

Feb. 8, 1963

Dear Mr. Relander!—

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Martha Wiley

532 W. 6<sup>th</sup>

Claremont

Calif.

Your very interesting  
letter just rec'd—many

thanks

M. Wiley



# "STRANGERS ON THE LAND"

(The Story of the Confederated Yakima Indian Nation)

By CLICK RELANDER



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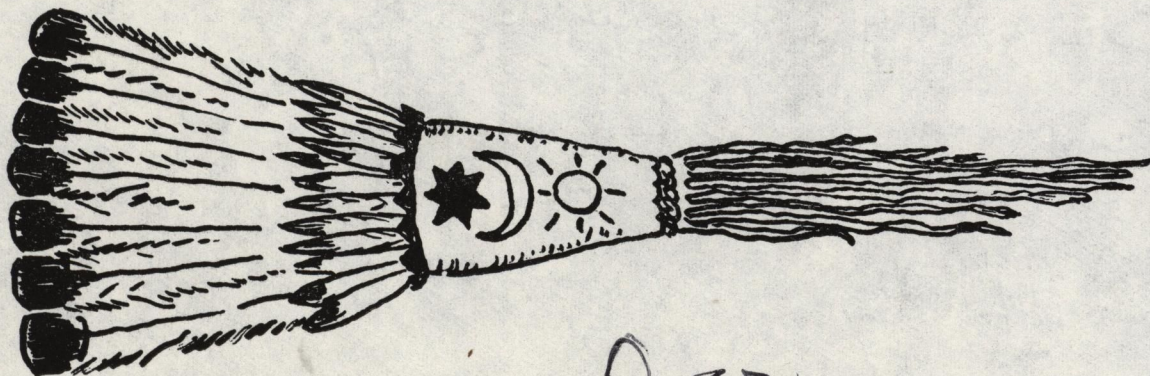
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*Over*



Ann- Please Return this part to me -

532 W. 6th St.  
Claremont, California.  
February 29, 1963.

Click

(1212 N.  
32nd Ave)

Dear Mr. Relander:---

After this lengthy delay I have had an opportunity to talk over a few bits of early Ahtanum History with a friend, so will write you<sup>us</sup> what we thought was fact-- not fiction.

I came back from China in the late fall of 1919 and remained with my ailing mother until her death Jan. 18, 1919. During this time we had leisure to discuss many incidents of her life in Ahtanum Valley from Sep., 1868--Jan., 1919

There were some stories about a certain old pioneer, JOE BOWSER, that always intrigued me. Joe had a cabin-store west of what is now Wiley City. He catered mostly to the Indian trade. It was said that he never permitted an Indian purchaser to enter the cabin to inspect the bolts of gay calico lest she would grab her choice and bolt for the Reservation.

Joe would hold up the gaily colored pieces for sale, before the door of the cabin, and the pointing and jabbering continued until the price was paid and the lady purchaser would gallop down the dusty road clutching her prize piece. White folks were considered more reliable and could fumble the goods.



So I believe that the cabin that has piqued your curiosity is the very cabin that was built and "operated" by Joe Bowser, as the first store in the Valley. What a pity that he did not know to use such a unique chance to advertise his merchandise!

Now this historic character (character) JOE BOWSER, married an Indian woman and they had one daughter, Josephine Bowser.

Josephine was married to a white man-- Vade Lily-- and they had four daughters, but no son. These daughters are all married and living on the Yakima Reservation, but I am not informed as to the address or the name of any of them. On this matter I am referring you to Irene Henderson, wife of Mr. John W. Henderson.

1210, S. 21st Ave., Yakima, Wn.

I do not know just what her connection with the above parties may be, but have been told that any one of them may have first hand information on the subjects that interest you.

I am not personally acquainted with John W. Henderson but his father, Norman Henderson, was a "district-school boy" in my childhood and I knew him and his brother intimately. He was a grandson of the earliest--or one of the earliest--pioneers of the Valley, and the first Sunday-School was in his cabin. Great-grandson John W. ought to be full of pioneer history, but !!

On the 27th Mr. and Mrs. Myron Woodhouse passed through here and stopped for an hour. They seemed to think that the Pioneer Museum was now over-stocked and much was being put away in drawers. If possible, I plan to make a short trip to Yakima this coming summer. But if you would like a few pieces of Chinese embroidery to frame I could send them on to you. Other things could wait.

Myron said that he has in his possession a number of papers that his mother, Mrs. Isabella Wiley Woodhouse, had written for clubs and similar organizations. He would be happy to let you look them over when he returns home from Mexico two months from now. There is a story of the funeral of the Copeland baby, the first white person to die in the Ahtanum Valley. One paper was written about the Pioneer Graves in the first cemetery. What was preserved after her death, by Myron, I do not know.

I have here the story of <sup>the first 10 years of</sup> my life, 1874--1884, which is not so very exciting, but if you want a copy I ~~there~~ could have one made.



My collection of papers and old manuscripts were practically all destroyed by the Japanese when they looted my home during World War II. — in Foshan,

Mrs. Myrom Woodhouse has informed me that you are anxious to have some data regarding the two scrolls sent to you from St. Charles, Mo. by my sister, Mrs. W. F. Achelpohl (Anna Wiley). On a separate sheet you will find all the data known by me.

It was a pleasure to receive your letter, Mr. Relander, and to learn of your interest in the history of Yakima. I hope that you will pardon my long delay in answering with the desired information. Transportation is a real problem when one does not drive a car. And I wished to talk over some items with a distant friend before writing.

If you sometime leave frozen Yakima for sunny California I would appreciate meeting you.

My best regards to Mr. Purdin with the hope that he is back to his normal health again.

Cordially yours,

Martha Wiley



532 W. 6th

5/23/'63

Dear Mr. Relander:--

This morning I am clearing out files of old letters and find an envelope of used Chinese stamps--I would guess around 300-- also a number of stamped envelopes. <sup>(Also Chinese)</sup>

I am wondering if these could be used in the Yakima Museum that you and Mr. <sup>P</sup>urdin are so greatly interested in.

If so, I will mail them to you. All such stamps are much in demand here ~~and~~ at our Pilgrim Fair, but if they can be used in <sup>Y</sup>akima I would prefer that. One envelope <sup>is</sup> stamped with \$1000. stamps--five in all, a good sample of what inflation can do! Will U.S.A. reach that state some day! ! !

If you can use them just send me a card and I will forward them.

I trust that all is going well  
with my Yakima friends  
Sincerely, M. Wiley