

July 7, 1965

Dear Bill:

First, thanks again for your kind favors. My preliminary check on the Indian paintings on leather indicates as you mentioned, "period pieces." These were general over all the country. Dean Guie's aunt sent him one from the east. He has one from the Coffin family of Joseph painted on green leather, also and they appear to have been generally used for ornamentation sometime perhaps just after 1900.

I think I have enough and some kind of illustration for something on Gannon art, without being too deep. The living section where the art things run seems well filled for this weeksince the editor is on vacation and left material, but maybe not. And, I have yet to write it. Probably one of the pictures of the little kids can go by itself when there's a chance.

There were so many things to talk about I didn't get into what I momentarily passed when we were talking about the painting.

Do you know, or know of a Dick Flood? He is director of Trailside Galleries, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and operates from June through September at Jackson, Wyoming, dealing mostly in pretty high class things. He is an authority on Russell, Remington, Couse, etc., the one I told you who runs around with Russell bronzes, Ace Powell paintings etc. in his car. Has bronzes cast of Russell works, deals with big museums etc. and has top artists working in the Trailside galleries during the summer. He's a very approachable fellow and would be the one I think who could peg the painting, perhaps through a photo of it, and would be, if it's authentic, the one who could handle it or know who is in the market, a collector of that artist's work, individual or museum. While he buys and sells to a clientele he has worked up through the years, he has his own things in many museums. Saw some Russells, cast in silver, letters and other such in the Montana museum, from his collection; The Life and Times of Olaf C. Seltzer, a booklet I bought at Helena lists about 10 Seltzers "Owned by Richard Flood, and others by Wilcrease Institute of American History etc.,; Mrs. Ruby E. Frost, Seattle; Carl Seltzer, Great Falls etc.

Of course I suspect he is like all big dealers, although he doesn't act like one, he'll pick up one cheap if he can, but I do know from sitting in on a conversation at Helena he was paying a pretty good price for a Russell item (of course he might have had a buyer in mind). So, if you want an identification write him at Jackson, Wyo. Trailside Galleries, use my name if you want to and send him a photo and if he can't go too much from that, invite him to stop by on one of his trips to Seattle or Tacoma.

(He has a son who is in a private school at Tacoma), (wintertime). He also knows his "very rare" books. I don't know just how he operates but he does know the western field, knows where every Russell etc. is and things like that; knows all the background and later things on Couse, who used to paint in the Yakima country. The picture you have is an outside chance a Couse, he would know, although it does look like Bierstadt from what I know.

Mr. Bill Gannon,
The Gannon Museum of the Wagon,
Mabton, Wash.

March 17, 1966

Dear Bill:

Home last night, and I wish to lose no time in dropping you a note, especially to thank you for your courtesies and the time (and talents) you extended to Jack Park and I. And thanks again to Mrs. G. for the luncheon.

You might have wondered why I was a little dumbfounded when you pulled out the fawn hide. But I appreciated that, very much. I suspected it's use. This afternoon when Percy Bull Child, the very fine Piegan craftsman came by to bring a tripod stand for the buffalo headdress, I confirmed it and the skin is with Percy now. Two skins were used to make a large medicine root bag, some were smaller, one skin and were used by medicine men for their roots, herbs etc. and sometimes as decorated skins in dance costumes. And the summer weasels were used by the medicine men as contrasted to the white dress up winter ones. It will be very interesting to see what comes up and I shall bring it down later to show you.

Incidentally the tripod for the headdress is the kind you see drawings of in old Russell, Remington's etc. Also on this tripod was suspended the drum, shield and lance. Percy is really an expert on this, from his own knowledge and that learned from his old father, dead since the '50s.

Bill, I wonder if you could "snash" the beaver trap away until I can get down there in a few weeks. It's something that might be quite necessary in one of the displays. And in order not to confuse those who are not yet up on this information or type of "rare" goods and how hard they are to come by I'd buy it myself. I'm hoping it is old enough and the "square jaw" variety and not too "manufactured looking." We saw Cowles, found him easily thanks to your directions and he is going to provide use of one of the trade muskets. But I think it would be better to buy a beaver trap if it will work into the display. I didn't look it over too thoroughly.

Also, at that time (when I come down), don't pass up any top offers, but I'd like both the Mason basketry and the Morehead, and maybe a BAE or so. I went through the latter pretty fast as I was worried about your time. I'd expect to pay around \$30 for the basket book and that would solve my problems in the future on baskets.

Jack and I didn't have too much time for book stores and didn't tie into anything special. Soon as I can package them up, or I'll bring them down, we have some run of the mill old agricultural deals, stock judging, drainage and such, most of which you may already have in which case you can "declare it surplus." And I've got a Gregg-Seager Co., Heavy Hardware, Minneapolis hard cover catalogue that looks in the 1885 class, Iron, Steel, Heavy Hardware, Wagon, Carriage and Sleigh material,