

August 5, 1956

Mr. Robert Ries, project engineer,
The Grant County PUD No. 2,
Ephrata, Wash.

Dear Bob:

Relative to the quest for Dr. John Hussey: John McClelland Jr., editor of the Longview newspaper and chairman of our publications committee of which I am a member, said he had not heard from Dr. Hussey recently enough to know where he now is. However the monograph on Fort Vancouver, which Dr. Hussey has written and is reworking for publication by our committee cannot now be published by this Christmas as planned.

Dr. Hussey had communicated with McClelland saying it would be impossible for him to get this work reedited by July 15 as necessary on the Christmas schedule, and that because of press of other work, said he could not have it until September 15. This would indicate the necessity of marking urgent your contemplated communication.

I would also suggest that you suggest to Dr. Hussey the possibility that if he is coming to Yakima for the Fort Simcoe Centennial to come earlier and see you or stay over a day. The centennial is Aug. 12, next Sunday. The National Park Service is a "cooperative" participant in this undertaking, serving in an advisory capacity, and Dr. Hussey I feel sure has been invited to attend. Normally on such occasions he would show up in Yakima on Saturday afternoon and leave on a Monday. McClelland will also be here on that date--Saturdays--for a meeting of the State Parks and Recreation Commission. And as chairman of the publications committee would be in a position to permit Dr. Hussey, if he is overpressed for time, to delay the publication chore in difference to the other urgent matter.

I am enclosing a carbon copy of a letter which is self explanatory.

Incidentally I bumped into Nat W. and Mrs. W. at the Society Museum after the board meeting but had only a couple of minutes with him before resuming out session. I didn't know then what I know now. When I arrived home there was a letter from the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army. It stems back to my qualification on a highrating of civil service several months ago. Apparently the register is being scanned and I am up to fill a job others have not qualified for. This entails the choice of an overseas assignment to Europe (Press etc.) I could delay a decision for awhile, not too long, but it occurs to me before I sleep on it, the fine opportunity of being close to European sculpture centers where I could obtain some first class advise, guidance etc. that would enable me to complete sculpture projects to my satisfaction. True I could obtain this

necessary technical guidance in a few weeks at Los Angeles in my old haunts, or even closer at hand. And true, in the final analysis I may and probably will elect to stick in my chosen field here. But it still suggests the possibility that the opportunity may be too great to overlook. So the probability suggests itself that the Indian project should be kept coming along as you have been doing, just in case I decide to pull up roots.

You should have stuck in Seattle and looked over the Hydros today. It was a great show. Didn't see it to the finish but those boats are really loaded with power (and the shores were really loaded with people)

At 2 o'clock Saturday morning when we were coming in from a byways place to a cottage down by the lakeside, there was a double line of cars for miles, moving slowly, and a bank of people 10 feet deep along Mt. Baker docks, watching them work on the boats.

If Dr. Hussey pops up around here, I'll be available Saturday afternoon or of course, at your wish Monday. All of us would be tied up at Fort Simcoe Sunday. That program starts in the morning, or the preliminaries, and continues through the day.

His address in San Francisco, for a double check, is Dr. John Hussey, park historian, National Park Service Regional office, 185 New Montgomery St., San Francisco.

Sincere Regards

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