“I don’t see anything sexy about a naked woman dancing around on a ship.”</p>	<p>A reference to Bêlit in “Queen of the Black Coast” (<i>WT</i> May 1934).</p>

205	“Like the one you say is coming out in <i>Weird Tales</i> – the one you like about the Picts – ”	“Beyond the Black River” ( <i>WT</i> May-Jun 1935) cf. <i>DS</i> 7-8.
207	“I’m going by the house and get <i>Candide</i> for you.”	“Then, when he had me read <i>Candide</i> , I liked it.” ( <i>DS</i> 11)
208	“I had a date with Truett last Saturday night!”	Ellis quotes Howard scoffing at the idea of her and Truett dating. ( <i>DVD</i> 335)
209	“Now, when I dated Truett, I will have dated all three!”	In Tevis Clyde Smith’s notes for a Robert E. Howard memoir: “Dave had a date with Novalyne – Bob bitterly said – ‘What – you too?’” ( <i>SFP</i> 260)  If she did have a date with Dave Lee, it is not mentioned anywhere else. Since Smith’s last meeting with Howard was Jan 1935 and Novalyne began dating Truett in May 1935, Smith may have heard it from Lee.
215	“Have you ever read that book – the <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i> ?”	Robert E. Howard similarly lambasted the book in a letter to H. P. Lovecraft. ( <i>CL</i> 2.470-471, <i>MF</i> 1.445-446)
223	“He told me about a story that he had either written, or was going to write.”	Probably the El Borak tale “Swords of the Hills” (also published as “The Lost Valley of Iskander.”)

224	"Epworth League"	A Methodist youth association; Howard wasn't Methodist, but had joined out of infatuation with one of the female members (cf. <i>CL1.283n94</i> , 354; <i>DS 24</i> ).
226	"Bob read the page and began talking about what a damn fool Sinclair Lewis was!"	Robert E. Howard did not care for Sinclair Lewis ( <i>CL2.518</i> , <i>MF2.532</i> ), but had a copy of Lewis' <i>Main Street</i> (1920) in his library. ( <i>DB 193</i> )
226	"the exploits of 'Francis X' in Afghanistan"	The Francis Xavier Gordon story "Hawk of the Hills" ( <i>Top-Notch Jun 1935</i> ), was published around this date.
228	"Bob and Truett are planning to go to New Mexico together in a week or two."	Robert E. Howard and Truett Vinson left Cross Plains for New Mexico on 19 June, and returned five days later. ( <i>CL3.343-356</i> , <i>MF2.865-875</i> )
241	"Yes, sir, in sound is reality."	Cf. "The Skull of Silence"
244	"Bob began to talk about stories he'd sold – to <i>Action Stories</i> , <i>Top-Notch</i> , and the <i>Weird Tales</i> ."	Howard's recent sales included: "The Riot at Cougar Paw" (Oct) & "The Apache Mountain War" (Dec) for <i>Action Stories</i> ; "Hawk of the Hills" (Jun) & "Blood of the Gods" (Jul) for <i>Top-Notch</i> ; and "Shadows in Zamboula" (Nov) & the first part of "The Hour of the Dragon" (Dec) for <i>Weird Tales</i> .

250	"he has on the black sombrero"	Tevis Clyde Smith mentioned this sombrero in his memoirs ( <i>SFP</i> 225); and reacted with surprise when he read about it Howard wearing it in Ellis' manuscript ( <i>DS</i> 43).
257	"Bob, you talk about enemies."	Mentioned by E. Hoffmann Price in his memoirs ( <i>BOD</i> 74, cf. <i>DS</i> 25).
266	"She has these terrible night sweats."	Robert E. Howard mentions that his mother's night sweats began in January. ( <i>CL3.415, 460; MF2.921, 952</i> )
276	"He also said he and Robert had hired some nurses to help take care of her!"	Robert E. Howard mentions hiring women to help care for his mother. ( <i>CL3.460, MF2.952</i> )
276	<i>"He'd shaved his mustache!"</i>	H. P. Lovecraft wrote in a letter to August Derleth dated 7 May 1936: "Two-Gun sent me a new snapshot of himself last month. He's grown a drooping moustache" ( <i>ES2.732</i> ) While it is not clear when this photo was taken, Ellis' memoir and Lovecraft's letter taken together suggest Howard shaved his mustache between the middle of February and the beginning of March.

