

The Fine Tuning Company

(406) 586-9656
202 Lindley Place
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

April 17, 1981

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Dear Norma Smith:

The Fine Tuning Company, a non-profit organization, has been awarded a grant by the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce a program for public television on the life and career of Jeannette Rankin.

It is our intention to primarily tell Miss Rankin's story through the people who knew, worked with, or have studied her. For example, we will be interviewing Belle Winestine, Francis Elge, Louise Rankin Galt, and others.

Joan Hoff Wilson, who is advising us, has suggested that we interview you. Dr. Wilson mentioned that you had written a biography of Miss Rankin, and she felt that your knowledge or her life and career would be a great help to us.

The interview could be conducted at your home, or any other place of your choosing. At this point, we would probably like to conduct the interview sometime in July. However, we can be flexible is this turns out not to be convenient for you. Also, if by any chance you are going to be in Montana in the coming months we would be happy to interview you then, rather than wait until July when we can get out to Wenatchee.

We sincerely hope that you will grant us our request for an interview. We're sure that your contribution would be an important one. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Landgren
Project Director

Ronald D. Bayly
Producer

April 27, 1981

Nancy E. Landgren, Project Director
Ronald D. Bayly, Producer
The Fine Tuning Company
202 Lindley Place
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Thank you for your letter of April 17. I think I might be interested in helping you with a television production of the life and career of Jeannette Rankin, but I would like to have a little more information. I presume you would have some direction in mind and that those of us who are to be interviewed would have advance notice of questions so that we would not repeat ourselves, for instance.

My husband and I might come to Montana--we like to do that--or if not we would welcome you in Wenatchee.

I would be very much interested in hearing further from you.

Sincerely,

Norma Smith

MEMO

To: Fine Tuning Company

From: Norma Smith

Subject: Suggest areas of conversation for a TV about Jeannette Rankin.

I am almost the only, possibly the only, person who knew Jeannette both in Georgia and Montana. I met her in 1961 when she got her honorary doctorate at MSU and I got my masters in history. I visited her in Helena for several days at a time, and she also came to Bozeman and stayed with us there. In 1967 we went to Virginia, and I drove back and forth to Watkinsville, Ga., where she lived, and stayed with her about a week once a year. She knew I planned to write her biography, but little was said about it, as I was trying to keep an objective distance, and I think she knew that. At the time there were graduate students working on theses about her career, and oral interviews. So I tried to be a dispassionate observer, but did not entirely succeed, as we became quite friendly and I came to admire her a lot.

Georgia:

1. Spartan living conditions
2. Eclectic circle of friends, students, blacks, farmer's wives, college professors.
3. Participation in Georgia politics: Georgia Peace Society; attempt to defeat Carl Vinson, Georgia representative and big Navy advocate just before World War II; branded by American Legion as communist, sues.
4.

Personality:

Strange combination of great charm with explosive temper; stubbornness, singlemindedness

Start of career: in Seattle. Lessons she learned working for woman suffrage, lessons she followed the rest of her career. Involvement in that campaign somewhat a matter of chance.

JR as pioneer:

Always looking to the future, even in extreme old age. Thought people should work together to make the world better, as everyong did in their little frontier communities in the west, like the one in which she grew up.

Suggested areas of conversation

Relationship with men: Frances Elge ~~iwiii~~ will tell you that she had complete acceptance & of her male colleagues in Congress. She also had two relationships of great importance in her life, one with Fiorello La Guardia, and the other with an American doctor in India when she was in her early seventies. It cannot be proven, but it is very sure that each asked her to marry ~~them.~~ him.

Philosophy: She was a Jeffersonian democrat, and a rationalist.

As a children's social worker: That was how she started her career, and she never completely got over it. She as an adolescent took much responsibility for her younger brother and sisters, went on ~~xhe~~ to social work training and practice, and then got into politics via the suffrage campaigns. But she never lost her love for children, and carried her interest in and protectiveness of them into her extreme old age, as can be documented by her relationship with the black family who lived on her place.



