Duna,

I agree on waiting to do the introduction on Myrtle Porterville. I’m really hoping that you will write it.

Dave and I are getting off to a little bit of shaky communications on starting this project. Mark made the schedule showing the December 10th first story. Both Dave and I wanted to wait until the 17th and I had prepared the population article in the event Sherry really needed an article for that date. Then I guess we both forgot to tell Mark or Sherry that we should wait until the 17th,if possible. We would have had time for a better introductory article if we had waited.

Then I had thought that Mark’s article was due on the 10th and mine on the 17th. I saw yesterday that I had it reversed. It doesn’t quite make sense for me to have two in a row, but it will have to be.

I hinted very strongly to Dave that if you and/or Dave could prepare an article on the Christmas spirit, that it would be a better fit for the 17th. I’m sure it’s too late now, but I would still welcome a Christmas article from you or Dave for the 17th and then I could postpone the Indian graves one until any later time.

I wanted to mention that I had gotten the material from Myrtle Porterville’s collection and then kind of panicked when I realized that a lot of younger and newer readers might not recognize the name.

It still seems like maybe I should add something like: “These stories were found in the Myrtle Porterville Collection at the Institute for Regional Studies in Fargo. A future article will introduce Myrtle Porterville and her many contributions to Griggs County history.”

Dave suggested that I really cut the amount in the quotations. I am going to try to just tell the story and get rid of the quotations. My original worry is that these were such unconfirmed stories. I don’t know how much Pete Grant or the Bolkan brothers might have exaggerated. By putting it in quotations I was implying that this wasn’t my story. I was just quoting them and the reader would have to decide if it was credible.

I guess we don’t need to say that the stories are unconfirmed. We will have many good stories and everybody knows that all good stories don’t have to be completely true???

Another word I struggled with was half-breed. I am currently at:

They both talk about Pete Grant, a half-breed Indian that had traveled …(more stuff here) … The term half-breed is considered derogatory now and Anglo Métis would probably be the best words to describe his ancestry.

Maybe “of Indian ancestry” would be better than Anglo Métis. I don’t even know if he was Anglo, but the name sounds like it. Maybe delete the term half-breed and just use something else??? What would be the best words to use instead of half-breed?

I’m also struggling with the last paragraph. Right now it is:

There will be a variety of writers for the Historical Highlights column including Duna Frigaard, Dave Sayer and Mark Sundlov. All of us are looking forward to receiving valuable reader to complement these stories. Please contact the editor or writer with any additional stories, memories or writings and we will put them in the historical file for future researchers to analyze. We will also try to include some of them in this column.

You’ll have to tell us if you’re willing to have your name included in it.

I suppose I should run the idea of publishing some of them by Sherry. I think you can see what I’m trying to say, I just don’t have the words arranged right yet.

Sorry this got so long. I’ll keep struggling and should have a revised draft for everyone’s review tomorrow. I just wanted to give you a little more time to think about these 2 or 3 things before I sent out the whole article.

Ron

P. S. Right now I’m thinking that having weekly meetings might not be a bad idea, at least for the first few months. Sherry might be too busy, but if you, Dave, Mark and I could meet to hash things out, that would be great. I should be back up there in January.