



April 6, 1972

Mr. W. R. Bandy  
921 Monroe Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Roy:

First let me apologize for the unwarranted delay in replying to yours of February 13, which included the wonderful reproduction of the painting, "Breakfast of the Big Horns".

The past few months have been one of those periods when, if you can't do something the minute it comes up, it doesn't get done, because something else more serious will come up the next minute.

We are on the second of the two tapes, but have not been able to do anything for some time now. For example, my Chief Draftsman was in the hospital and then home for four straight weeks. In the good old days this would have merely meant that some of the office work wouldn't be done, but with automation it only meant that we had another operator - me. It's a big advantage for Company work, but sure does knock spare time for a loop.

A great deal of delay has resulted from our unfamiliarity with the proper names you mention, both of people who worked with you and of geographical features. Unless you recognize the name it is difficult to know how to spell it. For example, Mr. Yule. We thought it was Ewell. I got that straightened out by calling a friend in the Forest Service, but some of them stump us. It would be a big help if you kept a list of such proper names as you used them so that the transcriber would only have to go through the list until he recognized the name that was baffling to him when listening to the tape.

Other names that have me stuck are: Mr. Dan (Munbru?), Frank (Kuhl?) R. Y. (Lymond?), (Lugen?) Smith, Carl (Sebecker?), your cook in 1925 (C.?) Price, Mike (Hennepin?), (Smidley?) Jack (Morse?) who caught the bear at the garbage pit, and (Rile?) a first name in the mouse episode, Blacky and (Wackert?), Elmer (Wick?), and the two surveyors who surveyed the first township showing contours in 1924.

Places have also stopped us at times, but I have recently received some maps of Wyoming and Montanna which may help. For example; (Vanout?) Mt. (Chittenden?), (Tsidro?) Peak, (Edison?) and St. Marys River, to the bottom of the (Sirk?).

I know that our delay has been frustrating to you, and I'll do my best to finish up within a reasonable period of time. In the meantime, I hope that you will continue to put everything that comes to mind on the tapes, as this is going to be a real blessing to the surveyors from here on out. I wish that you had worked on the early Florida surveys.

Sincerely,

James A. Thigpenn, III

JAT/rw