Dear Mr. Laxalt:

There is some very good writing in THE SNAKE PEN, but I can tell you right now that it won't do for the Post because snakes are practically automatically out. It is the opinion of the staff, rightly or wrongly, that most of our audience is too repelled by snakes to want to read about them in fiction. In addition to this, the reaction of the town's people to Calder's exhibition with the snakes strikes us as overdone, although you may not agree. Maybe you could substitute some other sort of menace connected with your villain---I don't know; you might rather finish this the way you have it and try it elsewhere. Anyway, thanks a lot for letting us see this portion of your novelette.

Your article on Nevada will undoubtedly appear in one of the fall issues---probably September.

Sincerely,

Robert Laxalt