



Amstead Place, Ellensburg, Wash.

Apr. 14, 1956.

Mr. Chick Relander;

I've told my sister of our visit at the Museum last Thursday, and she also is interested in your book "Dreamers & Dreamers" - She will want a copy - and of course - will want it autographed -

Our Yakima Museum visit was interesting - too little time, but Loreta and I will be go again soon - a free day, I hope.

I do wish the Priest Rapids would visit Ellensburg - but perhaps I may see them in Moses Lake; if enough publicity is given their tour -

Be sure and save us one of the first ed. of your book -

Sincerely

Leta May Smith -



Olmstead Place Ellensburg.  
Oct. 3 1956

Mr. Click Relander  
Yakima. Wash.

My dear Mr. Relander...

I am enclosing check for my copy of DRUMMERS & DREAMERS...the book came yesterday and I've really just looked at it ; Clareta has been reading it and her verdict is that it is very, very good. Today is her program and she appears to have a wealth of material....I had a few notes and with the splendid two pages of notes you sent,,she thought she had a good talk ready...now she re-arranged her material... From a hurried going-over, I too, am very pleased with your book. I did see the many fine pictures, and liked the chapter headings. As I always do, I'll put the pictures from the paper, plus the clippings, in the book. On one of my goings and comings, I visited the old Shaker church near Auburn and very interesting it was...I was not fortunate enough to have a camera with me, but did have my pencils and paper o so drew quite a fair picture. Clareta was delighted with your bits about Father Wilbur ..among the pioneer citizens of this valley. he does not seem to be held in such high esteem as some of the later day writers would have one think.

The appearance of the book is lovely but the Caxton Printers always do a fine job ,,in all, I like your book and am sure I shall enjoy reading it and having it in our library of western books. You "newcomers" have, I think, more appreciation of the western history than those born here...perhaps we are too close to things...and it may be...that some of us are bored with the inane things we have heard and that we havn't learned to sort the worth while from the trite. Could be!

Thank you for your book, and I am so glad that Clareta has it for her Indian program this afternoon,,,she will do a bit of boosting for DRUMMERS & DREAMERS...and thank you for the personal autograph...I like it a lot. When I have read your story, I will write you my reaction...as tho anyone cared!

Thank you again...

Sincerely.

*Leta May Smith.*





Omstead Place.  
Nov-12-1956.

Mr. Chick Belander.

Dear Sir -

At long last - here is just a few of the notes I've made - needless to tell you how much I have enjoyed reading your book. A fine job and well done. A book that has been needed for a long time.

Clareta gave her first program based on the notes I had and the splendid ones you sent. She read your book and took it with her; all were very interested, so much, that Nov. 7 she repeated the program for another group - and later, will give it for her D.A.R. meeting. So you see, people are interested in our Col. River Indians -





Our librarian, Miss Shoken -  
told me you would be in Ebersburg.  
- we are all delighted with that -  
I'll see you and will have my  
sister with me.

When we have our plans a bit more  
in hand, we will try <sup>to</sup> organize  
a historical society - I remember -  
including George Beck and Dr. Barto -  
will be there. Our grandparents moved  
to this ranch Mar. 17. 1876 and we  
sort of thought it a good date to  
celebrate by having the organ-  
ization group meet with us.

So hope you come to Ebersburg  
and will see you -

Again - our thanks for the pleasure  
Drummers & Dreamers has  
given us -

Sincerely  
Leta May Smith.



P. 171-3. I love this chap. title. Only one who had known the Indians and had a feeling for them and their sorrows could ever have chosen it. When sister and I were teaching in Ellensburg...about 1936 and later...each autumn at hop picking time, a group of Indians, came and camped on the ranch. They had horses and wagons, many were horseback. There were men, women and children: they had their teepees on the creek, turned their horses in the fields, and as they said, "rested and talked with their friends." Sister and I were gone all day, and my uncle was with the land grading crew; Father talked to them, they got vegetables from the garden and milk from the separator room. We liked them and were always glad to have feel that they were welcome, which they were. Clareta wrote a bit about them in her book,,,some quotes..." It would be nice to have the Indians visit us now, just open the door, come in, sit awhile and drink a cup of coffee as they used to do.....a small family of Indians camped on the old ranch...it was almost dark, their ponies were footsore and weary...the Indians were old and weary..they had nowhere to spend that cold autumn night; and yet, one time, the whole valley had been their home." I find the same feeling in your writing that I know Clareta has, for the Indians. That is one reason I like your stuff...it is sincere, it rings true.

