

April 14, 1971

Mrs. Hazel E. Mills  
Research Consultant  
Washington State Library  
Olympia, Washington 98501

Dear Hazel:

Sincerely,

In case you haven't seen it, here's a copy of the article about the Relander collection arriving in Yakima. Thought you might enjoy it. The picture to the left is our garage, as a matter of fact, where we unloaded the boxes that apparently were never going to end. We are now busy doing a little preliminary sorting to get them in a little better storage than the open boxes like the one in front of me, and carting them down to our limited basement storage facilities.

We have already run across a few treasures. One of them is an 8-year run of the Yakima Democrat from 1902 through 1909, which we didn't have at all. This I believe is quite rare, is it not? I know there haven't been any available in Central Washington at least, because we have been asked for them before.

There is one question I want to ask you right away. Even in our preliminary sorting we ran across items that we could put to immediate use if we want. We know that any of the materials bearing on Mr. Relander's specialties of Indians and Central Washington history and Western Americana should be kept as a unit. He also had a rather large Civil War collection, but in addition to these specialties he had a great many books of just miscellaneous interest such as anyone might collect over a period of years. Some of them are fairly recent, such as an American Heritage Pictorial History, for instance. As long as we keep an inventory of every box we open and mark everything with the Relander plate which we are going to use, is there any reason why this kind of material can't be just absorbed into our general collection? The donors attached no strings whatever to use of the books, only that we use them as would best suit our purposes.

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We certainly have no space, nor will we have for some time, for a Relander Room. Though, as I mentioned before, we of course want to keep the special materials together and eventually house them as a unit, is there any reason why we shouldn't pull out from the materials as we slowly sort them, such miscellaneous books as I have mentioned so that we can begin to use some of the materials?

I would appreciate your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) June Thurston  
Regional Librarian

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