

UP AND DOWN THE VALLEY

Strongheart Offers Library Of Indian Lore to Yakimas

TOPPENISH—Because his heart has always been with his mother's people and he wishes to do all he can to perpetuate the history, customs and tradition of the Yakima Indian Nation, Nipo Strongheart, Hollywood, advisor on Indian films, has offered a gift to the Yakimas.

Strongheart, who came to the Valley for a vacation, attended Tuesday's Tribal Council meeting and told the Council that he wished to present his library on Indian material and his collection of Indian costumes, arts and crafts to the Yakimas. The Council accepted the gift in the spirit with which it was given.

Restoration of Fort Simcoe under direction of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, through authorization of the Yakima Tribal Council and with approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Strongheart said, helped prompt him to make the presentation because he wishes it to benefit the Indian nation.

A museum is one of the buildings included in the long-range development.

Strongheart made the presentation as simply as though he were presenting a small prize at a country fair.

Then someone asked him what the material consisted of.

Well, Strongheart has a library of some 12,000 volumes dealing with Indian lore, culture and with Western Americana. And there are numerous documents and papers he has used in researching to obtain authenticity on Indian films.

He has 56 trunks full of authentic Indian costumes and other material. The costumes he collected from many tribes throughout the United States. Arts and crafts, represented in the collection, were gathered from throughout the nation over a period of many years.

Strongheart spent much of his boyhood on the Yakima Reservation and has many friends among the tribesmen. He explained that while he wasn't retiring yet, he was getting along in years, and he just wanted to do something for the people. He explained that as he grew older he appreciated more and more the fine culture of the red men. He added that he does not want the culture forgotten.

Strongheart said that an expert on books and material of the nature in his collection had once evaluated it at \$125,000.