The Fine Tuning Company

(406) 586-9656
202 Lindley Place
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

May 20, 1981

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you for your letter.

Our Jeannette Rankin program is moving along and I can provide you with the additional information that you requested.

The program will primarily consist of interviews with the people who knew or worked with Jeannette Rankin in order to document her life and career. We will ask you about you personal relationship with Miss Rankin and your work as a biographer. Some of the interviews will be concerned with specific events, for example, we will be asking Belle Winestine about Miss Rankin's suffrage activities and first Congressional term, and we will ask Frances Elge about the second term. Other questions will concern Miss Rankin's historic role within the suffrage and pacifist movements.

We would be glad to send you a list of sample questions before the interview. But in general it will be more of a converstation than an interview. We plan to go to Wenatchee in July to meet with you if that would be convenient.

I'm sorry that it has taken so long to send this letter; we are terribly busy arranging for our trip East.

Sincerely,

Nancy Landgren

Nancy Landgren

3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801
May 25, 1981

Nancy Landgren
The Fine Tuning Company
202 Lindley Place
Bozeman, Montana 59715

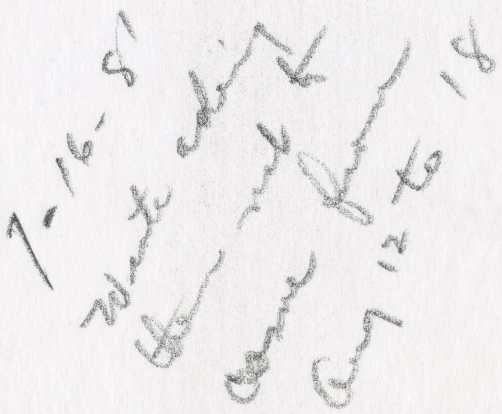
Thank you for your letter of May 20. July will be all right for me, but it would convenient if I had specific dates as soon as possible. We are not always here, but are likely to be at that time of the year.

I am including a page with a ~~xii~~ list of suggested areas of conversation, and I would like to have a list of sample questions. I would prefer not to do the interview entirely cold.

You will, of course, have your own ideas as to what lines you wish to pursue; I will make every effort to cooperate.

Sincerely,

PS: For your further information, my book is about 90,000 words, researched as completely as I could make it, with about 40 pages of documentation. I have seen all of the Rankin papers that are presently available, and have worked in related sources in Helena, Seattle, Great Falls, Athens, Library of Congress, and others.



3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801
May 25, 1981

John Ramage
Department of English
Montana State University
Bozeman, Mont. 59717

Dear Sir:

Your notice in the New York Times came to my attention. I am the author of a 90,000 word biography of Jeannette Rankin, with 40 pages of documentation, and knew her from 1961 until her death in 1973. We visited back and forth at each other's homes in Bozeman, Helena, and Watkinsville, Ga. She knew at the time that I planned to write her biography.

Two or three years ago I was approached by Secondary Productions, who planned to do a biography, or at least her her early life. They paid me a consulting fee for some information I gave them, but apparently nothing came of it. Also, about a year ago ABC was making inquiries. No doubt you yourself know about the Fine Tuning Company's project. They plan to interview me next month.

I lived in Bozemen from 1950 until 1967 (my husband was graduate dean); we then went to VPI until 1976. This gave me the opportunity to drive at least once a year to Athens, and to know many of her friends there. In fact, I believe I am the only person, certainly the only writer, who knew Jeannette in both Montana and Georgia. You could ask Mike Malone or John Jutila about me.

I would be glad to help you if I can.

Sincerely,

Norma Smith



The Fine Tuning Company

(406) 586-9656
202 Lindley Place
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

July 20, 1981

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Mrs. Smith:

We are trying to setup a schedule for August, and we would like to know if the following dates would work out for the interview.

