

February 3, 1966

"INFORMAL REPORT OF PROGRESS"

From: Bruce Le Roy

Lots of excitement at the old Museum! Last week the Planning Committee met at the Reno Odlin home and laid out an interesting attack on the funds drive for the New Wing. We hope to have some results to report soon. Meanwhile, an anonymous good friend gave us \$1000 to start the ball rolling.

We have two fine "scouts" in Mrs. Weyerhaeuser and Mrs. Scott. Mrs. Weyerhaeuser called before leaving for Florida to tell us about a fabulous collection of Americana in the hands of the grand-daughter of Colonel Armistead, defender of Fort McHenry when "The Star Spangled Banner" was written, and of Civil War ancestors, one of whom launched Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. She has copies of the notes they exchanged to prove it! Mrs. Scott told us about a truly magnificent collection of "Westward Ho!" -- a set of 48 pieces of this beautiful Early American pressed glass. This famous set portrays the westward movement with Indians, covered wagons, buffalo, deer and antelope racing through pastoral western scenery.

Mr. Hitchman, Dr. Carstensen and I met yesterday with the director of the University of Washington Press in Seattle to discuss ambitious plans for future publications. All we need is more money, more people, more time! But the plans are good.

Father Davis is in Chile where he is deep in the papers of Father de Smet, a climax to many years of trailing the famous missionary. He writes that he could use two secretaries to help him out in the little village at the end of nowhere. He says "sheep are the major and only industry".

James Wehn, the West's greatest living sculptor, is busily designing the "Captain Robert Gray Medal", which will be awarded for the first time at our Annual Meeting in May. The Awards Program was made possible because of the kind financial assistance of Mrs. Weyerhaeuser.

We hope to have a new NEWS NOTES for release soon, but this gives you a clue to some of the activity here. Did you like the new EARLY WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES IN ART? We haven't heard from more than two people, but we think it is beautiful. The Tacoma News Tribune and the Seattle P-I are going to feature color plates from the pamphlet soon in their Sunday magazine sections, together with a review.

A letter just received from Dr. Ray A. Billington, the leading western historian in America, says "That's a handsome and useful catalogue of artistic depictions of Washington communities, ideally arranged for the use of historians, and beautifully reproduced. I am delighted to have a copy. Many thanks." -- Our day is complete!