

Waitsburg, Wash. May 31 1952.

Dear Friend:

Your most welcome letters of May 22nd & 27th received and glad to hear from you and especially in the good historical work that you are doing, I read with interest the manuscript that you sent to me, & I turned over to Henry Reimers. By the way Bete Bones, of the Palouse Indians (part Palouse) was in the hospital in Dayton a few days in the same ward that I was in, & I talked with him several times, but as he was feeling bad with the rheumatism & ~~hard~~ hearing besides I did not get much information of historical interest. Yes I have been on the sick list and still is not feeling too good yet. It started with the Virus flu of the stomach & bowels and ending up with getting my teeth pulled out and the hay fever thrown in for good measure. I was in the Hospital in Dayton from April 21 to May 10th and May 15th to May 26th, before they got the Virus flu out of my system, and which has left me weak yet,

I do not know of anything, at the present time, in the line of history that I would be interested in, but when I get feeling better I will write you if any does come up. Sure was glad to hear from you as it always makes one feel good to hear from an old friend interested in the same thing that I am interested in.

With the best of wishes, I remain,

Yours truly,

John.R.White
Box 433
Waitsburg, Wash

John R White

Waitsburg, Washington.
Oct 8 1951.

Dear Friend:

Your letter of Sept 18th with valuable pictures and other information received. Many thanks for the pictures.

I have shown the photo of Chief "Old Bones" to several of the old timers here who knew the Chief personally, and they all agreed that it is his picture alright. However most of the people around knew him at that time he wore a mustache and was not dressed up like the photo shows him, but otherwise the that is a good likeness of him. By having been smooth shaven makes him look younger than what he actually was at this time.

I would be glad to read over the manuscript when you get it completed. I would also like to read the copy on Chief Yellow Hair who was made chief in 1885 and drowned in 1900.

The photo that I saw, the best one, is, I understand in the Whitman College Library & Museum at Walla Walla Wash. This is the one that was formerly owned by the late Jack Pettyjohn of Prescott Wash.

The other day, I was talking with Pete Bones, and I asked him about Sam Fisher, and he told me that he died a few years ago in the Nez Perce country, Idaho. However there is a young "Fisher" who I have talked to in the past, and Pete Bones told me that the last he saw him was around Lapwai Idaho.

Young "Fisher" is well educated and can give you much of the early history and customs of the Palouse Indians if you could locate him. He used to come each year and help old Sam Fisher in his fishing season at the mouth of the Palouse River but since Sam has died he very seldom comes over here any more.

I imagine that the Indian Agent at Lapwai Idaho could give the whereabouts of young "Fisher" that I mentioned.

In regards to the Name "Gastin or Gaston", the data that I have is taken from the book by Manning on the early Indian Wars, & the Gilbert's history of W.W. - Col - Garfield & Whitman Co's. 1882. which spells it Gaston. I would very much like Wright's memoirs account of Lt Gaston. That location at the mouth of the Tucannon, Fort Taylor site, I have made some study of and am still gathering more on it when I can, & am trying to get a permanent marker placed there marking the old Fort site, maybe I will ~~manage~~ get it thru some time.

I have been trying the Gov Monument Sites officials to make some excavations and research work at this old site so as to get more definite data on certain material, such as the exact location, dimensions and etc of the old fort.

Thanking you very much, and trusting a reply, I remain,
Yours truly,

John R. White
Box 433.
Waitsburg, Wash.

John R White

Dayton Wash.

Aug 23 1954.

Dear Friend:

After reading your article about "Pete Bones" in the Sunday edition of the Walla Walla Bulletin which I enjoyed very much, I thought that I would write you a few items about "Pete" as he was a personal Indian friend of mine. I had the misfortune of being in the Brining Hospital in Dayton from June 17th 1952 to April 1st 1953, it was during this period that Pete Bones was there in the same ward as I. Pete Bones had a paralytic stroke on Sept 5th 1952 in his shack at the old Indian Home at the mouth of the Palouse River. He was there alone. He was found lying on the cabin floor by some fisherman on Sept 7th and was brought to the hospital in Dayton by his friends; Turner's + Zink's. I first got acquainted with Pete about 1910 when he would come over to Waitsburg to do their trading, I was working in a store there at that time and have been personally acquainted with him since. When Pete was brot to the hospital he would not talk to anyone except me, in the hospital while he was there, so when the nurses and doctors wanted to find out things from him it fell my duty to get the information desired, and as I was up and around I volunteered gladly to help. The doctor wished to find out the trouble so as to know how to aid him, so when I found my chance when the nurses + the doctors were out of the ward I asked him, and he told me the details and this is an outline of the case. "I was in my cabin at my childhood home at the mouth of the Palouse River, and the Snake River, I had been down on the river fishing some that day and had been back home only a short time and while standing in my room, I had a terrible chill then became extreme nervous and shakey, then fell to the floor. my right side was paralyzed and I could not move or even talk, there I lay for 2 days before help arrived." He was unable to talk very much for a day or so after he was brot to the hospital. I would help the nurses to wait on him as he seemed not to trust them too much; I would also shave him at times as he did not have only a few whiskers here and there on his face - the nurses would comb and do up his hair in long braids and he felt very proud of his long hair; and by the way I have some of his hair as a keepsake; and I would hold and steady him while the nurses would make up his bed, as he would not let the nurses hold him as he was afraid that they would let him fall out of the bed. While he was in the hospital some of his Starbuck friends would visit him and he enjoyed

visiting and talking to them, and also his maternal cousin and family from Lenore Idaho would call and visit him and Pete would only talk to them in the Nez Perce tongue. When he left the hospital, still paralyzed, in an ambulance for Nespelum on Dec 30th 1952 I was the only one in the hospital that he bid farewell and he sure hated to leave me; this was the last time that I ever saw him alive. He was totally paralyzed on his right side until his death on Aug 13 '54. Pete told me how he became a cripple and this was his account. "When he was a small boy, Young Bones, the son of Chief Old Bones, placed him in a saddle on a wild horse and the horse ran away with him throwing him out of the saddle and his foot caught in the stirrup and dragging him until he was unconscious, and broke some of his bones and sprained many of his muscles this left him a cripple for life". He walked with a crutch and a cane the remainder of his life until he had his stroke.

