

ALPHA CHAPTER  
EPSILON SIGMA PHI

BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715  
August 22, 1978

Ms. Mildred A. Payne  
Secretary - Treasurer  
Epsilon Sigma Phi  
400 Northview Drive  
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

Dear Ms. Payne:

Just a note to let you know that Harriett E. Cushman died on August 10th. She was active and alert up to the time she died. During the past year she had lived in her home alone in spite of the fact that he spent most of the time in bed. She prepared her own breakfast, had "meals on Wheels" at noon and I think the woman that came in about five o'clock to give her her bath and get her ready for the night prepared her evening meal. She was writing a history of her experiences as an Extension specialist and used a tape recorder to do this job during the past year. I don't know how close to getting the history completed she came but I expect that there was still quite a bit to write. She had her telephone at her bedside and she kept pretty close contact with a lot of people. Her spirit was excellent and it always was a pleasure to visit with her. She had been battling cancer for the past ten years and it finally won the battle.

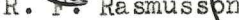
Harriette, as you may recall, was Secretary - Treasurer of Apha Chapter for over thirty years. Not too long ago she called and said she had found a package of ESP Creeds and asked me to pick them up. Since we have a good supply of creeds on hand, I mailed the surplus to you as they may as well be put to use.

I am enclosing a copy of her last letter which was mailed on August 12th, two days after her death. This letter was apparently written ten years ago when she was first told about the cancer. I am also enclosing a copy of her obituary and a copy of a new article that was published in the local paper.

Hariette was awarded the State Certificate of Recognition, The Distinguished Ruby Service Award among many other awards.

I thought you might be interested in some information regarding "Miss Cushman" as she was called by most people during the time she served as specialist, though she preferred to be called Harriette.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
  
 R. F. Rasmussen, Sec. - Treas.  
 Alpha Chapter

interest in the American Indian, One of my proudest moments was when I was christened a Blackfoot. I have worked on each of the State's seven Reservations during my Extension years and developed many friendships, especially with the old ones. Since retirement I have really worked to get an Indian Center started on campus as well as reaching out to the Reservations of the State. The aim of ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> program is to make Indians self image something <sup>they</sup> can be proud of. At the same time giving him economic security. It's a big undertaking, yet we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. Thus if any of you can help to make this dream come true, nothing would make me happier. If your help turns out to be monetary, really I'm not begging, but it should be a gift of money for the Indian Center, please, contact the Vice President in charge of Endowment and Research Foundation, please, and tell him the gift is earmarked for the Indian Center. However, while money certainly would be helpful, it isn't necessary. Just talking about the project and letting folks know how important the Center will be for our Indian students, will help immeasurably. Again I want to express my deep appreciation for <sup>my</sup> being you. Your friendship has meant so much to me. L. D.

Dear Friends,

I am proud to count you as my friend, the finest word in our language and what makes life worth while. How many categories and pigeon holes you are tucked into! There are you, I call my "work friends"; you whom I have never known had we not shared work together, you never failed me when the going was rough. I salute you.

Then there are you whom I call my "Out-of-Friends", precious ones who love high places, scrambling over rocks, following forest trails, smelling camp fire smoke and listening to pattering of rain on the tent.

Then there are the blood relatives that I call friends. What higher honor can be bestowed upon a relative?

Also I include you who are far away and I haven't seen for years. You make the back-log for life's flame. A note from you sets my whole day aglow.

Of course some of you are much younger friends, more recently acquired. You give prospective and meaning to my life. Just because you're young does not mean that you hold a lesser place in the total pattern.

Why this letter with all this meandering?

Because I - P.D. - a young married - writer -

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