182...The best account of Moses that I have ever read, and quite agrees with the general opinion of him expressed by all pioneers I have known.

190...Have you ever seen the letter written by Sheriff Schnebly to Father Wilbur regarding the Perkins murderers? It is highly entertaining if true. I have only read a copy, but it was published in a Yakima newspaper.

199 ..Another chap. that I liked a lot. I have read at least two, booklets about Simcoe and neither was to be compared to this description of the old fort.

223. Chap. XVIII. A year ago, I visited in Republic and during the course of our comings and goings, I enjoyed a visit with an Indian woman,,,she is well educated and no mean historian. I asked her why the NesPalem Indians appeared to be so much more like white people. education, culture, and so on. At once she began a long story of what she called the misdeeds and plain mean ness of Father Wilbur... she seemed to blame him and his method of teaching his religion...instead of basing his work on the Indian culture, he attempted to remake the Indians into good Methodists. She truly had no use for Father Wilbur.

I am glad to know the correct Indian names for places...the beautiful creeks in our own valley had these lovely names but the white men changed them to the present ugly. Cook, Wilson, and others. There are a few, Taenum, Nanum, for example that we have kept.

225. Others visited Swahola's camp and all appeared to survive...Charley and Jack Splawn, an old pioneer named Jim Watson, and many others.

229. I knew Mrs. Milroy, and several years ago, not long before her death, I attended a DPW meeting in Yakima with Mrs. D.W.Bruton. And at that time, Mrs. Milroy told me that her husband often whipped the Indians, and she believed that was the proper way to deal with Indians.

246. I wonder if our Shuskin or Shushuskin. was Choshoskun...Our old Indian had a little ranch side of the old Yakima road, a part of the Snoqualmie trail. He went to Seattle and brought back a little plow, the first bit of farm machinery in Kittitas. He was good and highly respected by all pioneers. The Nason family now living here, are Schappy Indians... all well educated and well liked. The two older girls married the Cleveland brothers from NesPelum.

Truly a beautiful book and I am so glad to have it...illustrations are splendid, and last but far from least, is what I enjoy, the fine writing.



page 64. Some where, perhaps among my notes. ~~that~~ it was believed by many that Smowhala possessed an almanac and thus was able to predict these things...but I cannot see how an almanac would help to predict an earthquake. Many of the old timers around Kittitas thought he had unusual power.

103.. Was interested in L.P.Beach...he surveyed a large part of Kittitas and all the Beach surveys were abandoned...lines were in the wrong places and so on. Any way. that is the reason given for the roads in this part of Kittitas being so off the line, and they are fearfully and wonderfully laid out, to be "on the line". I once had the pleasure of talking to Mr L.V.McWhorter...a very interesting person and a man I have admired for his writing as well as the stand he took.

109. My father knew Col. George Hunter, and among the old books in the library is a copy of his, REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD TIMER, pub.1887. We would read it and found it interesting altho the historical part was beyond us. This book should be in a labrary..perhaps with other old books.

113. The first time I have ever known how the Camas bulbs were cooked. Along our creek, there are masses of the blossoms and when my grandparents first lived here(1876) the Indians dug the bulbs and camped on the ranch.

118-9. I have never read finer writing than you have in the simple story of Sam...it is just possible that I am too fussy about writing but unless the words of an article or fiction are well composed, I do not like it... You truly are to be commended in writing this book, no where do you drop into the trite and rough bits that are all too common in many of our modern writers. Another fine bit that I like is page 122.

136-8. & 141-145. I must get the complete story of E.L.Huggins,,, has either two tales of his Smowhala or I am mistaken and havn't read enough of his story. In AND THERE WERE MEN, Russel Blankenship,, Huggins seemed to think that Smowhala spoke English well and understood the use of printed maps. THE PIONEER CAMPFIRE, by G.W.Kennedy. Rev. Kennedy preached in Kittitas about 1873-4, and it can be said, to the dismay of the pioneers who believed they must listen to his never ending sermons as he had braved the long ride over the hills to Kittitas. He was certainly a long winded preacher if one can trust the memory of those who sat thru one sermon,,,very few could stand two of them. Anyway, he found Smowhala and about 200 Indians camped in the valley (they were camped at the junction of the Taenum and the Yakima river, on the homestead of Charles Splawn and Major Thorp ) Kennedy said Smowhala was a "chief and the war leader of the Columbias". It was the summer of 1877-8 that these Indians were camped at the same site, probably a mile or less, from the Splawn home. All that time, said the Splawn family, they could hear the drums day and night. The Indians did not visit the white families and many pioneers believed they feared the Indians of Moses as much as the pioneers. The majority of these Kittitas settlers did believe the tales of Smowhala joining Moses and the Yakimas... in my own reading, I have found a wild statement, mostly the story of the famous Sarah Winnemucca, that Smowhala planned to kill the Kittitas settlers.

