

July 19, 1965

Dear Jack:

Enclosed the statewide annual California art exhibition
"priced" catalogue I mentioned.

This will give an idea of painting prices, although sizes, which govern
sometimes, are not mentioned.

Sometimes too, if an artist does not care to sell his painting,
he puts an even \$1,000 price on it. However the list shows prices for
the prize winners as well as a wide variety of other paintings.

Santa Cruz is well established as an "art center" and prides itself
on offering the best available.

Comparing this, with any information from Dolph on Maryhill priced
paintings I think will give you a general idea of oils.

Meanwhile work progresses here.

Sincerely Yours
and best regards

Click Helander

July 26, 1965

Mr. Jack Park,
Grant County PUD No. 2,
Ephrata, Wash.

Dear Jack:

To keep you posted, particularly regarding transportation of proposed works for bronzing.

En route from downtown, and during "at home work breaks," I have pursued trailers and transportation from all angles.

U-Haul rentals are not adapted to the work as to size, springs etc. without some "remodeling." On top of that they want \$54 for the trip projected and the "enclosed" trailer is just 5 feet high, the height of the work.

Regular moving vans: Have minimum of 500 pounds, want, for the type of work \$165. There would be no extra charge for additional works which could be carried easily in car, but they would have to be crated and they would charge \$35 per each. (It is out of line, entirely). Besides, the fountain centerpiece would have to be partially dismantled, as to fish, and they would have to be replaced in proper position at foundry, together with other "finishing" touches incurred in transportation. This has to be done in any respect.

Trailers with springs, which could have baffle board to break wind, installed cheaply come about any price and are not too plentiful. They range from \$35 (if it has not been sold) up to around \$125. I believe I could get a suitable trailer (light, low, wide wheelbase, and with rack braces installed to shield the work from wind damage etc. that would be suitable for around \$60-75. Licensing round run around \$7.50 and insurance, for trip I am told would or should not be over \$10-\$15. If I were allowed U-Haul rental set charge of \$54, plus licensing and insurance as expenses, I believe I would provide the transportation to the foundry, *so far as this part of the trip is concerned.*

The "moving van" people would want a minimum of two and one half to three weeks to deliver it to the foundry.

My contemplated(?) (estimated?) departure should be before September 15. And despite work schedule, which has been pretty heavy since the inception of the project, I am not sure that both the 18-inch figures can be completed. I want to make them good. That takes time, lapsed time especially. By that I mean you cannot whack them off but have to work on them some, let them stand and then size them up and whack away some more. You just mess up that kind of work by working straight through on it. It kinda has to season and grow.

So in between whiles I have a start on the door pushes and a good start on the Sun, Moon and Star. I could finish the Sun, Moon and Star and cast them as indicated with bolt attachments, in short order.

Meanwhile the fish fountain is just about there. Not much longer and one could work away at it "toward perfection" until doomsday.

I thought in view of the proximity of the contract awarding or rather bid opening ~~would~~ you would want to be brought up to date on the status of the project and the transportation situation.

No back to work.

The best

Click Relander

P.S. I am assuming that some one from the staff would want to give the fountain centerpiece and the other works a final look-see, so keep me posted on that.

CR

3701 Commonwealth Rd.

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July 26, 1965

Mr. Lynn A. Smith,
Picco Industries,
1729 North Chico Ave.,
El Monte, Calif. 91733

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed newspaper clipping, showing that the tour center project should be shaping up rapidly now. Opening bids doesn't mean it will go fast then. If bids aren't inline with engineering and other estimates, they will be re-called. But it's still moving.

Meanwhile my contacts have been given all the information as to bronzing estimates etc., and I've told them I should be taking off from here with most of the works by September 15 at the latest. (The two 18 inch bronze figures might not be ready at that time. I want to do a good job on them.

Meanwhile the PUD is clearing decks for a \$600,000 to \$700,000 headquarters addition and talking about some other work. But doubt if it will materialize at this time, or even later.

Hope your summer has been going well.

Usually on bid openings the bids are put aside until the following week and then the award given. My contacts know the necessity for getting a bronzing approval as soon as possible.

