

April 8, 1959

Mr. Bob Ries,
Grant County PUD,
Epurata, Washington.

Dear Bob:

Nice to see you again at the feast. I promise not to let such a long interval interfere again.

For your general information I'm enclosing clips from Tuesday's Oregon papers. The Jim Hanson pictured and mentioned is the bronze caster I previously referred to, and the one who has developed the composition stone for reproducing rock paintings.

When I attend the Northwest History Conference later this week I expect to see him, and without mentioning anything relative, I'll check him out on how far he has delved into aluminum casting, rough estimate on installation cost of cut out of Indian head with semi-modern sun, star and moon separates, and his facilities for casting larger than life figure, reproduction of base stones of Indian rock paintings for face of base of large figure etc.

The cut-out and sun, moon and star would be suitable for the face of the Priest Rapids Dam powerhouse. The larger would be for the proposed upper dam. The reproductions for the base of the upper dam figure and for possible architectural design if a vista house or "museum" were built there.

These are just "ideas" turning over in an "unfertile" mind and my discussions with Hanson will be most diplomatic.

I am also turning over in the aforementioned "unfertile" mind salmon forms , food plant forms and deer forms to see if they could be worked out artistically in high relief for any panels, borders, statuary base or what not.

This week my "talents" are being challenged by carrying out a more than good likeness of a well known Yakima philanthropist for a niche in the Yakima Valley Museum. This is confidential as the man, Mr. Miller (owner of the Miller building) donor of the old YMCA, YWCA, Rotary camps etc. and museum and co-trustee of a philanthropic foundation, is sensitive about publicity.

I am also hopeful of pinning Cleveland Kamiakin down this summer for a likeness sketch. With that, and another typical tribesman from the Umatillas or Walla Wallas, I would be able to produce typical features of most of the Indians who looked upon the Columbia River as the Big River or Ch'awana and in time, if Wanapum Dam becomes a show place, it would have something none other would have. There is the possibility , too, that something could be finished before the World's Fair at Seattle and by being shown there would achieve something for Wanapum.

The above are just thoughts , not even hopes, and certainly and assuredly nothing more than for you and your co-planners and others to keep in mind and evaluate logically and practically.

Now back to manuscript work on Scorcity Now and The Lonely Road, two works completed but perhaps in need of polishing, revising and pleasing movie producers, publishers and literary agents---nearly as difficult as working with groups you no doubt have to placate.

My regards to all

Sincerely

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