

December 4, 1960

Mr. John McClelland Jr.

Chairman, Publications Committee

Washington State Historical Society

Dear John:

Your inquiry concerning the proposed writing of local histories and the remarks is appreciated, giving me an opportunity to concur on some good suggestions, because there is a strong probability I will be unable to attend the approaching board meeting.

This is because of another "Indian outbreak" in our country, following the annual general council meeting of assembly of the entire tribe. A strong opposition meeting has been called for Friday night and may continue, thus preventing my attendance. The inter-tribal conflict is becoming increasingly important. In event of my non-appearance, would you please mention to Reno and Bruce the reason.

Your questions, categorically:

1-Yes.

2-A general outline only should be prepared and this after consultation with school textbook authorities, competent in the historical field. One of the greatest values of such histories I should think would be their acceptability for school reference material, in itself conducive of "sales."

3-Inclusion of "supporting" material at state level would make the work more comprehensive.

4-The prescription for historical writing applies here.

5-This would seem wise such as Klickitat and Wamania; Benton and Franklin counties; Chelan and Wenatchee but Kittitas, Yakima alone.

6-Seems logical and in the best interest of history and writing that "checking" be done, but not to the extent of "textbook" writing only.

7-Several should be protected at one time.

8"Assignment" would be preferable when one is possible; a professional, unless provided with a specific outline, would be inclined to minimize local history, go off on too many tangents. And has thought been given to the possibility that some thesis might be converted into a local history? I think Dr. Deutsch could give an idea on this possibility; or the excerpting of theses. I think several combinations would be necessary, depending upon the local situation. Also, don't forget county society tie-ins.

10-Four months to one year, here again, depends upon situations. Some cases longer.

11-I think royalties would be the ~~most~~ fairest way, and would give a "professional status and an incentive.

Sincerely