

Jan. 30, 1979

Ralph
V.

Dear Ralph,

Must set me down right now and peck out a few words to my snow-bound buddy in Omaha. Been laying off to do that for a couple of weeks now but you knew how it is... I hope that you are keeping warm up there. We have had no hint (yet) of a gas shortage but keep thinking that any time now the warning will come to turn down the thermostats to chilly or even cold.

Stanley and I have finally finished up the insulation job at the Pony Express Stables. Damn!.. I thought we would never get that job done. Working high on scaffolding and running up and down ladders all day is work.. or as close as I want to get to it. We were supposed to have some help but all of a sudden everyone up here had more important things to do. Just me and that other dumb Pollack to do all of that monkey labor. We learned one thing for certain. Keep your mouth shut or you will catch flies. We are both good guys with white hats though.. We saved the museum a bunch of money. (This time) Next time they can hire the next dirty hard job done. I was trying to expedite matters and get the building insulated in preparation for air conditioning that we want, need and will probably never get. Anyway, I am back up here at the museum and can now get some of the backlog of work done.

Don't really know just how much snow we have on the ground here. With what settled down and blew into piles and the little that melted one day we still have too much. No place to park on some streets and a lot of cars still snowed in with red tags from the P.D. on them. I'm really getting sick of this mess! But then so are a few million others. I guess I should get out and enjoy it more if we had time.

Maude and I will head south for the Rio Grande valley come the middle of March. With her not working now we need not go in the hot, crowded month of July so am taking two weeks the last of March to visit Pop and Mamie. Won't spend the entire time there but four or five days. Two to go and two to return with two or three to spend on wildlife refuges and dallying along. Will probably still be cold then so for once we will maybe not dread the trip and the driving so much.

We have been staying in mostly. Went to the Kansas City gift show a week ago to purchase merchandise for the next tourist season. June and Maude and I spent a long day at it and spent a few thousand of the museum's money. Now if we can just get the tourists to spend.. Prices are up, up and up! We actually saw items that we now sell that cost as much to buy as they are priced on our shelves. Some of these days John Q is going to get smart or poor and we will have a lot of junk left over. We were cautious and bought accordingly keeping in mind that we will charge admission for the first time and John Q. may not feel so liberal or obligated to spend on the way out. We will see I guess come summer.

Saw Roy and Ada a couple of weeks ago. He has it made.. Just reads and stokes his wood stove during this cold weather. Ada working at Penney's. Roy heard from John Rohner.. His mother died. Barbie and husband Steve were there Xmas.

Thanks a million for the book. I appreciate it. No better gift than a book. We did not have a copy of ACROSS THE WIDE MISSOURI.

Bought that new car yet? Have been looking myself. Saw a 73 Nova, six cylinder, straight shift with air for sale a couple of weeks ago. Only 18,000 miles on it and brought 2595.00 but I missed out by being too late on the draw. That year still burned regular gas too. I guess we can get along for awhile but will have to buy something before too long. Have over 100,000 miles on the Buick so it is time to get concerned. Expect to buy a small car when we do. Would prefer a station wagon if price is not too much higher. I think we will have some bad days ahead as far as fuel is concerned. A lot of people are still buying big cars with high H.P. engines but that is the wrong way to go. Iran could be serious. Any additional oil from China (if it develops) could be a long ways down the road. Gasoline jumped up here 3 cents just a couple of weeks ago. That makes it 63.9 at the cheapest place. (For regular) Some places over 70 cents.

Hope you are keeping busy and warm. Had to get the National Guard in to Buchanan Co. to break through some of the county road drifts. Some folks out of food and medicine. More snow than our meager antiquated equipment could cope with. They had sold a huge snow blower a few years back.. Thought they didn't need it! Guess we just don't plan ahead and instead keep fingers crossed. Poor way to do business.. Do you reckon we got another ice age slipping in on us?

Well, hang in there.. and keep on a keepin on.. There are mushrooms down there under all that snow and ice and they are not to be denied. Things just gotta get better. A box of garden seed arrived yesterday from Burpee's.. By gosh that helped. We layed them all out on the floor and took a long look. Tender-pod peas.. New this year. You can eat them pod and all in salads. (They say) A new tomatoe too. "Long keeper" Supposed to last into Dec. and even Jan. if properly stored. (Again they say) We will see. Supposed to report back to them on this one.

Santa was good to us. Got another book too. THE LIVING TRADITION OF MARIA Mark Maugh, the lad that helps me at the stables, bought it for me. A beautiful book. Mark is still sort of looking around for a Maria pot.. Even after the chiding that you gave him on that trip to Kansas City to see the Sacred Circles exhibit. I hope that he finds one. He will start teaching now so he can afford it. And really, if he gets a good one, I believe that it would be a good investment what with inflation out of control. I believe that a thousand dollar Maria might be a better investment than a thousand dollar gov't bond. No more Maria pots are being made but they are making bonds and paper dollars like crazy.

Maude has been reading the new cook book that you gave her. (And so have I. That is an interesting book!) I expect any day to be served "prairie dog Bat Masterson" with beans Paul Revere and cattail salad. She says thanks again for the gift.

Well, I'm going to quit now. Again. This time for sure. Out of paper.. Out of time.. Out of news.. See you later..

P.S. Forgot to mention that Santa also brought us an Acoma pot and a couple of Teec Nos Pos rugs. All
As ever & Sincerely

Dear Dan:
Abbott & Laurey Concord
Coach

to be auctioned off
18-19-
Aug 20/1978

Stathead Lake Lookout
Stor Route
Lakeside, Montora 59922
~ Ostrond Auctioneer 6766
Fale, Montora 1-406-273

Stop Coach →

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coach.
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hank

w jitney.
you
have worn
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here before long. Keep
od bakery. Will see you

As ever,

Hi Mom:

Hope you & Maude had
a nice vacation. ~~and~~ You
should be home by now. Nothing
new here. I have to get a new
car. Do not know what I should
buy. I hate bucket seats. Ralph

August 9, 1978

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Ralph:

Just a line to let you know that we contacted the people in Montana and investigated the stage coach. It turns out that it is either a mud wagon or mountain wagon, or possibly a Yellowstone coach, none of which we are seeking. Also it had been considerably reworked they said. Had hopes for a moment though. We thank you for your interest. Some day, maybe!

Sorry to hear that you have to buy a new jitney. I agree with you on the bucket seats. How come you have to buy a new car anyway? You should not have worn out that Plymouth so soon. Did you have a wreck?

We are going to get up there before long. Keep thinking about fish and that good bakery. Will see you soon. Come down sometime.

As ever,

Stage Coach

Star Route
Balsader, Montana 59002
in district station
Balsader, Montana

Ralph V. 8-26-78

Now, an abattoir & slaughtering stage coach
is about as close to a Concord stage one
can get. Wouldn't that have been all right
for the time being? Such items will get harder
& harder to get. → about 25' long
3' wide

The "deer clath" from the Concord tipi
was exhibited at Joselyn Museum. I knew
that one was & I went to look at it - it is
the same one that was with the Concord tipi
I told you about. It was parted by standing
soldier. He died at Vets Hospital about 5 yrs
ago).

Come up Sam & Maude for a good feed
dinner.

Nothing else new or worth writing
about.

As ever
Ralph

Dear Don:

Thank for the S.W. Museum leaflet. This is just what I wanted. Could not get information about the getting. Some one choice piece. I would like to visit the area & see the man at work.

