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P. O. BOX 3591

SEATTLE 24, WASHINGTON

March 16th. 1961

University of Idaho
Moscow Idaho

Att.
Office of the President

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1961
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY of IDAHO

(Mine is a one horse outfit.I am the horse.)

History has always been interesting to me. Some fifty years past, decided to gather material to show an authentic cross section of events during my life span. ---All this material, I placed in steel drums, about 24" diam. and 30" long and sealed. Think there are 12 of them. ---What is covered in the contained material? News papers, starting with the Spanish-American War, thru current issues. Literary Digests, covering the start of the sampling poles. Complete, Readers Digest. Complete, Ford Independent. Samples of, Scientific American, covering about 80 years. Advs. of autos starting with the 1909, Pope Toledo. Sears-Roebuck, catalogs every ten years from 1910. Restaurant menus, with prices, from about 1908. Posters, mostly new, from the Government, covering World War One and Two. Earley phone directories. A copy of every subversive news paper and publication that I could obtain. Transcripts of radio talks, starting with, K-D-K-A. Pittsburg Pa. Hundreds of letters from news commentators, Government officials and etc. And so on.

I will pay the transportation to whom ever I give this collection. My only requirements are; that they be stored in a clean dry place, and, NOT OPENED 'TILL, 2010.

Why the University of Idaho? It is first on the list of places I consider most safe for a long stretch of time. Human nature being what it is, I feel strongly we will be involved in an atomic war or a germ war. If not, and that is my hope, this collection will give an authentic cross section of life during the last of the 19th. and the larger part of the 20th. centuries.

I don't know if, Rafe Gibbs, is still with the institution or not. If so, he might recall me, as he did an article on my photography and astronomical work, some ten years past.

Bill Cheney
original letter sent to Rafe Gibbs

March 23, 1961

Mr. W. C. Cheney
W. C. Cheney Manufacturing Company
P. O. Box 3591
Seattle 24, Washington

Dear Mr. Cheney:

I am in receipt of your recent letter of 16 March 1961 and can assure you that we are very definitely interested in your proposal.

You make mention of Mr. R. S. "Rafe" Gibbs. I wish to inform you that Rafe is still with us as Director of Information and University Editor. Presently he is engaged in writing a history of the University of Idaho which is quite a tremendous undertaking. Rafe is also responsible for historical material, and accordingly I am turning over your inquiry to him for appropriate reply. You should hear from him at an early date. I know that Rafe will inform you that we are extremely interested in your proposal and are very appreciative of the trust and confidence which you have reposed in us.

Thank you most sincerely,

Sincerely,

D. R. THEOPHILUS
President

DRT/mm

cc: Mr. R. S. Gibbs (with original letter)

March 29, 1961

Mr. W.C. Cheney
W.C. Cheney Manufacturing Co.
P.O. Box 3591
Seattle 24, Washington

Dear Bill:

It was indeed good to hear from you again, and to learn of your unusual and outstanding historical collection, which you are offering to the University of Idaho.

As President Theophilus indicated to you, the University will be pleased to be the recipient of your historical gift. Following receipt of the gift, a statement of formal acceptance by the Board of Regents will be made, with this correspondence handled by Mr. Kenneth A. Dick, Vice President for Financial Affairs, representing the Regents.

Meanwhile, you should ship the barrels with the historical material to the Library, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, as you indicated. Space has been allotted in the Library Building's basement for the half-century repose of the barrels.

I am enclosing a picture of the building. This is a new structure on the campus, and the basement was built with the idea that it might possibly serve as a bomb shelter, although attack in this small, inland town seems remote. You might also be interested, Bill, in the fact that the University of Idaho, because of its location, is a federal depository for maps and documents. These are also stored in the Library Building.

For the records, it might be valuable to have a more complete listing of the contents of the barrels. Your description in the letter, however, was sufficient to indicate their historical value. Also, as you know, I am familiar with your recordings, and these alone should be of great historical significance in the year 2010.

If you have no objections, I would like to give the press coverage due such a gift. I have pictures of you, and we would also take a picture of the barrels being stored for the ages in the Library Building.

I hope, Bill, that you can get over this way sometime. I would be pleased to show you the campus. Also, I would like

to extend to you my personal compliments on your very fine contribution to the history of our nation.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Rafe Gibbs
Director of Information

Copies to: President Theophilus
Vice-president Dick
Mr. Lee Zimmerman, Librarian

Copy for President's
files

RECEIVED
APR 20 1961
APR 20 1961

April 10, 1961

Mr. W.C. Cheney
W.C. Cheney Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 3591
Seattle 24, Washington

Dear Bill:

I was pleased to get your last letter. Enjoyed your comments on life just as I did when we stood back of your place and mused while the seagulls soared overhead.

Your historical gift is to be formally accepted by the Regents when they meet later this month. Space has been allotted in the Library Building, and the barrels will be stored there for safekeeping when they arrive.

This is certainly one of the most unique gifts in the history of the University, and I will mention it in the history of the institution which I am now writing. The book will be published in 1962, and be assured that you will be given one of the first copies off the press.

We were very impressed here with the observatory which you have built. Knowing your ability, I am sure there is no finer private observatory in the country. I plan to be in Seattle the first week in May, and will drop in for a visit. The observatory should have the makings of a good magazine article, and perhaps I can get your work on the observatory the recognition due it.