Sincere regards

August 1, 1965

Mr. Van Kirke Nelson, M.D.,
216 Buffalo Block,
Kalispell, Montana.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 27 was appreciated. And my apologies are extended because my timing, on my trip to Montana, brought me through Kalispell, or close to it, at a bad time of day and I was "fighting" a schedule to get back to Yakima.

I especially appreciated your remarks concerning Picco Industries and Papaleo, the craftsman.

I spent longer than anticipated at Watertown Lake, and at Browning, with Bob Sriver at the latter place. I am sure you must be familiar with his fine sculpture and development of his own bronze casting (small). If not, by all means you should visit him in his studio at Browning. While his work reflects some of the Russell influence, he has broken out on his own and is doing some mighty fine small works. Last year American Artist recognized him in a long article. I also met Dick Flood at Spokane and again at Helena. He operates a summer studio at Jackson, Wyo. and lives at Idaho Falls in the winter, travels around with Ace Powell's, Russell's in his car and I believe is one of the west's best informed on Americana of that type, owning many of them.

I am enclosing small prints of Ladder of Life, the 5 foot fountain centerpiece which is to be converted into bronze for a tour center at Wanapum Dam on the Columbia. It is about 4/5ths finished. The salmon are 18 inches long. So far as I know it is the only "salmon sculpture" and I worked out 12 small 20-inch models before getting something what was wanted for my design. I hesitate to enclose the sketches of two 18-inch figures I am now working on, one is The Last Drummer, who will be a dehydrated old man. The other is a fisherman. They are only sketches at this stage.

Enclosed, too, is a Priest Rapids Project brochure, reproducing a life-size bust of The Last Prophet. This was an old man, the religious leader at Priest Rapids, who was a grandson of Smowhala. (See Mooney's Report, The Ghost Dance Religion, BAE No. II). He was the basis for a hard cover book, Drummers and Dreamers, now out of print.

My profession is that of city editor of the Yakima Daily Republic but I have researched etc. in the Indian field for over 25 years and received initial guidance from the late Dr. F.W. Hodge in California.

As consultant for the tour center, I have helped them line up Ed Quigley of Portland, in my estimation the top Western Painter of this generation.

He is to do a 30 x 7 mural (history of Columbia River transportation) for the Tour center. And he is also to exhibit, a year from September at Helena in the Russell gallery. As the work progresses I may send you a clipping of a photo of it. I am enclosing a clipping from the Oregonian about one of his works. He sketches and paints wild horse roundups and is a master of composition. The man who has the El Mirador at Palm Springs started buying his paintings a number of years ago and has about 100 of them now.

In my own research and writing I have accumulated a large library, nothing exceptional but good research material, Americana, Indians etc. and lots of pamphlets.

If I have a chance I will mail you copies of two pamphlets I wrote for the Yakimas, both out of print now and never in large edition, nothing special but worth adding to your collection perhaps as this kind of material gets scarce after a time.

One of my advisers on the dam project who works out authorizations etc. for me and is employed as contract writer, engineer etc. by the Grant County PUD is secretary of the gun collector's in this state. Another man who lives at Grandview and is named Cowles has one of the country's largest collections of Indian trade guns, over 50 of them. Grandview is near Yakima. I noticed you are a gun collector.

Again, my appreciation for your letter, and my apology that I was unable to make as many stops as I had expected. That pleasure, I hope, will come later.

Sincerely

Click Melander

P.S. Also, if I have an extra one, I'll send a print of Quigley's illustration for the cover of Drummers and Dreamers. He has promised to finish it as a painting, rather than an illustration some day but we've never got around to it.

3701 Commonwealth Rd.
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Mr. Jack Park,
Grant County PUD No. 2,
Ephrata, Wash.

August 1, 1965

Dear Jack:

Enclosed voucher for July, progress shots and quotes from man who has dealt with bronze caster.

Started off the month like a house afire because I drew the long weekend, the July 4th off and an extra day because it fell on my regular day off. But it didn't last long, of course.

My downstairs studio is quite cool these hot days but I'm slowing down on the small figures and can't rush them. Even the upstairs studio isn't too warm because I turn the furnace blower on and it works like air conditioning.

