

9/20/93

Ms. Wilma Mankiller  
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation  
Route 1, Box 168  
Stilwell, OK 74960

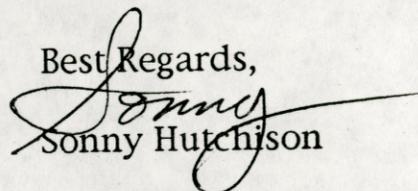
Dear Ms. Mankiller:

In May of this year, The Discovery Channel aired a six part documentary series entitled *How the West Was Lost*. I am one of the producers of the series which was a co-production of Discovery and KUSA-TV in Denver. Through six hours we looked at the experiences of five different native tribes in the American West from about 1840-1890. I've enclosed a synopsis describing the series and I'm sending a VHS set of tapes to you under separate cover.

We are now producing seven new hours of programs one of which will be on the Cherokees. I had the pleasure of attending the history symposium in Tahlequah several weeks ago. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the history of the Cherokees and to meet people who have devoted their lives to a better understanding of the rich and complex Cherokee story. But meeting and talking with the Cherokee people that week was our most rewarding experience. And it is that aspect, the people today, that is most important to our series. They convey an eloquence, honesty, and emotion that no historian can give to our viewer. That is why you will see so many interviews with Native Americans in our series. Through personal accounts of what happened to ancestors and an insight into their nation's history, they give us a view of events that is often hard to find in history texts and other popular media.

I believe that your perspective as Principal Chief would be invaluable in our series. I understand how busy your schedule must be but I would like to ask for several hours of your time to do an on-camera interview in the next few months. I would certainly provide you with a list of the topics to be discussed and any other information you might like about *How the West Was Lost*. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

  
Sonny Hutchison

*Handwritten notes:*  
I've seen this in - how bands - I don't know what this film - know what this is. at this point go with it. I see a summit w