

Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKeown,  
Hood River,  
Oregon.

August 10, 1956

Dear Martha and Archie:

I still haven't been down to Portland and have not had the chance to call you and see how things are going. And right now I'm too pressed for time (blessed is the writer who has a publisher who is set up to do the promoting) I don't know when I can make it.

I should come down to see Chief Tommy and Flora. Sounds like they have been having a tough time of it. How unkind of life that they should have to endure the indignities they have been subjected to at Celilo, in their lives when they were stronger, and then to have so much sadness and trouble as they grow older. I guess Max' death must have hit Flora very hard.

So you are to be commended for the work you have done for them, and the writing you have accomplished to preserve the story of the Wyampums. I hope Linda's Indian Home is moving satisfactorily. If it has been slow I am sure it will pick up with the opening of school. It is a darn good little school book and besides, should be a good little Christmas book for children. I suppose you are punching away at the story of Chief Tommy.

Hope Archie is having some enjoyable experiences as a result of the book, and that you aren't letting things get you snowed under what with school coming up.

Of course I wouldn't have to go the lengths I'm doing, but I wanted to be sure ~~D~~ and ~~D~~ was introduced and not just issued to lie idle on shelves. It was written for a purpose and I have to put it to work.

I hear from the publisher that review copies will be out by Sept. 15, indicating that everything is still on schedule for the October 6 issue date. Starting then as I wrote, some of the Wanapums have agreed to accompany me on a book tour, although as many speeches as anything are coming up.

Our mutual friend, Clifford Polph has invited us to the Indian Room on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 7 and something will be coming along on that. Then we go on to Portland for two days.

I've confirmed to Miss Bristol ~~at~~<sup>U</sup> ~~at~~ Gills that we will be in Portland those dates--that was several weeks ago--but she has not confirmed back the time she would want us, so maybe she has cooled off on that. I can't afford to wait much longer. The Earl K.



Wilson co. has outlets at Olds and Kings and another store, so I suppose I should contact them. I am appearing at several of the Carl K. Wilson outlets. Of course I realize that a book tour doesn't set the world on fire as far as sales are concerned, but thought it would properly implant the book.

And I suppose, too, that Gills will do about as good without that, operating widespread as they do.

I think the key to getting it clicking, before the publication date, is some publicity, but I'm weak on contacts for the Oregon papers. What D and D needs is some kind of little feature story in one of the Sunday supplements, before Oct. 6. Caxtons will be advertising in the book sections the week before, I suspect. That's their business but they have included both Portland papers on their advertising list according to information sent me, and have been doing a good job on their side of the publication.

The PUD has invited the Indians and I to participate in the ground breaking ceremonies for the Priest Rapids Dam, just after Labor Day, but no actual date has been set. Also, they've been at work to acquire a spot where the Wanapums may live, as long as there are Wanapums, will move their long house there, provide some housing for them, and will do other things to perpetuate the old culture as long as there are people to see it is carried on. They are preserving the graveyard etc. and have been most kind to the Wanapums. Naming the upper dam after them is one example, because they have no legal obligation of any kind.

I have been disappointed that I haven't been able to get at the sculpture, finish up my projects and go on to others, but I want to do a good job on the book.

If you have any ideas about Portland, please feel free to pass them on. You will recall that Bert Quigley of Portland did the cover on the book, and while I haven't seen a copy of the cover yet, it should come out good. Caxtons did a top job on topography of a difficult book, what with all the footnotes etc. The indexing, I may have written this before, took me five weeks. The book will run about 389 pps with perhaps 10 pages of index, and there are 50 pages of illustrations. So you see it is a sizeable undertaking for a publisher. Now if the writing only comes part way up to the high standard of the publication, it will be ok.

Well, keep me posted on your next project, also on Chief Tommy and Flora. And keep in mind, if the things shape up that way, that I have a good start on a likeness of Chief Tommy that I think conveys the weight of the years and life that have rested hard upon his shoulders during his life at Celilo.

My best to you and Archie

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