



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1910-07-08

Letter from P. B. Van Trump to John Muir, 1910 Jul 8.

P. B. Van Trump

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Yelm, Wash. Jul 8th - 10
John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

Dear friend:

I enclose this printed slip to show you that I am still harping on that old but genial theme, the mountain, and, secondly, by way of introducing the subject or motive of this letter. When you were, at various times in the past, in the Puget Sound country, you doubtless learned of the wordy warfare that existed in relation to the mountain name. The rivalry that otherwise obtained between Seattle and Tacoma added to the intensity of this warfare, and it continued down thro' the years since the founding of Tacoma.

At a joint meeting of the

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Rotary Club of the two cities, held in Tacoma a couple of months ago, it was suggested by the president of the Seattle Club that both organizations adopt Tahoma as the permanent name of the mountain and that they should work for its general adoption as, in part, a means of restoring harmony between the rival cities. Being myself an old-time advocate of the name Tahoma, I wrote congratulating the president of the Seattle Club on his suggestion and its adoption, and a portion of the letter was published in the Post-Intelligencer and one or two other papers. The work of bringing about the general adoption of Tahoma in place of Rainier

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will be upheld, work and will require time and individual influences. I can not help thinking that you and I have a common sentiment in regard to a proper mountain nomenclature. To name sublime mountain peaks after individuals is, in my opinion, in very bad taste, however great these individuals may have been. It certainly is contrary to the example set us by the ancients. Now, Mr. Quir, if consistent with your views on the subject, will you not write me, in your happy vein, something in approval of "Tahoma" that may be used for publication in the campaign for this expressive and

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Euphonious native name? Your voiced sentiment - should it prove to be what I believe it will - would have great effect, especially when the clubs come (as I suppose they will) to petition the government to make the change ^{name} to Tahoma official. You are already inseparably connected with the mountain in its literature and ascents. Let me urge you to further emphasize that connection by aiding to restore to this "royalist of all the peaks of the Cascades" its original, rightful and Euphonious native name.

Yours sincerely and
with happy memories of
"Auld lang Syne"

P. B. Van Trump

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