

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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Mr. Chapin Foster, director,
Washington State Historical Society,
Tacoma, Washington.

Oct. 9, 1954

Dear Chapin:

I presume our letters must have "crossed in the mails,"
...the letters dealing with your ideas about promotion of the Lewis and
Clark Sesquicentennial.

I am writing again to Watson concerning the matter.

I don't know what kind of a story I can turn for you on the angle
suggested, but I will do my best. Meanwhile, working as I do on all my
research, I have created a file. Augmenting it with material I have on
hand, including much old magazine material, the rare Journal of
Lewis and Clark to the mouth of the Columbia River Beyond the Rocky
Mountains in the Years 1805-5, & 6, new edition with Notes, revised,
corrected and illustrated with wood cuts, Dayton, O. cpy B.F. Ellis, 1840;
and my incomplete set of the Original Journals of Lewis and Clark Expedition
edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, Dodd, Mead & Co. 4to size, with facsimiles,
maps, (etc.) limited to 50 numbered sets (I have No. 10), plus much
other material, I believe I can find considerable material to back up
Watson's narrative accounts.

I have another idea too, for Watson's approval.

The Original Journals show what punk spellers the explorers were.
"cloathes" for clothes; "buffaloe" for buffalo, "believe" for believe;
"reparing" for repairing (all in one paragraph).

Now suppose Watson can pick some seven to ten year old boy or girl from
his family, or some one else's family--children who are going to school
and do a cute photo study of this child poring over such a page and
then, showing in the story, and underlines that this kid can outspell
the "superior race," the "great explorers."

For that matter some schools might make a spelling project of
words from the journals covering the portion of the river in our territory.

The Eagles Lodge in Yakima has an annual spelling bee. I suspect they
will have it again next spring. If they do, maybe something like that
could be worked in and due publicity given it.

Also: Another picture I have in mind is Watson himself, a very good
speciman, or an older man or woman, sitting with some child on his
knee, enraptured in a "Lewis and Clark" story. Something like this
might best be done with a "Columbia River" background, the salt cliffs,
etc., which would require a trip but it could be arranged as far
as I'm concerned.

Either of the pictures could be offered over our Associated Press
wire photo machine here from Yakima and might be accepted and start

travelling across the country. Of course it is important for everyone to realize that the Associated Press doesn't pay for these pictures, enough to pay for the cost of printing and developing. Let on the other hand it is very difficult to get something on the Associated Press in that way. It has to be good and have quality and tell a story.

For instance when the Yakimas were in Washington on some of their hearings, we were able to get pictures by the expediency of requesting the AP to be on the lookout for something like that. And here they came, travelling across the country. We, as a member of the AP are entitled to things like that and conversely the AP may request us to provide things we have, or authorize it special.

I don't know for sure, but I suspect Clifford Dolph at the Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts might have a Lewis and Clark medal there. If so, a good picture would be one showing a cute little Indian kid with it over his neck, looking down at it, so the medal would show. I think too you might have a medal there at Tacoma, as I recollect.

And on the subject of Mr. Dolph, I'm sure he would go to special pains to get up some kind of a special Lewis and Clark art exhibit show, were one available-- some of the original Catlin prints even would help stimulate things. He goes out in the winter time to work up his shows. Being on the location he is, Maryhill should most certainly have something special. I expect to be seeing him before long and will "sound" him out for you, in case you don't know him.

Received a letter today from Joel Ferris at Spokane, concerning the Pacific Northwest History Conference to be held there next May. I intend doing what I can to stimulate interest hereabouts in it so Yakima will be well represented. And in my small way, I shall most assuredly do my part for its return to its home stand, according to your desires. There's plenty of time for that however.

Enclosed clip is from today's Republic. We're still bowling along. But you don't know the half of it. To have to undertake a fund raising move, on the eve of the Community Chest's drive for \$154,000; pressure from the parks, clubs etc. to secure the "matching" money for a swimming pool; and the fund raising that has been going on silently for the YMCA's new building which Ted is heading up! It was very difficult, believe me. But we have raised over \$60,000 is something. It may hit close to its goal of \$80,000. The \$65,000 matching money is or must be collected by 1956. So we have plenty of time to pick up the loose ends, get in the pledges etc. A total of \$130,000 for the building and some \$15,000 in operational funds to get it underway entails quite a bit of business planning. The board's annual meeting and membership election is to be held next Tuesday night, when the final drive report is to be made. They have insisted I be their speaker that night. At our opening kickoff, a Pioneer Supper, Dutch treat at \$2.25 a plate, no profit for the museum fund, we packed in 880 347, the hotel couldn't take any more and we turned away over 100 after notification that all tickets were sold! A week before the chamber of commerce mustered about 150 for their annual membership dinner. However, these things are best left unsaid, publicly--you know how jealousy ruins things. We just keep quiet and go ahead with our business, doing what the old-timers, and young people too, wish done.

Regards

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