

Archivist,
Library, Washington State University,
Pullman, Washington, 99163

Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash.

May 22, 1968

Dear Sir:

I am writing for zerox or easily made copies of Nipo Strongheart material, repository in the Papers of Lucullus Virgil McWhorter and listed in the Nelson A. Ault catalogue.

Mr. Strongheart, as you probably know, was of Yakima Indian blood, was a close friend of the late L.V. McWhorter, spent much time with him in Yakima and had considerable correspondence. Much of this I am sure is reflective of Mr. Strongheart 's feelings and activities. I personally knew him and am preparing some background information on him in line with my historical research.

If you will send me an estimate of the cost of this material I will forward payment to cover it. Dr. Herman Deutsch will attest as to my realibility, Mr. Ault also will, and I suspect that Mrs. Mary Avery is not now available.

Kate Williams, index p. 142 was a "foster mother" of Nipo so I will ask for those letters, also,

Quite a long list of Strongheart communications are noted on pps. 139-40. I should have them all and do not feel the price will be prohibitive if an ~~exp~~ inexpensive copy medium is employed. I will leave that up to you.

And should you have a separate file on Nipo Strongheart, it no doubt will contain material in which I am interested.

Most Sincerely

Click Relander

Click Relander,
3710 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mr. Earl Connette,
Librarian and Chief,
Manuscripts-Archives Division
WSU, Library

June 9, 1968

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your May 29 advisory letter relative to the Nipo Strongheart and Kate Williams material in the L.V. McWhorter collection.

This will authorize xeroxing the items. Assurance is given of due credit in event of any publication, although only newspaper material is contemplated and that not dealing extensively with what the collection contains.

If there are listed photographs of Strongheart and / or Kate Williams, this will authorize a photo negative or copy of the best quality picture.

I will keep you advised on my interest in the Strongheart material as it progresses and at a later time. And I am sure you will find it desirable to know. I can tell more about it when I see the zerox material.

Sincerely

Click Relander

Dr. Earle Connette,
Librarian and Chief,
Manuscripts_Archives Division,
Washington State University

3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dec. 8, 1968

Dear Dr. Connette:

I was surprised and pleased to receive in Saturday's mail two withdrawn documents from Senate and House Messages.

These will fit very nicely into my rather extensive Yakima Indian material. You know how it is, I am sure, it takes a regular job of paginating to be sure you have all the material of that nature.

Under separate cover I am sending for your general information, and then you can discard it, a section from our paper, The Yakima Frontier Museum. My publisher "contributed" this section, without ads, to the local museum cause. He and O.E. (Babe) Hollingbery are on the board. And of course

Dr. W.L. Gannon and his late father, Louis O. Gannon came from Pullman and Dr. Gannon (Bill) attended WSU before military service and taking his PH.d in Art History.

Again, many thanks. I now am looking forward to writing you in a few weeks/ And I am looking forward to your visit here one of these days or my visit to Pullman.

Most Sincerely

Click Melander

[Tribal Letter]
Click Belander,

3801 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dec. 9, 1968

Mr. Eagle Seelatsee,
Yakima Tribal Office,
Yakima Indian Agency,
Toppenish, Wash., 98948

Dear Eagle:

In connection with a projected trip to checkout the Nipo Strongheart material bequeathed to the Yakima Indian Nation, the following material is being taken along and the following general system offered for your consideration.

I have grease pencils, crayons, to use in marking; masking tape to affix to containers, notebooks to make record of containers.

As I understood it originally, someone from storage house would bind or seal containers.

Indian material containers would be IM-1, IM-2, etc.

Books would be B-1, B-2, etc.

Miscellaneous would be M-1, M-2, etc.

Loose material would be UC-1, UC-2, etc (Uncrated). This would be for the Totem pole reported to be "upstairs," "tipi" poles etc., too long to go into the storage rooms.

Containers would be opened, contents roughly listed, such as 20 concha belts; 20 silver necklaces, two men's costume, Sioux, porcupine quill.

We would record this in notebook. Corresponding number would be affixed to container with masking tape. Storage room would be filled and checked out to Storage head and key to room turned over to head of department.

I assume that provision for acquiring keys and access authorization is being taken care of.

The recording books would be turned over to you, so that whenever the material is shipped or delivered, the packages could be marked off or checked off when unloaded and they should all come out.

I could prepare a brief statement for us to sign that packages IM-1, etc. Containers or packages E1, etc. and UC-1, U-C-2 etc. have been recorded by us, we have seen the containers banded, they have been stored in such and such rooms or vaults and we have delivered the vault keys to the responsible authority at the storage company.

Notation would be made of the few damaged articles we observed , such as the sculpture.

However, you could set up any system you think is better, or check at the agency with your properties and see if this is not a satisfactory system.

As we progress, I can make a rough estimate of valuation on the I-M. I will prepare a highlight typed report on this to give to you or send you.

I will take my original notes of contents as observed on the previous cursuory inspection, for comparison.

I would suggest that if there are photographs available, of pictures taken at that time, they be taken along. I will probably take my camera along, although it is not an "indoor" camera.

I am sending a carbon copy of this with this letter, and keeping a second copy.

If you have a different system, just explain it to me when we arrive or en route and I'll be ready to do it that way.

