

May 20, 1959

Click Relander
1212 North 32ND Ave.
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Mr. Relander:

I received your letter and all the wonderful material on the Yakima a couple of days ago. I am deeply in your debt for all the information you have given me and I can never thank you enough for taking the time from your busy schedual to gather together all the clippings, booklets and so forth. I truly appreciate your sitting down and adding to this material from your own personal fund of knowledge.

I am sorry that I may not be able to give you in return as much information as you have given me, but I will do my best to give you as much as I can.

A little personal history to start with. First I'm afraid I have slightly misled you. Because I seldom sign Mrs. to any of my school papers, I forget that it should be included in my signature on letters. I am a widow. A little over three years ago I lost my husband. Taking stock of myself I realized that I really needed additional training if I expected to go ~~out~~ and make any sort of a living for my self. (I had been married some twenty years ago after having gone to college for only two quarters. What schooling I had up to this point was of no use to me in getting a job with out additional schooling. During the years of my marriage there had never been reason for getting that schooling. What work I did was of a seasonal nature.) here in San Jose, in addition to San Jose State College, we have a fine City (Junior) college. I talked it over with my children and they agreed that it would be worth while for me to go back to school and finish my education. This was a big consession on their part as two of them are still in school. One, a boy, is eighteen and is graduating from high school this year. The other a girl, is fourteen. She is in the eighth grade and it is on her that most of the care of the house falls. There is a third boy in the Navy. So.....I went back to school. I Started in at City College as the requirements were not so stiff and there was not so much competition. I attempted a few business coures at first as the science courses I had originally taken were outdated and I would have too many repeats with too much lost of time. I soon realized that competition with younger people was very great, besides there are age limits in many businesses. So I changed my major to social work. I am now finishing my junior year. I am carring a regular school load of 14 to 16 units ~~per~~ semester. This doesn't leave much free time. Three of my courses this semester require term papers. As you can see, going to school along with keeping up my house keeps my nose pretty much to the grind stone too.

I found every one at City College very friendly and to my surprise, many more older students than I had expected. There are a great many of Korean War age bracket and slightly younger along with quite a few of World War Two age level that are taking advantage of their veteran benefits. A great many of them are married and all of them are very serious about trying to get an education. City College offers a number of remedial courses and make up courses for those who hadn't finished high school or who hadn't taken the proper subjects in high school to fit in with what they wished to major in now. Not so many of young people just out of high school go here as there is not the social activity that is to be found at San Jose State or other colleges of the vacinity. They do have a fairly good sports program and I believe have done quite well with some of their football, basketball, and baseball teams. Their campus organizations are local in nature. They do put out a weekly paper and a year book, and they do have an organized student body. Most of their clubs are of the kind assoceated with a specific department

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Such as business. A few of the clubs are associated with various churches and of a like nature. There are no national sororities and fraternities on this campus.

San Jose State was originally just a teachers college. But through the years has expanded to many other fields. Material that I am sending on in a separate envelope will tell more about this. I don't belong to any of the social groups other than the Tri Sigma Social Workers Club. So can't personally give you much information about campus life. But I am ~~am~~ trying to get information from some of the kids in my classes. This is rather difficult right now as every one is up to their ears in exams and term papers. However, you may be able to get some of the information you want from the daily papers that I am sending you. Will send you more information as I get it.

I used to live in Yakima. ~~My~~ parents still do. I went to the old Barge school, the Washington Junior Hi and the Yakima Senior Hi. I graduated with the class of 31 $\frac{1}{2}$. I went to Yakima Junior College the winter and spring quarters of 1935. Was active in Camp Fire and church work. It was through these that I became especially interested in the Yakima Indians. Camp Fire, as you may know, is based on Indian Lore. Camp Fire used to have two very active Indian groups and all of us associated with Camp Fire became very interested in the Yakima Indians. I was on the reservation and participated in some of their activities on a few occasions. As a member of the Methodist church, we also had an active interest in the Indians and used to go two* or three times a year to have ~~bag~~ picnics with them.

So, having this personal knowledge of the Yakimas it was only natural when I was required to write a paper on a North American Indian group that I should choose the Yakimas. I could use additional information on the early religious and social organization of these peoples before the coming of the white man. Also types of housing and how they gathered and prepared their food, hunting weapons and things of a like nature.

As I said before I will be for ever in your debt for all the time you have taken and all the material you have supplied me with. I have been able to get a copy of your book from the library and have the Geographic. Time will not permit me to get the pamphlet by H. Dean Guie, but maybe I can get it later for my own personal information.

I hope the material I have sent you will be of some use and I will ~~try~~ try to get more personal reports from students. These I will send on as I get them. If you should ~~need~~ need any information on California history ~~on~~ Indians at some later date I am sure I can be of help to you. I hope some of these days to be able to come home for a visit. At that time I will look forward to meeting you personally. Again thanks a lot for every thing.

Sincerely,

Helen West

(Mrs.) Helen West