

January 14, 1961

Mr. R. R. Ries,  
Supervisor of Production, Grant County PUD,  
Ephrata, Wash.

Dear Bob:

While the context of the letter at hand may not fall entirely within your "jurisdiction," you have some background on it and know the procedure.

Enclosed is a photograph of a sketch of an unfinished plaque of Puck Nyahoot.

The high relief, designed for shell cast in metal, is approximately 14 x 19 inches. I would estimate there is yet two weeks work before I get what I am shooting at. I also have a preliminary sketch of a direct head-on view under way. However, high relief never can accomplish what can be done in the round, except decoratively.

Frank and Rex Buck were in to pick up some meat I obtained through the game department for them. They liked the sketch from the likeness standpoint. Photographs of flat clay are pretty critical and lifeless but I have the basis for something I think will be satisfactory when "softened." And I am particular about my characterization in art.

As to cost of converting this into a bronze or aluminum shell, estimates are widespread and usually simmer down to craftsmanship and quality material. You can get the type of work from \$250 to \$1,500 and get just what you pay for. I know one artist who chiseled his name from a plaque at Seattle because of the inferior casting. But details like that should be left to the person who knows the ins and outs.

It would be necessary to allow approximately two months for casting.

This leads to the possibility that were a cast desired in time, to unveil it first for "showing," at next April's root feast. I asked Frank and Rex that in event I proceeded with the work they would want to do that. It was

ok by them. They said they'd have to ask "others," since it looked so much like him it might make them sad. I think they mean Johnny Tomanawash and Frank Sohappy. I am sure their consent could be obtained especially were I to make sketches of them for the "long-range" possibility.

By suggesting this I also suggest that were part of funds diverted by me to help the feast there would be no objection. I could also arrange for a showing at the Yakima Valley Museum.

For an outside display a rout-out, just the outlined head, might give an unusual effect, depending upon a conference with your "architect."

A striking modern effect could be obtained by the plaque cut out and then using the sun, star and moon emblem separately, carried out in the correct blue, yellow and white and suspending them in a triangular effect around the head. These would have to be cast separately. They would stand out from a green porcelenized aluminum building face. Their art creation would not be extensive and would verge on the modernistic, a stylized star with rays etc. (like some of the star effect clocks you see now days) That would give you a good idea of possibilities, quite decorative, too.

At your desire and on my next day off, Friday, Jan. 20, I could come to Ephrata to go more into details, timing etc. if some kind of decision can be reached.

I want it understood that this is, as always with me, not binding upon the PUD, but I would certainly appreciate some kind of gentleman's working arrangement quickly. The PUD would have the benefit of all my knowledge of the Indians, my knowledge of the old man, etc. the studies of him on hand and full rights to the works (no copies excepting the artist's own for possible exhibition )

I am hopeful , that to permit me to engage modles (necessary for the hand), get to work on possible more pretentious undertakings through purchase of clay (60 to 80 cents a pound depending on quality) armature



material etc. including travel, work time etc., the PUD will see its way clear at this time to suggest some kind of non-binding token payment.

I am only suggesting and hope you will have some idea.

This could be possible through putting me on some payroll to take care of time spent on this and the other contemplated works or sketches. This could be a minimum, enough to help out for materials, travel, models etc.

As a part-time employe, it would be just that.

I finish up at the office around 2:30 p.m. and with eating breaks and my regular home-office projects workschedule, I put in from four to nine hours a day additional to my regular work. Then I have one day off a week and besides there is Sunday, which I utilize. (And I'm non-union).

I was able to get a good start on the ~~sketches~~ sketch on such a schedule which has always been normal for me. Besides I had more than a week of bonus days. So there need be no misgivings if you or the PUD, knowing how I operate, do more than investigate now.

Besides, in thinking of Wanapum Dam and the development there, any major work would have to be embarked upon now to be completed by the time the dam is finished.

A preteptious work, if completed and carried up in New York by enlargement assculptors now work, to fit into the picture of the whole development, could be timed for showing at the Century 21 Exposition at Seattle, shipped there from New York and then to the dam.

I am thinking there could also be casts in the vista house, which look like the real rock paintings for decorations (see enclosures); murals done by Quigley ~~ofxam~~ through my research of the Indian villages, feasts etc.; artifacts the archaeological crews have uncovered, plaques of other Indians, or busts, such as Tommy Thompson, the last of the Hood River Indians, Cleveland Kamiakin, Frank Sohappy or types representing inland tribes.

