

Waitsburg, Washington
Box 111
October 14, 1951

Mr. Click Relander,
Route 3, Box 149
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

I greatly enjoyed hearing from you and found your letter most interesting. To the best of my ability I will be glad to oblige you. Regarding the picture of Old Bones, which I had at the time you visited Mr. Conover, I am sorry I could not make it available to you at that time. The original negative seems to have disappeared long since. I enclose prints from the photograph, however, hoping they will serve you in some respect. I neglected to get the negative, or copy, or whatever device is used to reproduce from photographs, but will get it if you feel it could be of more help than the prints.

I am not engaged in any research on the Palouse Tribe aside from what appeared in the Lloyd manuscript. I have thought that a book on Kamiakin, Qual-Chan and some of the other Indian leaders might be of interest in popular form, rather than hidden away in the very interesting book by Jack Splawn, which not too many folks will be introduced to.

Mrs. Wes Lloyd, of Waitsburg, has a large picture of Old Bones, which he insisted should never go to Whitman College. Apparently he felt some animosity toward that institution. I believe Whitman College has a similar picture which they received, along with other souvenirs, from the Pettyjohn family of Prescott.

You speak of a hanging taking place at the mouth of the Palouse 40 years to the executions ordered by Colonel Wright. I seem to recall such an instance by fur traders, members of the Astor expedition, as a punishment for a minor theft. It was a rather summary type of justice and probably did the Americans no good in future dealings with some Northwest tribes. I believe a man named Clark was responsible in that instance.

I have only visited Lyons' Ferry once and on that occasion it did not occur to me what an interesting record the ferry log might provide. Thank you for speaking to the Turners regarding the value of the book. It should certainly provide ammunition for a feature article if the chores of school teaching provide sufficient leeway.

For many years I have been interested in the Appaloosa horses, dating to my infancy when we owned one of them. A young man named George Hatley has been prominent recently in bringing that breed into recognition. He lives near Moscow, Idaho. I believe one of the professors at the University of Idaho has helped him with the project, a member of the livestock department I would presume.

An Appaloosa horse show at Lewiston, Idaho, is now an annual

event every summer. The Spokesman-Review has printed some very good pictures taken at the event. Last spring the Western Horsemen contained a very interesting article tending to show that these colorful horses were known and highly valued in China and Northeastern Asia. Otherwise my information on Appaloosas is very general. A young man named Robert McClellan, Nine Mile Falls Washington, owned the Appaloosa stallion which Hatley used in starting his herd, or so he tells me. Mr. McClellan operates a riding stable and seems to be a keen horseman. He might be able to help you in this regard.

I first heard of Smohalla in a book entitled, "And there were Men", by Russell Blankenship. Apparently the Nez Perce tribe was strongly influenced by these teachings. It has often appeared unique to me that this belief should originate along the Columbia, a teaching dedicated toward peace among all men, at a site close to that devoted to production of the atomic bomb, the greatest threat to that end.

The name of Cleveland Kamiakin was frequently in the news while I lived at Wenatchee. Pete Bones may be the other Indian you mention. He was written up in the Walla Walla paper as the last of the Palouses only this spring. I believe I have heard the same title applied to Sam Fisher (Fishman), who frequently stays at Lyons' Ferry. The story of Five Sack (George Lucas), who joined the Nez Perce forces in 1777 could make quite a story, also. Probably that came to your attention in the Lloyd manuscript.

I'm afraid I have rambled a bit in this epistle. My grandparents were English and therefore seemed to enjoy the confidence of Chief Garry. He needs to be featured properly by some means. There is much reason to believe he was the first school teacher in this state, even prior to John Ball at Fort Vancouver. My main interest at present is the excavations and reconstruction planned at old Spokane House, though I am too far away to keep in touch with the work going on there.

Please accept the prints with my compliments and let me know if I can be of more definite help. I should like very much to meet you should your research bring you this way again during my tenure, or should my peregrinations take me to Yakima.


I shall send one of the Bones prints to Dr. Kingston. I have enjoyed my work with him very much. Having visited him, you will understand what I mean. I believe Mr. Conover is probably as well informed as any living man on the Palouse tribe although Mrs. Wes Lloyd received a letter from a Dr. Johnson during my stay here. He had been reservation doctor on the Colville reserve, knew Pasco Sam and doubtless countless other Indians, some of whom must have been Palouses. I doubt that Dr. Johnson is still alive but it could be ahead. I'm certain Mrs. Lloyd would have kept the letter.

