

5-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cheyenne River Agency,  
Cheyenne Agency, S. D.,  
June 8, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Shoemaker, Secretary,  
National Custer Memorial Association,  
Billings, Montana.

My dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I have just returned from a trip east and find your letter of May 25.

While I appreciate your attitude toward the Milwaukee Railroad, it is my opinion it will be necessary for the party from this reservation to use it at least as far as Terry, for the reason that there are no railroad connections in this part of South Dakota, between the Milwaukee and Northern Pacific roads. Perhaps I am not as familiar with the geography of this section as I should be or of the railroads but so far as I know, the only way that a party from here could reach Mandan, would be to take the Milwaukee to McLaughlin, then travel by automobile to Cannon Ball, a distance of forty or fifty miles, and from there to Mandan, on the main line of the Northern Pacific. It would be possible in that way for our party to unite with the one from Standing Rock, but it seems to me that it would add considerable to the expense and make the trip much more strenuous for these old fellows. The trip will be hard enough at best, as our party will average more than seventy years of age, and I believe that the trip to Mandan, should be taken only as a last resort.

Nothing has been received since the June 2, meeting of your Executive Committee but I presume something will be forthcoming very shortly.

I might state for your information that I saw Commissioner Burke a few minutes while in Washington,

last week and he will have no objections to my taking the party of twenty to participate in your celebration. When writing again, it might be well for you to advise me that arrangements will be made for the return home are what assurances we have that the entire trip of the twenty survivors and myself will be made at no expense either to the Government, the Indians or myself.

Very truly yours,

R. C. Craige,  
Superintendent.

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