

TACOMA BRANCH

National League of



American Pen Women

BRANCH OFFICE

3806 North 24th St.
November 16 1956

Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32nd Ave.
Yakima, Washington:

Dear Mr Relander:

Thank you very much for returning the packet of material to me. I would indeed appreciate your interest in this project. As to the evaluation on the paintings, the insurance Company and all those who are interested agree that the price is reasonable and has been based on the prices that I receive for portraits I do on commission. I have many works in public buildings as well as in private collections. The College of Puget Sound has commissioned four portraits from me during the past years. Two of them hang in their Collins Memorial Library building, and since you are on the State Historical Board of Directors, and no doubt come to Tacoma frequently, you might be interested to go up there to see them.

Of course the fact that the portraits of the Indians are irreplaceable, since most of the individuals who posed for me are now dead, adds to their value.

I thought that you might also like to have this page from the paper with the notice about your book. Also I thought since you are a historian, that the new book written by my sister, who is also a Pen Woman, Santa Barbara Branch., would ~~it~~ be of interest to the readers of your paper? If so I am very sure that Mrs. Martinsen would be delighted if a notice about the book could appear in your paper. Since she knows many people in Santa Barbara, I am also sure that she could in return for a favor, see that a nice item would appear in that News Press of that City, telling about your book.

I have a great interest in all things Indian, and would like to have an autographed copy of your book. Please find enclosed my check for Five (\$5) which I hope will cover the cost of same.

Very Sincerely

Rhena L. Alcorn

President,

Tacoma Branch.

Note. If an article is put in your paper, would you be kind enough to send me a few copies?

3806 North 24th St.
Tacoma, Washington
December 1 1956.

Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32 nd St.
Yakima, Washington.

Dear Mr. Relander:

The clippings from your paper arrived, and I am very much pleased, as I know Mrs. Martinsen will be when she sees the splendid article you wrote about her book "Black Sand And Gold". Also let me add a special thank you for the fine mention you made of my Indian paintings. Mr. Hal Holmes who is from your area, has been asked by Congressmen Tollefson and Horan, to assist them with the purchase bills, which will be re-introduced at the start of the next session. I do appreciate your fine interest in this matter.

I called the Historical Museum this morning to inquire about your book "Drummers And Dreamers" They have a few copies, but none that are autographed, and since Mr. Foster says that you will be here in Tacoma next Saturday, would you be kind enough to autograph one of the books for me, and ask that they put it away until I can come for it. I am looking forward to have it in my collection.

Also while you are here, it might be nice if you were to talk to Dr. Thompson about my Nez Perce series, since it has been his great hope that the purchase bills will be successfully passed. He made a special trip to Washington D.C. last January to hold a conference with General Emerson Itschner, then Deputy Chief of the Corps of Engineers U.S. Army. Within the last few months, Gen. Itschner has been promoted to Head of the Engineers, so that would I should think, help the situation. He was present for the Dedication of the Chief Joseph Dam last June 12, and saw the paintings when I had loaned them for that occasion.

Dr. Thompson has offered to make another trip to Washington D.C. this January if he can do anything to help. I received a letter from the Information Officer of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, expressing approval of the bills.

If you will recall I suggested that my sister would be very glad to help with some publicity about your book, and if you wish her to do this, you can either send the material to me, or direct to her.

Mrs. Perry J. Martinsen
3033 Lomita Road Santa Barbara, California.

Again may I thank you
Sincerely

Rosena L. Alcorn
(Mrs. Gordon D.)

3806 North 24th St.
Tacoma, Washington
December 15 1956.

Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32 nd Ave.
Yakima, Washington:

Dear Mr. Relander:

I have the book which you so very kindly inscribed for me. There is no one more interested in the Indians than I, and I think that you are doing the same thing that I have tried to do. That is to bring attention and honor to these fine people. It is a real crusade with me to especially do this for the Nez Perce, who did so much to assist the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and in so many ways helped to build our Northwest.

My husband, who has worked with me to put this record on canvas, deserves a great deal of the credit for his patient help and understanding, for without him I could not have done it. As you may have noticed in the material that I sent to you, this all started when we went to Idaho in 1935. I painted the first of the series for the author Dr. Clifford Merrill Drury. This was a painting of Chief Timothy (Ta-Moot-Soo) or (Ta-moot-sin). This was for the book Henry Harman Spalding. In talking to the Indian agent and to his assistant, who was at that time, Mr. Corbit Lawyer, I found that he was the grandson of Chief Lawyer. He was very eager that I paint a series of portraits of his people, and it was through this interest and help, that it was possible for me to do this work. He made all the arrangements for an interpreter, and asked the five old men who had participated in the War of 1877, to pose for me. This has been a sincere and dedicated effort on my part, to do something of value, with my art, and it is therefore with great appreciation that I read what you had put in the inscription of your book "Drummers And Dreamers".