My Valiant has been a lemon. The car has oil because of defective piston rings. I always had trouble with the gearshift. The front seat is going to pieces. A guy backed into my car with a laundry loaded with motorcycle & damaged a window. I have about 49,000 miles. I have to get a new car. I hate bucket seats. I thought of a station wagon. Do not know what is best.

It sure is hot & humid here. Not getting any work. There are things to do around the place. I finally got a butcher sink. This cost about 300⁰⁰. I have to get faucet & hook it up. Have to get a box wrench too. Have been without a

Dear Mr. Reynolds
I am very
glad to hear
from you.
I am well
and hope
you are the same.
I am
yours truly,
John Reynolds

Dear Mr. Reynolds



Mr. John Reynolds
3108 Edmund St
St. Joseph,
Missouri

am French lilles are in full bloom.
No did not get out car today.

Dear

2

is just
about
like to

my
ail her

had trouble with the gearshift. The front seat
is going to pieces. A guy backed into my car with
a laundry loaded with motorcycles & damaged a
rear door. I have about 49,000 miles. I have to
get a new car. I hate bucket seats. I bought a
station wagon. Do not know what is best.

It sure is hot & humid here. Not getting
my work. There are things to do around the place.
I finally got a kitchen sink. This cost about
300⁰⁰. I have to get faucets & hook it up. Have to
get a boiler worth too. Have been without a
kitchen sink since last March.

June 29, 1977

pull PC's of
Bank Canors @ Skinn Boat y Nth
Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd
Omaha, Neb. 68107

Dear Ralph:

Here are the references that I mentioned. I waited until Rich returned from the AAM Museum conference and vacation to see whether or not he had been able to make any contact for a large buffalo skin. He found no good contact so we will have to keep an eye open for a nearby source for a green skin. Should be within distance that we could reach quickly when the opportunity presents itself. Will watch for a chance to get one locally, possibly a skin from one butchered for a barbeque or from packing houses.

Leaving this week end for Texas. Hope all o.k. up there. Didn't return the last letter copy re Casas Grandes since you wrote on back of it and I suppose that it was a copy you made for me. Will inquire along the Texas border and at ~~Fort Worth~~ ^{El Paso} about the site to the south.

See you when we get back.

Sincerely,

Don

(Skin for use to make "Bull Boat")

Platt
give to Ben

27th Annual Report of
Bureau of Ethnology -
pg 36 & 37

pure PCs of
Buck Canyon & Indian Burial
by Henry & Chapelle
pg 220

November 4, 1975

Ralph Velich
November 4, 1975
Page 2

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd
Omaha, Neb. 68107

Dear Ralph:

At last I get around to answering your letter of 10-18. Have been away for awhile. Went down to the Rio Grande Valley for awhile to see to the folks. Mamie had a hip joint replacement up in San Antonio and she and my father were cooped up in the hospital for six weeks. (Pop went along and stayed at the hospital to help and for moral support) She is now home but had a tough time before getting out. A wandering blood clot from the surgery area found its way through her heart and into a lung. It was touch and go for awhile, but she pulled through. Maude met them at the San Antonio hospital when she was released and went with them on down to the Valley and stayed a couple of weeks. I went down later for a week and when we left they were doing o.k. We have our fingers crossed.....he is 82 and she is almost that, so..... It's a worry that they are so far away but they like the climate, especially come winter, so they hang on there.

Maude and I took the long way home and looked in on the Indians of the Southwest. Saw oodles and qobs of beautiful rugs and silver and turquoise, etc. Visited a bunch of museums and saw a bunch of interesting Indian ruins. We didn't spend enough time at each place and wore ourselves out trying to see more by keeping on the move. Some of the cliff ruins are so fascinating that we just did not want to leave them. We were there at a good time too, since there was still some color in the cottonwoods and yet most of the tourists had been and gone. Wanted to see Keet Seel ruin but snow and ice caught us at the northern end and a 17 mile horseback trail to it had already been closed for the year. We hope to get back down in that area again sometime before we go to the happy hunting ground and will look forward to it.

Thanks for letting us know about the tipi and the model of the dancing Indian. As for the tipi--it is a good item--if we had immediate use for it or a place to store it until needed. Our budget being low, and our space short, and our need not yet,

net 18-75

Ralph Velich
November 4, 1975
Page 2

I guess we cant take advantage of the offer. How much is the model? What is it like? Should it be refinished? Bronzed? Would it make a good back-up piece in an Indian exhibit? Let us know.

Had hoped to get up there for fish, conflag and beer with you, but that Stanley used up my excuse for travel when he brought the birds back. For what you had to work with, they turned out o.k. Send a bill when next you write.

Stanley thinks he might take a leave here and go to work for you at \$350 per week. In fact we may all come up! Could we have a two hour noon so we could eat fish?

Thanks for sending along the mushrooms. Haven't eaten them yet but look forward to the pleasure.

Brought back some mesquite wood to smoke meat with. Also several jars of jalapeno peppers and a string of long reds for chili.

Where did you ever find 30 bushels of mushrooms?! You must be like the Irishman's pig and have a sensitive nose.

See ya later,

Don & Rich: act 18-75

Draw into an 18' Indian tipi.
The canoe is A1. The tipi pole are
jelled lodge poles. The price 150⁰⁰. It is
would be another choice item to set up
outside the museum on special occasions.

Then I have an original model of
an Indian dance with full dance regalia.
Choice - detailed - need to be coat. about 10" high.

Both above choice items. if not interested
in model let me know. I intend to trade
it for a collection of African items: shield,
spear + noisemaker. This about Chestnutline.

I want to take a trip to your city but
new still "working" upstairs. The two partners
get \$350⁰⁰ a week! They said they belong
to a union & should get more pay as they need
to know more than a plumber or a carpenter!
I question that. These guys can hardly
move around. They are very slow. get the

... we know about the tipi and the model of
the dancing Indian. As for the tipi--it is a good item--if we
had immediate use for it or a place to store it until needed.
Our budget being low, and our space short, and our need not yet,

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at 9:30 AM - leave at 400 PM -
take a long noon break, etc, etc.
A couple times now I walked upstairs &
they are lying on couch listening to
radio! & told them \$350⁰⁰ a week -
well, that nobody was worth that! Now
they give redneck looks when I come
around.

The typi is not decorated. Tellers, if
I had a place to set it up & use it I
sure would! This like this cost 700⁰⁰
longer & the jabs are made of ripped 2" x 4".

Not much news. Doing little to today.
Have been mushroom hunting. Got some
Sliters, oyster mushrooms & Portabella
mushrooms yesterday - & today. But
we got at least 30 bushes of Vaccaphi.
(St. James mushroom). & dried about 5 bushes.
Gave rest away to neighbors etc. Bye to see you
all soon. Best wishes - Ralph

August 1, 1975

Page 2

You will have to instruct me as to how to take a cat's 9 lives with one shot from a sling shot. We have seven cats roaming our backyard. Two are strays that live under our garden house and the rest belong to the neighbor's daughter and range all over the block. She is a but damn those cats!!

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Ralph: Tourists has picked up this year. They are trying to beat higher prices later I guess. We are short handed and everybody is somewhere else! Vacations. See you later.

Glad to hear that at least some of the birds will mount. As I told you, most of them have been kept probably too long in the freezer (since the 1973 season for some) and also we had a freezer failure with some birds reaching various stages of thaw. Tom thought most of them would be o.k. and refroze them. Some I notice, however, thawed enough to let fluids into the plastic bags.