278	“He’s making a good many sales to <i>Argosy</i> ”	“Jack Byrne, of Fiction House, to whom I’ve sold many prize fight and Elkins yarns in the past, is now editor of the <i>Munseys</i> , and wants me to write a series of humorous shorts on the Elkins order for <i>Argosy</i> .” (CL3.434) Howard responded by creating Pike Bearfield.
279	“Many days, eighteen hours. Sometimes, if things are right, you may write twenty-four.”	“I have worked as much as eighteen hours a day at my typewriter” (CL3.81, MF2.604) (cf. DS 12)
280	“We’ve got a couple of goats now”	“We got goats and for weeks she lived mainly on their milk.” (CL3.459, MF2.920)
289	“Funny, his main character in that story wasn’t Conan.”	In “Beyond the Black River,” much of the story focuses on Balthus as much as Conan.
290	“Billy the Kid and John Wesley Hardin”	Robert E. Howard wrote of both men in his letters. (cf. CL3.256-257, 345-350; MF1.450-451, 2.866-870)
291	“he had two or three other western heroes going to other magazines”	In addition to the Breckinridge Elkins stories in <i>Action Stories</i> , Howard was writing stories of Buckner J. Grimes, Grizzly Elkins, Pike Bearfield, and Bearfield Elston – some of which were re-written Breckinridge Elkins tales.

295	"We lived down there a short time when I was a kid."	The Howards lived in New Orleans Oct-Nov 1920, while Dr. Howard took a medical course at Tulane University.
309	"They tell me Mother will never know me."	Variations of this story were told in local papers, cf. "asked a nurse whether she thought his mother ever would recognize him again and when he said she feared not[.]" (IMH 39)

### Abbreviations

BOD	<i>Book of the Dead: Friends of Yesteryear: Fictioneers &amp; Others</i>
CL	<i>Collected Letters of Robert E. Howard</i> (3 vols. + Index & Addenda)
CPR	<i>Cross Plains Review</i>
ES	<i>Essential Solitude: The Letters of H. P. Lovecraft and August Derleth</i> (2 vols.)
DS	<i>Day of the Stranger: Further Memories of Robert E. Howard</i>
DB	<i>Dark Barbarian: The Writings of Robert E. Howard A Critical Anthology</i>
DVD	<i>Dark Valley Destiny</i>
IMH	<i>Collected Letters of Doctor Isaac M. Howard</i>
ITCS	"Introducing Tevis Clyde Smith" by Novalyne Price Ellis in <i>Report on a Writing Man &amp; other reminiscences of Robert E. Howard</i>
MF	<i>A Means to Freedom: The Letters of</i>
OWA	<i>One Who Walked Alone</i>
SFP	<i>"So Far The Poet..." &amp; Other Writings</i>
WT	<i>Weird Tales</i>

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*Note:* A number of contemporary articles in local papers in Texas and Louisiana discussed this book and the author in 1987-1988, but are either not actual reviews or I lacked access to newspaper archives to confirm details; several of these appear in Rusty Burke's fanzine *Seanchai* from 1987-1989 as part of the REHupa mailings. Re-release of *One Who Walked Alone* in 1996 to coincide with the release of the film *The Whole Wide World* does not appear to have generated any new book reviews I could find – discussion of the book was largely subsumed into discussion of the movie.

## Novalyne Price in the letters of Robert E. Howard

Howard was very circumspect about his relationship with Novalyne from 1934-1936 in his letters, aside from their personal correspondence. This is perhaps not surprising: local friends would not need to discuss it in letters, Howard would probably not share such confidences to fans, agents, editors, and new acquaintances; and his long-time correspondent H. P. Lovecraft wasn't much of one to discuss affairs of the heart, including his own failed marriage. In all of Howard's extant correspondence, there appear to be only two references to his relationship with Novalyne, both as asides in letters to Lovecraft.

The first reference is in a letter to H. P. Lovecraft from January 1935:

I am at present going with a young lady whose people lived in Alabama during and after the war. Federal soldiers tortured her grandfather and his brother to make them tell where they had their money hidden. The brother was stubborn; the blue-coats burned out his eyes with a red hot iron. He died from the effects of the torture. (*CL3.294, MF2.831*)

The last is in a letter to Lovecraft dated 13 May 1936:

I've learned to mix a dozen or so new drinks, have renewed an old love affair and broken it off again, [...]  
(*CL3.460, MF2.953*)

Lovecraft's replies to these letters are not extant.



Dear Santa Claus,

I am a little teacher in the Cross Plains faculty—not the least one however—and there are several things that I should like for you to put in my stocking Christmas.

First, I wish you would bring me about six extra hours every day. You have no idea how difficult it is to try to cram my history classes, public speaking class, English class, dramatic clubs, debating club, declamation club, time for laundry and keeping a room clean, and three or four hours to discuss politics with friends, into just twenty four hour schedule.

Second, please, oh, please, bring me a winning one act play, a winning declamation team, and two winning debate teams. Santa, if you'll bring me all these things I won't trouble you any more for about twenty years—I'll be grown up then.

Respectfully,

Novalyne Price

*Cross Plains Review*, 21 Dec 1934 (3).