Bill, you mentioned that you were considering giving this observatory to some college when you pass on. Please take your time in shuffling off -- you are accomplishing so much on this earth -- but I want you to know that the University of Idaho would like to be considered as the recipient of the observatory, and would make very good use of it in the training of generations to come and in doing research. The University now teaches a course in astronomy, but, for lack of an observatory, it is all theory. An observatory is something for which you do not get funds from the Legislature in a state like Idaho. But I am sure funds could be obtained for a building on one of our rolling Palouse hills if we had the observatory. We are just now completing a new College of Mines Building that came that way. The industry in the State contributed \$250,000, and the State matched the funds to erect the building.

I do hope you can make it over here. I would like you to see the campus, and meet the leaders of the University.

Please let me know if you will be in Seattle the first week in May. Looking forward to seeing you again, I am,

Sincerely,

Rafe Gibbs
Director of Information

October 26, 1961

To: President Theophilus and Vice-President Dick

From: Rafe Gibbs, Director of Information

Subject: Report on trip to Seattle Oct. 22-25 to confer with W.C. Cheney on gifts to the University.

The primary purposes of this trip were to come to a clearer and more definite understanding with Mr. Cheney on his proposed gifts to the University, to assure that a good relationship was being maintained and that the University would receive the gifts, and also to assure that the gifts would be on a satisfactory basis to the University. It is believed that the purposes were generally accomplished. Conversations with Mr. Cheney were necessarily long, but, summing up, Mr. Cheney said that he would do the following:

1. Within a week, he would prepare a statement and have it notarized. This statement is to say that he is presenting to the University as outright gifts:

a. Complete equipment for an observatory. Included in this equipment are 12 telescopes, both photographic and visual. The largest telescope has a focal length of 90 inches and a clear aperture of 6 inches. The smallest telescope has a length of 32 inches and a clear aperture of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. There are seven or eight special cameras for the telescopes, and about a hundred auxiliary lenses, prisms and optical parts, including two highly-corrected Barlow lenses. There is complete equipment for processing pictures, both color and black and white.

b. Special hi-fi recording equipment and a great number of records of news broadcasts made within the last quarter century.

(Mr. Cheney stated that he hoped to have both the observatory and recording gifts ready to turn over to the University in the spring. At present, he is building the last telescope to complete the observatory, and is indexing the recordings. He is a perfectionist, and the gifts must be complete. Meanwhile, the notarized statement of the gifts should give the University legal standing as owner of the equipment if Mr. Cheney should die before the actual shipment is made.)

2. He would have his lawyer draw up a bill of sale for all his shop equipment, selling the equipment to the University for \$1. (This equipment, for tax purposes, is assessed at about \$30,000.) Mr. Cheney was advised of the points brought out by Mr. Schimke, the University attorney, and is agreeable to them. Before the University pays the \$1 for the shop equipment, it will have ample opportunity to study the bill of sale. Mr. Cheney is adamant on one point. He has no will, and he will never make one. He said: "I came into this world with nothing, and I will leave it with nothing." He intends to have nothing for his heirs "to fight over." He wants to be sure, however,

*not
back*

that the equipment with which he has worked most of his life will serve in the advancement of science.

Mr. Cheney, I am convinced, is absolutely sincere and honest. When I left him, I did so with the feeling that he would follow through on the program noted above. I hope he does.

Rafe Gibbs

GIFTS - General - Continued

Excerpt from 21 Apr. 1961 Agenda Regents, U. of I.

Automobile veil . . . 1910 . . . Lillian Brower
Highschool graduation dress . . . Adeline McCoy . . . 1907 . . . aunt.
White fan . . . 1895
29 items of dress and accessories

Contribution of \$39.00 to the Lambda Chi Alpha Leadership Award fund from Mr. Gordon W. Hauck; 8665 S.W. Woodside Drive, Portland, Oregon.

Gift of \$29.00 to the Lambda Chi Alpha Leadership Award from Mr. Kenneth A. Dick. NO PUBLICITY

Check of \$36.00 as a Delta Gamma Mother's Club contribution to the University Blind Fund sponsored by the Delta Gamma Sorority.

Gift of \$50.00 as an addition to the Lambda Chi Alpha Leadership Award Fund received from Mr. Frank O. Brocke, Troy, Idaho.

Gift to the University Law Library from Harold W. Sullivan, Hyannis, Massachusetts, of a copy of his book, "Trial by Newspaper,"

Nineteen text books covering the period of the 1860's and 1879's to the University Library from Mrs. Gale L. Mix, Moscow, Idaho.

Gift from W. C. Cheney, Seattle, Washington, consisting of recordings of radio broadcasts, periodicals, catalogs and other material representative of American life and times throughout the current century to the University of Idaho. FURTHER, THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF MR. CHENEY, THIS HISTORIC MATERIAL, WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED IN SEALED BARRELS, BE STORED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO UNTIL THE YEAR 2010 SO THAT IT MAY BE INTACT FOR STUDY OF THE PAST BY WHOMSOEVER MAY BE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT THAT TIME.

NOT RECD. AS OF 21 Apr. 1961

Scholarships

Check of \$750.00 for a Western Electronic Manufacturers Association scholarship for the year 1961-62.

Check in the amount of \$100 from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation which is a supplemental grant to the University of Idaho because of the attendance of the National Merit Scholar, Miss Caren L. Chappell.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
Inter-Office Memorandum

To _____

From _____

Subject _____

Date _____

That the gift of W.C. Cheney, Seattle, Washington, consisting of recordings of radio broadcasts, periodicals, catalogs and other material representative of American life and times throughout the current century be gratefully accepted with appreciation to Mr. Cheney for his contribution to history. Further, that in keeping with the expressed wishes of Mr. Cheney, this historic material, which has been placed in sealed barrels, be stored at the University of Idaho until the year 2010 so that it may be intact for study of the past by whomsoever may be at the University at that time.