I was very careful when I collected them. Carried borax water to clean off blood and always let the birds cool before putting them into bags and ice. As I told you, anything that is salvageable will be appreciated.

We were able to get #12 shot by special order but had to take it in the longer 3" shells (410). I did discard a few birds that were hit by too many pellets and damaged beyond mounting. I patterned the 410 with #12 shot on brown paper so that I know what to expect. Tried to use the 22 Rutledge bore with shot shells but it was too weak for some.

Talked to Mildred G. regarding the Pony Express print. She said they did not make the print that they have on exhibit. She will have one made for us if ever they can find someone to do it. I guess it must be quite a chore with such a large block. They hope to sell postcards of it sometimes she said. I was a little surprised to find out that they do not have any background information or history on this Pony Express cut. Just a dealer's name. According to her, he told them only what he wanted to.

Spent a couple of hours in the U.P. Museum. I want to go back later when better equipped to copy some photos that they have.

Hope that you got your roof on in good shape and without a sunstroke.

Page 2

You will have to instruct me as to how to take a cat's 9 lives with one shot from a sling shot. We have seven cats roaming our backyard. Two are strays that live under our garden house and the rest belong to the neighbor's daughter and range all over the block. She is a sweet young thing, but damn those cats!!

We are busy here. Tourism has picked up this year. They are trying to beat higher prices later I guess. We are short handed and sweating it out. Everybody is somewhere else! Vacations. See you later.

Sincerely,

Don R.

P.S. We do appreciate your extra efforts to save some of those birds that are freezer dried, but if you can't, you cant. So please don't sweat it. See you later.

July 16/75
Wednesday
5:30 pm

Dear Dan:

Just finished skinning rabbit & the
vulture.

Went outside at 6:00 AM - worked to
11:00 AM. Took a bath; lay down for awhile.
Tomonawd slaved just about he finished with
the roof.

The small birds are frozen. Am worried about
those. They spoil easily. Will start on them Monday
or Tuesday & let you know.

Thanks for bringing work to me. I like to do
museum work - if I could spend enough time on it.
Will do my best on your specimens. Have all gone
well on the small items. Rabbit tails & feet dried out.
Had a job skinning them.

How did you make out at Joslyn?
(over)

I enjoyed your visit & hope you come
soon. Maybe when I get the "stuff" ready
for you?

Will try to mt. the vulture & rabbit
this week end.

Hope you had a good & safe trip
home.

So long then. I want to mail this
soon so you get letter tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Peg

going to Forest Sunday for
small fawns etc. Am anxious to get
started on them.

oh yes - your rabbit bled into my
pilled fish. What a mess!

Dear Dan:

I know all things mounted you
know. I know all birds, I just could
not mount. I tried blood-impresible to work.
I'd rather & culture ready too. Will have the
stuff ready by 1st of month. Will you come
up to get all these? Sincerely
Ralph



Samuel Adams

Patriot



U.S. Postage 8¢

Mr Alan Reynolds
Sant Joseph Museum
Sant Joseph,
Missouri

Ralph
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM VELICH
5212 South 23rd Street
Omaha 7, Nebraska

July 22/15

Dear Don & Maudie:

maunted two Parula warblers today. There
was no skull in one - no femurs in the other.
The other bird - one foot is shot off - it must
have fallen in water.

Have the York rabbit & the vulture net. This
sure is nervous work.

Don, if a bird is shot up too bad throw
it away & get another. Don't get up too close
with bird shot. all you need is one or two
jullets to do the job. Yours ago - in the late 30's
Dr. Sutton & Pettingill were calling here in eastern
Neb. They shot everything in sight & picked out the
best specimens. Will tell you all about this when
I see you. I should be done in another two weeks.
Work is taking longer than expected.

Nothing else new. I got a Nazi dagger & Death
Heater day for 5⁰⁰. Just luck. Will write again
next week. Sincerely, Ralph

The apolo-saying stamp is a pretty nice one.

Friday
Aug 29/75

Dear Don:

September 3, 1975

If the weather got cooler I could deliver the things
you have here.

Here I am & have been dragging my feet:

Dear Ralph,

Darn sorry to hear about all the trouble you keep having. I say, keep having, as I recall the hose running in the basement and a couple of other things. Maybe you have had your run of trouble and its over now. At least when you get fixed up. You mention \$3,000 damage. I expect it must have smoked up your house considerably. On the other hand, \$3,000 to construction people these days doesn't go too far. You are lucky you didn't get burned or were you near the steamer when it happened? Too bad about the books, but if you look at the brighter side there were a whole lot of other things probably more valuable to you than the books. I hope none of your precious keepsakes upstairs were damaged.

Have been meaning to get up there but we are still on summer schedule and must all keep a hopping. You mentioned those mushrooms and I keep thinking about that carp fish, so about any day now! Some of us from down here will head towards Omaha. The high temperatures in your town the last couple of days will hold us back awhile unless we can convince Rich to take his air-conditioned limosene!!

Hang in there and keep your chin up. Gotta be better days comin! When we get up there we will "suds" about some of your troubles. See you later.

Sincerely,

Collector items. I made a list of them. Put down what they were worth. Dr. John Chittah was to help me to evaluate them. But I guess he went out of town. I think you know him. Other stuff damaged too. I'll tell you all about it.

I have some more mushrooms frozen for you & Maude. I got a new slug-slit. You will like it. I can get one for you & bring it down.

But the first one was up to me. I just could

Friday
Aug 29/75

Dear Don:

If the weather got cooler I could deliver the things
you have here.

Here is reason I have been dragging my feet:
About six weeks ago, I started to take wallpaper off
room upstairs & along the stairs. I rented a steamer
from United Rentals. Well, I got set up, lit the gas
burner & there was a loud explosion & flood of flame.
I had to get the fire dept. The entire upstairs hallway -
the room downstairs, the stairs & walls is now badly
burnt. It is real hell of a mess. Worst of all I had
about 46 books badly damaged. Most of these are
collector items. I made a list of these. Put down what
they were worth. Mr. John Chisellah was to help me to
evaluate them. But I guess he went out of town. I think
you know him. Other stuff damaged too. I'll tell you all
about it.

I have some spider necks frozen for you & Maude.
I got a new slug-slug. You will like it. I can get
one for you & bring it down.
But the first one was upset me. I just can't

seem to settle down. I wanted to take a short
trip somewhere too. Have insurance - but not on
household effects.

He went on to start work next week. One
contractor said he can do the work for
about \$3,000.00.

Why don't you come up, Alon? We could
go to the Salvage store & get you a supply
of motor oil, get the sling - shot etc.

Sincerely

Paul

Am putting all my boat in boxes -
then on each box make a list of what is inside.
I have a lot of choice items.

Dear Don:

I found the book written by a woman from or
who lived in your city:

Glimpses of Sunshine and Shade in the
Far North.

Lulu Alice Craig

A teacher who got a leave of absence of the
School Board in St. Joe in 1898 to go on this
trip. Published in 1900 Cincinnati Ohio

Ralph



U.S. Postage 6¢

Mr. Don Reynolds
Saint Joseph Museum
St. Joseph, Missou uri

March 15, 1973

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Ralph:

I guess that I have not heard of the book "Glimpses of Sunshine and Shade in the Far North" by Lulu Alice Craig of our city. I say that because it strikes a rinkle. She is on our accession books as having donated a miniature whale harpoon and a dog mocassin from Dawson and Dutch Harbor Yukon, Alaska. This was in 1929. You do not mention if the book is for sale or if you bought it. Is it a tourist's view or more of a definitive work? If it is for sale I suppose that we should consider it for our library because of the local connection.