Soon as I hear from you how the bidding went, and I hope things were ok, I can put in some more investigative work on the trailer. Maybe an add will smoke out something. Ones I ran down fell far short of what I know I should have. The only one approaching it was around \$85.

For your information I am going to Tacoma next Saturday, probably a one-day trip unless I want to go over to Seattle for a look at Lowman-Hanford, now Gill's, art store before they close. And that's a bad day because of Seafair which I have no desire to tangle with. The Tacoma deal is a quarterly meeting of our State Historical Society. I have a publications committee meeting before our board meeting. Then Reno Odlin, president, entertains all of us at his annual "lawn luncheon," with the governor and few other state officials as ex_officio members and guests. If I can get Bruce LeRoy cornered, he's always busy at these meetings, I'll see if he has bumped into anything good in the gun line and let you know what it is. Sometimes people show up to place guns with the society, sell them or what not.

I plan to come back Saturday night. And this is my long week-end so have Monday off. If you want me to come to Ephrata for any reason that day, let me know.

I've dug up a folder for the start of the New York World's fair of photos and descriptive material of Travelers exhibit there. Nice dioramas. Will mail it to you if we don't get together, soon.

Hope the weather hasn't been too warm for you and the rest of the crew. It's nice to work in air-conditioned comfort, like at the Republic, but feels like a blast furnace when you hit the street.

Let me know if there's any specific direction you wish me to move in at this time. Personally I think I'm progressing ok, but I don't wish to overlook anything. My best to all.

Click Relander

Aug. 28, 1965

Dear Bob:

Received info on Ramsey, also the pictures. I will have them screened at the office to hold pending further developments, and will return them to you.

Also, I am leaving for Los Angeles about Sept. 18 and will not be back until Oct. 4 or 5. That might be about the time "Moses" arrives if it is sent. But if it is not here, will drop you a note as I do not know when the advance copies or review copies are coming out.

Have received none yet, of course but if one comes through before about Sept. 13 or 14, should be able to turn you an advance on it before departing.

Reason for going to L.A. is to transport fountain centerpiece, and four heads, possibly two small figures, to bronze foundry for PUD. When atmosphere clears and by midwinter when Quigley gets his mural finished, will have material for you about the "art" phase of the \$260,000 tour center. This is not affected by the round of arguments about attorneysetc., regrettably raging from time to time.

Good luck on Moses.

3701 Commonwealth Rd.

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Mr. Lynn A. Smith,
Picco Industries,
1729 North Chico Ave., El Monte, Calif.

August 28, 1965

Dear Sir:

After writing you yesterday, Friday I would be leaving Yakima about Sept. 12 with art works destined for your inspection, I learned today at the newspaper I am losing my city hall reporter and political reporter. (We lost two others within the past month and the employe situation is somewhat binding).

Talking the situation over with my superior I found it advisable to delay my trip or departure time until Sept. 18 or 19.

I hope this does not inconvenience you, and I recall that you will be absent or tied up on Sept. 21. If by chance I should reach El Monte on that date, early enough in the day I will see if there is someplace where I can "unload," etc. and will be that far ahead when you return.

Sincerely

Click Relander

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Mr. Jack Park,
Grant County FUD,
Ephrata, Wash.

Sept. 1, 1965

Dear Jack:

Herewith voucher, progress shots etc. pertaining to Wanapum Dam project. Assume Quigley is under way.

I have really been pouring it on. Glad the other months won't be like this, I don't think I could take it at such a pace and have had several breaks on days off, bonus days etc. to enable me to accomplish "the supreme."

Voucher is made out, as space permits in detail as to receipts etc. and if there are any questions, shoot them along.

Called one day. You were out. Talked to Max and straightened out in my mind insurance etc. in view of my investigations. Am providing insurance company with set of photos and documented "valuations," which cover work and supplies of all items.

The Drummer broke down a couple of times (cheap armature I guess) but I've re-worked him. You won't know him when I take pix in a short while. I think he will be good enough to cast by time I take off for California in about two weeks. And will call you before to brief on expectable call from me with hard estimate covering back-home transportation of items and form of assurance or guarantee from foundry for completion date. We are thinking in terms of February delivery. Insurance policy will be delivered to your attention at the FUD. As I told Max this kind of art work carries a 75 cent per hundred compared with 25 cents per hundred freight charges. It would be 75 cents per hundred sent in any manner.