Sincerely

Click Relander

Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mrs. Trudy Knapp,
Walt Disney Productions,
500 So. Buena Vista St.,
Burbank, Calif. 91503

May 26, 1968

Dear Mrs. Knapp:

Thank you for your letter of May 23, sent to the Yakima Herald-Republic, where I am city editor.

I am not a "professional" photographer, but have always, in connection with my work, taken pictures.

I'll have to do some rummaging around in files and boxes, long packed, but right at the moment do not recollect much in the line outlined. Outside of historical research of my own, my acquaintance with Mineral King was it was my favorite pack-out headquarters, back to Lady Franklin Lakes and up over the top into the Whitney country and other directions from there. And this was in the 20s and 30s.

I was interested in historical research in California, and helped get the museum at Mooney Grove under way. I have been for several years a curator of the Washington State Historical Society and have such a collection (largely Indian now) that I have 18 filling cabinets full of research material, something like 10,000 books and pamphlets,, three-fourths Americana. I did the sculpture for Wanapum Dam and was historical consultant for the tour center there and have seven bronzes in the small tour center, a climbing salmon fountain (needs lots of water but has little to save damage on building ; several heads, from life of historic Northwest Indians, and two small figures The Last Drummer and The Fisherman.

So I have an appreciation of research , etc. Incidentally I went to the old Otis Art Institute during my art study days in the 20s, and one day, before Mickey Mouse was born I suspect, someone got the names of all artists and came by to see each of us, but my field was not cartooning and that was what he was interested in.

I recall no old photographs in my possession as you describe. What I gathered in California, I left there with those interested in the developing museum at Mooney Grove. I don't even recall their names. Joe Doctor of ~~Exter~~ Exeter was interested in things like that. Sol Sweet, Visalia, was also interested. Some stills from the Mineral King store and miscellaneous things were left with the museum and I believe you will find your best pictures there. If Anne Mitchell (Miss) is still living, she would be one of your best sources. I'm afraid John Boettger and his wife, they were both elderly, are long dead, also Conrad Alles and at Three Rivers, Miss Frankie Welch, but I suspect most of them are dead.

I will try and dig out my negatives from that area as I can find time, and since I am interested in history as I mentioned you would be welcome to make any copies of them you desired, without credit, providing I did not lose my own rights to use of the negatives at some future time which might be doubtful. I have too much in research and studies on Indians here and in California. Mineral King was a little high for Indians but I have much material and pictures (negatives) of those living above Three Rivers and below Three Rivers , along the Kaweah etc. , showing them making baskets, pottery etc.

Kroeber, the U.C. anthropologist, now dead maintained pottery making was a lost art among the Yokuts (the Kaweahs, Potwisha, Wuchumna, etc. were sub tribes) So I dug up two pottery makers and Emily Gatton came down to do a monograph on them, claiming a discovery, which made no difference to me. I have some Indian artifacts from the area below, not many, an old style cradle back board, that was old when I acquired it in the 20s, and such stuff of no interest to you; a couple of carbide mine lamps from the area (they were common all over the west and you can probably get them downthere for from \$10 to \$15 (I have noidea how they go).

There used to be an old horse trough at Trauger's and another below there, but I doubt if they are still there. And on the trail to Lady Franklin Lake is an old grave, which was marked and has a bit of a story as I recall. Some old trapper didn't get in the winter and they found his bones there in the spring and buried him, (the scattered bones).

I am satisfied that Sol Sweet is still around and would, with Miss Annie Mitchell, be your best bet for pictures, the old kind and some prowling around Three Rivers and up the South Fork will uncover some of the old timers you are looking for. If I know my old timers, they just don't checkout of an area they like until by death.

Incidentally I was down to L.A. three weeks ago on a hurried trip. I went along with a small delegation of Indians from the Yakima Tribe and the tribal attorney to check out a mysterious bequest made by a part Yakima. I knew more about this man, who lived at Hollywood many years and was a kind of technical adviser in across the Wide Missouri, Pony Boy, etc. than any one else. He left his collection of books and Indian material to the Yakima tribe and no one had ever seen it. When some "foster" kin showed up etc. so we had to go down and check it out. We had been informed it was worthless, though long in storage. It was well preserved and we checked through only parts of seven rooms, determined that there is eight to 10 tons of material from all over the U.S. and about 5 tons of very rare books. The man involved was Nipo Strongheart. So the collection is now in process of transfer to the Yakima tribe. I suspect I will be called in to go down and take delivery, marking boxes etc. before loading onto a van, or check it out when it is received here, and, since Nipo got around and had vast interests, I'll keep my eye open. Also, if I do go down on a fast flight, I may give you a call. We staid at the Beverly Sheraton three weeks ago.

Meanwhile, soon as I get a chance, I'll try and get into some of the old packed boxes I've had stored here, but I don't expect to find anything specifically as outlined in your letter. -

I was asked to go down and check through the Strongheart material because the Indians know my knowledge of Indian matters, including artifacts, costumes, etc. And the Yakima tribe is a tribe of 5,600 persons, with a reservation of 1,200,000 acres, the most extensive timber on the Coast, and an annual budget of \$2 to \$3 million.

You'll hear again from me soon as I check through some negatives, etc. but don't expect much. And, as I noted and wish to emphasize, you'll be welcome to what little I have in the photo line, if my own use is not prohibited. But what I have probably could be duplicated much better, now.

Sincerely

Click Relander