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Dear Drew:

First, the best for the New Year ,now approaching, to you and yours.

I've been so far behind on various projects, I haven't been able to send you a copy of the material about the Frontier Museum, so now am catching up with some things I desired to do.

You will recall I alerted you to Dr. Gannon's plans over a year ago. Glenbow, Canada and other eastern museums were after his collection and that led to a group of Yakima men of some means, including my publisher, to purchase the Gannon material. The first was his Indian material, much of it "stored" , for the low price of \$35,000. The inventory at going prices, would run much more than that.

My publisher insisted on me going on the board, and "donated" the enclosed newspaper insert, without advertising. As a board member I've gone on record that a museum, in an area with a population this size, cannot expect to operate on an admission basis, except perhaps in the summer tourist season. But that remains to be seen. The Tourist Travel Bureau, which split off from the chamber of commerce I strongly suspect used this means as a way of helping finance the bureau's downtown operations and I don't think that will work, either, in the long run, but I've been wrong before.

During the winter the displays, so hurriedly put together (and it was a good job in that respect) are to be reevaluated and they 'll have an idea as to duplications or surplus, or that is the way it is supposed to work. In spite of the large space, and all the wall and floor cases, several trunks full of material, vests, corn husk bags, awl cases, leggins etc. are not on display. So I suspect time will tell what happens. Eventual plans are to develop a "village type" display centering around a museum building, and the Tourist Bureau group of course is working against that idea, behind the scenes.

The only way they could swing it, unless those of means wish to be museum humanitarians, is to put over a \$1.5 million bond issue, and that still leaves the matter of operations undetermined.

The Yakima Valley Museum, dealing with pioneer material and with some fine Indian collections in baskets, arrowheads, stone work, etc. has been ignored. They have a \$300,000 deal, including a \$160,000 building, plus \$45,000 in bonds and have just received a \$29,000 bequest in cash! The practical thing is to get the two together, and that will require a bit of doing. (I'm on that museum board, too, and so are two others!)

But the big news, not yet announced, is the Nipo Strongheart collection which was given to the Yakima Indian Nation. After a year and one half of negotiations with an ostentatious "son" who showed up and qualified as the administrator, the Yakimas have received court title to his collection and forfeited some \$15,000 (under a complicated California law) to the "son." Nipo, who apparently was a poor man left some \$45,000 in bonds without naming an heir! , except \$15,000 to the Yakimas to start a museum! The Yakimas have had a tribal council committee working on that and flew me to California to evaluate the material. No one believed Nipo had much in the way of a collection, but I had confidence in what he had told me. Last week after a final court determination four of us ran a rough evaluation on his Indian material and I got up to \$75,000 and we left a half dozen trunks unopened (no keys to the locks)! I insisted on changing the "will" to leave leeway for trade or exchange of duplicate material, and that was finally accepted. So we tagged some 70 trunks and containers and left them in vault storage pending time the Yakimas have a storage place on the reservation for the material. We found steamer trunks full of costumes, one of Winnebago and Chippewa, fine bead work, buffalo runners chasing buffalo etc.; nearly a dozen such costumes; another dozen of Yukon Territory and Alaska jackets, some with otter trim, bear beaded and embroidery work typical of the Yukon; another trunk full of Seminole costumes; suitcases full of Concha belts, Navaho, Hopi silver work, necklaces, 40 to 70 rings,

Southwest ceremonial trays (wedding, sand painting and cornmeal trays) many other baskets; one ~~exx~~ steamer trunk with Seminole costumes; 100, approx., old southwest rugs, etc. And there are three vaults full of very fine books, the complete Bureau of American Ethnology, government reports, Commissioner of Indian Affairs books. Nipo told me he had valued his collection at \$175,000 (that was eight or 10 years ago), and while some of the Indian material has "walked off" it isn't a dent in the whole works. There are breastplates of old bone wanapum, hair pipe, brass beads, strings of the Russian trade beads, the old Coral beads, jet and turquoise, one big strand of chunk turquoise etc.

Nipo, couldn't quite qualify as a Yakima. His will specified he be buried on the Yakima Reservation near a "foster" mother, and it was done. But in the 20s and ~~30s~~ early 30s he was a bit player in many Indian and western films and was later an advisor (Indian) in Across the Wide Missouri, Pony Boy etc. He left thousands of color slides from his days on the Chataqua circuit, records in the Indian language etc. so it's going to be quite a job getting everything inventoried when it is eventually sent here. Primarily the Yakimas need some of the book material for research in their various ~~suits~~ legal suits to hold onto their rights. Confidentially the tribal council wanted to hire me and sent an attorney to see my employers first but I turned them down as a regular employee because of my own retirement program where I've been working 23 years, but it was quite an honor and I'm supposed to advise them and help them get lined out as I take it. Right now I'm involved in trying to preserve an old graveyard on the Atomic Energy Commission holdings in which the AEC sold off the land, knowing it contained a graveyard! So it will be some time before I know where the Yakimas stand on their Indian material. From what I've seen much of it is "first class" even to such things as full porcupine quilled vest and costumes with porcupine quill work instead of beads, etc. and as you know, those types of things aren't cheap. But it will take some time. And I'll keep you posted, about that and the Frontier Museum, too. Meanwhile, again, the best to you and yours.