

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Oct. 24, 1954

Judge E.V. Kuykendall,
Pomeroy, Washington.

Dear friend:

I am writing to send you a few clips. One, about Archer, should have been sent long ago, but I am completely swamped. Another is just one of a series of stories about the Mid-Columbia and the dams I have been writing.

The third, about the Priest Rapids Dam, is the one I am most interested in. I am marking one paragraph for your attention.

It has been most humane of the Federal Power Commission that this is included as a proviso on the terms of the permit and it is highly appreciated by the Wanapums, the nearly extinct band (there are eight left) who are friendly, yet cling to their last home along the river. They will not betray trust in them. And it is hoped that this be included on the terms of any license granted for dam construction.

You will recall that I have upheld these people because they are unlike the others (treaty Indians) and do not believe in suing the government, but in cooperating. They think more of their home than they do a few dollars like the other Indians. And they will be most cooperative with all concerned, asking nothing but support for congressional legislation for some land where they may live out their final years, near Priest Rapids, when that dam site is selected, etc. Even were the dam to destroy their graveyard, high on a hill overlooking the site, and I believe safe out of reach of the water, they would not be like the other Indians.

Work is continuing at Simcoe and the state is making remarkable progress. I am sure that by next spring there will be much improvement.

your friend, Roscoe Sheller and also Dean Guie, keep plugging along getting much accomplished. I think I have at long last prodded Dean into action on writing about Simcoe, but it will be a long struggle for him and I will have to keep after him.

I hear that my book, Drummers and Dreamers which was listed on the trade list as "publication date, price and specifications yet to be announced," should be assigned a publication date ere long. I have some three chapters in it about Simcoe. It is about my friends the Wanapum and their plight along the river, losing foothold and home after home till all that remains is the Priest Rapids dam area, yet still they refuse to be like the treaty Indians and still they wish to cooperate and aid the government, not hinder it.

I have made the old man Puck Hyahoot, their leader, a third partner in the book. That will be announced in due time. Of course I don't expect to make much on it, books like that seldom are productive OOO but what ever it is, it can go toward helping get him a home near Priest Rapids in his final years, and so his ancient culture can be perpetuated. In other words if a dam site is selected and my congressman introduced legislation securing a small bit of land in the hills--worthless scab land near by, his share in the book will go toward helping fix up a house for him there. This I am not announcing till the book is published. And I hope it will kill the Indian idea that the white man always victimizes the Indian.

I hope you have had a nice summer and that things are going well with you.

I will send other Fort Simcoe clips from time to time.

Sincere regards

Click Relander