

I was astonished by the way the various factions all accept me, readily answer any of my questions, trust me etc. For instance, a Walter Speedis, whose family the lower Columbia railroad station of Speedis was named for and who I was not even acquainted with, called his wife over and introduced me by name etc. and told her I had written such and such. I had complimented him on his presentation, as you know, made first in English and then in native tongue, and with or without an interpreter according to ability of the speaker. I told him how much better I thought he presented his case in his language, (Wishram dialect I guess). So the second night when he got up he started out: "I think I can do better in my own tongue," and left the rest to the Indian to English interpreter.

I also, at dinner time, approached a rather aloof man, one of the few with moustache who I knew to be a Shaker leader. His name is Michael George and he is assistant "pastor" of the Independent Shaker Church, just south of White Swan. I told him about you, but not by name, and he said he would talk to you all he knew about the Shakers. He is 70, a welder and mechanic by trade. His address is Box 246, White Swan. I asked him about the number of Shakers in the three churches. He said "lots of them," and tried to figure out, "there are over 100 in my church" and he indicated it was the smallest. Anyway you would have no trouble approaching him or talking with him. I don't know whether I will have the time for a family and historical interview with him or not, difference in his church belief and why "the independent" etc. but if I do, I will make a carbon of my notes. I just can't get around to all the things that need attending to like that.

I also located a former incidental acquaintance and years make a difference. He is the son of Fish Hook Jim who lived on the Snake River about 10 miles upstream from Pasco and was a Palouse. This son, a fine specimen of a man, as to features, worthy of sculpture says he is one of two living men who know the Palouse Language, their tongue. I hope I have time to sculpture his head and interview him.

I have considerable Palouse material, most of it I turned over to Dr. Daugherty (historical); and have comparisons of some Palouse words, but in phoenitic spelling. Amateurs like me have never worked out the proper word recording type material. But if I had time, which I haven't, I'd get a recorder and get him up here and let him go thro ugh a whole dictionary of words. If Bruce Rigsby works back in the Umatilla area I'll try and get him with this man. And so it goes.

Ginny is getting ready for exams, spent the Thanksgiving vacation reading etc. I'm working out preliminaries of some 12-inch figures for dioramas, materials etc. and the den is pilling up with clippings, notes, books etc. Hope things are going well with you and Dixie and that you'll look forward to making this your headquarters on visits to this area. Ginny joins me in sending regards.

Sincerely

Click Melander