Spring is really popping here. Tulips are almost ready to bloom and the grass is getting green. Will be picking greens before long--and then mushrooms! Should be plentiful this year, what with all the rain.

School visitation beginning to pick up now. We wonder about prospects for a good tourist year, however, because of the threat of gasoline shortage and the probability of higher prices for same. And for that matter everything else.

Everything pluggin' along here. At present we are considering installation of a CO₂ fire system in the storage area to prevent possible water damage from sprinkler heads. Also will put in a swing panel rack for display of more information and photos at the Stables. Mountains and Plains Conference will be at Albuquerque this year. October I think. Roy in Cleveland for television and other appearances that direction this week. Will be back by this weekend.

We have a good book binder with reasonable prices for his work (I think) here now. He was with Willet's Bindery before they closed and has now set up his own shop. He is charging us \$7.00 per volume of 10 years of Museum Graphic.

Page 2

It's windy here today! Hope it dries out the roads and fields. Cars and cows are mired all over.

Getting hungrier and hungrier for carp. Got to get up that way soon.

How about loaning us that Carolina Parakeet for a showing to the Midland Empire spring school groups that will visit before long? We could make a special showing with proper news coverage and credit to yourself. I think that an exhibit of such a rare and extinct bird would be appreciated here if only for a limited time. I know that you have heard all this before, but now you are hearing it again! We could leave Rich's left leg as security. If you think his leg would be no security, we could bring you along maybe and you could guard it with a club. Could put you up in the Craft's room and you could graze on the front lawn. Or better yet we could all eat beefburgers and dark beer at the Bucket Shop. No kidding, how about loaning us that bird? Say the word and we will be right up there with the necessary loan papers and will return it with our special love and care when the loan period is over. Would also be insured while in our possession.

Well, enough for now. Think this over, but let us know quickly one way or the other so we can schedule it and manage for some press coverage.

Regards to your Dad.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

Wardham - I'll lamp Porcupine - but not
in indefinite moon. For a year or so. I
had to get on at home to get my leg and painting
had from an "friend" in Bellum. I had a
m. born for a year. At last not 3 years to get
it returned. He came with my leg. Came
Indian painted robe. Had a head of a bear
getting it back. I'll tell you about the.
Re: Mook. interesting - mostly Sine. Ralph
a hunter then but now. I had 2 cossies. Said on.



Paul Revere



Mr Don Reynolds
Saint Joseph Museum
St. Joe, Missouri

Paroquet

Collected in Florida by J. D. Allen. He lived a very colorful life. Was secretary to the Governor of North Dakota when it was a territory. Early collector and an early taxidermist. Book written about him. Historical collections of North Dakota mention him a lot. Was a naturalist and an artist. He collected about three of these paroquets. Two or three went to the California Academy of Science (?).

Write to the Director of the Bismarck Museum regarding J. D. Allen. He lived in Mandan,
N. Dakota.

John Moyer of Chicago knew him. Remainder of his collection went to the winds. He had a lot of Indian artifacts, oil paintings and historical items. Born in the 1830's.

Knew Sitting Bull, Rain-in-the-face, Custer, Crazy Horse.

This is an old fashioned mount. Skeleton has been left in. It is the only one in Nebraska.

Wrote to his daughter some time ago. She can't find out where he was ever in Florida.

It says, collected a few miles from Jacksonville on the St. James River. She wrote as far as she knows he was never in Florida. Someone might have collected it for him.

Father Nolte has one at the museum in Atchison, Kansas. This one was collected in Atchison. One in Iowa City University Museum. Chicago has 7 or 8. Smithsonian and American Museum of Natural History has 11 or 12 in a group.

CAROLINA PARROQUET

While encamped near the mouth of the Kansas River, Lewis and Clark reported seeing a flock of parroquets, *Conuropsis carolinensis ludoviciana* (Gmelin).

June 26, 1804 (Vic. of Kansas River)"I observed a great number of Parrot queets (Parroquets) this evening."--Clark.

No other reference to this bird will be found in the Lewis and Clark diaries. However, John K. Townsend reported them in central and western Missouri in 1834.

April 7, 1834 (Near Booneville, Missouri) "We saw here vast numbers of the beautiful parrot of this country, (*Psittacus carolinensis*). They flew around us in flocks, keeping a constant and loud screaming, as though they would chide us for entering their territory; and the spendid green and red of their plumage glancing in the sunshine, as they whirled and circled within a few feet of us, had a most magnificent appearance. They seem entirely unsuspicious of danger, and after being fired at, only huddle closer together, as if to obtain protection from each other, and as their companions are falling around them, they curve down their necks, and look at them fluttering upon the ground, as though perfectly at a loss to account for so unusual an occurrence. It is a most inglorious sort of shooting; down right, cold-blooded murder."--Townsend.

April 20, 1834 (near Independence, Mo.) "Parroquets are plentiful in the bottom lands....."--Townsend.

June 26th. At one mile we passed, at the end of a small island, Blue-water creek, which is about 30 yards wide at its entrance from the south. Here the Missouri is confined within a narrow bed, and the current still more so by counter-currents or whirls on one side and a high bank on the other. We passed a small island and a sand-bar, where our tow-rope broke twice, and we rowed around with great exertions. We saw a number of parroquets (*Conurus carolinensis*), and killed some deer. After 9 3/4 miles we camped at the upper point of the mouth of the Kansas river.

March 27, 1973

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Ralph:

Stanley and I just made our grand entrance?? Sir Von Nolf appeared on the scene and was quite taken aback. Goofed up his phone call, slobbered down his front. Oh well, hell, no fools, no fun!!

Your big hat was a sensation but could not stand up to the real thing. Rich tried it on though and damn near suffocated before we managed to pull it free. The Indian sized it up with teeth hanging out underneath. I am sure the caricature will be forthcoming. If so will bring it along the next time we come up. Stanley was able to effect a Swiss yodel to match his hat!

Rich said he would send a revised letter. (Maybe enclosed, maybe not) Paroquet made the trip intact as did Stanley. Rained all the way back. Looking for data now that might be interesting to the general public. Are in the midst of cleaning the bird collection--renumbering, identification and restoring with at least some order. Turned out to be one heck of a big job.

Thanks for the loan. Will do our best. See you later.

Sincerely,

Don Reynolds

April 13, 1973

Mr. Ralph Velich
5212 South 23rd
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Ralph:

Am enclosing a copy of the Gazette article that came out this morning. In spite of a couple of mistakes (about as usual) it was not too bad. The young man, Mark Johnson, is a cub reporter just starting and has just been assigned to the museum beat. Had hoped for a closer-up shot of the parakeet but the photographer thought otherwise.

You may also be interested in the article just to the right of ours. The Patee House affair has taken on new dimensions with one of the factions about to oust the other. We hear a lot about it too since one of the principal figures in the fracas is a news reporter. They can get more news coverage out of a busted buggy whip than we did with a showing of Missouri Sesqui-centennial paintings.

We certainly did enjoy the slickers and thanks again. Will soon have mushrooms popping out around here if it warms up. A lot of local farmers have listed their names in the paper and are refusing entry to their land to spite the meat boycott.

Everything here looking up after the big storm. About blew us off of the map. Snow here not so bad but north and east terrible I guess. We had two people at the Stables that said they were snowed in for two days at Macon, Mo.

