

INDIAN CULTURE CENTER

"THE INDIANS ARE A RACE OF SORROWS . . . In the names of Civilization and Progress we have destroyed their way of life.

"We cannot restore what was good in their culture. We can only preserve the remnants. We cannot make restitution to the sad old chiefs and their people who are dead, but we can preserve what they made and loved.

"There is not much time left to do this. In a vast area, larger than England, Scotland, Ireland and the Lowlands of Europe combined, there is not one single professional museum dedicated exclusively to Indian cultures. Yet there are eighteen tribes in this same area.

"There is not much time to save what remains."

So said the booklet, PACIFIC NORTHWEST INDIAN CENTER, a publication dedicated to promote "a cultural and research center to be located on the Gonzaga University Campus, Spokane, Washington."

On the same page were added the immortal words of the great Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians who made a classic retreat in defense of his people:

"From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

These poignant, sad and tragic words of the great Indian leader will be preserved, and others like them, in the museum or the "Center." The Center is being planned by an independent corporation directed by a "self-sustaining Board of Trustees made up of both Indians and non-Indians," according to Father Wilfred P. Schoenberg, S.J., chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The Center when completed will have 24,175 square feet of space and the total cost of the facility is expected to be \$603,164.

The Board of Trustees is appealing for assistance either monetary or advisory.

"We really need help, and since the Center is national in scope, we hope for assistance from all over the country. The title 'Pacific Northwest' is only one of legal incorporation and a new name will eventually be given to the Center proper," said the chairman.

In recognition of the import of the project, Governor Daniel J. Evans of the State of Washington wrote to Schoenberg:

"It is with extreme interest and enthusiasm that I have reviewed the plans of the Pacific Northwest Indian Center, Inc., to establish a museum and research center to foster Indian studies, preserve Indian cultures and develop Indian leadership.

"The culture of the Pacific Northwest Indians is an important part of our heritage. The establishment of the Indian center is particularly timely in that I believe only by this method will we be able to preserve and pass on this heritage for generations to come.

"Please let me know if there is any way in which the services of this office, or of the State of Washington, can assist in this fine project."