You mentioned your parents' home being a half-way house for people with psychological problems when you were growing up. Do you remember other "guests"?

MF: Oh, yes. Miss Max, Miss Kay ... I was frustrated with Miss Max's story of her Gold Rush history, and Miss Kay ... I suppose my instinct had hit an off note and had named her in my head. I kept proposing, and the keep saying, "No, not yet." I waited and waited for her to change her mind and say yes. But she never did. I finally gave up and married someone else. When Miss Kay's parents died-she'd said no because she didn't want to leave a family without a mother, she went to live with a friend. I think about Miss Kay, and I'm glad she was part of an extended family. There were many others.

BF: So you're a part of all of those people that you met?

MF: No, not really (laughing). I feel very much me. But I'm still glad I had all those people in my life. And, of course, I knew how much influence they really had in making me what I am. Maybe it's given me an edge on my life.

BF: What do you hope will come of your writing?

MF: I hope that my writing reaches other people; that there's some common bond, that people read it and can identify with it. I'm not a deep writer, I'm just a writer of simple things. I talk about simple things, and I think it's made up of those kinds of things, simple things happen to other people. I think that's what I'm hearing from the audience. I write to:

BF: Was the idea behind your Little Country Farm series to bring delight to your readers?

MF: Yes, that's what I'm hearing from the audience.It makes me remember this. My writing is pretty simple. It talks about simple things, and since life is made up of simple things, I just want to make their life maybe more of a delight to your readers?

MF: Well, I probably do. But I would have to give that thought. People has come across in more descriptive language than other pieces. My second story about Mrs. Biddy ... I may sound like a more than I like my first story. The first story is a little adopted girl and her adopted family, the story about Molly Ma (I call and when Molly was born and about Thelma in particular). She came in the style and said how much she enjoyed the story. Since then I've done stories with children in mind, it was nice to have that happen. It was also nice to know someone's voice, it's child's voice, reading my story.

BF: Do you enjoy your voice as you write?

MF: Yes, I do. I think so. I know that I have a style that resonates the same. When I write about the animals, like Molly Ma has a certain personality, and I try to stick with her personality every time I write about her, a läten't very sure what it is and words to be considered. I may want to use different words for another piece. I try to use simple words, simple things happen to other people. I think that's what I'm hearing from the audience. I write to:

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BF: Do you have a favorite piece that you've written, something that stands out from the rest?

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