

Mr. Leland Yost,
Room 2129 Department of Justice Building,
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Lee:

Enclosed is an assortment of copies from Letter Record Books in the Yakima Indian Agency at Toppenish) from the onion-skin pressed copies in original handwriting).

This material, dealing with the Paiutes, is sent to you personally, as I would send material out to one of my friends on any of a variety of subjects.

It has few restrictions:

1-Don't worry about it. If it gets lost, and I haven't lost any yet, I've still the carbon copies.

2-Don't rush its return back. I have no use for it. Depending upon what Brinlow does in his upcoming "Sarah Winnemucca", I might get into them in a story sometime.

Since I don't know what you are shooting at in the Paiute case, I don't know whether this material is of value or not. But, to help me with my continuing research, I would appreciate your comments if this material does have value, (preservation value I mean).

I understand perfectly about the other matters I have been digging up material on. Let it speak for itself. It is research as far as I am concerned. It is carried out in a way that may be different, unethical etc. But, I am interested in your frank appraisal of that too, when it comes through. Does it have material of worth in it. There'll certainly be no occasion for misunderstanding on my part. Let matters work themselves out.

The "Umatilla Report," should have been finished this week, but the typist who did my manuscript was still laid up. I have finished the Palouse, which will run 100 pages maybe (more Palouse under one cover than can be found in any ordinary source). I spent this evening lining me up another gal to get busy at the typing. That, too, is my own affair. I've a good start on the Yakima material that includes Wanapum.

I have some miscellaneous notes, background material and perhaps some more ~~Kal~~ Paiute material to whack out at the agency one of these nights and when it is ready, it too will come along. I dug this out last night. It will give you an idea of my system. Fisheries, purchases, employees, names, customs, etc. are covered in other letter file numbers. Soon I will be in the clear where I can line up some of the microfilm

and the scanner should be here in 20 or so days. You can imagine that that material should fill in the blanks with the agency records.

There was one letter record book at the agency, 19 6260196040 covering the 1860s, that disappeared several years ago before the present agent was there. No one seems to know who got it since none of that type of material is permitted to be out of the office. When Kenneth R.L. Simmons died the Indians went back there to pick up material he had and hoped they would find it among his things, but apparently not. Someone must just have snuck away with it, but the fact the matter is, they came almost storing all that stuff years ago until they found I guess through their attorneys the value of some of it. But, none of them have had the time, nor patience, to wade through it.

Since this is a personal letter to you I feel free in voicing my "hunch," for which newspapermen are famous!!!!

That the 1860 book, starting them and carrying through into the 70s, where the enclosed Paiute material picks up, must have:

Been attractive to some curio hunter in an unguarded moment, an amateur historian and I can't figure out who that could be, or,

it contained letters that would not sound so good for the Indians and it just naturally disappeared.

I have noticed on some of the old unsorted letters I have checked rough that an occasional signature has been torn off, and that all stamps, etc. were torn off. You see, all that stuff was left at old Fort Simcoe years ago, much of it was thrown out in the barnyard there when they moved the office and only the alertness of the present agent saved much other of it from being destroyed for all time.

Over at Fort Vancouver they tossed out hundreds of pounds of such material from an upstairs window and then shoveled it onto a bon-fire!

If my suspicions are right that the 1860 letters contain good information, it will be revealed in the microfilm. Soon I shall send you my personal draft for a couple of reels and start looking.

Don't forget my warning about the Paiute material. Don't rush through to get it typed because it might be worthless. Look it over and pick out what you want, keep it two months if you want to, eventually however returning it for my files.

The Wanapums are scattered all over the hop yards and potato patches now. They'll be gathering again in a few weeks and heading for Priest Rapids to set up for the winter.

When I get my mscept. of "Drummers and Dreamers" back, I shall send you the carbon copy. I know that Harper's isn't interested in that kind of material, but the woman there can certainly give me some good sound advice before I negotiate any contract, which was promised. Dr. Hodge saw only the original rough sketch on which to base his "foreword."

Kind personal regards
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