

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

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Mr. Leland Yost,
Room 2129 Dept. of Justice Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

August 19, 1953

Dear Lee:

Now that the shouting and tumult has died and the Commissioner and the attorneys have departed, I am writing to cover a series of subjects. These are definitely under the order of unfinished business, there being no endeavor on my part to set myself up in business or rather work my way into a job, through taking undue advantage.

If I can be of help, behind the scenes, doing research to be turned over to those better qualified to put the finishing touches on it or detect the salient and important clues, I would be glad to do so, and since I am generally working in that field, no doubt it would save someone a lot of work and I would not anticipate any pay nor quibble about any allowance if I uncovered good material.

I am still convinced that when you get a chance to study things, you will see the Yakimas have some justice to their claim that there are many "Wanapums" or rather those of Wanapum descent upon the reservation. I do not, however, believe that any Dr. or attorney can convince me that no such thing as a Wanapum exists, and that my Priest Rapids people are not "Wanapums." To that end, if exhaustive research indicates, I would be willing to go the full way and so would the last Wanapums, in Washington if necessary.

I do know that for several years the University has told its post grads that no ethno study could be made of the Palouse or Wanapums

at "this late date." I do know that these Last Wanapums have always refused to talk to University people, and that in the final analysis, their separateness can be proven by their religion which they have told me about in detail, and their language. Long ago I compiled a dictionary of some 1,000 words covering Yakima, Wanapum and Palouse. Dr. Carl V. saw it.

I recall in California that when Dr. A.L. Kroeber was head of the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of California, it was not believed that the art of pottery was still known among the Yokuts in the San Joaquin Valley. I dug up three pottery makers and Dr. Gayton (Emily) published a paper on pottery after I had unearthed them and made them known. I turned over much of my material on the Yokuts to Frank Latta, now head of the Kern County Museum and he has published several books on them, his Handbook on the Yokuts being prefaced by highly complimentary remarks by Dr. Kroeber who acknowledged in it that he had not held such beliefs in his years past.

I know too that some of the earliest and finest works on ethnology were done by men who "did not hold degrees," such as Stephen Powers, and others and that the rank amateur in geology, John Muir, through his books, became one of the greatest. And I count extensive field work more valuable than a college course, especially when your informants call you "brother" and tell you stories of how they and others have made up things to tell the university people who visit them at rare intervals.

I am not bitter. Let's say I'm just a bit determined. And also that long ago I told Dr. F.W. Hodge that when I did write, it would be so that many people, instead of a few, could understand and appreciate those I wrote about.

The experience of trial in Yakima was new to me, but I catch on fast.

I have several ideas that might have the germ of something in them.

To facilitate their assimilation and treatment if deemed worthy, I have covered each subject in a separate letter. These are all included in the current "freight" shipment.

I dropped out to the Wanapum camp Monday night after the "trial." They were happy as larks. They told me however that the Schappys went home mad or disgruntled because they didn't understand why Johnny Buck was called in early Saturday morning, at the opening, and they were excluded. They and the others are happy if they know what is going on.

The Yakimas, represented at the hearing by some four or five tribal councilmen, seemed happy and friendly. And today the secretary sent me word, inviting me to go on a tour of the reservation backcountry with the Yakima baseball team next Monday, meaning he wants to show his friendliness, or, he has been asked to cultivate me. But, now that I have had a taste of things, the cultivation, if it is that, will result in nothing productive from my end.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mohr, the young graduate students who were working on the reservation, seem to be absent, perhaps returning to school. I shall let you know about them. They are good, sincere students but did not impress me.

It was a pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Yost. I hope the Seattle trip was profitable and enjoyable.

I assure you, future correspondence will not be so extensive and "wearing," but I wished to outline things as clearly as I could.

Sincere regards

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