Our plan is to leave Spokane in the morning allowing us to begin an interview in the afternoon. Then we have the option of continuing that evening or the next morning.

Would Sunday afternoon August 9 be all right to begin and possibly go into the morning of August 10? Another option would be to start the afternoon of August 10 and continue that evening.

We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Landgren

Nancy Landgren

7-22-81
Write accepting

July 27, 1981

To Fine Tuning Co.
202 Lindley Place
Bozeman, Montana 59715



The Fine Tuning Company

(406) 586-9656
202 Lindley Place
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

July 31, 1981

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Mrs. Smith:

We received your manuscript and are busy reading it. Thank you for sending it. When we started working with it, we realized that we would like very much to keep it alittle longer than the trip to interview you. Would it be alright with you if we returned it later?

We wanted to send you a list of some of the subjects that we would like to ask you about during the interview. We need descriptions of events and places and your comments on Jeannette's motivations and personality. We don't want you to prepare anything to read to us as we want conversational dialogue about Miss Rankin.

Here is a partial list of descriptions we need:

Montana Suffrage campaign
Feb. 1911 speech to Montana Legislature
School of Philanthropy experience and influence
1916 campaign, election (election night story of feeling she lost the election)
press turnoil after the election
April 2, 1917 breakfast, parade, and seating in the House
World War I vote and aftermath
Georgia homes (Bogart and Watkinsville)
Suffrage work - relationship to national leaders
activities in the 20's and 30's
decision to run in 1940
Bureau of Printing and Engraving story from first term
1918 election, plans and concerns about other elections (1944)
World War II vote and aftermath
Anti-Vietnam activities
background and events of Jeannette Rankin Brigade
Roots of pacifism, influences of family, Montana, education
feelings of dispair at the end of her life that she had committed herself to unreachable goals, that Woman Suffrage wasn't worth her efforts
her reaction to being a public figure, and a controversial figure

her personality conflicts with the leaders of the movements she was working with
relationship with Wellington
her importance as a symbol to various movements
the romances in her life

This is, as I said, a partial list and we will have specific questions about these areas. I hope that this will give you an idea of the kinds of things we are looking for. We hope to tell Jeannette Rankin's story through the people who knew her and worked with her rather than through narration which is why we need descriptions of events from you.

If you have any questions, please let me know, otherwise we will see you August 10.

Sincerely,

Nancy Landgren

Nancy Landgren

3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801
August 4, 1981

The Fine Tuning Co.
202 Lindley Place
Bozeman, Montana 59715

To: Nancy Landgren

Thank you for your letter of July 31. It will be all right for you to keep the manuscript for a while longer. I am glad to help you in any way I can. I do think that it would be appropriate for you to give me special credit in your production as special advisor, or based partially on the book, or some such thing.

Your list of topics covers most of JR's life. Of course I have researched all of them, but I know more about some than others. I don't know much about the JR brigade, and think of it as a fairly unimportant activity, or rather just an incident of the times. However I will refresh my memory on the topics you mention. I quite understand that you want conversation and not speechifying.

The directions I gave you for reaching our house are those you might use if you came directly from Spokane. If you are in a motel you might find it somewhat confusing, and perhaps should phone for directions. We are looking forward to seeing you; my husband Louis says he will take us all out to dinner in the evening.

Sincerely,

Enclosed the ms. as requested. I have some plans for rewriting this, especially the first and last chapters, but it contains all the pertinent information.

Sincerely,



The Fine Tuning Company

202 Lindley Pl.
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715
(406) 586-9656

Nov. 9, 1982

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Rd.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Norma:

We are pleased to announce that we have finally completed our documentary JEANNETTE RANKIN - THE WOMAN WHO VOTED NO. Distribution plans are underway and we will drop you a card when the program is scheduled to appear on television - probably early 1983.

