

Dr. Robert Ruby,
414 Crestview Drive,
Moses Lake, Wash.

Oct. 3, 1955

Dear Dr. Ruby:

Thank you sincerely for such a prompt response to my
infringement upon your time.

I am glad to learn the publisher's name and will see Bert Broad with the copy of "Sicglala Sioux." I am sure he will stock a few copies for his regular "Indian fans" and possibly more extensively when he sees the book which I trust will be along any day from McBee's, together with the bill. I have several other dealers in mind, who, if they have not been approached by Vantage, and after I see the book, I am sure will want to stock it.

The names and addresses of the potential dealers will be most helpful. I am sure that business with the Grant County PUD and the Wanapums will bring me to Ephrata and Moses Lake later so I can present the matter to them directly. Having the names of the dealers will eliminate lots of floundering around.

I hear from my publisher, today, and there's no big hurry now in getting my lists of names to be sent invitations to come and meet the "Wanapums." You can keep that in mind and more will develop perhaps. The publisher appears swamped with work and running far behind schedule and not being in a position to "demand" of him action, because he is the publisher and it is his deal. I think it more likely that the book will be out late in the summer rather than spring. That's one penalty a person pays where a publisher gives an out and out royalty contract on a book, and of course historical and factual books of that nature don't always click like historical novels.

After I read your 'Sioux' I'll do a little checking into the extensive collection of commissioner reports, special committee reports I have. I have about 20 of them in my research library, many published in the '60s, and much other rather scarce material too. I suppose the agency had a complete run of them. I have about a dozen of the smaller Board reports that are very good. You can gain an insight into the "Wanapums" by reading the Smowhala section in Mooney's 14th annual Report, BAE, Part II (The Ghost Dance etc.) which I suspect you probably have.

I've already found you have a few friends "going to bat" for you to promote your book, and you'll hear more of that later.

I'm wondering, if you have plans for other writing, if you shouldn't consider taking out a membership in the "Washington State Historical Society. I'm fortunate enough to be a board member (curator they call them)

organization.

It has several advantages, one being that it permits contact and association with history teachers, writers, researchers, librarians etc. at the annual Pacific Northwest History Conference. This was held at Helena two years ago, at Spokane last year and will be held at ~~Tacoma~~, Tacoma, "the founder" next May. It's a three-day or two day, Friday night, Saturday session, packed with forums, top speakers etc. At Helena we had Dr. Ahearn (?) of Colorado and Guthrie who wrote The Big Sky. Last year we had Mr. James Babb, Yale librarian and they intend to have an equal top speaker this year.

Dr. Herman Deutsch of Washington State College is one of the strong backers and is extremely helpful. Robert Hitchman of Seattle, like myself, a "layman" is very helpful. He may have a contact with Vantage. If not, by all means have them send him a copy. Bob issues a mimeographed sheet every few months--just as a personal project, to collectors, librarians etc. all over the United States. He sends this out at his own expense and lists new publications. Dr. Haines, whose book on the Nez Perce is just out is an active member, and Dr. Stewart, who wrote Custer's Luck is another member. Chapin Foster is the state director.

Membership is \$4 a year and includes subscription to the Washington State Historical Quarterly, the University's quarterly historical publication. I think the subscription to the quarterly is nearly that much, if ~~xxxx~~ one happens to send in to the University to subscribe.

We haven't enough members in Eastern and Central Washington and I'm going to try and build some up from our section. I should be most happy at some later date convenient to you to send in your membership with a note to Chapin Foster about your "Sioux" and I suspect he will bring it out in his next news letter. I'm only suggesting this because I believe your contacts, if you plan other writing, would be most helpful. The quarterly isn't near up to the Montana Quarterly (whose editor and promoter J. Ross Toole is also an active participant in the Historical Conference) but we have been bearing down to get Dr. Gates to dig in and turn out a more profuse publication.

Don't rush into the Historical Society membership but by all means put it down as something for the next few months. I don't wish to appear to be "selling you" but I think you will have the battle half won if you get to know some of the active participants. Dr. D. is a sticker for "grass roots" talent. He had quite a battle for a while with the staid professors of ethnology, history and anthropology but has pretty well won out.

Thanks again for your prompt note. Thanks too for the leads about the stores. If you get over this way any time, be sure and let me know in advance. I've got quite a few contacts around the state now and we'll see how some of them fit in.

Sincerely Yours

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