

Click Relander, 3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mr. Lynn Smith,
Classic Bronze Corp.,
2230 Chico Ave., South El Monte,
California, 91733

Dec. 31, 1968

Dear Lyhn:

My best of the season to you and your very fine wife. I shall never forget my visit to your home and the hospitality extended so graciously.

I am making haste to send what should have been attended to in the past, yet I too have been so completely snowed under it has been a matter of time to get my little odds and ends of business attended to.

If the enclosed check is not properly made out, or rather cannot be negotiated to your own satisfaction, just slip it into an envelope and I will, by return mail, send you one to either you, personally or you and Classic Bronze. Your forbearance has been appreciated and I could have attended to this long ago, but for time. I believe this will complete the payments due, at least that is what my records show, a total of \$250 on account.

My regards to Tom and Dick and the others at Classic Bronze. I have given their address to a couple of architects here who have called me regarding dedication plaques which I feel sure were processed through the foundry.

Besides my other activities, my publisher and several other influential people tied into the Gannon Museum of Wagons and a big Indian collection and opened a big museum in downtown Yakima. Glenbow foundation, Calgary, the American Museum of the Indian (New York) and others had bids in for the big collection, Indian material and over 50 old Concord coaches, a genuine Conestoga, much original Wells Fargo material, etc. Under separate cover I'm sending you a newspaper insert my publisher authorized. On top of that he insisted I go on the board.

So I hold the unusual "distinction" of being a curator of the Washington State Historical Society, headed by the past president of the National Bankers Association, Joshua Green, 98, most wealthy man in Seattle; Mrs. John Weyerhaeuser of the Weyerhaeuser timber co. and others, coming up with \$1 1/2 addition to the state society at Tacoma; a director of the Yakima Valley museum at Yakima, \$300,000 building and displays and with \$70,000 cash in bonds and cash; the Frontier Museum, just organized which acquired the Gannon collection (director), besides my own career job. On top of that the Yakima Indian Nation, in an unusual action voted to hire me and approached my employers first for an advisory job and public relations job with them. I turned the full time job down, because of retirement, medical etc. on my own job and without mentioning salary, they said they'd make it all up and more, but I still decided to stick with my profession.

Then again, a week ago, they sent me a ticket, non-stop Portland to L.A., to evaluate the Nipo Strongheart Collection given them. So I spent five days at the Sheraton West Hotel with a tribal delegation and went to Van Lyons storage on Verront checking through 70 trunks of Indian material. I ran up to \$70,000 and a dozen of the trunks, in storage for 35 years, I left unopened. They were marked "choice blankets, baskets, ceremonial robes etc. There were over 100 fine old Navaho blankets, suitcases full of silver and turquoise necklaces etc. and 18,000 rare old books on Western Americana. I spot tested the books and, since I knew the now dead donor, Nipo Strongheart, who used to be in the movies in westerns with Tyron Power, Rod LaRoque etc. I believe his "old day" estimate of a \$175,000 collection is about \$50,000 short. We went ~~tax~~ down to band and mark the containers for shipment to Yakima, having forfeited \$15,000 in bonds to an "erstwhile" son, who placed "no value" on the Indian material. I feel the son and his attorney thought we would ~~like~~ give it up and they'd fall heir, also, to the material. Some of the random boxes of books I checked ran up to \$500 worth of books, publications seen in few university libraries, now. UCLA, the University of Alaska, the Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian etc. felt we'd just "let it ride."

But it happens the Yakimas have a monthly income now of 1/2 million from timber and next year will have \$4 ~~gax~~ to \$5 a year income from timber alone. They have one claim for 23,000 acres of land in the original reservation that was taken over by a National Forest in years past on which the timber alone is worth \$12,000,000. These books and documentary information will help prove the Yakimas' claim to that land. The government wants to pay them off but the tribe wants the land, which was never occupied by the white man but which the government took over, and the original treaty map, now possessed, shows this was within the reservation!

The Agency building burned here five months ago and Will Rogers Jr., assistant commissioner of Indian Affairs, advised the Yakimas to build their own agency building and "rent" it to the government. So they want me to work out a qualifying application for a museum as a part of the agency.

Nothing has been said about a fee, but my recommendations are taken by the tribal council and when I propose a monthly retainer as consultant, I don't think it will be rejected.

I also intend to propose when they build, and that will be two years, that they set up a small sum for some bronze work, a "hall of famous chiefs," or something like that, and of course a bronze plaque of Nipo Strongheart, who was a friend.

Also, our friends, the Grant County PUD, who didn't take my recommendation three years ago to buy some Indian material for the Wanapum Tour center, where much of their display consists of my Indian material "on loan," on a letter of recommendation sent Jack Park over with a purchase order of around \$3,000 for Indian material at the Frontier Museum, and they could only fill about \$500 worth of it, the rest being material they wanted to keep. I had told the PUD three years ago this would happen and they could have, at that time, bought all they needed for \$1,500!

I am glad you enjoy "the Fisherman" but it is so poor compared with a couple of wax models I have started. The Indians know my poor talents along this line and I think will budget a little in their future plans as they shape up. They have \$125,000 appropriated for a timber survey to see if they should go into the timber business; have a 180 acre industrial park, a \$1 1/2 furniture factory there now leased by Sequoyah of Oklahoma at \$2500 a month; a \$350,000 water system, spur railway line, and are finishing up a deal with a wood products company for a \$1/ and 1/2 million factory. They have a tax-free industrial site, an abundance of labor, (trainable) in young Indians, cheap electricity, etc. And that's something for you to remember in talking with any of your "factory" friends. One of these days, when they get out some brochures, I may send you some. The only thing necessary would be to develop an outlet in the Valley here for "empty" trucks to bring back from the California outlet for another commodity. And that shouldn't be difficult.

Being is starting to spread out from Seattle, hundreds of miles, to find labor and other facilities. Seattle is too congested for all the contracts they have.

Forgive the long letter, but there have been several bases to tag.

My vacation on Vancouver Island was outstanding. And there is the "coming" resort area. I walked for miles on beaches, without seeing a person, and the beaches topped anything in California. They are all open. I could pick up a gallon of oysters in 20 minutes and dig a gallon of clams in four shovels full of digging.

Again, my best to all at the plant, Tom, Dick and all the others. And I still have a few years work in me before my "hands" tighten up.

Don't hesitate to shoot back the check if you want it remade.

And believe me, on my flying trip to L.A., I tried to work out a free evening so I could contact you, but we were there on "official" business that had to be taken care of in our allotted time.

best regards, Click Melander