It will take me a day at least to properly "pack" the fish deal. Trailer advertisement brought me 15 calls, nothing suitable. I found there is nothing suitable unless it were built, found U-Haul best of trailer types and can get one tall enough (covered) to do it right and that's the one the charge is about \$54 on (plus extras for extra days and I figure there will be some since I'll be going like I was hauling a load of eggs) Extras run about \$3 a day beyond the company's allotted hauling time, also long rear view mirrors etc., packing grigs, but I bought that stuff, a foam rubber pad, packing batting etc. etc., also made mock-up to try in trailer and on and on. So I'm satisfied I have best deal worked out.

If I'm not satisfied with The Drummer I'll bring him home, and do good job on him, the kind I know I can do (but wait until you see next shots in about a week or 10 days). And then the studio and the craftsman, Papaleo will be good tests if he "registers."

The Sun, Moon and Star might have looked pretty well done but I've been polishing them off. Probably won't have to be as good but I don't like sloppy work, even for cement. And if I get fed up before I pull out will cast them, or if you need them before Oct. I better give me a call and I can sidetrack something and turn them out in a couple of nights. (I'm hoping the molds and kind of separator I've worked out will permit multiple molds. This is normally a rubber mold type)

Smith at the foundry, who seems quite up on things, artists etc. said he thought it would take me a week or so to reassemble the fountain and get it ready. That's his estimate, not mine. I think I work a little faster but maybe he doesn't keep the studio open all hours of the day and night which are my working hours (now only).

When you see the "finished" Drummer hope things summer down so you can get in some talk for carrying this up life-size, at least after I get the estimate.

And perhaps this isn't the time to see about a duplicate of the Drummer, kept out of circulation and guaranteed not for "re-sale," but see what you can germinate about that. I don't see how the Drummer can be done in hydrostone etc. because of the support, but the founder may know and I should be ready to "negotiate" with him. It does seem, "cruel" don't you think that the creation of an artist should be removed from him entirely, especially when they mean so much to him. And I don't suppose very many people besides you, I, Max, Bob etc. who know the Indians realize what this standing, face upturned, eyes closed, singing and drumming really means, really a terrific, direct from the heart and soul prayer to the Creator. I can't show it too well in something as small, but it could be done in life. Even the small will have the ingredients of the real thing.

Don't know my day off next week yet, but let me know anytime if you have anything in mind.

Did you notice the PI magazine section last Sunday? They had three photos and a story on Bob Scriver, the sculptor at Browning, Mont. I conferred with last June (or was it July). Time is going so fast.

Hope the enclosed is satisfactory. I'm due for a vacation, don't you think, even though it is travelling a little and working a little more in other surroundings. Boy, will I sleep in and "vacation" when I head for home! And I promise to sleep in, considerably before taking off.

Sincerely and regards to all

Click Melander

Sept. 9, 1965

Mr. Jack Park,
Grant County PUD,
Ephrata, Wash.

Dear Jack:

Am beginning to dismantle fountain and working fish over some on "inside" where unreachable in situ; and getting packing lined out.

Meanwhile thought I should send, as I promised, a better shot of the drummer and progress on the fisherman. Am bearing down hard and am hoping I am able to get the fisherman in shape for casting, also. Been having trouble lining up a hefty model for some anatomy badly needed at this stage. But I'm well satisfied.

Close-up of drummer, which could also stand a little bit more anatomy, and side view has much effect work will have in bronze. And I'm thinking of eliminating sun, star and moon from drum, as too detracting.

I'll probably be guided by Papaleo's reaction as to whether they are ready, or not.

Will probably give you a call about Tuesday.

Look the fisherman over and then visualize him, full size, across from tour center above water! And remember, he's far from completed as I would like although he's changed some from time picture was taken and will change a little more. Also, think of possibilities of hand turned figures in proper diorama.

Hope things are going ok for all the PUD crew. Regards, hurriedly.

Click Relander