

16711 Sunset Blvd.
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
June 10, 1965

Dear Wilson,

I have postponed writing for so long because everything was in flux and I hoped for an early crystallization. Finally there is something specific to say and a few spare moments to say it in. Most important, I have finally been advanced to candidacy in the Dept. of Anthropology. What an ordeal! I had hoped to reach this point a year ago but changes of doctoral committee, political squeeze plays, general conditions prevented it.

The second major item of news is that I am returning to Masset this summer to spend six, seven or eight months depending on how well I can stretch my money. I have a contract with the National Museum of Canada to study the social organization of modern Masset. They awarded me \$2400 Canadian, but of this \$2400 is designated as an Honorarium to be paid upon the presentation of a report, and the exchange rate differential results in a loss of \$192 effective value. The point here is that my budget was drawn up in U.S. \$. I'm hoping to make up some of the deficit with a grant from the U.C.L.A. Campus Research Committee but there is nothing definite yet. I want to spend as long as possible in Masset because I do not wish to return a third time--there are other worlds to conquer/

I have bought a truck--a 1961 Ford pickup-- with a camper unit on it. I don't expect to be able to live in it all winter but it will give me a great deal of independence and also make it possible for me to give rides which is a prime means of building good rapport. I will have to sell it on the Queen Charlottes in order to have money to come home on, but it is the kind of item for which there will be a demand. I'm going to drive it up to Vancouver in August. I don't yet have word from Northland Shipping about my reservations but am going to allow plenty of time to drive from L.A. and stop along the way. I will definitely plan to be in Victoria for a few days.

I am so anxious to get back to the field after four long years as a grad student. Actually one year is not sufficient as a training period for really serious scientific field work, although it is a very useful exercise in learning to stand on one's own feet. I think everyone must carry his personal problems into the field the first time and it is an awful extra burden. Once that first dose of culture shock and the corresponding "re-entry shock" are surmounted one is ready to buckle down. My theoretical orientations have been greatly modified in the years since I've seen you. Escaping from the too-sociological clutches of the

* first field trip

British school of social anthropology has been the big battle of the last year. Of course, three years of intensive indoctrination is not easily put aside as you will doubtless observe in the enclosed summary. This summary was prepared for submission with my application to the Campus Committee.

I'm taking my son Michael with me for company and assistance. I would like to enroll him in the integrated school at white Masset. He is ten and in fifth grade. Do you suppose I would have to clear this with the Provincial Dept. of Education? We will be resident in the village for almost the entire school year.



I wonder if you could tell me who is agent at Masset now. After the trouble with the strike at the cannery I would be surprised (but pleasantly) if Peter Henson were still there. I would also like to know who is chief councillor and hereditary chief. I am not ready to get in touch with Johnny MacGregor yet. A kind of embarrassing thing happened which I am not sure how to handle. He lent me some mimeographed copies of the Masset band council by-laws after I'd given him my promise to return them. I promised, saying I would look them over and return them before I came home. However, while in Vancouver I fell and chipped my tibia, and although I spent almost two weeks after that in victoria, I finally had to come home because of the pain and the fact that I couldn't stay off of it so it could heal. I mailed home a lot of stuff, including clothing, books and the documents which I intended to return by mail. By some miserable change this bundle apparently came apart in the mail and its contents were scattered. Several weeks later I received a dress and a towel but none of the books or manuscripts. Among the books were copies of the Communist Manifesto and some other writings of Marx which I had bought at the UCLA bookstore and hoped to get a chance to read up on while away for my exams. The best guess I can make is that some zealous, red-hunting postal employee figured someone was ~~xxx~~ trying to smuggle subversive literature into the country. A check by postal authorities didn't turn up anything. Then, more than a year later I received a package with some of my notebooks, papers and books, but not the "communist" literature. The Masset band council by-laws were included. Well, by then I had lost my nerve and didn't know how to tell Johnny MacGregor a wild tale like this so I kept putting it off. I have the documents and would like to return them but am a coward. Worse yet, he may now distrust and hate anthropologists more than before. Actually he's very nice but a bit wary. Any advice?

