

Welsh
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United States Post Office

CLASS

Mandan, North Dakota,
September 15th, 1929.

Mr. W.S. Campbell,
Norman, Okl.

Dear Mr. Campbell :

I have your letter of the 10th inst, which was upon my desk when I returned from a trip southwest of Ft. Yates, last evening. I also was at the Ft. Yates Fair on the first day together with our State Attorney General and wife. Sorry that I did not run across you. I am not surprised at all that you are not satisfied as to the paintings which I sent you. It is my experience that a stranger among the Indians gets practically no authentic information, for they will give you just what they think you want along any line of endeavor. The younger generation do not know, while the old ones of Sitting Bulls time have a splendid string of bunk to hand out; they will all claim to have been his friends and head-men, lieutenants or what not - intimates, of his and, with perfectly straight faces but inward chucklings, spin it out. The interpreter will also change names and dates to improve the old mans remarks, especially if he is not good at interpreting Sioux into the English. Most of them can give the English into Sioux, but there are but two in the Yates or Bull Head country who are capable of giving the English version correctly, and one of them I would not trust with a stranger, trying to obtain Sitting Bull information. Please be assured that this tent was an exhibit at the Mandan Fair over twenty years ago, and was then exhibited as an old tipi with drawings of Sitting Bull upon it. Two years ago, it was again exhibited, tacked upon the wall of the Indian exhibit, here and Rev. Welsh (Hawkshield), the husband of the owner of the tipi and a blood cousin of Chief Pezhi (John Grass) told me the story of the tipi, which corresponded very nicely with my notes on the tent, made in 1912. Of course, I would not expect you to keep them, for I understand the doubt regarding their authenticity, which has been aroused. The Curator of the Museum whom you met while here, also tried to "put me on the spot" regarding it, and the end of the controversy is, that there is now a new Curator. As to the Old Bull episode, inasmuch as it does not agree in some respects with the story by Miss. Densmore, I am enclosing check for \$5.00 for its return. I never have tried to make money through those mediums, but was interested in your forthcoming volume and really hoped that, for once, we would have a volume on the old Medicine-man which would be authentic, and I was willing to assist in my limited way, with the originals which I have of some of the events of his life and death. I know them so well that I can almost give you a synopsis of the information which you have received from being among them for a few days. I am continually checking my own notes, and frequently discover some story of an impossible episode. While on this trip this week, I was given a white metal tomahawk and