

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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May 5, 1954

Editor, Coloroto Magazine,
The New York Sunday News,
220 East 42d St., New York

Dear Sir:

On one of my Sunday field trips with one of our photogs [I am city editor of The Yakima Daily Republic] I encountered something you may be interested in for a color shot for your historical page, this winter.

The picture is that of an old oil painting of Lincoln that was uncovered between the walls of an old building 15 or more years ago and has been batting around in the hills of Eastern Washington.

At one time I studied art and sculpture and I will admit it is not the work of an amateur, although it might be a copy. Tentative research has uncovered no Lincoln picture from which it was copied.

I had the photog shoot a couple of shoots of it but his blue flash was out of sine, so it would only give you a rough idea, but on a later trip he could make a shot to specifications and I believe it would be satisfactory as he has done work for the Oregon Journal, big flower catalogues etc.

This picture was brought in to a small museum and my friend there will keep it under cover. There would be no pictures permitted of it for publication until you published it, say, excepting an even break on a black and white in our paper (Sunday circulation 30,000) limited to the Yakima Valley.

I have preliminary research under way as to the history of the old building in which this was hidden.

The museum director is in a position to submit the picture to a professional restorer, who has been entrusted with such work as the Dr. Cosla collection of Old Masters (including Rembrandts, etc.)

If you desire, I will be happy to submit the tentative color negative to give you a better idea. It would be at your usual color rates. I would in turn let the photog submit the proper color shot for which there would be no payment until you specified, even if you waited till Lincoln's birthday, to assure you an exclusive on it. I am not satisfied that this is a Lincoln find, but it would make a darn good Lincoln or historical color feature.

I shall await a reply from you before making any other contacts,

and by that time my research into this building's history in which it was found between the walls should be far enough along to warrant the museum director sending this painting to his restorer in California for professional dating.

The painting is owned by an old man who lives in the hills and who is not desirous of selling it, nor even cares about its history. He just wanted to give it to the museum, on long loan, because he got tired of having it hanging around.

My only interest in this is because of my personal friendship with the museum director (an endowed museum of fine quality). And I am not a professional "free-lancer." I have however recently received a contract for publication of my manuscript, *Drummers and Dreamers of Priest Rapids*, a source book of a nearly extinct Indian tribe and the photog has been aiding me in finishing up my illustrations among my Indian friends.

My cover is being done by a man named Quigley whom I am encouraging to show in New York, but who can never accumulate enough to do so. In my estimation he is as fine as Russell or Remington, as far as quality goes. Last month he took some of his westerns to Palm Springs where the co-owner of the El Mirador hotel bought them for \$6,500 and wants him to spend the rest of the summer turning out westerns. I mention this in case you ever have an idea for something in a good horse line, western.

The Indians, subjects of my book, now total eight. Lewis and Clark, whose 150th anniversary comes up next year, identified them as the Sokulks and estimated them at 2,000 to 3,000.

Sincerely

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