

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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August 19, 1953

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

Dear Sir:

I am leaving on a week's vacation, starting August 29.

During that time I expect to be within striking distance of the Umatilla Agency at Mission, Ore., and perhaps, if time permits, the Colville Agency at Nespelem.

It occurs to me that it would be interesting to see how the enrolment records are made out in those agencies, how they list the tribes or bands from which the registrants were descended, including the Wanapum.

I know that some part-blood Wanapum are on both reservations. I wonder: Are they listed there as Yakima, Wanapum or what. Since I would be able to recognize their Indian names, an important part of this type of research I should be able to pick some out, regardless of the system used.

I am not acquainted with the agents of either of the superintendencies except by one or two letters many months ago and hence would hesitate to present myself there and ask to scan the registrations without some type of authorization. I think that is understandable. This would not entail payment in any way, I would merely do it for my own knowledge and because I would be in the vicinity of the two places.

Moreover, I plan to spend two days at Celilo Falls, starting a sculpture of Tommy Thompson, the chief of the Yams. He turned me down consistently a few years ago. There are 16 of his band left, but several

Wyams, of part blood, like some of the Wanapums, I believe went on the reservation. It would be interesting to know his views about "his people" without getting deeply involved.

This I believe will be possible since he has "sent for me," informing me that he is failing and that should I care to sculpt him, it should be done before this fall.

Tommy is 90 now, going on 91. He is a nephew of a treaty signer. His mind I understand is good. I strongly suspect he can cast some light on some of the various tribes noted as ~~signers~~ signers of the Treaty of 1855. He might also be able to give some views on the treaty itself which could be documented before too late.

Sincerely Yours

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