I notice in your book that you have a photograph of Cleveland Kamiakin ~~in your book~~, and therefore I thought that you might like to have this slide that I am enclosing. We have several like this one and you may have it. This June when we were up at Chief Joseph Dam for the Dedication, the Mayor of Bridgeport had arranged a caravan of twelve cars to drive up to Nespelem on Sunday morning two days before the Dedication. The purpose was to place a wreath on the grave of Chief Joseph. Mayor Troutman had been present when Joseph's body had been moved to the little hilltop where he now rests. This ceremony took place at eleven o'clock in the morning, at which time Mr. Troutman read the surrender speech. There was a group of Indians present, among them Cleveland Kamiakin, who stood with his hand on the monument

with the tears running down his cheeks. It was a very moving ceremony, as you can well imagine.

The women of Bridgeport had packed a picnic lunch, and they had planned to eat in a forest camp near Omak, but it started to rain, and the Indians asked us if we would bring our food and eat in their Long House. This we did, and it was an experience that I will always remember. Old Kamiakin stood up when we were ready to go, and through an interpreter told us how pleased and honored he was that we had come there that day. The men of the Corps of Army Engineers, were so nice to the Indians that I was proud of them. Mr. Sherman Green and several of the others, insisted on having the two Indian women who had been pouring the coffee for us, sit down and they waited on them. This was quite an honor and the women were so very happy and pleased that they would do this for them.

The next Tuesday at the Dedication, Kamiakin was brought down for that occasion. He was of course in his Indian clothes. He smiled in recognition, when I went to him and patted his hand. I regretted that I did not have my paints with me that day.

Again my thanks for the fine article you put in the paper. I sent a copy to the editor of the Vantage Press, and my sister is more than pleased and appreciative.

With all good wishes for your splendid book, and I am very much impressed with your sculpture. Let us continue to work for our Indian friends.

Very sincerely

Rose L. Alcorn
(Mrs Gordon L. Alcorn)

3806 North 24th Street
Tacoma, Washington
February 22 1957

Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32nd Avenue
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

In case you might not have noticed, the two Congressmen have re-introduced the bills in the House of Representatives. Mr. Tollefson put his bill, H.R. 2839, in on January 14, and Mr. Horan put his bill in on January 29. I do not have an extra copy of Mr. Tollefson's bill, but I am enclosing one of Mr. Horan's bill. You may keep this if you like. The other bill is exactly like this one, just a different number.

On February 1, a Joint Memorial was introduced in the Legislature at Olympia, by Mesdames Swayze, Anderson, and Mr. Bozarth. I am enclosing a copy of this document. It has not as yet been reported out of the Committee on Memorials. The two Congressmen are very hopeful and anxious that this will pass, as they think that it will be a very great help to the bills, if it were to be passed.

Did you know that there is a very fine review of your book "Drummers And Dreamers" in the Montana Magazine Winter issue? A friend told me that there was a reproduction of one of my paintings in this issue, and on sending for a copy, I discovered that it was the Mission Home of Reverend Spalding, that I painted for Dr. Clifford Merrill Drury's book "Henry Harmon Spalding". This was made in 1935, and it was followed by a painting from historical records, of a portrait of the Nez Perce, Chief Timothy. This was used in the same book in full color, and was the start of the collection that would be placed at Chief Joseph Dam if the bills in Congress are successful. The painting in the Montana magazine has been trimmed down too much to show it off to its best advantage.

I have a letter from the magazine editor, who tells me that they are very much interested in the bills before Congress, and are hopeful that they will be passed. He is Michael Kennedy, Montana Magazine.

Kindest regards

Rutha L. Alcorn

note -

*Mrs Swayze just
delivered some copies of the Memorial
so I am enclosing one for your files -*

IN THE HOUSE.

By MESDAMES SWAYZE, ANDERSON
and Mr. BOZARTH.

House Joint Memorial No. 9

STATE OF WASHINGTON, THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION.

Read first time February 1, 1957, ordered printed and referred to
Committee on Memorials.

*To the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States,
and to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America, in Congress Assembled:*

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
represent and petition as follows:

WHEREAS, There is existent a series of twenty-two oil portraits of
Nez Perce Indian leaders symbolic of the glorious and colorful history
of the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, There is included among these portraits a portrait of
Chief Joseph, historic peacemaker among warriors, for whom the dam
on the great Columbia River near Bridgeport, Washington, was named;
and

WHEREAS, These paintings should be permanently displayed at an
appropriate location in buildings of the United States on the Chief
Joseph Dam site in this state; and

WHEREAS, House Bill H.R. 2839 provides that the Secretary of the
Army shall purchase these certain oil paintings for display at such site;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, That we your Memorialists respect-
fully pray that the President of the United States and the Congress of
the United States take such affirmative action on House Bill H. R. 2839
as will allow future generations of Americans to gain an understanding
and appreciation of the recorded virtues of Chief Joseph, and the color-
ful era in the history of this state which the dam site named for him so
aptly commemorates.

85TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3981

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 1957

Mr. HORAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

A BILL

To provide that the Secretary of the Army shall purchase certain oil paintings of Nez Perce Indian leaders for display at the site of the Chief Joseph Dam in the State of Washington.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That the Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed
4 to purchase from Mrs. Rowena L. Alcorn, Tacoma, Wash-
5 ington, a series of twenty-two oil portraits of Nez Perce
6 Indian leaders including a portrait of Chief Joseph for whom
7 the dam on the Columbia River near Bridgeport, Washing-
8 ton, was named.

9 SEC. 2. The oil paintings acquired under authority of
10 this Act shall be permanently displayed at an appropriate

1 location in buildings of the United States on the Chief Joseph
2 Dam site in the State of Washington.

3 SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
4 such sums, not exceeding \$20,000, as may be necessary to
5 carry out the purposes of this Act.

86TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 3981

A BILL

To provide that the Secretary of the Army shall purchase certain oil paintings of Nez Perce Indian leaders for display at the site of the Chief Joseph Dam in the State of Washington.

By Mr. HORAN

JANUARY 29, 1957

Referred to the Committee on Public Works

[Indian Monuments
Historic Sites]

3806 North 24th Street
Tacoma, Washington
June 16, 1958

Mr. Click Relander
Yakima Herald

Dear Mr. Relander:

I am enclosing a page from our Tacoma News Tribune, and copies of letters from Mr. Knight, Mrs. Eva Anderson, and Chief Justice Matthew W. Hill.

This editorial came as a complete surprise to me and I did want you to see it, since you seemed to be interested in the bills now pending before the Congress. Since this is the second part of the 85th Congress, the bills are still active in the Public Works Committee. Tollefson H.R. 2839, and Horan H.R. 3981. (Reintroduced Jan, 1957)

In Mr Knight's editorial he must mean OLD JOSEPH in connection with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. However the real credit there should go to the two chieftains, BROKEN-ARM and TWISTED HAIR (father of Chief Lawyer).

Justice Hill mentioned to me that he wished we had more editorial support, and should you feel that you might do something there in Yakima along this line, I know that it would please him very much, as it would all the other fine people interested in this endeavor.

Very sincerely

Rosena L. Alcorn

[Enclosure - 6 Jun 58]

COPY

THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

Evening - Sunday
TACOMA WASHINGTON

June 3, 1958

Rowena L. Alcorn
3806 North 24th Street
Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mrs. Alcorn:

So many worthwhile efforts seem to die in the Congress through inertia that I am awfully surprised that needed legislation gets passed.

Perhaps the bills calling for the purchase of your Indian collection for Chief Joseph Dam cannot be considered in the "must" category, but from the wide support that it had received, the idea has apparently found sympathetic support. We were glad therefore, to try to further the cause with the editorial in today's paper.

In lieu of writing to members of the congressional delegation, I am sending copies with my business card attached which certainly should carry the idea of our endorsement just as well.

Good luck in the campaign.

Sincerely

ERNEST J. KNIGHT

EDITOR

W

[Art]

3806 North 24th Street
Tacoma, Washington
November 25, 1959

Mr. Click Relander
Yakima Herald
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

Congresswoman Katherine May has told me that she sent on to you the story I wrote for the Tacoma News Tribune about the faithful friend to the white man, Chief Timothy, of the Nez Perces.

If you liked the story and would be interested in re-printing it in your paper, I believe that ^{if} were you to write to Mr. J. Ernest Knight, Editor of that paper, he would willingly give his consent. A glossy of the painting of Chief Timothy could be secured also from the Tribune.

The portrait of Timothy is one of the series for which bills for purchase are still pending in Congress, and have not as yet received any action. I painted the Timothy portrait in 1935-36, and it was used in full color for the book, Henry Harmon Spalding, by Dr. Clifford Merrill Drury. This was the start of my collection which as you know, numbers 22 portraits.

I know how interested you are in Indians, and I would very much like to have my story appear in your paper. If you should so decide, I would like to have some copies please.

I am enclosing a copy of a Resolution recently sent to Congressman Thor Tollefson by the D.A.R. Elizabeth Forey Chapter, Tacoma.

Have you seen Dr. Drury's latest book, The Diaries and Letters of H.H. Spalding & Asa Bowen Smith, Relating to the Nez Perce Mission? The frontispiece, the Whitman Mission was painted by me from the descriptions in Narcissa's diary.

Very sincerely

Rose L. Alcorn

Reckland Wm
9-5-63

Franklin Press
Yakima Wm

Please send me Book of
Stronger on the Land
I'm closing \$2.00

Thank you

Mrs O. V. Alexander