

Mr. James Hovis

Hovis, Cockrill and Roy, attorneys

(Copy to Mr. Eagle Seelatsee,
Yakima Indian Nation Tribal
Office

Click Relander

3701 Commonwealth

Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dear Sirs:

In comparing notes on material inspected in the Nipo Strongheart Collection in repository at Lyons Van and Storage I find the following information which should be included in Dec. 19-22, report.

When the repository was visited in April, 1968, one large steamer trunk contained a minimum of 25 bottle beaded and basketry specimens from the Northwest Coast, Nootka, Aleut and adjoining tribes.

I did not make a specific record of the "bottle-baskets" because of the time element. But I did note that this was one of the finest collections in that specific field I had seen.

When the same repository was visited Dec. 14-18, 1968, and a more or complete examination of the Indian material was made my record shows only three such specimens.

I will add that some of the trunks were locked and were not opened at the latter visit. I am hopeful these special type of Indian craft will come to light when all containers are opened upon their arrival on the Yakima Reservation.

I might add I have made a special study of this type of handicraft and items of this nature and of the period covered range from \$7.50 to \$50 each.

Now, with "collectors" going crazy about bottles and their value, should some of the bottles which were overlaid with basketry or beads be rare, the price would be more

Sincerely

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For inclusion in Nipo Strongheart
collection evaluation.

Mr. James Hovis,
Hovis, Cockrill and Roy, Attorneys

Mr. Robert Jim, chairman,
Yakima Tribal Council,
Yakima Indian Nation

Click Relander
3701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Wash. 98901

(Suggested general form of letters to be sent to

1-Director, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., 20000

2-Archivist, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 20000

Dear Sir:

The Yakima Indian Nation, a tribe in the State of Washington of 5,690 enrolled members is creating a ~~library~~ tribal library for cultural research and for reading development of adult and younger Yakimas.

The basis for the library, not as yet operational is a bequest to his people of Nipo Strongheart. Mr. Strongheart died Dec. 30, 1966. Terms of his will have been approved by the court.

The bequest includes a large number of "bound volumes of Documentary History, Ethnology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Philology, Ethnography, Pictography and kindred subjects."

Mr. Strongheart had for more than 35 years developed "The Inter-Americana Research Institute," and "The Academy of American Indian (Amerind) Arts and Culture."

He used his extensive materials for the further education of the American Indian and to enable others to further understand the American Indian.

His bequest was made to enable the Yakimas to better understand the culture of the American Indian and "to stimulate a greater sense of fellowship and brotherhood between the people at large and the American Indian."

In developing his very extensive library, Mr. Strongheart purchased books on the subjects mentioned from dealers, received gifts from friends in the form of books, and applied for "surplus" books from your department of the United States government.

These were sent to him in several ways, including withdrawn U.S. Mail containers.

Now in order that the upbuilding of the library does not cease, the request is respectfully made that the Yakima Indian Nation Library be sent any surplus books which are withdrawn because of duplication, or because of space ~~arrangam~~ arrangements.

We do not know if there is any longer any surplus books in the fields mentioned, but we hope there will be at periodic times.

We think there will be an advantage to the cultural studies of our people to be able to pursue their reading into the period ~~following~~ of publication following Mr. Strongheart's death.

If you have records of sending out surplus or withdrawn books say from 1928 through the 1930s, I am sure you will encounter Mr. Strongheart's name there.

If you have any questions concerning the request, we will be happy to answer them.

If you wish a recommending letter from either U.S. ~~Rep.~~ Sen. Warren G. Magnuson or U.S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson, please advise and we feel confident you will hear from them.

Most Sincerely

Mr. Robert Jim, chairman,
Yakima Tribal Council
Yakima Indian Agency

Click Relander
3701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dear Robert:

Enclosed is authorization and completed per diem form relative to my privileged work in connection with securing the Mpo Strongheart ethnological, anthropological and library research collection for the Yakima Indian Nation.

I will place in the mail a detailed report of a trip I deem highly successful for the fortunate Yakimas. This will be mailed Sunday, Dec. 22.

Several suggestions will be presented along consultant lines which I consider important and worthy of the Tribal Council or committee consideration. Mr. Joe Mejinick who took many notes and records, working as a team and individually according to circumstances on the job, no doubt will speak for himself.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. And I will emphasize that the assignment was far more successful than perhaps envisioned.

Copies of my report will be provided to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Eagle Deelatsee, to you, and to the tribe's attorney.

Sincerely

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3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mr. Robert Jim, chairman,
Yakima Tribal Council.

