

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 31, 1954

Mr. Wm. J. White, Jr.,
Assistant Managing Editor,
The News.

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your letter of May 20 regarding the Lincoln oil painting.

I am enclosing for your inspection a color transparency, which will give you a rough idea as to the color quality of the painting; and a black and white enlargement permitting a close inspection of the quality of the work.

I point out again that the transparency is not representative of the photographer's work as this was shot merely as a specimen, at the tag end of a busy trip.

The matter of price I do not believe an obstacle. The photographer says your going rate, considering perhaps this will be reserved until next Lincoln's Birthday, would be satisfactory if in the "25 class. My research, still continuing will be provided to him as a part of the picture. The research may or may not turn out satisfactory. I of course would use a black and white Lincoln birthday feature myself, next February 12th, in our paper.

So far as I know now only these things: The picture was found behind the wall of an old building. I have several good leads on this building located in another part of the state. Nothing yet of tremendous starting consequences, yet nothing to the contrary, yet enough for a mystery. I have nearly exhausted all publications dealing with Lincoln and while one or two are fairly close, ~~some~~ none have been found that this is a true copy.

Mr. Clifford Dolph, the curator would of course hang the painting with no comments or announcement and since picture taking is not permitted without authorization, we are safe on that score. I feel sure too that Mr. Dolph would, at my suggestion, send the painting to the expert in California who does restoration etc. of very valuable paintings, and the judgment of the man would of course be a part of my research.

If you are interested, I assume you would prefer a color transparency filling a full 4 x 5 negative and I am satisfied the photographer would provide a suitable one. The museum is some 70 miles distant and he could pick it up on some trip in that region.

I enclose another clipping for your general interest. One of my artist friends from Portland and I spent the weekend in a remote region where he sketched for a painting for the jacket of the book, yet months in the future. Later I shall send you one of

jackets , because I firmly believe that this man, if he ever shows in the east will be ranked highly--right up with Russell and Remington. That's a broad statement yet since he has been out of his state only twice to show, once to San Francisco where Kyne of the race track bought his entire collection of 18 and another time to Palm Springs where the El Mirador acquired his entire collection of some 16 or 17, you will see what I mean. (And they sold in the \$100 to \$300 class each) I have been working on him to accumulate enough for a New York showing.

Forgive me for deviating from the Lincoln and please don't look at this as a plug , but it will be worth remembering when I send you the jacket many months from hence.

Sincerely

Click Relander

(City Desk, The Yakima
Daily Republic)