Pete claimed that he was the last of the Palouse tribe, but his maternal cousin, G.C. Jackson of Lenore Idaho told me that was just Pete's idea; as the last pure-blood Palouse Indian has been extinct for many years, and he knew that Pete was mixed with the Nez Perce & Colville Indian blood, and that ^{there} is no such a thing as a pure-blood Palouse Indian living today.

I did not know that Pete was in the Nursing Home here until I saw the notice of his death in the papers - however he was not here long until he died - I understand that he died very suddenly on the morning of Aug 13th - I suppose from another stroke - I was unable to attend his funeral on account of physical reasons which I feel sorry. I have since went to the City Cemetery here and visited his grave where he was buried and made a map of the lot so as to know the exact location if there is no markers put up on his grave. The reason why he was buried here instead of being buried with his ancestors at the mouth of the Palouse, I do not know; his relatives must have had a reason as it was left to them to decide. I note that you are going to publish a book entitled "Drummers & Dreamers" in the near future - I would like to get an autographed copy when it is printed for sale, and would like to know the price, & about the date published and etc. Well will close for this time, & hoping to hear from you, I remain, yours truly

John R White

623 E. Patit St
Dayton, Wash.

Dayton Wash
June 18 1935.

Dear Friend:

Your booklet "The Yakimas" rec'd on the 13th, and wish to congratulate you on the excellent way that the valuable and interesting history has been compiled and written in the booklet. I think that it should be read by all those interested in early history of our State, as this part of our State History is sadly neglected in our Schools today.

Thanking you very much I remain
yours truly

John R White

623 E. Patit St

Dayton. Wash.

July 13 1953.

Dear Friend:

Your most welcome letter of July 5th with blanks received and glad to hear from you. I am inclosing my order with cash for the forthcoming book of yours. I gave an order blank to the Librarian of the "Dayton Memorial Library." There is no regular book store here in Dayton, however the following firms carries some books for sale, namely, Dingle's Hdw Store — The Elk Drug Store — The Dayton Drug. In Walla Walla the Book Nook on Main St seems to be the leading book store there. I am going to hand out the order blanks to interested parties whenever I meet them.

Wishing you ever success in your work I remain,

your truly
John R White

623 E. Patit St
Dayton Wn.

Ferries.

There were other ferries on the Snake River in this area, that operated for short periods, of which I have no authentic data on, The Fish-hook ; Lyon's; Kellogg; Almota; Silcott; & White; were all old Indian crossings, so it would be difficult to determine which one is the oldest ferry site. The Lewis & Clark party crossed at the White ferry site in 1806 while on their return trip. The old Colville trail & Mullan Military Road both crossed at the Lyon's ferry site.

Old Indian Ferry. Just below the mouth of the Palouse River located in the center of the Snake River is a high lava rock with perpendicular walls and a flat top on it, called Anchor Rock, in the center of the top of this rock the Indians fastened a long rope or cable-like rope and fastened their canoes on the end of the rope and would let the current of the river carry the canoes across in a semi-circle course. The old timers called this a swinging-current ferry. This rock is only covered during the unusual high water period of the Snake River.

The Lyon's Ferry is now operated by a man named Kay Turner, and is the only ferry on the Snake River below Lewiston now in operation.

The pictures of the ~~site~~ site of GRANGE CITY, I took in 1938 and since that time one of the large houses is the picture has been torn down, so today there is one large house, (the home of the Railroad trackwalker), and a small building on the Track near the high bluff. On the high plateau at the base of the cliff is an old Indian burial ground and scene of a fierce Indian battle in early days between the Palouses and some other tribe - this is the record that has been handed down among the Palouse Indians, as the battle took place many years before the coming of the white-man here.

The principal Indian Cemetery or burial ground is the one at the mouth of the Palouse River and on the North side of Snake River it is in this cemetery that Chief Old Bones and his wife is buried. I have been told by the Palouses that there are over 400 buried in this cemetery. This cemetery covers an area of about 2 acres and is inclosed with a wire fence now to keep the stock out of it. Old Bones has the only marker of any kind in this cemetery, and it is a gray granite one erected by his white friends around here. The old straightway Indian Race track is still visible at the old Indian village, it was north of the Cemetery and village, in an old river channel of the Palouse River that had been blown over with the sand of the River.

As to places or rivers having Palouse Indian names around here there are but a few, one for instance is COPPEI which means in Palouse (Birth location). Most of the Indian names are of the Nez Perce Indian tongue, as Patit; Pataha; Alpowa; Tucannon; Asotin and etc.

You are sure ~~###~~ working on a worth-while Historical subject and wish you ever success in your venture, and if I can be of further aid to you please let me know, as history has been my hobby for several years, also taking pictures and drawing early maps in with my history.

Yours truly,

John R White

John. R. White.

Box 433. Waitsburg, Wash.

(S)

Lyon's Ferry is the only ferry
now operating.

Wm Craig first opened up the
ferry service across to Lewiston
Idaho around 1861-62.

Ferries on Snake River.
Fish-hook.
Sonnenberg.
Pine Tree.-Windust
Lyon's. Ferry.
Ike Kellogg.
Texas Ferry
Angell - Brown's.
Eureka.
Central.
Penawawa.
Almota.
Wa wai.
Silcott
White's ferry.