It is also our pleasure to announce that the program was recently awarded a Silver Plaque at the Chicago Film Festival.

We sincerely appreciate you allowing us to interview you in the course of producing the program. We hope you will have a chance to see the program when it appears on television.

Again, we appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Ronald Bayly
Nancy Landgren



JEANNETTE RANKIN
THE WOMAN WHO VOTED NO

Silver Plaque Winner
Chicago International Film Festival
Finalist
U.S. Film and Video Festival

Jeannette Rankin - The Woman Who Voted No, a twenty-nine minute documentary profiling the life of the first woman elected to Congress and only Representative to vote against American entry into both world wars.

The program chronicles Rankin's life from 1916, when she became the first woman elected to national office, to 1942, when her vote against American entry into World War II brought a decisive end to her political career. A short epilogue covers the years prior to her death in 1973 when she became a symbol of the contemporary women's and anti-war movements. This well produced program uses original newsreels and photographs in addition to interviews with friends, associates, and historians to tell Rankin's story.

Appropriate for high school through adult groups interested in political history, the history of women in America, and world peace. Discussion guide available at no extra charge.

Produced by Ronald Bayly, Nancy Landgren, Susan Regele

A 29 minute documentary. Available on ¾" cassette, ½" Beta, & ½" VHS
(Circle your choice)

Please send me **Jeannette Rankin - The Woman Who Voted No** for purchase $225.00 ☐

Please send me **Jeannette Rankin - The Woman Who Voted No** for rental/preview (4 day rental, plus shipping) $30.00 ☐

Date Requested _____.

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____

STREET _____ PHONE ( ) _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ PLEASE BILL ME PURCHASE ORDER NO. _____ $_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Order From: The Fine Tuning Co. • P.O. Box 1134 • Bozeman, MT 59715 • (406) 586-9656

From: _____

_____

_____

Place Stamp Here

To:

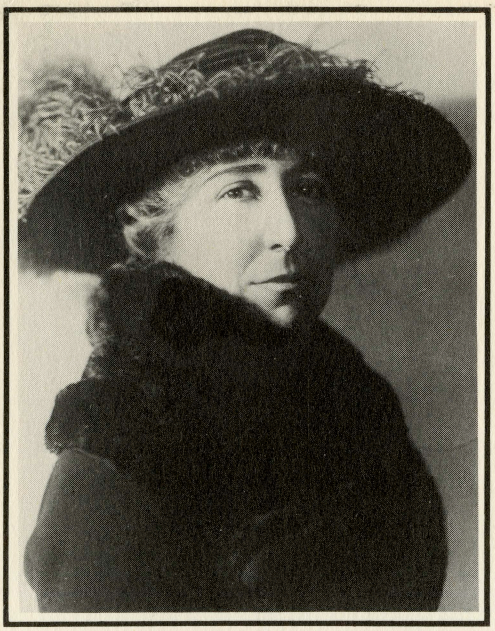
The Fine Tuning Company
P.O. Box 1134
Bozeman, MT 59715

To:

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bozeman, MT
Permit No. 333

Ronald Bayly/Nancy Landgren
The Fine Tuning Company
P.O. Box 1134
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-9656



JEANNETTE RANKIN
THE WOMAN WHO VOTED NO

A documentary about the first woman elected to Congress and only member to vote against American entry into both world wars.

"...should be in permanent library collections. The issues are presented in a specific historical context."

Lynda Sexson
author, *Ordinarily Sacred*
lecturer, Montana State Univ.

"A positive, inspiring piece about the woman who said no"

Rick Brough
Park City News



The Fine Tuning Company

202 Lindley Pl.
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

Norma Smith
3605 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Norma-

There is no excuse for how late we are returning this — we only ask you to forgive us and hope it caused you no trouble.

We are editing the project and it is going well — we have to raise some final funds to complete and will keep you up to date.

Hope you had a good Christmas.

Nancy Landgren