WJ Easton

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I had a wonderful visit with Elizabeth Colson at the meetings of the Southwestern Anthropological Assoc. at Easter. She's now a professor at Berkely. Her book on the Makah had a lot to do with my going into anthro in the first place. There are very few social anthropologists with a detailed knowledge of the Northwest Coast.

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When I was working in your office in July, 1963, a privilege I never properly thanked you for, your friend Walter Koerner came in and we chatted for a while. The name didn't mean anything to me at the time, (except for the poshy faculty and grad student centers at UBC). But after we had a friendly little chat during which he asked my business and I told him about my study of the Haida, he said, "Let me know when you go to the Queen Charlottes again. Maybe I can help you. We have a few lumber interests there." That is an offer I would certainly like to take up, although I wonder if he would remember it, after two years. I could use almost any kind of help he would think of giving from transportation, flyovers of sites, not to mention cold cash. A couple hundred dollars would give me two extra months on the QCI. However I hardly know how to approach him, so again I ask, "Any advice?"

I'm putting all my eggs in the "good rapport" basket. Life in Masset gets pretty drab in winter, notwithstanding all those sociables. The nurse suggested on my last trip that I should have brought some slides or records or something. I have decided to take this tack and try to capitalize on any "novelty value" I may have instead of trying to pay informants very much in money. For one thing I just won't have much cash although I will probably give away a lot of my gear on leaving the field.

I've been wondering about your handbook. Our UCLA library has catalogued a 1964 publication but seems to have lost it so I'm not informed as to the progress of your work. I'm particularly interested in having the history of Haida-white contact out in print so I may consult it and footnote it without having to do this arduous labor myself. This is enough for now. Excuse typing. Hope to hear from you soon.

Publication

Cheers,

Mary Lee

Mary Lee Stearns

BUDGET

Nonrecurrent permanent equipment:

Purchase of used pick-up truck \$750

Expendable supplies: 200

File, stationery, 8 months' supply
Photostats of documents in Provincial
Archives, Victoria, B.C.

Field expenses: 400

Informants' fees, at rate of 75¢ per hour
Payment for assistance, services--e.g.
building of tent platforms, etc.,
hire of boat for fishing
Gifts and meals to hosts and helpers¹

Board and lodging for two persons for 8 months² 1000

Travel: 470

Cost of driving truck L.A.--Vancouver, B.C.
Gas and oil) \$50

Passenger fare on steamer, 1 adult, \$60
1 child, \$40, Vancouver B.C.--Nassau, B.C.

Shipment of truck on steamer at excess
baggage rates \$150

Cost of operating truck in field for 8 mos.
\$150

Contingencies, 10%³ 300

TOTAL⁴ \$3120

Justification of Budget:

¹ It is necessary to participate in gift-exchange and to make money gifts at life cycle rituals in order to maintain the prestige as necessary to secure Haide cooperation in the project. These expenses are a major item in native budgets.

² Since my son and I will not be present during the fish-drying and smoking season we will have to rely on the store where prices are high since everything is shipped in on the fortnightly steamer. There is no free hospitality in the village.

³ Contingencies include layovers in bad weather, meals enroute, insurance for equipment and personal belongings. If I am

Justification of budget, Cont'd.

invited to accompany the Indians on their visits to kinsfolk on the mainland I will have to pay my own expenses.

4 Not included in this total is the cost of airfare from Masset, B.C. to Los Angeles + air freight = \$300
Also a layover in Vancouver for conferences with faculty at the University of British Columbia and in Victoria for access to the Provincial Archives is planned.
This will probably cost an additional \$200. These expenses are to be financed by sale of the truck before I leave Masset.

Of the \$2400 awarded to me by the National Museum of Canada, \$240 is designated as an honorarium to be paid upon the presentation of a report, i.e. after the completion of field work. The exchange rate differential of 8% results in loss of \$192 effective value. The cash value of my Canadian grant is therefore \$1968 which leaves me with a deficit of about \$1150. Unless I can raise close to this amount from various sources, eight months' field work in the wet northern winter will not be possible.