

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
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June 27, 1954

Mr. Clifford Dolph,  
The Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts,  
Maryhill, Wash.

Dear Cliff:

Thanks for the Manser material. I am sure it will find use, especially when I receive a little more fresh material. I did not know of the reception, and yet do not know the plans such as time, etc., but will certainly break away and get down that Saturday, as soon as I can get through at the office. We're on a vacation schedule now, so it's rather difficult to run on schedule.

The same mail that brought me the Manser photos, Saturday, brought me a very good letter from the assistant managing editor of the New York News. That, as you no doubt know, because it is distributed all over the nation, is a tabloid size newspaper with a very fine color section. I learn that the "Lincoln picture," will be accepted by that paper, provided the photog can provide a suitable transparency. I am satisfied Rayner can do that. This will give Maryhill dignified publicity in a circulation field world-wide, up in the multi-millions, which is of course what I was aiming at. They will pay Rayner sufficient for his trouble.

The whole thing hinges on it being geared, as I had suggested, for next Lincoln's day, but I think it worth waiting for, don't you? That doesn't mean you have to hold it out of display, only restrict it to no publicity here or elsewhere, and no photographs of it. A short note from you, that nothing will be given out on it till after next Lincoln's Birthday, would be proper for me to enclose when I send in the final negatives, material, etc.

That also indicates that criticism of one of your restoration experts might be an important part of building out my short story with it. But it doesn't appear that Maryhill could gain more extensive publicity, even a mention, for less.

I'm not satisfied with material that seems to be bobbing up on this building. It is too varied. The information from your Mr. J.C. Strong seems to be much different than what I obtained through Mr. McClelland of the Longview Daily News. His old timer there provided the information that Fred Cochran managed a cleaning shop at Woodland in the middle 1940's; that the building was constructed in 1905 by Isaac Fields who was postmaster there, to be used as a post office. It was used until Fields built the new building in 1930, which also houses an appliance and grocery store. The old building was moved to a lot behind the new building to be used by the Lewis River News, operated by Royce Mitchell, Robert Turner, R. Robert Evans, who moved out about 1943. It was used for living quarters and cleaning established by several and Cochran

was among them (the managers) In the words of the old-timer from there it "has housed the Hobby Shop, second hand store and at present is being used for a storage room for Knights Grocery.

That is quite a difference between the notes and timing provided by Mr. Strong. But it at least starts narrowing it down. Maybe they have the wrong building in mind. It may be that I may clear it up myself on vacation later this summer. It shouldn't take long on a visit there or through that part of the country.

I made it plain to the New York editor that there was much doubt about it, and I was satisfied it was no "period piece," rather a good copy, which didn't seem to stem his enthusiasm. I figured of course that a suitable picture of Lincoln in color, would be something new and they look for something new every year. I pointed out there would undoubtedly be a mystery remaining as to the picture's origin. Hence, observations by the restorer would be a valuable contribution to the research.

As I see it, this now remains the procedure to successfully placing the picture for nation-wide circulation:

1-<sup>P</sup>ermit its display, but give out nothing and permit no pictures of it till after next Lincoln's Day.

2-<sup>N</sup>ayner will pick up suitable negatives at convenience on trip to Maryland or through that country.

3-I finish the research, combining material with what you encounter and with any report (brief) of restorer.

And I wish to point out that I intend to gain nothing from this myself, excepting perhaps a contact with the New York paper for later use in my book, Drummers and Dreamers. I've already told them about my cover and I think he would be interested in seeing one. It may be that some day Quigley will go to New York to exhibit, and if he does, there will be one powerful force already lined out for him. (That's confidential since I haven't talked to Quigley yet) But that is one of my reasons in trying to develop a good contact in New York.

Thanks for your trouble and my regards to all. I'll be writing Quig too and in event he is around that neck of the woods on July 10, if it does not conflict with his other plans, we will all be meeting.

Sincerely and my best

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