Mr. Louis Cloud, chairman,
Fish and Wildlife Committee

Dear Robert and Louis:

Enclosed a copy of the Seattle District office Corps of Army Engineer's notice of a public hearing, relative to the proposed Ben Franklin Dam near Richland.

I am sure you know of this June 11th hearing, but just in case I'm sending this copy as promised Robert Monday.

On one page of a short public information notice appears the following:

"Fish ladders on each side of the dam would provide passage for an estimated 300,000 salmon and steelhead which migrate upstream annually. A fish hatchery with a capacity for producing 80,000,000 fingerlings would be constructed at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000 to replace spawning areas inundated by Ben Franklin Reservoir. Geese habitats would be provided along the reservoir, as required, to maintain the present game population...#

Also it occurred to me that since this region was occupied by relatives of Yakima enrolled tribal members, and there were grave sites etc. in this region (not knowing where the pool would rise); that there were fisheries along this region I thought your interest would extend deeper than the fish interest.

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3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dear Bob:

I have been working on the report regarding the Strongheart collection tonight and will send it out Sunday to reach you in time for any expectable council meeting.

I re-read the agreement with Dan Strongheart, and the other material before going to Los Angeles. It certainly seems to me I could fit into the picture along the line of consultant-archivist and at a MUCH lower cost than the prohibitive fee usually charged. That is just too much although the going price.

But with a storage facility, so the material could be laid out, many things could be accomplished .

1-I am sure everyone will be amazed at the Indian material. I am sure everyone will see the potential of that material. And I am very glad that of Nipo's various friends, I had the confidence in him to believe he had these things. You will realize that too when you see the material.

2-The library is a separate matter, but I also have confidence in what he told me. I am not so sure there will be much "documentary" material, but there will certainly be much background and substantiating material.

3-Even before the arrival, something should be started on shelving for the books which will be first or immediately usable. Books released to raise the reading level are different. Another class is duplications or "useless" material, set aside for disposal to bring in some funds.

I know the best outlets for such, including a book-trade magazine in which major dealers submit bids, if requested.

Cataloguing and indexing , also essential, are something I could easily handle on long weekends, and scattering hours at night. Remember, I did all the sculpture at Wanapum Dam and was historical consultant, set up that display outline etc. without interference with my own work.

The books not needed till ultimate facilities are determined, should go back into storage in the very good containers in which they are.

A cross index, but subject or one in which tribal officials are interested and an author's, title and subject index should be set up.

I do not believe the total will come close to 18,000 bound books as his will stated. There are many pamphlets that will have to be carefully preserved and pertain to many regions. And there are magazines, like fairly recent National Geographics of little research value, other magazines and bundles of papers.

Once the "inventory" is completed on the Indian artifacts material, they should be put away against damage of moth and worm damage, until their ultimate use is determined. But to have them laid out would be a big start toward knowing what you have to work with etc. And an inventory would let ~~xxxx~~ you know what is disposable, etc. I know the ropes on that too. For instance I know the location of a Jackson Sundown saddle, spurs etc. which he rode in his rodeo work. This is a cowboy type Indian saddle and would be a must for a museum. It would be a real attraction.

In fact there's little about the collection I do not now know, how to handle, etc. But it is best to start easy. And it is advisable to get the reference type books set up soon as possible.

So I hope something can be worked out soon along these lines and perhaps by the time the other is ready, if it develops, I'd be available full time.

My report will give you a better insight of possibilities along several lines.

Incidentally Air West and United produced my suitcase with the travel voucher, so anything coming to your attention will be my own signature.

The best

(Copy to ~~xxxx~~ Jim Hovis)

Click Helander

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3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Mr. George L. Mauger,
2037 B Via Mariposa East,
Laguna Hills, Calif., 92656

Dear George:

Glad to receive a letter from you and that you are happily settled in the Laguna Hills region. I think I drove through there when I was at El Monte to have some bronze casting for the Wanapum Tour Center at Wanapum Dam a couple of years ago. One weekend I drove over to Laguna Beach and along the coast and it was a kind of shortcut.

I didn't know that you had disposed of your interests in the parks concession setup, but after so many rush summers, it must be a relaxation to get away from it all.

Appraisals of Indian material is always difficult and I am compelled to trust some to memory of course. To qualify a little more: About a month ago the Yakima Indian Nation sent me to Los Angeles to evaluate a collection of books and Indian material left to the tribe to determine if it was worth acquiring as desired by the deceased owner in his will. This amounted to some 8 to 10 tons of material in a large warehouse, and it was difficult in such a short time to make an evaluation and no inventory at all. This concerned an estate and a considerable money bequest to the tribe, which in court settlement was waived under California law for "institutional gifts," like the tribe. And a son took most of the money and turned over the other material to the tribe. The tribal attorney, council chairman and three tribal councilmen flew down. And since the tribe operates on an annual budget of around \$3 million, UCLA and other college anthropologists etc. wanted the material and were evaluating it, my evaluation I guess is standing up in final court determination. So that was quite an honor, especially when the government has expert arts and crafts men in the employ of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The estate was worth some \$250,000.