Come down and see us sometime. Rich, Stanley, June and all send regards.

Sincerely,

July 7/72

Dear Rich & Don:

Yesterday I made a study skin of Hoare's
I mounted for you. It was a poor mount - mainly
because of the poor plumage. I got tired of looking
at the poor mount - but I tried.

Have been working hard. Slipped out along South
Side of house - & tore out concrete on west side
by steps. It had to be done - water coming in basement
when it rained. I have to slant the concrete so it
runs west & down the hill. I'm not used to this &
it is about killing me.

Have about 50 or more Annual Reports of the
Smithsonian Institution. A few duplicates. Rich, can
you use them? The duplicates I can save as they
are new - still in wrappers.

Not much else new. Getting a few fish.
(over)

I have had coal weather & it is supposed
to get hot now.

I have a deep deep freeze out at a
farm if you can use it - free. I have some antique
furniture too am trying to sell.

oh yes, Rich, I can't get para-dichlorobenzene
here. Can you get me 100 lbs? If I come down
with the stuff you have here could I get some?
I'm out & need it for my coats downstairs &
for my Indian mugs. If you tell me where I can
get it I can order it - if you buy it in St Joe, I'll
pick it up & pay you right away.

Hope I see you all soon! Love,
Ralph

Sep 13, 1912

Dear Don & Maude:

Thanks much for the dinner & the nice time I
had at your house ^{Tues} ~~last~~ night. And thanks much for
the jacket which I can certainly use. I thought I had
some blouses & shirts my sister in-law left here
some time ago, but my father said he nailed them
back. So I will have to make up to you some other
way.

Here is a recipe on dandelion wine. Try it Don &

Maude. It is good & fun to make.

I am sending the Blonde Wood Stain under separate

He'll write with my car. I got my shirt to
him & found to garage. He's saying he's not charging.
We 100% don't want. I'll be in the garage. I'll be in the garage.

forage. My d up good x try on a screw just
of wood. The ought to work for you x don't
take a couple coats. When dry - scrub with a
wire brush. Would could show you how to do it.

I got a scrub and in forage. There was just
one saw what and. I thought Rich said there were
two specimens.

Richard A. Paul of Missouri Western College is coming up
Feb 12 with an eagle. What you x Rich could come up with him.
I wanted to let him to bring you along too.

Don't forget for being so congenial to me. Say hello to your
friendship. Keep in touch with Ed about blots. Ralph
Sorensen.

January 27, 1971

Dear Don and Maude:

Got your colored picture post card from Texas. It is always good to hear from you. An expected card like that with a note is always welcome. Cheers up the day. Thanks.

Don, I read a lot and here are some you must read:

PAPILLON by Henri Charriere

SAILOR ON HORSEBACK by Irving Stone

There is another one I had in mind but it has escaped me. The above are very fine. The first is about a French prisoner condemned to Devil's Island and tells about two escapes that ended in failure but his third was successful. The other one is about Jack London. It is fascinating reading. Another good book is CORONADO (Knight of Pueblos and Plains) by Herbert E. Bolton. Your library has all of these books. Do yourself a favor and get them and read them. I have been reading all I can about the Brontes. You may think a little off-beat for me but it grows on a person--just as when one reads about James Boswell and Sam Johnson etc.

pound

I mounted a thirty-six King salmon today. Have been working on deer heads and will have them all out this next month. Next week I want to mount my whole mount white tail deer. I have everything ready to go. Have to do a little work on the form, waterproof it and then soak up the hide and get to work. Wish you were here to help me sew it up. Once I get everything all set to go I should finish the job in one day.

Did I tell you that last summer I had three black-footed ferrits here--alive? I meant to tell noone but I guess they are still alive. I tried to get them but the price was too much for me. I thought of our local zoo but they do not help me --ever. I am going to try to get one or two young next summer if they breed. I hope they do. The ferrits were young ones a guy just ran down. It seems incredible but it is true.

Got an albino starling about a month ago. Other things to tell you but I just can't think --how, when I go to bed tonight and think over the events of the day I will think of things I should have told you.

Anything from our friend Henry Ide? Oh yes, a friend of mine in Switzerland wrote of an auction of American Indian items. In Germany. One guy bid \$2500.00 for a fine buckskin shirt--fringed, quilled strips only to find out a boat a week later it was made in Germany by an Indian hobbyist! Well, any nut that can't tell should be taken. I don't feel sorry- It must have been a nice piece of work. A white woman called me on the phone one day--out in Nebr. said she did Indian bead work with

Indian tanned buckskin and she uses sinew. I heard about her and I guess she is pretty good. I would liketo see her work sometimes. Someone like that would be handy to know when some repair work is necessary.

Why not write me sometimes--a nice letter etc.

Sincerely,

Reese

*You wanted to see Law
surprised to see Roy for
much weight put on. it is unbelievable.
He is actually fat - I said he looked
2 months on the way!
8 months ago to see him
all.*

March 14, 1970

about midnight

Dear Don:

Your two-page letter was most interesting. I got your letter the same day that Roy and Ada and my friends Drew Bax and his wife Ruth visited me. Well, they were here two days. I let Roy read your letter. He says that he knew about the Akeley film a long time ago. But I will tell you more about this when I am able to talk to you in person. The first day they were here everything was nice and friendly but the second day was a little trying. I enjoyed their company but some things got on my nerves. Ada saw the way things were going and suggested they had better get back to their motel. I will tell you all about this when I get to see you. I have been holding on to quite a few ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. I had the complete series along with ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. Well the time our basement was flooded many of these were ruined. I must have about sixty of the former yet--many duplicates. I have been saving these for Roy. He forgot to take them again. Maybe Rich would like them for the museum? I have a chance to trade them for some things I want but if Rich can use them it is all right with me.

Yes, I have much to tell you. It just won't do to write anything.

I have bought a Plymouth Valiant. It will be a month yet before I get it then I will take a trip to see you and the rest of the gang. I am trying to get rid of my old car. I might have to junk it but will first take off the snow tires, the battery (which is new) and the radiator which is brass and for which I may get a few centavos. I hate to see the old thing go.

I had company from Des Moines today. I am still upset about the fire and about how things were when Roy was here. But keep this all to yourself.

Tell Rich I have a couple pocket gophers here and the white quail and the partial albino robin.. I forgot to give them to Stan. He took the mutant mole.

I had about a hundred walnut panels burn up on me too. It is amazing how fast fire can spread. I saw this first-hand. The shed that burnt down was comparatively new. Oh, about five years or so. Now I have to remove the burnt and charred wood and spend a week or so rebuilding it and when I think of replacing the plaster molds-- well, I almost feel like calling it all quits.

Hope to see you all soon, Don.

Sincerely,

Ray L

SPECIAL

January 12, 1969

Dear Don:

I hope you and Maude had a nice time down south. Then too, I have been wondering how Maude is getting along.

Don, write me soon on the following. This summer a friend and I and his wife are taking a boat trip. He has a 16 foot aluminum boat and will get a new outboard motor. We are having the boat hauled to Fort Benton, Montana and then we will return home via the Missouri River. Would you like to go along? Would Maude care to go too? The trip would take a couple weeks. On one stretch in Montana--for 245 miles we would be completely isolated from towns. I have thought about this for a long time. My friend's wife is talented as a writer. She intends writing a piece for the Omaha World Herald. You could come along and take your camera (my friend is a camera bug too). You could even write up a story for M.G.

Let me know if you are at all interested. My only problem is how to leave my father here at home alone. This worries me.

