

(W. 803 Indiana
AVE. Sp5 Kane W.

Spokane, Wash
Nov 21, 1956

Dear Chick:

Having just finished your book which has taken me longer than usual due to my schedule. I was amazed at the amount of research you have put into this work and am delighted to have been one of the first here to have one of the books.

This book is unusual in that it is somewhat historical, is factual and yet does trace the struggle of existence of the River People in such story form that one hardly has to use much imagination to be one of these people and sympathize with their struggle against the white people and the barren wastes

of their homeland.

I cannot help but feel that something should be done to restore their main village on a permanent basis and find a means to bring back some of their kin scattered around the area that there might be a revival and survival of this tribe at least in the modern sense but lending itself toward an understanding of their forefears and taking a part in the reunion of the tribe and an acceptance of the ceremonies & tribal relations as they used to be.

A small model Village somewhat remote and as close as possible to the actual with good road access and an invitation to the Whites to see some of the ceremonies and ways

been written in this manner.

I came upon some of the in Eastern Idaho while living there in Idaho Falls. As head of the Band of the Eagle Rock chapter of the Sons of American Revolution it was my pleasure to participate in the marking of the John Day grave up along Birch Creek out on the desert to the north of the Lost River Country. This is the John Day of the Wilson Price Hunt expedition who ^{we} found did fight in the American Revolution with the Virginia militia and came west as a trader and trapper. He did spend some time trapping and moving between Idaho & ~~Washington~~ ^{Oregon} as far as Astoria. (Then Oregon Territory) He is recorded as having died in Feb 1820 at a very ripe age. He was buried beside a small aspen grove which ~~which~~ is now

some what in the middle of the Creek.
we did secure a 2500[#] concrete monument
and did place a government marker as well
as a G.A.R. marker in the concrete.
The State of Idaho did build a good foot-
bridge and did make a small access
road in from the highway.

In this same area are many Indian
paintings and at one time of massacre
took place right near the paintings and
John Day grave.

There were approximately 3000 Indians
encamped in this pass including a
raiding party which had participated
in the Custer massacre and they
had about 50 captured Custer guns.

a group of trailers headed for Salmon
Idaho (7 registers I might say) were
passing through the area and had
to go through this pass.

One was laden with whiskey and of
course some of the Indians broke

into the wagon and became quite drunk. They did kill all the men that night after holding them for some time but I understand that two Chinese were allowed to get away and one of the men (white) a Mr. Lyons did escape and did manage^{to} live for some years in the area and does have a son alive today or last I heard.

General Howard did chase the Indians north into Montana and eventually onto the reservation.

The history of the Indian was exciting in many ways and I have heard many stories that some what seem to be in with all the rest and most must be right as we are not so far removed in years from the actual happenings.

Well Click, so much for this writing which is long winded in itself but I do hope that very

of living as it was; it no doubt
would be quite an accomplishment but
would secure the history of this people
which is now already greatly supported
by your wonderful book.

I believe that they are entitled to a
future existence for the Basin Area
greatly expands in the next very few
years.

Your book in itself is a great story
of a people and will one day make
itself felt and will build up a far
greater following of Indian ways
and the Wapiti game here in the
Northwest.

Most of the whites have always
considered the Indians as fighters,
always savage and warlike and
much of our western history has

simple expression of gratitude for
your work there will add to the
many others and will be appreciative
of the good work you are doing a-
mongst the Indians in your area.

With Best Regards,

Howard Thompson

Mr. Chick Belander
Yakima, Wash

Spokane, Wash
2-9-63

Dear Chick:
Please send me the two books as follows:
"Strangers on the Land"
"1855-1955- They Yakima"

Inclosed is check for ⁸4.25

I do wish you success in any future writing
and feel your books a great contribution to
the history of the area.

would you please autograph my copies?
This past few years I have taken up the
writing of some Poetry -

There are now 8 completed and I'm en-
closing my latest to be used at a State
& National S.A.R. Congress with additional
to be circulated to teachers, patriotic organ-
izations etc.

In the future it will be a good hobby.
I have been out of the Newberry Co for several
years and now travel out of Spokane over
a wide area.

We do not get into Yakima often but I
do have a friend Bud Rongren there (Credit
Bureau) who came from Spokane -

One day I'll drop in on you if the
wife goes with me to Seattle via Clunish
Pass.

Here's hoping all is well with you and
that we will keep in touch over the years.

Best Regards
Howard

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[Enclosure - 9 Feb 63]

A Poem

Our Heritage

Dedicated to
"OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE"



By HOWARD A. THOMPSON
January, 1963
EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Idaho Falls, Idaho

OUR HERITAGE

America! America! Behold thy crowning glory!
Hearken! Humble thyself before Almighty God.
Herald your heroes bold—champions—old in story.
“Men of repute” across thy stage have trod.

Sing out! Relate for stalwart sons to hear
The “Epic of your founders dreams”—their way.
Thy chorus permeating distant years
Beseeching youth to claim “Our Heritage.”

America! America! Profess thy faith on high.
Dissuade all wrongs—transcend their faulty steps.
Relay to us your hopes and dreams—taut ties
With yesteryear—“Thy mould of toil and sweat.”

Pause not—veer nor falter on dimmest path ahead.
Erect with pride—project your stride—ever forward
then
Thoughts on martyred ones—who fought—bled
And died to set us Free—crush yoke of evil men.

America! America! Bask not in thy wealth
Nor haughty grow because of mighty power.
Incline thine ear; extending palm to help
All perishing within their dying hour.

Freedom toils beyond your realm this day
Stirring tried souls to hearken unto thee
Ring out! Ring out! Thy knell transform, we pray
Thy peal compel us serve humanity.

OUR HERITAGE (Continued)

America, beware! Abundance in thy lair
Must never let thee boast—seem smug nor cold.
Invert this “Horn O’ Plenty”—Pour and share.
Contain the lost—Sustaining yearning souls.

Expanse, terrain is broad—thy lush fields tilled
Your harvest, great, persists—O’er flows rich earth.
Vast herds seek forage—roaming vale and hill
While storehouse full-to-brim, extols thy worth.

America! America! God prospers thee—so pray
You merit this—reciprocate—render unto Him
Your heartfelt thanks—with tender thoughts that
may
Convey thy love—reflect true warmth within.

Rise up! Arise, O men! Thy homeland grasp so
firm.
Perpetuate it far beyond our present page
Of history and on your hearths let burn
Indelible—that by-gone-page—“Our Heritage.”

America! America! You must not waiver now.
Nor stumble on the restless, future years.
God entrusted thee to toil—to till and sow.
To foster “Men of Courage”—like forbears.

Awaken men! Stand firm! Elect your brave!
Unfurl thy gallant ensign—wave on high
For dim-of-hope to see—Their fears allay.
God has chosen thee America—Comply!

A Tribute to
“OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE”
By Howard A. Thompson
January, 1963