

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Nov. 17, 1954

Mr. Albert Culverwell, historian,
State Parks and Recreation Commission,
100 Dexter Avenue, Seattle 9, Washington.

Dear Al:

Thanks for your letter of Nov. 15 and the information therein contained. I am sure that as progress continues on the Priest Rapids Dam project, much of interest may be worked out. What particularly pleases me at this time is the remarkable fine non-obstructionistic attitude of these remarkable Indians [in contrast elsewhere up and down the river]. And I think as the next session of the legislature unfolds, and the development of the "Mid-State Highway" connecting with the road now partially built across Wahluke Slope, you will see the value of this historic Priest Rapids site, the home of Smowhala etc. fitting into the state picture.

Suffice it to say that my prime interest is to see that a small remnant band of a historic group do not lose their final foothold and home along the river, without obstructing progress of river development etc. It is quite an unusual situation.

In order to facilitate the Fort Simcoe paper, I mentioned it to Dean today. While I'm never too busy to get something really important done, I still have the feeling that there is much more research to go into the type of material I have in mind. I suggested to Dean, and he concurred, that you, being in your position, and that such a publication would be of help to you, that you proceed, if Dr. Gates has need and I feel he does. I should have written him long ago. So go to it and best of luck. I still feel that the parks development angle plus the other (historical Fort Simcoe) paves the way for a later article that Dean or I may turn.

Dean suggested that it would be appreciated that a letter from Mrs. Garnett, which he provided to you in copy form, be withheld at this time. I know only generally of its contents. And it might be best not to stir things up with the factual material on the Garnett family burials. Dean is turning out some Simcoe material for publication later... not too extensive I guess and all of us feel he is capable of doing a top job and one needing done.

I'll pass on material to you about the conference at Spokane as I obtain it.

I am interested in The Dalles situation and the preservation or non-preservation of the rock paintings there, a tie-in on my newspaper series on the Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial.

I expect to know more about the Indians and Priest Rapids later and will keep you posted. It's nothing that can be outlined and worked out in a hurry.

I've been doing quite a bit of speaking myself in the last several weeks, some three or more a week in fact. This afternoon it was some

combined history classes at a junior high, about 200 or more in all... and I plugged the State Parks work being done all over the state. I have some chamber of commerce engagements around the neighborhood, but have held off the local one and next week I address a state convention. I have been forced to turn down many invitations but am amazed that they hunt me out to learn what?... how bad the white men are mistreating the Indians! And it has been such a variety of audiences, with such astounding reaction, after-speech comments, offers of resolutions etc. that I can frankly say the publishers who think the public isn't interested in the Indian question have a big awakening!

Cull White was over from Ephrata the other day. They're getting museum and park minded around there. Have new blood, vim, vigor and vitality in their historical and pioneer society and I took the liberty of suggesting you as a person most capable of informing them how these things come about in case you happen to be in that region some time. (reprimand me if I'm out of order).

Strange, too, I'm still getting in some research on flatheads and Concomley. Something will come of that yet. Last summer I turned another head. Have four now, some work to be done on all of them, and they are all exceptionally good likenesses of the individuals. In fact, the individuals are exceptional persons, the last of their kind. ~~xxxxxx~~ So tell John Mc. that it's my peculiarity of wanting to do the best or not at all that has held me off. Only this week I received some communications from some Indian sources who have a suitable model lined up for me, over on the coast. Of course I can't drop everything and go over there at this time of year, but if he doesn't die off by the time I have the chance, it's in the bag.

How's the chance to obtain material... resume material... or project progress if anything in that line is issued by the commission. It will come in handy in general publicity and we need more of it.

Guess that brings me up to date.

Sincerely

Click