Write soon.

Sincerely,

Ralph



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OMAHA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
6012 U. S. POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

MROVM

11 December 1968

Mr. Ralph W. Velich
Taxidermist
5212 South 23rd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated 8 December 1968 requesting information for a possible boat trip down the Missouri from Fort Benton to Omaha.

The length of the Missouri River from its mouth near St. Louis, Missouri, to Fort Benton, Montana, is approximately 2073 miles. Omaha is located at mile 616; therefore, the river mileage from Fort Benton to Omaha is approximately 1457 miles.

From Fort Benton to Virgelle, Montana (approximate mile 2033), the going would be reasonably good; however, you should expect difficulty during heavy reservoir discharges and heavy rainfall. (All mileages given are river miles from the mouth.) The best time of the year to go down the river would be from late May through August. If any other time is chosen, the average water depth through the rapids would be no more than 18 inches during low stages.

From Virgelle, Montana, to U. S. Highway 191 bridge (mile 1922), a deep canyon area would be found in which it would be necessary to negotiate several rapids. It might be necessary to pull or portage your boat over shallows in some places. After leaving Virgelle, the river is away from any town for about 260 miles. No gasoline, food, or other supplies are available until Fort Peck is reached. Fort Peck Reservoir has 1600 miles of shore line and is 16 miles wide at its widest point. Calm waters on the reservoir can turn to choppy waters, then to violent high waves in a very short time, and this is quite common so travelers must always have land in sight and be prepared to land the boat if necessary.

Continuing down the river, it would be necessary to portage around six dams, Fort Peck (mile 1722), Garrison (Lake Sakakawea) (mile 1390), Oahe (mile 1072), Big Bend (mile 987), Fort Randall (Lake Francis Case) (mile 880), and Gavine Point (mile 811). None of the dams have locks; however, there are concessionaires or members of boat clubs who provide portage for a fee, depending upon the size of the boat.

11 Dec 68

FROM
Mr. Ralph W. Vellich

From Sioux City, Iowa (mile 735) to the mouth of the river at St. Louis, the river is navigated by commercial towboats from 1 April to 1 December, so there would be a surplus of water the last 119 miles to Omaha.

The average speed of the current is approximately 4 miles per hour and the outboard would travel downstream from 10 to 25 miles per hour depending upon the size of the motor, the boat and the load.

The Missouri River hides its dangers below its surface and should be treated with respect so we advise everyone, no matter how experienced, to wear a life jacket at all times.

Literature on the six reservoirs located on the Missouri River is

inclosed.

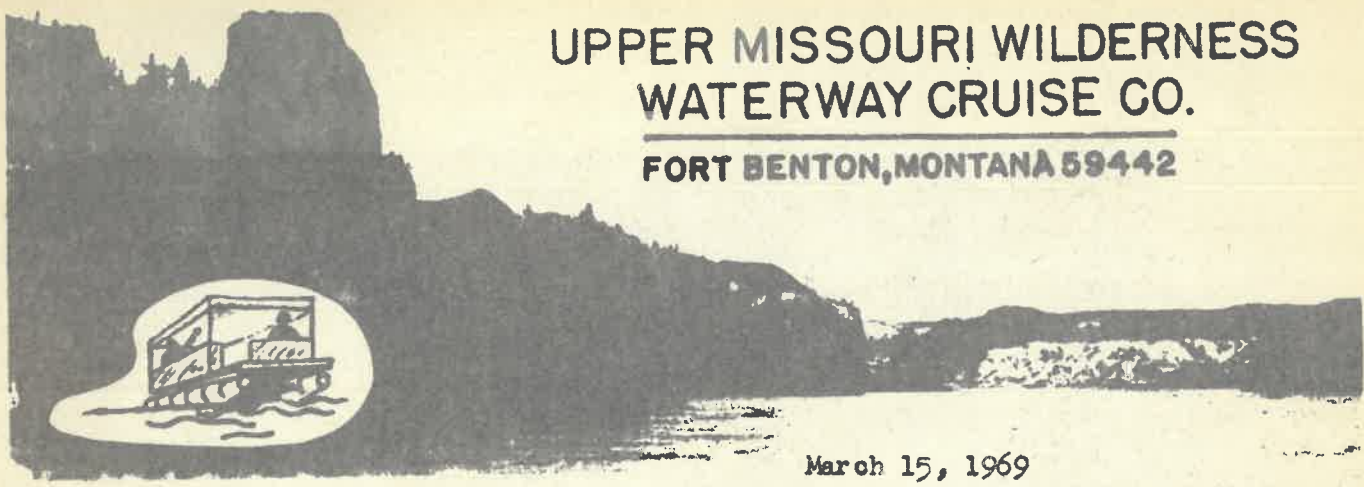
If we can help you further, please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

for
L. F. OTTO
Chief, Operations Division

Incl
As stated





UPPER MISSOURI WILDERNESS WATERWAY CRUISE CO.

FORT BENTON, MONTANA 59442

March 15, 1969

Mr. Ralph Velich, Taxidermist
5212 So. 23rd Street
Omaha, Nebraska, NE 68107

Dear Mr. Velich:

My error for not replying to your letter much sooner. Will do much better next time. Would enjoy helping out in any way we possible can for you trip on the Missouri.

You have a tremendous idea and by all means certainly go through with it. With your wide interest I am sure it would be most valuable and interesting.

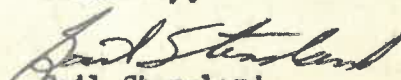
There is another possibility that you may want to join the group being formed by Travel and Transport, Inc. of Omaha, Miss Loretta Outler is tour supervisor. They had the group with us last summer from Fort Benton to the Fred Robinson bridge, some 155 miles. It was really a fine group. Of course this would only fill a part of your total interest but would be a part.

When you do get to Fort Benton we would be most happy to show you around here and fill you in with the helpful information on the section of the river that we know quite well.

As for individuals interested in trading or selling Indian artifacts, this could be a possibility, however at present I do not know of anyone personally.

If we can be of any assistance or arrange a trip for you please contact us. We have enjoyed this section of the river so much that we would like to be able to travel the total river some day.

Sincerely,


Gail Stensland
Secretary

July 24, 1964

Dear Don:

When it gets a little colder I shall make a trip to Saint Joseph to see youfolks and the museum again. I have been thinking about this for a long time. Well, it has been a long time since I saw you and Maude, Roy and the rest of the bunch. Why don't you come to Omaha sometimes? Come and stay overnight and we can go around and look at some of the places that might interest you. In the evening we could go out and eat somewhere and just visit and talk.

It has been terribly hot here this summer and I suppose it has been the same in your city. Wish I lived up north, maybe in northern Montana ~~so~~ where it was not so muggy in the summer. One day, Don, I thought sure I was dying and frankly, I was hoping it were true.

I have to write to Johnny Flinchbaugh one of these days. I keep thinking of him all the time. I wish he could have gotten the Omaha zoo job. There is going to be another zoo here in town. I wish he could get to Omaha to stay. His wife liked it here. Johnny liked it here too. It would have been fun to have them.

I have picked up a few Indian things since I saw you. I found an arrowhead one day in the Forest. There is always something to do along the river or in the Forest. Wish you could have the time to see the places we have in this area. Oh yes, the Fontenelle Forest was made a national landmark just a week or so ago. You have never seen it. I told Roy but he did not know what I was talking about.

Well, goodbye Don. Hope you and Maude are enjoying things. Did you have a nice vacation?