147. I remember my Grandmother Olmstead telling us of the war scare in Kittitas. She knew Moses well and considered him rather a vain old braggadocio, and all the time the sheriff and posse were searching for him along the Columbia. Moses was riding around among his pioneer friends: he was here several times Grandma said and as usual, was hungry and she gave him food. Local people always believed that no one really hoped to meet up with him.

167-8.. Interesting legend, and one that I never had heard. The old Indian hired by Charles Splawn to carry the mail from Seattle to Kittitas claimed to be a Shaker. Mrs. Bruton, daughter of C. Splawn, said she knew nothing of his religion but knew he was very religious.





Olmstead Place, Ellensburg.  
Dec. 19-1959.

Mr. Retander.

Dear Mr. Retander -

As usual, I'm late in sending you a note - sort of a thank you - for the nice article you wrote concerning the old cabin. And did it bring results - we've been swamped with visitors, letters and cards. Clara finally had a little item in the Record - that the cabin was closed until weather permitted its opening again. It is cold there and no lights - really should have been closed in early November.

So right you are when you say those articles are far reaching - there seems to be no end to the bits of information that one finds - I've always found





the biggest problem is to find a "stopping place." I have dozens of those articles and all could be included under one general topic.

Didn't get to the last D.P.H. meeting - we had friends visiting us - and we just don't enjoy driving over that canyon road during the winter. I'm afraid of "fog" - if one can be so foolish - especially after living in Puget Sound.

There has been a renewed interest in Claret's Trail Leads West. She sent - last summer - for more books and will have to get more - today we are taking six copies to the book store. Someday when you are here and have time, we'll look over many of the old papers and records of pioneer history, altho I don't think many will have any value for Yakima -

One thing I'm glad has occurred -

there is some awakened interest in a historical society in Ellensburg. That meeting will be held early March - just hope it will result in a real society. And I received the last copy of the State Hist. Quarterly - It is good - interesting items and articles; so I take back what I said about it being of little value!

Again, thank you for your interest and the work you are doing for the history of Central Washington.

Sincerely  
Leta May Smith.





Omstead Place. Ellensburg.  
May 19. 1961.

Mr. Click Relander.  
Yakima. Wash.

My Dear Mr. Relander -

At long last; we are doing some-  
thing about our historical soc. Sunday.  
May 21 - at our home - about two in afternoon -  
a group of interested persons are meeting to form  
plans and organize a society. Dr. Barts and  
Dr. Wheeler from the College - and Ellensburg  
business men; plus the wives; will be  
here. We hope you will also be present. This  
is short notice I know - but as usual; we  
are busy with other things and this is not a  
sudden thing - just seems to have "happened"  
all at once. Do try and come Sunday (we  
have cake and coffee) we need your help!

Sincerely.

Leta May Smith.

Omstead Place. R-2.  
Ellensburg. Wash.





Instead Place. R. 2.  
Ellensburg, Wash.

Dear Mr. Delander -

My thanks for your letter, the paper article - are rather late, but as per usual, my sister and I are running in circles. I do thank you, and now to my little store of Indian items, will add the one in this week's Record. I was not surprised to know Johnny Buck, did not recover; yet, to us, who have heard the Indian stories our grandparents have told - we are saddened to know that the once proud River Indians will soon be only a memory. My father has visited the Priest Rapids Indians and knew Smahala well. I have given all the circulars you send to persons I thought might be interested.

In Oct - the third I believe; my sister will have the program for the Church Ladies Soc - They have studied the Ind. culture - religion, etc - this past year. Carita thought she would like her program a bit different from all the others, thus, she hopes to have enough material concerning the Priest Rapids Ind. for a 20-30 minute program. I have some





bits I have collected - a few articles about  
Snowshoe - I wonder if you might have  
some thing she could use. To me, it sounds  
interesting, especially as our people have  
shed buckets of tears over Eastern Indians and  
actually know nothing of our own.

We have some stuff for the museum;  
and, if I ever get busy at my material and  
notes, we'll have more - various papers;  
including deeds, etc -

Do try and find some thing Closter can  
use: we'll return any thing you send -

Sincerely

Leta May Smith.