

Oct. 2, 1955

Mrs. Thelma Kimmel,
E. Bar Ranch,
Route 2, Toppenish.

Dear Mrs. Kimmel:

Your story on Dr. Ruby arrived (picture slightly bent but not damaged) and also your money order for \$4.

I thought I had made it plain about your status and Drummers and Dreamers, but I guess not. So, I'll try again.

I don't know whether you have a membership in the State Historical Society or not, which also includes a subscription to the Washington State Historical Quarterly. It occurred to me that you might wish to become a member, thus lending your good work to a good work. I would be most happy to see that is done with your \$4, with your permission and failing in that I don't know what I shall do with you unless I put the order in the book account at the Seattle First National Branch and see if I can't wangle two books instead of one for you when the time comes. Or maybe I should just send it back with a curt reject slip! I want to do what is possible to give you real satisfaction, so I'll abide my time.

Now about the Dr. Ruby material.

I had a talk with the editor and it is our intention to publish it this Thursday (in that way it should be published in both the Republic and Herald, one in the afternoon, the next the next morning. I've also put in a bid that should result in your getting a couple of bucks for it. Too bad we aren't in the magazine instead of newspaper field.

I'll see you get a half dozen clips of it.

Had a nice letter from Dr. Ruby today. He gave me some good leads on stores and is going to keep his eye open for some names to be used at the proper time (invitational to come in to Moses Lake or Ephrata and meet the Indians etc.) Also, I'm going to see Bert Broad when I get a copy that I've sent for.

I hear from Caxtons today that they are three years behind on their publication schedule. They seem to think it impossible to hit a early spring schedule for it. Rather than hit the summer slump it seems practical to make it early next fall when it can be well established and rolling, and capitalize on the Christmas trade. I think they will have it worked out in a week or so. The only thing I know definitely is that it will be out before this time next year. They've tried to appease me by sending (at my request) the names of stores all over the country that have standing orders in for every book

they publish. It is remarkable; single copies, just as starters, for every book they issue, some 10 copies, some 25, all over the country, New York, Boston, Florida, Wisconsin, California, Chicago, etc. etc. They have the same arrangement with over 100 libraries outside of this state. Adding up them with the ones I made contact for it runs right up there toward the total publication number issued by the vanity presses that people pay subsidies for. But they have learned that by figuring out close to the number that will be sold at the initial publication, they run no chance of stocking up a big remainder--the difference between profit and loss. Knowing the publishing costs etc. as I do, I can see where they are wise, and not having any "investment" laid down with them, I'm in no position to argue with them. Of course if I just sit back and let "George" do it, the chances for the book would be the same as all the others that come out--dealers if approached by a salesman buy a copy or so and then let it die because another book is out.

I was up at Ellensburg last Saturday afternoon and dropped into the two stores there. Normally they wouldn't have handled it until it was issued, then wouldn't have pushed it. Now they are both going to push it in advance, have book signing parties at their places etc. I even had to cut one man's "advance" order in half, telling him that the number was enough to take care of the start and then, as soon as he saw it could be moved, to be sure and reorder. All these personal contacts I am slowly building up will help out. Of course some of the writers I suppose feel that it is "beneath their dignity", for them to go to work like that. The old veterans at the game, and I've plenty of advice, tell me that even good books dry up on a limb in a hurry unless you have good assistance.

Sorry we're not lined up for "story" rates for your stories but maybe the couple of bucks will help. The clippings will be along. Sorry too I got off on a tangent about "book sales" but I think this is going to be more true as time goes on.

Be sure and let me know about your preference concerning the \$4. I'll vote first for the Historical Society membership. I'll vote too, for you to line out now and make your plans to be in Tacoma next May on the weekend the Pacific Northwest History Conference is to be held there. I've suggested the same to Mr. Ruby.

Lorraine is back now from Helena. Her father was buried last Thursday.

Sincerely

Hope the home fires are burning more brightly as the days go by. Keep me posted.

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