



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Custer Battlefield National Monument
Crow Agency, Montana

September 23, 1955

Dear Prof. Campbell,

I have been meaning to write you for some time, but one thing or another has always intervened. Now that the tourist season has passed for the year, I have more time for letter writing, etc.

Thanks for the card you sent last summer - I was wondering if you would get over into this end of Montana when you were heading up the writers' conference at Missoula. We will expect you - for as long as you care to stay - next summer or when it pleases you to get up this way.

As you can imagine, when I came here the first of June, things were just getting started as far as the travelers are concerned. I had three very competent and able men to do the lecturing and such, and was able to get into the various MSS collections here. We have all the records of the 7th Cavalry from 1866 to about 1910, several Indian Wars army collections - Godfrey, Bates, etc. and the entire Custer Collection. So, I will have plenty of material to work with. Have you been here since the new museum opened (1953)? It is very well done - though a little heavy on Custer. I enclose a few cards illustrating the inside of the museum.

I have been able to get along very well with Major Luce - he is an easier man to get on with (old ex-cavalry sgt. type) than some of the odd-balls and prima donnas in the OU library. He has many blind spots - who has not - but is, taken altogether, a good man to work for, and has been very helpful to me. He will retire from the Park Service the first of next May.

This country suits me to a T. The hunting season opens in a few days, and I expect to fill a locker with venison. Had a chance to go on a real buffalo hunt up in the Bighorns, where the Crows have a herd of about 900. However, it couldn't be this time, as I am acting supt while the Major is gone to a national Park Service conference. In hunting the Crow Buffalo, one does not shoot a standing target at close range - rather it is like the old times, as they roam a broad area and must be hunted. Every year about 20 are killed for the County school lunch program - this being the Crow contribution. Those who went had a hell of a good time. I have also been to many Indian Wars sites, and have a couple of cartons of stuff from Ft. C.F. Smith, etc. Cart-ridges, brass buttons and insignia, old army shoes, ox shoes from the Bozeman trail, and many other items. I plan a trip to the Rosebud