Thank you again for your letter. If I have fallen short in the matter of information I regret it almost as much as you.

In addition to being principal and full time teacher I attempt to correspond for three daily papers and write sports for the local weekly. For these reasons I have been frustrated in attempting to write some stories based on incidents in Northwest history though in the past I have earned some recognition along those lines.

Very truly yours,

Henry Reimers



Waitsburg, Washington
Box 111
May 25, 1952

Mr. Click Relander,
Yakima, Washington

Dear Friend:

I was pleased to hear from you again. It is true that details pile up at the end of a school term but I hesitate to offer that as an excuse for my delay in writing as you are doubtless as busy as the next person. We have four more days to go but I shall not suffer if I get busy and do what should have been done sooner.

I am genuinely sorry not to have been more helpful in the matter of criticizing your manuscript though I thought I had indicated a couple of items. Actually, I wonder how many "historians" are as informed on Palouse Indian lore as you now are, by virtue of your special research and acquaintance with various natives.


The hanging of the Palouse Indian by the white traders was accurate as far as all my reading has led me to believe, and the treatment by Col. Wright seemed authentic. The legends were all new to me but of great interest.

I was surprised to learn that Appaloosa horses were owned by the cayuses as in a way I had thought the Nez Perces retained them rather exclusively. On the other hand, knowing the origin of the name perhaps I should not have been surprised. (I believe I had indicated something to that effect).

There is a book "Reminiscences of an Old Timer", by Col. George Hunter, who fought in the local Indian wars and later ran a warehouse at Grange City, near Lyons Ferry. He recounted experiences having Palouse Indians work for him, but nothing of historical import. I believe Mrs. Wes Lloyd has one of the books, the only copy I have ever seen.

One of the Lloyds commented on the fact that the Indians have a tendency to become mercenary in dealing with the whites even when the project directly benefits the redmen, such as your book will do. I suppose he referred to posing for pictures, recounting personal experiences, etc.

The lady who runs the Spalding museum, (Mrs. Joe Evans, I believe) mentioned owning a history of the Nez Perce war, written by one of the tribesmen who participated, which might have some items regarding Palouse assistance. She also mentioned a story of a series of giant "tracks" to be noted along the Snake canyon, supposedly left by some prehistoric monster. I watched for some reference to that in your account but do not remember commenting, not knowing if the Palouse tribe listed it as part of their culture..



I do not know if I will ever embark on another work such as the Lloyd story or not as my work here seems to increase in scope each year. Time is the essence as far as dealing with the pioneers whose personal experience harks back to the days when Indians were as common a sight as pick-up trucks. To a certain extent you are struggling against a dead line in your manuscript, nevertheless I think it a worthwhile effort.

One problem, to me, is the matter of financial return. (I was talking about the Indians being mercenary). It seems your book, if on the proper reading level, would be a logical one to be placed in elementary and Junior-hi libraries, to correlate with Northwest History study, that is, if you want it to be available to many readers.

Miss Cecil Dryden, history professor at Cheney, has marketed some books about fur trader days. She is at the teacher's college, as is Dr. Kingston. She might offer a closer evaluation than I was able to do. Mr. White should have been able to comment more than I did. Incidentally, he has been quite ill for the past few weeks, hospitalized at Dayton part of the time.

I wish to thank you again for submitting your story to me. My collection of miscellaneous information may have led you to credit me with being more of an historian than is the case. In the matter of the Palouse tribe you are practically an archeologist, with much of the material you have unearthed. I'm sorry if I soaked up a lot of information that was new to me and gave so little in return. It was not for lack of good intentions on my part.

With this letter I am returning surplus money which you entrusted to me for the mailing of your manuscript. Should my summer activities take me to Yakima I shall seek an opportunity to sit down across a lunch table from you and enjoy a "pow wow". Possibly the ramifications involved in a personal visit will turn up something of use to us, if not, such a meeting would give me a real personal pleasure.

My best wishes for success in your venture, also, my continued willingness to help if there is any way I can do, are meant to be conveyed in this letter.

Very truly yours,

Henry Reimers