As ever,

Ralph

September 13, 1969

Dear Don:

I am sending you one of my brothel tokens for a present. So keep it and don't loose or give it away! Okay?

Have been in the dump twice digging bottles. About a month ago, I took a walk along the lake and the dump and found that someone was digging in the dump besides myself. This sure surprised me. Up to now, over the years, I am the only one that ever dug in the dump. I guess it was bound to come. The last time I dug in the dump I about sweat to death. There was no breeze and it was hot among the weeds. I hope you and Maude get up here soon this autumn to do some digging. I found a very small bottle. It looks like a vial of some kind that is unique. Will show it to you when you come.

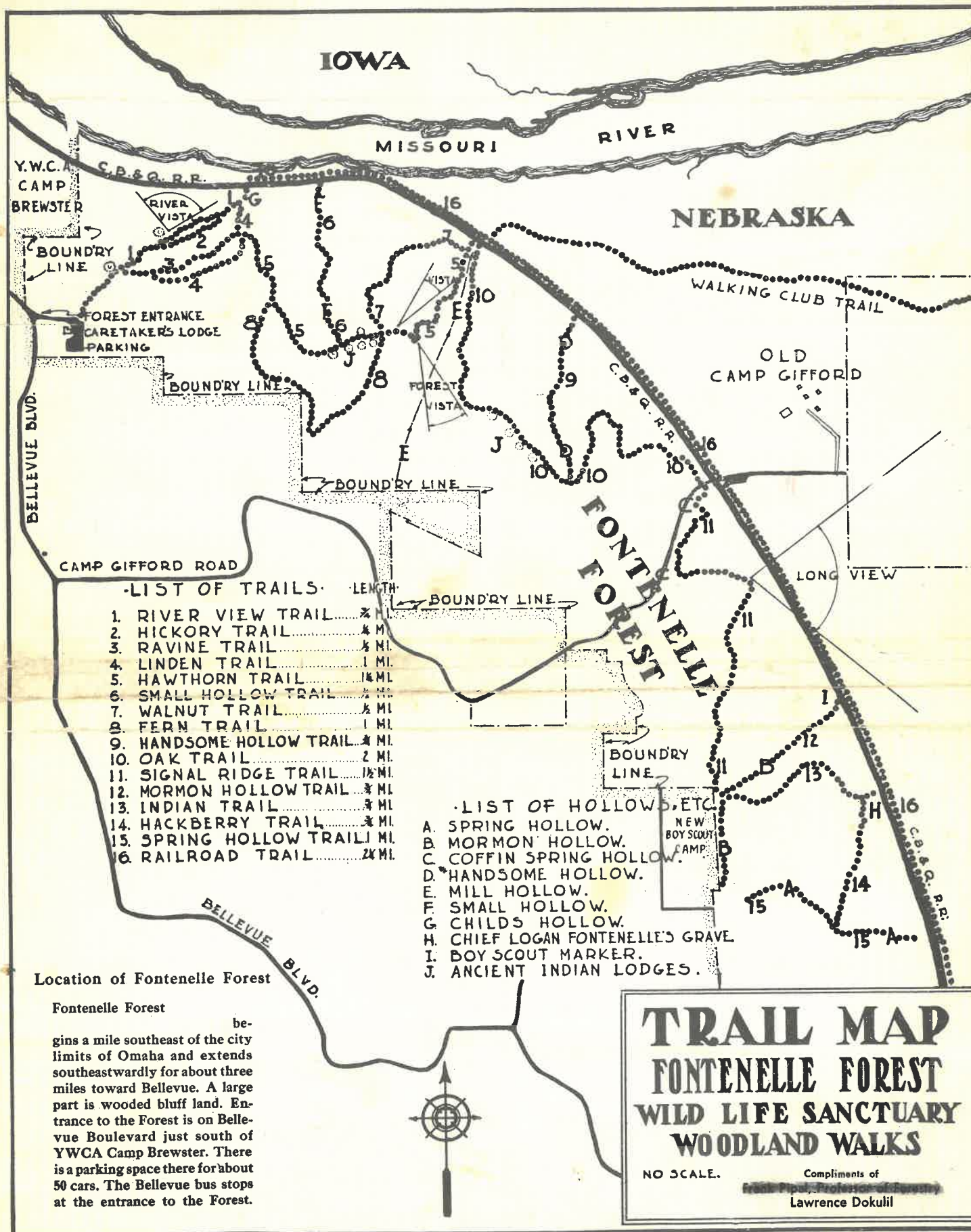
Rich just wrote me. Tell him to bring anyone over for a visit anytime. You are always welcome as well as everyone from the museum. I wish you could see the Bertrand. The Refuge will close the 22nd of this month. Tell this to Rich. Maybe you fellows would like to go up to see it and take some film. This might be the last time you can do this. I think it would be worth a trip. DeSoto is about 28 miles from Omaha and along the interstate it does not take along to get up there. It is quite a thrill to see the old steamship but what is more interesting, to see the things they have salvaged. Some of the canned things look as if they were preserved last week. Tell Rich about this.

Nothing new. The zoo lost a 600 pound gorilla. It is in cold storage. The university here does not know what to do with it except save the skeleton. I wrote Dr. Bailey about it. I hope they get it for the museum. A lot of choice items die here at the zoo and are just thrown away. I tried to get the things but have had no luck. I suppose they think I would make a lot of money on the things if given to me. The cheap bastards.

I am glad autumn is almost here. It is worth waiting for and I am ^{glad} ~~glad~~ summer is over.

As ever,

Ralph



FONTENELLE FOREST Its History, Organization and Policy

Fontenelle Forest contains about 1500 acres, mostly wooded bluff-land. The entrance to the forest, where cars may be parked, is on Bellevue Boulevard, about a mile south of the Omaha city limits, and just south of YWCA Camp Brewster. From there, the forest extends southeastwardly along the Missouri River for about three miles, nearly to Bellevue. There are no roads in the forest except one public road used principally by the forest's caretakers and by those who have farm land east of the forest.

HOW THE FOREST WAS ACQUIRED

In November 1912, a meeting was held in Omaha at which the Fontenelle Forest Association was formed. A self-perpetuating Board of Trustees was chosen and officers elected. The Association received its charter April 16, 1913.

The money required to buy the original tract of 364 acres was raised by popular subscription; the late Dr. Harold Gifford, Sr., and his heirs, gave about 400 acres; the late Sarah Joslyn gave 100 acres, and there have been several other gifts, devises and legacies.

POLICY OF THE FOREST

So far as possible, the forest is kept "untouched by the work of man."

The forest is preserved in its natural condition, so that it can be enjoyed by all who love Nature in its unspoiled state.

* No guns, no hatchets, no liquor, no horses and no automobiles are permitted in the forest, and no picnic fires are allowed except on the bare and open sandy river bank. Every effort is made to have guests pick up and carry away any rubbish from picnicking.

TRAILS

There are 16½ miles of marked foot trails through the forest. The trails have such characteristic names as Riverview, Fern, Ravine, Hickory, Hawthorn, Oak, Linden, Walnut, Hackberry, Signal Ridge, and Spring Hollow. The Omaha Walking Club uses one of the trails to reach its camp east of the forest. Boy Scout Camp, "Wa-Kon-Da", adjoins the forest on the southwest, near the head of Mormon Hollow trail.

WILD LIFE SANCTUARY

To the botanist and the ornithologist, as well as to the artist and photographer, the forest is a paradise. Wild flowers are abundant and the forest is credited as a habitat of as many species of birds as are found any place in the United States.

