

45519 Corkwood
Lancaster, Calif. 93534
December 18, 1967

Mr. Click Relander
3701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Washington 98901

Dear Mr. Relander:

I want to thank you, first of all, for your kindness in taking time to write me such a long, informative letter about books concerning Yakima. I had no expectation of receiving anything like it.

First, I want to say that I lived in Yakima from 1902 until September 1st, 1929. I was seven years old when we came to Yakima, and I think the population of North Yakima at that time was about 2500.

My reason for wishing information on Yakima books is this: I plan to write a novel about Yakima covering roughly the years from 1900 to 1920. The particular information that I would like to get would be regarding reclamation projects - the Tieton, for instance - and land ownership, that is, how the railroad lands were sold off. I think I remember that every other section of land adjoining the Northern Pacific was given to the railroad. There is much other economic information that I would undoubtedly need. My memory of the town is quite good - I remember the streets, the houses and the people, but you, being a good deal of a historian, know how deceiving memory can be. Here in California, it is common for the descendants of the old Spanish to err by one or two generations in attributing certain doings to their ancestors. I wouldn't err that much, but I might err by ten years in some cases. Most of the information I am looking for will have no place, specifically, in the story, as the story is already pretty well set.

I received a copy of the Herald of October 29, containing your story of the two days' tribal conference of the Yakimas when they met Robert L. Bennet. I noticed that among the names of members of a certain committee, I knew two family names, Tulee and Teo (though I thought it was spelled Teio.)

Regarding the name of Tulee, I taught school for one year at Satus, and I had three Tulee children in my school, which was located on Dave Tulee's and his children's allotments. The three children were Annie, Mary, (who died a year or so later, I understand) and Columbus, who shot his father the next year, went to Canada, presumably, and was declared legally dead seven years afterward. I believe there was another, older son, named, I be-

lieve, Samson Tulee. I am wondering if Clifford Tulee is a grandson or even great-grandson of that Tulee, who would have been about 25 or more in 1915.

The Teios, specifically Mabel Teio, were customers of an automobile firm for whom I worked during most of the 1920's in Yakima.

Regarding the McWhorter books, I have never seen them, but I did know Mr. L. V. McWhorter. One time in 1914-1915, the year I taught at the Satus school, I caught the train at Satus, and at Toppenish, I think, Mr. McWhorter boarded it, sat down beside me, and told me the story (the Yakima Indian story) of the flood. How the Big Beaver dammed up the valley by building a big dam at Union Gap, and, I believe, Coyote tore out the dam. I have never seen the story in print. I hope his stories are in print somewhere.

Regarding the books you mentioned in your letter, I am writing to the Gannon Wagon Museum regarding your Strangers on the Land and also to George M. Martin regarding the Northern Pacific book. It may have something that I need. The Northern Pacific was more important, back in 1902, than most people can realize now. I have an idea your Dreamers and Drummers would have been helpful, but at \$40 plus, I'll have to do without it. Since I'm retired (age:72) and my income is limited I'll have to acquire the other books gradually.

I have a small collection of Californiana, perhaps a couple of hundred books, plus quite a number of Historical Society bulletins and I still buy one once in a while. I like to buy biography and autobiography of the Los Angeles area, especially up to 1900 or so. You probably still have more Californiana than I have.

The Yakima that I knew probably exists only in the memory of a few people. We were poor, and like many poor people of that time, we picked hops every fall for eight or ten years. I also packed peaches, apples and pears each fall for six or eight years. I worked in the telephone office, quitting each fall to pack fruit, for three or four years. Incidentally, I participated in an operators' strike against Pacific Telephone, in 1917, I think. We wanted \$2 a day! We got it. Before I was twenty I had done all of the above, worked in a laundry, trained hops, worked in dime stores and dry goods stores and taught school at Satus (They used to call it Satus Creek). I attended St. Joseph's Academy and at least four one-to-three-room country schools. So I think I have a good deal of background material for the novel I plan.

I did not know Col. Robertson, but from the time I was twelve or so, he was one of my idols. I used to see him nearly every morning, at a certain period of my life, coming back to the Republic Building from the post office, his arms full of papers, a cigar in his mouth, three or four more in his vest pocket, no coat and his sleeves rolled up. Nearly always, I looked at the Republic headlines, then at the editorials to "see what the Colonel has to say today." I still compare all small-town editorials to his, and no one yet has equalled him -usually, big-city editorials don't either.

Mr. Relander, I do not expect you to spend time looking up material for me. I wrote to you because I assumed your books were still in print and for sale, also because I had seen a few of your articles in the Herald. My interest in Yakima history has only been recently re-awakened, and I did not know of the existence of most of the books you mentioned.

I cannot express to you how much I appreciate your having taken the time to write me such a long letter. I am putting it in my Yakima file and I shall make use of it from time to time.

I'd like to come back to Yakima and go to the Regional Library and go over the Republic and Herald files. The librarian says they have them on microfilm from 1899, with some gaps in the early years.

One question, if you can answer it easily. I saw Theodore Roosevelt in Yakima, and I think it was in 1904, in the summer. He spoke from a grandstand erected at the corner of Yakima Avenue and Naches Avenues, I think. Do you have a record in your office from which you can easily get the date? If I can get the date, I'd like to get the Library to get me some kind of a transcript of either the Herald or the Republic's report of Roosevelt's visit.

Thank you again, Mr. Relander, for your kindness in writing to me.

Yours very truly

Lilly M. Briggs
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