This material included five large trunks full of baskets from tribes, all over the nation, including California. And of course at the time I was in California I could recognize the Yokuts baskets even to the point of identifying their maker just by the basketry technique.

First, the baskets and other material sold you were sold at actual cost to me at that time, not a price a dealer would have put on them. And within recent years basketry has gone high. For instance a Klickitat basket which brought \$12.50 or \$15, even 15 years ago, now sells up to \$125. (These are imbricated type baskets which are not in the craftsmanship knowledge employed by the Californians.

Secondly, the material I sold was selective material to give an interpretative picture of sub-bands, now (and then) extinct; of a blind woman who still could weave a basket, and of a young girl, just starting.

I doubt very much if there are any productive basket makers among the valley Indians now. This, itself, would enhance the value. And returning to the selectivity, this pattern in the Mauger collection would have additional value.

My recollection is that you paid me \$100 for one lot and another smaller amount, like \$50 for other material.

It would not be out of line in my knowledge of appraising, estimating for insurance coverage, and handling museum repository materials for the Washington State Historical Society of which I am a curator (director); the Yakima Valley Museum, and the Gannon Wagon Museum that the figure should be doubled by once and one-half.

One main reason for this would be, as noted, that these people are now extinct; the designs were traditional and there is no one left to perpetuate the certain number of designs employed by the Yakuts. There were over 50 of these sub tribes, all speaking the same linguistic stock of the Yakuts. Some of the baskets I acquired for you were heirloom pieces. These are passed down in ceremonials, at funerary give-aways and kept in the family and

come into "alien" possession only through extinguishment of blood lines and lack of appreciation as to historical or cultural relationship of forebears.

I think it can be safely said for instance that there is no no productive basket maker who could turn out a berry picking basket with milkweed rope handle. If some basketry is still known among the inter-mixed descendants, any kind of handle would suffice. But NOT for the old days.

The large flat winnowing trays were made for utilitarian purposes and were flexible to do a certain job in the daily life of the people. They have passed from that way of life now and no little about it. And so on down the line.

There is a rock along the Kaweah River in the Lemon Cove country on which the basketry designs of the Yokuts were "gifted" to the people in an old legend. This is the only known evidence I am familiar with in all my extensive anthropological studies and field work where designs of an Indian people relate to a specific place where their origin was traced by the people in their legends. The deviates from these set patterns were few and far between and usually people of mixed blood who would use the Dutch cleanser woman off as a Dutch cleanser can for a design of Dutch cleanser women running around the upper half of a basket. Such baskets were made for the trade, the tourists, and persons in later year who wanted baskets "different," had the other designs yet no particular knowledge of the very set pattern of designs which the Yokuts followed until another culture overtook them.

I could make this valuation stand up by not only the price of baskets now in dealer-operated stores, but by their cultural value. Large blue, red or other colored trade beads alone now, sold singly, bring \$1 to \$2 depending upon the origin. Knives or large spearheads sell by the inch! The "plumb bob" charm stones or amulets were very common in the Valley but scarce now and good ones would be up to \$15 or \$20, at least. And the "minatures" were usually much better work than larger ones and the fine, small ones, required more time than larger, coarse, utilitarian ones.

I don't know how satisfactory a report of this nature is and I regret that I cannot inspect the baskets, but I made quite a study of them before I purchased any of them , and these things are not forgotten, even with the years. So I hope it is of some value to you. But if not, don't estitate to ask how I can be of other service to you.

Things go about the same here, work and lots of things like that keeping me from continuing in some writing from notes that are so extensive I have 18 filling cabinets full of them (field trips, interviews, etc) But perhaps, one of these days I may be able to get some actual production.

Meanwhile I hope you and Mrs. Mauger are enjoying some relaxation . At least you have been wise enough to "isolate" yourself somewhere from the "maddening crowd." Don't know when I'll get to California, although the Yakimas may ask me to make another trip to "take possession" of the big collection and supervise its loading and marking into a big van. In that case I would come down on a Saturday ,probe around the Southwest museum a little, attend to the work and then hurry home. But should Ginny and I come through your region, I will most certainly attempt to contact you.

Sincerely Yours

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