Near the southwest part of the forest there are marshy places where many kinds of aquatic plants may be found. In the spring and fall the marshes are visited by great numbers of wild ducks and shore birds.

The entire forest is a game reserve. All wild life is protected.

HISTORIC GROUND

To the historian, the forest is eloquent of the past. On its hills are the remains of several Indian council circles as well as the buried houses of prehistoric men who lived there more than 6000 years ago.

The first Indian trading post in the state was located there. A marker near Indian trail points to the grave of Logan Fontenelle, last chief of the Omaha tribe. Another marker near the same trail shows the site where the Mormons camped on their trek westward in 1846.

For many years the late Dr. Robert Gilder, Archeologist and Artist, lived at "Wake Robin", his log cabin and studio on the edge of the forest. Many of his best known pictures are of scenes in the forest, and his archeological studies of the forest were extensive.

HOW THE FOREST IS SUPPORTED

The Fontenelle Forest Association is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the task of keeping intact, for the enjoyment of the public, the largest unbroken tract of virgin timber in Nebraska.

The trustees and officers of the Association serve without pay but there are some expenses, such as for the maintenance of two houses in the forest used by the caretakers, and for the upkeep of trails, trail markers, fences and the like.

The expenses of maintaining the forest are met by contributions from those who enjoy visiting the forest and from other public spirited citizens.

Requests or Donations Should be Made to

FONTENELLE FOREST ASSOCIATION

and Addressed to GEORGE T. MORTON, Secretary, 505 Omaha National Bank Bldg. Omaha, Nebraska

The Trustees are: Frederick J. Adams (President), Mrs. John H. Bath, Frank C. Bulta, W. Dale Clark, Dr. Harold Gifford, L. O. Horsky, Fred W. Kayser, Harold D. LeMar, Ed S. Miller, Max A. Miller, George T. Morton (Secretary), Jeannette McDonald, John A. Nixon, Roy N. Towl (Vice-President), Will H. Thompson, Karl E. Vogel, W. R. Watson and W. LeRoy Wilcox (Treasurer).

Many who have served as Trustees of the Fontenelle Forest Association have passed on. Among them are: Howard Baldrige, Mrs. W. F. Baxter, C. C. Belden, W. H. Bucholz, Leo Bozell, T. C. Byrne, Robert Cowell, C. N. Dietz, C. J. Ernst, Dr. Harold Gifford, Sr., Dr. A. F. Jonas, Mrs. Sarah Joslyn, Thomas R. Kimball, Rufus E. Lee, Col. T. W. McCullough, Rome Miller, Charles F. McGrew, Arthur Crittenden Smith, Dr. Solon R. Towne, Dr. A. A. Tyler, C. M. Wilhelm and Henry W. Yates.

* The Flora and Fauna have Thrived in Fontenelle Forest due to the Strict Supervision and Maintenance as a Natural Wild Life Sanctuary. As a result of this Policy there are known to Date to be in this Area Over 390 different Varieties of Vegetation, 27 Species of Animals, 8 Species of Snakes, 250 Species of Birds, 3 Species of Turtles, 3 Species of Frogs, and many other Varieties of Land and Water Wild Life.

They are for Your Visual Enjoyment Only.

RALPH VELICH, Taxidermist
5212 SO. 23rd STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

August 21, 1965

Dear Slow and Maude:

The leaves from our Kentucky Coffee Bean tree are falling and that is a sure sign that autumn will soon be here. Besides this there is a feeling, a something that I cannot describe, that summer will soon be over. I hope you two will come to Omaha as soon as the weather gets cooler - before all the leaves are off the trees. The idea is that I do not want anyone to see what we are digging for - that would give me too much consolation.

Slow, the book you sent me is a good one! The Loach of the West 1860. Thanks for sending me a copy. I used to find books for a hobby and someday will get back to this again. This will be one of several dozen books I want to find on re-bird.

Not much new. The editor of Curator said my paper was interesting and useful. I would rather have had it in N. G. But you were the one to suggest it and you remember what Ray said. So I took his word and sent it in to Curator.

I have a lot of 3 cigar store Indians in your area. Kingman wants me and I do not think you have one in your museum. I wrote to Ray. If he is not interested I have another museum in mind that has wanted one a long time. Besides this is

quite a large collection of ~~Indian~~ guns and
a few Indian things.

A woman in Albuquerque, N. M. has some old paper
Western Americans and among this stuff is an original
Indian peace treaty. Wish I could buy this. The only
thing I look, I don't, is money. If I had 15 or 25
Thousands of dollars I could buy enough choice items
to equal what you have in Saint Joseph. I have a
good stock now with my limited means. I know of
specimens around and collections that would fit into
the very best museums.

Did Ray want the others? I forgot to ask him
about this.

We go for fish for ducks about every week. I
always think of you - and how you like the fish.
Wish you could all get up to Omaha now often. I
just wish your city were not so far away.

This week, I wanted for myself, a black squirrel, a
woodchuck, 3 jackalopes (choice ones), a meadowlark, a
turtlex a cut cat I got on my way to Saint Joseph about
two years ago. I have a whale mand deer neck to reach
next week - along with a Texas longhorn steer head.
So long, Sincerely, Ralph

Kingman said he saw Ray whenever we were all
at the museum. That he saw him at the recent
museum conference. again

August 22, 1961

MR. RALPH VELICH
5212 So. 23RD STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

DEAR RALPH,

I AM RETURNING YOUR TIN TYPE OF (?) WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION. ROY LOOKED AT IT AND THOUGHT IT RESEMBLED "BLOODY BILL" ANDERSON.

LEE STARNES, OUR LOCAL EXPERT ON JESSE CAME OVER TO SEE AND WANTS TO KNOW MORE. HE SAYS THERE ARE A COUPLE OF FEATURES THAT INTEREST HIM. HE TOOK YOUR ADDRESS AND WILL CONTACT YOU. HE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE PHOTO CAME FROM, NAME OF OWNER, ETC.

AS FOR MYSELF, I CAN'T SEE TOO MUCH RESEMBLENCE. ROY LIKEWISE.

I'M TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOUR BOOKS. WILL BRING THEM HOME WHEN WE GET UP NEXT.

HOW ABOUT THE STAGE COACH CHASSIS????????? LET ME KNOW. THE OLD MAN THAT KNOWS HOW TO PUT IT IN SHAPE AND BUILD A BODY FOR IT IS GETTING OLDER EVERY DAY.

COME AND SEE US.

SINCERELY,

DLR/c

DON REYNOLDS, PHOTOGRAPHER

July 27/62

Dear Stan.

I'm sending you my 1st edition
copy of "Westward the Course of Empire."
This is for your Pony Express library. My other
copy is a 2nd ed. or a reprint.

Tell Ray I have not yet got the calf
skin.

What are you going to do about the
Station wagon we went to see? Will you keep
re posted? Please.

Ray was to return my 8 mint copies of
The White Indian Boy, but he has not. I wrote
him twice & asked him as many times. They are out
of print but he said they were not. Wonder if you
saw the RR Stock Certificate. Sincerely, Ralph
Best wishes to Maude - ~~think I still~~ remember the fine lunch



IS MERTY

MARTIN

Mr. Alan Reynolds
% St. Joseph Museum
St. Joseph,
Missouri

RUFUS V. HAYS
6625 Milhaven Drive
MISSION, KANSAS