

3701 Commonwealth,

Yakima, Wash. 98901

Feb. 1, 1969

Mr. Daniel E. Strongheart,

J 245~~34~~ No. Dusyin Rd.,

Acampo, California

95220

Dear Dan:

I've been intending to drop you a note, recalling your work and that the California rains, and snows in the mountains, must complicate things for you. But as to my knowledge of California, I hope you've missed the worst part of the floods.

We are having our own share of things in the Yakima, cold, with lots of sub zero nights and -10 every once in a while, snow, etc. Thought it is bright and clear the last couple of days. Our water runoff season, in March, may be pretty heavy unless the 18 inches of snow on the ground now (the flat country) with a water content of 2.80 inches runs off slowly before the start of hill runoff. Snow there is just starting to build up with 140 inches on the ground and a water content of around 40 inches. That 's not unusual here.

Then I came across the news release from the Department of Interior, which you may or may not be familiar with. So I thought I'd sent it along just in case you are interested. I know nothing about your mother, of course so if this is of value or interest to you, it gives you a little to go on.

The Yakimas are quite busy with a number of projects now, dealing with various legislative actions (it is a constant fight for them against actions which threaten their well being). They are progressing industrially and this spring will no doubt expand in that direction, having a 200 acre industrial park in operation and with business firms interested. I have seen very little of the tribal leaders in recent weeks. And a few weeks ago Will Rogers Jr., who is an assistant commissioner was out.

The government policy has been, especially in connection with postoffices and such buildings, to let individuals build and lease to the government. He advised them, as they had been thinking, to build a new agency building and cultural complex and lease it to the government.

They are about ready to announce the Strongheart collection and I have completed my research on that. And while I have some pictures of Nipo in later life, I do not have the number I wish, especially one with a profile, to enable me to start a sculpture. If I work up a suitable one I believe they would accept my recommendation that it be included in the proper setting at the proper time (a memorial plaque). They have always been agreeable to a proper ~~grave~~ grave marking.

There has existed, ever since claims payments and timbering provided money, a small group of part bloods, who wish all payments in per capita which the government cannot permit. If they did, then Yakimas not yet born, in time, could go to the government and say "what happened to my share" and there would be constant lawsuits. Had they followed the advice of their tribal leaders 10 years ago, when compensation was paid for Celilo Falls and the fishery loss, before the government saw it otherwise, they would now be earning large dividends or per capita payments. Development of timbering is now making this possible. The tribally-owned timber is now being opened up. But the largest amount of the returns will have to go back into tribal developments. "As a treaty nation the Yakimas are different from many tribes whose reservations were set up by "proclamation." No one but the Yakimas ever "owned" the land of the reservation and it was reserved by the Indians at the treat, not given to them by the government which took their lands away by force of arms.

I guess that brings me up to date at the moment. Don't know when I'll get to Calif., but will have to go down one of these days to see my aging stepmother. I hope things are going well with you and yours. And, if you have come across a good profile of Nipo, lend me the photo long enough for making a copy? Until later,

Sincerely

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