

Feb. 16, 1953

Mrs. Thelma Kimmel,
Toppenish, Wash.

Dear Mrs. Kimmel:

Thank you so much for your nice letter.

I want to assure you that there is no occasion to be "worried," about anything.

I am enclosing a carbon of a letter to Mr. Sheller which I hope will be of some guidance to you. I was worried only about the Indian situation. Knowing from actual records of past attempts at restoration, that the deal bogged down because the Indians backed down when things went the wrong direction. We want and need some one, named by the Tribal Council, on the committee.

Your other contacts, your request to the Toppenish editor, are perfectly okay. They are your own contacts and your own idea, and that you will care to share them with the committee, in time, shows that you are indeed a proper person to have on the committee.

A news release, as suggested in my letter to Mr. Sheller, should be forthcoming soon, and if the Indians do not get around to making their selection by then, due announcement will be made in it that they are to make such an appointment.

You are doing such good work there, and it is such slow work lining up the entire committee (we want a good one), why don't you go ahead as you have been doing.

If the ~~Committee or Council~~ board of directors can make some arrangements for preserving artifacts and relics, that would be different, but, so far, there is no place for them to be preserved and I think it wise, pending action of the board on the matter, not to solicit relics of this nature. Documents, papers, etc. are in a different class as far as historians are concerned.

I am glad that your research work has progressed to the point that you can do some writing. Don't forget, I myself may be in a position to help you on certain things, although it sounds very much like you need none. The type of material I refer to deals with typescript material from old newspapers concerning the Rev. Wilbur, etc. And I know from looking over your series in the Toppenish paper, that you have had access to the ^s report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I only have about eight or nine of them, but have a complete, excepting one vital year, typescript of his entire period. I strongly suspect that that one report contains some vital information and has been withheld from public view. However, historians are historians.

If you happen to be in Yakima some evening and would care to scan through some of my typescript material---(done about as roughly as these hurried letters) let me know. I am home most evenings excepting nights that civic music concerts and other music series events are on. We have two here this week. It breaks my heart to give up my night research activities, but it also breaks it to give up a good concert.

Also: I hope you take it for granted that a copy of your series as appeared in the Toppenish Review, together with any corrective notes, should be included in the research files. However, since we have no "clearing" house system set up yet, just keep it in mind.

I spent some time this morning with Dr. Herman J. Deutsch of Washington State College and he approved of the research procedure as outlined.

Might save the copy of the letter to Mr. Scheller, since that paper happened to be so thick I made only the one copy.

Sincere thanks again, and heartiest assurance that there is no occasion for being worried.

Click Relander

Route 3, box 146, Yakima