

Mr. R. A. Fife,
401 East Mountain,
Glendale 7, Calif.

March 25, 1956

Dear Mr. Fife:

Thank you for your letter of March 5 and your interest in Drummers and Dreamers.

I am indeed sorry to hear of the operation necessary for your wife, and your own physical difficulties, and hope that both of you are making progress toward a sound recovery.

Concerning Drummers and Dreamers, I asked the publisher to delay on this until the Priest Rapids hydroelectric project progressed, and he was more than willing, being, he said, two years behind on publications. However proofs etc. have been coming through, Oct. 6 has been set as actual publication date, and the project is going ahead.

Bids for Priest Rapids dam have been opened and a low contract is now being negotiated. This is the first of two dams. The upper one will be called Wanapum after the Indians and construction on that will not begin until 1962. Construction, if financing etc. is worked out, will begin July 1 on Priest Rapids Dam on whose site the Wanapums live.

Ken Crawford Books, 124 E. Olive Avenue, Burbank, Calif., will stock Drummers and Dreamers and if the librarian you referred to at Glendale would want to see one of the copies I am sure it could be arranged through Mr. Crawford. I also feel it will have general interest at other libraries throughout the county, as you mentioned to your librarian. Since Burbank is close to Glendale, you might be by there one of these days and drop in on Mr. Crawford and acquaint him of your library contact. It would be appreciated.

Much is also happening in the vicinity of your old stomping grounds. Construction is getting under way on Ice Harbor Dam, which is 10 miles up the Snake River from Pasco. This is being done by the Corps of Army Engineers, and the initial work is small, running only a few million dollars for initial coffer dam work. This, however, is the first stage of development of dams up the Snake, including one at or near Lyons Ferry, as explained in Drummers and Dreamers. Also there is a move under way at the hearings in Washington now for a 10 million appropriation for Ice Harbor. Relocation of the railroad tracks will be necessary along that river and surveys are now being made to that effect. It doesn't seem like your high bridge would be involved, but perhaps so. I will be writing some newspaper articles about Chief Wolf, Ice Harbor etc. one of these days and will send you one.

Drop me the name of your old friend in Walla Walla you correspond with, since I will be going there with the Indians next October on a book tour and we will send him an invitation to come around and meet the

Wanapums.

I was very interested in your reference to Mr. Basset, and his manuscript concerning Lyons Ferry and the Indians.

In view of my connection with the Washington State Historical Society, and other interests in that line, I feel that this is something that should be looked into. There were hundreds of such manuscripts that were never published, for one reason or another. But I am convinced that in each of them was material that should be known, and not be allowed to die for ever.

Would there be any chance that you could obtain the sister's name and address? If she is in the southern part of your state, perhaps you will be seeing her. I most certainly would like to have an opportunity of looking this over, just so I will know what it contains. If she is where you can contact her, and would be willing, she could send it registered mail and it would be returned within a short time registered mail and her cost refunded. There's no reason to believe that it could be published now, or that even parts of it could be, but it is one of those things that should not be overlooked. Various little things are worth checking against other writings.

Additionally, one of the part Wanapums (part Palouse too for that matter,) was named Basset. I saw one of the old men last week by that name, and should like to go into that further with him when I see him again. Sometimes these people took names of early day settlers, because their own names were too difficult to pronounce.

I am sending a clipping about my recent trip to Ritzville. I am hoping that a historical society can be organized there. Also I may go to Walla Walla one of these days to help encourage them to organize. They have no active such society now and certainly should.

At Tacoma, the headquarters of the state society, we are revising the library, manuscript material and undertaking a publication of rare out of print books, one each year. It is conceivable but not probable that the Basset manuscript could ever be considered, as we have many mighty good manuscripts of widespread historical interest that will require years to get published. But it is possible that excerpts from the Basset manuscript could be published in the quarterly and that I could work something up along that line.

Here in Yakima we are calling for bids for a \$140,000 museum building. It will contain a library and vaults for the preservation of documents and materials. I am, as you no doubt know, a board member of the Yakima Pioneer and Historical Association.

Thank you for your letter. Hope you get to make your trip to Michigan, and also that you will be in the Northwest next year. You can get an opportunity then to see Priest Rapids Dam well under way-- we hope-- and many changes around Pasco. That area, Richland, Pasco and Kennewick, by night, look like miles and miles of lights. When the dams are finished and full navigation comes, they say the area will have a quarter of a million persons. I can see how that is possible.

Thanks for your interest in Drummers and Dreamers.

Sincerely

Cliff Relander