

3701 Commonwealth Rd.

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Dear Bruce: [Rigsby]

August 24, 1964

Guess if you came through Yakima again before leaving the area, we missed connections, although we were generally home. I regretted it because your talks were always so productive.

Seems the more I talk to some of the Yaks about various words, seems the more needed indicated for such a study as you embarked upon. In my own amateur way I would say there's been a big mixture of the various basic languages in the past 100 years. Hence the Pandosy Grammar should be of real value to you.

I've had occasion to use it now on then, when people phone up about various words. One now that seems to have all kinds of answers, and you might have some ideas. The "true" Yakima word of term for friend and friendship. Also, the "true" Yakima word for hillside.

They come up with all sorts of definitions or expressions, and most of them don't even know the terms which the "older generation" says are the real ones (for friend and friendship). That was one thing gave me the idea that the language must have been in a state of change.

Encountered another bit of information that may give a clue on your continued language study. This might refer to the "Pandosy" grammar, but it sounds like something else and would cover a period around 30 to 40 years after Pandosy. The White Swan church (St. Mary's) was founded as an Indian Mission 75 years ago this ~~month~~ year. In 1867 a Jesuit, St. Onge, returned to "re-open" or reestablish the mission after its abandonment by Pandosy in 1855-56. Then a priest, ~~Wixva~~ Griva came in the ~~xxx~~ 70s--80s. His accounts of life among the Indians and mission work tell of working with the Yakimas, out of St. Mary's, first having an interpreter and then as he learned the language etc. giving sermons etc. He "learned" the language (roughly as I recollect the terms) "with the aid of a Yakima dictionary given me by St. Onge and a young man) And he tells how proficient St. Onge was with the language. The implication is there is another dictionary of the Yakima language. If so I suspect it should be available at Gonzaga. But it could be the Pandosy dictionary or an old one St. Onge had (although St. Onge and Pandosy were never there (the Ahtanum Mission) together. And it might have been one based on notes and additional material sent by ~~xxxx~~ Pandosy to the Jesuits. (More extensive material Pandosy had worked up on the Yakimas was presumably burned in 1855 by the volunteers) but he might have sent a copy to the Catholic priests before or added to it later from Canada. The Catholics, all the Jesuits etc. at the big library at Gonzaga didn't have a picture of Pandosy and knew of one. Last year I dug up one, also details about Pandosy's death and burial in Canada. In case I'm at Spokane, I'll inquire, but I don't know when that will be. So meanwhile, just something ~~xx~~ to keep in mind.

Hope you are getting located in your professional job in ~~xxxxxx~~ Canada and that it's to your liking and that of your wife.

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Dear Bruce: [Rigsby]

Oct. 24, 1964

Enclosed my copy of DuBois' The Feather Cult of the Middle Columbia. Hope it will expedite your purposes through your library xerox processing. I think I will be having some use for it in a couple of weeks, back-checking on a few of the families mentioned therein in which things can stand some additional checking, etc.

I started to make a pencil note or so through it. You can erase them easily.

Hope the transfer company gets your household good delivered before winter sets in. Must even now be getting cold there. It 's been quite "cool" here, but not yet cold.

Haven 't had a chance to do more than scan your language material. I have no intention of using it, unless something develops in the future. It's merely for "my education" and I appreciate it.

What I should have would be a simplified form of an anthropological alphabet or pronunciation guide to enable me to better record some place names etc.

Johnny Tomalawash of Wapato, one of the oldest of the Priest Rapids people died last Wednesday. He was quite elderly and very good on legends, local lore etc. He gave me some good material on rattlesnake medicine men, a little on the unusual side; also quite a bit of local lore on "mystic" stones, power stones etc., this about three years ago. Regret that I didn't spend some more time with him on field trips as he was very good on local material, regional, pertaining to happenings in the various areas, but I did get quite a bit from him.

Have made several trips down to the Haller battlefield after checking Haller's account of the battle, old Indian accounts of it etc. Not much "language" material in that sort of thing but my kind of history.

Hope this finds you and your family well. Glad you like your position there, And we are looking forward to spending some time with you when you return to the area. More later, rather hurriedly, this, so I can get the DuB in the mail to you.

Oh, yes, Tomalawash gave me quite a bit of material on S'hwapsa, who apparently died before 1800; who left some songs, like Somqhalla, and who most of the true Washat followers, now of and seem to credit with being quite an important man, but still not the "founder" of the Washat.

the best to you

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If you get a chance, drop me a note about "Friend" and "Friendship" and also hillsides .

Meanwhile, I think it would be well to send back the typescript re: Pandosy because I have ~~from~~ frequent inquiries about words, YMCA groups wanting some word for a club name etc. (I think the friend and friendship etc. word has to do with naming of Justice William O Douglas' new home up in the Cascades, since one of Douglas' friends asked. And I'm not too satisfied with the wide variation of answers from Yakima interpreters and old timers. When they are pinned down they'll say that they are using the words of the people around Rock Creek, they speak those words; or Bickleton, or Wishram or something like that. And I've talked to two of the top interpreters.

Also, there's some continued reading I'd like to catch up on that is leading me into Spier's Prophet Dance.

Drop me a line and let me know about your plans for the future re: this language study. I think you could easily show a need for completion of the linguistics if you discover the language has been very flux and is now simmering down. And perhaps I can put you in touch with some of the last knowing some of the "dialects" etc.

Don't forget to keep me posted in event of any paper, scholarly magazine publication etc. as you know how I try and keep my "library" stocked with what I can acquire in the Indian field.

Sincerely

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