I'd be able to back it up with my replica of a mat lodge made by



the Wanapums, arrowheads from the region and other artifacts, fish gigs, gaming equipment, photographs, Indian hemp items such as nets and willow fish traps.

All this would be something I would be glad to discuss, by interview, as to possibilities with someone.

I suspect too the state is desirous of expanding its park in that region, and that ~~xxx~~ in the event of a possibility of some kind of tie in, you might wish only to capitalize on the major sculpture.

The major ~~xxx~~ work I have in mind would be a solitary, lonely figure, an old Indian drummer standing on a basalt rock base and with six of the traditional seven drums, broken, at his feet.

For this I have anatomical notes of Puck Hyah Toot. I could use Frank Schappy as an anatomy model and Puck Hyah Toob's characteristics as to face etc. and probably an indication of Mowhalla himself

By getting a part-time pay arrangement, I could utilize some of it to pay Frank Schappy or someone else.

It would take considerable "experimentation" to get the form desired but the resultant could become the property of the PUD. The same could be made immediately true of the plaque through this kind of arrangement, and would be preferable at this immediate time.

Since I know you personally and some of the others and they know how I operate, I repeat, none of you should feel anything would be binding except for the PUD protection, that the output become the PUD property. I can only tell you I will do the best I can.

As to costs, the Roman Bronze Works has quoted a 27 x 29 plaque at \$400; the same without undercuts 20 per cent more; aluminum would run \$375. Perhaps I would prefer to do my own burnishing on an aluminum which might or might not cut the casting cost.

The hospital here paid \$280 for a small plaque of a photo of Alexander Miller, but it kinda stinks, even to likeness.



Estimates on a bust or in the round, bronze, ran \$650 to \$800.

I could get a foundry here (pattern type work) turn a cast for as low as \$80 or \$100 of the plaque but I'd have to have a firm deal with them on "quality," use of bronze ~~xxxxl~~ art metal etc. and it might prove nothing more than an "experiment" looking toward the future.

I think that by shopping I could get a suitable plaque for around \$200 for the casting, and as I explained, they'd have to start with a plaster cast, not the original clay on hand.

The Sun, Moon and Star separates could be turned out by the local foundry and shouldn't cost more than \$35 to \$50 each, although the shape might be something leading to need for an estimate from them first.

The usual professional fee for a good likeness, combined with art, plaque is \$1,500. But it seems to me we could halve that, including the cast, and perhaps get a start on other work.

One reason for wishing something now is this.

Most writers write and then have to shop for publishers.

I have a literary agent howling for another revision of a novel in which a publisher is interested. The State Historical Society ~~xxx~~ wants me to turn out a Northwest During the Civil War period on royalty and American Heritage wants a chance to see it for possible publication (\$500 there); there's another historical society deal for a Yakima Valley History and one for Sam Hill and Stonehenge at Maryhill. But I'm kinda tired of writing, it drains you after a time and then you have to rest up. And my first love is the Indians and sculpture

Another thing, the timing is proper now.

My regards to others in the office. Hope these rambling notes give you something to tie into. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely



January 23, 1961

Mr. Robert Ries, production,  
The Grant County PUD,  
Ephtata, Wash.

Dear Bob:

It pleases me to be able to inform you that a clay plaque, 14 x 18 is completed to the point of examination, as desired, for changes in event such a plaque is desired.

In other words this gives the PUD something "definite" to tie into at this immediate time.

It isn't a matter of "re-suring" you gentle folk, but if something could be worked out I could utilize funds for supplies etc. at this time when conditions are the best they will be.

Showed the plaque today to Bob I and now I am satisfied I've accomplished what I set out to do.

I will reaffirm in an appended "fact" sheet this very pertinent matter:

The plaque, with two hands, in pose significant and typical of the ceremonial, I should think, would be very suitable for "Priest Rapids Dam."

Here is the embodiment of a historical fact, the naming of Priest Rapids, earliest place name to my knowledge remaining in our state (reference to the Ross expedition in 1813 to seeing an Indian religious man at the site).

Here is the "last" of the true religious men of the old day.

Here is a Dam bearing the name, Priest Rapids.

The appended information, in my estimation, would permit the PUD to proceed at once, and the corrections could be made later as desired.

Again, let me assure you of "nothing binding," in this presentation, but I'm hopeful of action, now.

Sincerely  
Click Relander