

December 31, 1959

Mr. Paul Palmer, Senior Editors Offices,
The Reader's Digest,
Pleasantville, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Palmer:

It is incidental, but you may recall our coffee session in the "beatnik" shanty after last summer's Northwest Writers' Conference at Seattle.

Now, some research connected with my work as a city editor, has given me some ideas. I believe I could turn something of possible interest with a little deeper probing than the research thus far expended.

I do not believe the subjects have been previously covered by The Digest or other major magazines.

If you have any suggestions, or should the subjects have merit for another editor on the staff, I would welcome comments. I am well acquainted with research.

The subjects are appended as to topic and status.

Relative to our meeting at Seattle you may recall my remarks about the magnitude of the Indian situation, yet not fully realized because of the economic impact. I note that The New Yorker delved extensively into this in a four issue series, A Reporter at Large, starting with the October 17 issue.

While no one has yet hit to the heart of the matter on national scope, ie, Indians vs States and States Rights, the topic is so varied from area to area I shudder to think of the result for the writer. I now "predict" that in two years, perhaps less, public sentiment will about face irrespective of "dogooders." This will be due to the realization of the billions required from taxpayers to "quell the Indian rebellion", and the general squandering by a people who have developed a psychology that the world owes them a living.

I am not suggesting anything on that difficult to handle subject, but have a background that would let me be of assistance to any roving editor. The New Yorker material, as far as I've read is good and sound although perhaps a bit prejudiced. Harpers, Atlantic and NBC really muffed it and I suspect are pretty gun shy. I'm only mentioning this in case I could ever be of any passing help in any special tangent about Indians I might be well versed in, just as a favor.

Enclosure: Fact sheets,
Ginkgo Stone Forest; Elk.

My Sincere Regards

Click Relander

[Enclosure 31 Dec 59]

Click Relander, 1212 N.32nd Ave., Yakima, Wash.

Facts, status of two ideas

1-The ginkgo, stone forest. Sacred tree of China, propagated now in Japan. Fossilized leaves known. Story of development of petrified forest and 100 year search for petrified ginkgo wood of now existent living trees ended by geologists 25 years ago. Salvage of rock paintings---pictographs and petroglyphs---in ginkgo land, home of the Unknowns. People who left their mark along 1,000 mile Columbia River, path of successive waves of migration after lava overflow buried prehistoric forest, ginkgos and prehistoric animal life including blue rhino. Forest extent expanding, determined through road building on Atomic Energy Reservation, 40 miles distant, other areas, 120 miles distant. Rock paintings salvaged in connection with 200 million dollar Wanapum Dam at edge of Ginkgo State Petrified Forest.

Status--

Newspaper article prepared for feature; ginkgo research yet needed. Pictograph and petroglyph research of many years on hand "...and no man, with all the accumulated knowledge of civilization has been able to read the writings on stone..." Pictures, research citations would be made available for check purposes.

2--Elk. Game and wildlife. Yellowstone National Park proven "seedbed" for transplantings, founding extensive herds for hunters. Herds now running 1 to big figures in several states. "accounts of transplantings, attendant troubles with orchardists, small herds finding own level and ranges and expanding. Government "rules and regulations" if you "want to get an elk for your pasture, backyard, zoo, etc."

Status---

Research completed. Material provided to collaborator for preparation of article for submission to some sportsman's magazine. Photographs, research citations etc. would be provided for check purposes.