

Feb. 13, 1956

Mr. Paul Busselle, associate editor,
Columbia Basin News,
Box 528, Pasco, Wash.

Dear Mr. Busselle:

Thank you for your note relative to the Award of Merit made by the State Historical Society to the Columbia Basin News and Mr. Ted VanArsdall. The fact that the secretarial hearings regarding the Yakimas open this week and that on the 26th I am to go to Witzville to keynote the formation of an Adams County Historical Society have indicated that it would be best to wait until March for the presentation.

As indicated in your letter of February 8, the presentation would be keyed into a chamber of commerce luncheon meeting. If that fits into chamber procedure, fine and dandy.

However, if the chamber would wish something more ambitious I believe I could make an interesting 30 minute presentation dealing with the Indian history of the Pasco region, touching on the Wanapums for which the Wanapum dam has been named and covering the Snake River region up to the Ice Harbor site. I could give place names up and down the rivers and tell something of the famous Indian character of my forthcoming (October book) Drummers and Dreamers. This was the prophet Smowhala who was born not far from Wallula. Touches of some of the research during the writing, the old Indian characters such as Chief Wolf are bits of history of the area not commonly known.

Charles Carson, our executive editor, still comparatively new to your area (and with whom I believe you are acquainted) could accompany me to add words of greetings.

There would be no especial hurry, and if a short presentation only is desired by the chamber, we could come down any time after this month. If the chamber, as I said, wishes to devote a complete program to history of the area--should the chamber be running low on material--the other could be easily worked up. It is possible that I could bring one or more of the old Indian characters down with me. I took a trial run at Ellensburg last year and was told it was the most interesting program the chamber there had had in years. I've delayed any local chamber appearance until later. Any way the chamber and your paper wish to handle it will be satisfactory. Pick any date you wish and the type of program, and I shall be most happy to conform to it and confirm the date.

Sincerely

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