

March 27, 1960

Sen. Eugene D. Ivy,
Ivy Elopsen,
Miller Building, Yakima.

(copy enclosed)
copy for Wanapums

Dear Sen. Ivy:

Last year and in previous years you have been helpful to the Wanapum band of Indians of Priest Rapids, in their annual need for salmon with which to perpetuate the first foods feast.

I was waited on this morning by the head man of these people, Frank Buck, who with his brother, Rex, has set the date, April 3, for the religious ceremony. They did this after examining condition of food roots in one section of the Yakima Firing Center, their ancestral range, and have been granted permission to dig roots there.

I am sure Mr. Clarence Pautzke, assistant director, Department of Fisheries (4015 20th Ave. West, Seattle) is familiar with the moralrights of the Wanapums, and the fact that salmon are important in the religious feast, being partaken of as some of us partake of Mass or Communion. Water, salmon, deer or elk; piahe or bitterroots, oemas, (skolkol one of the early varieties); choke cherries, wild carrots and wild potatoes and lastly, huckleberries, are taken in the order at these feasts which open the season as a thanksgiving to the Creator.

Last year they served 200 visitors, Indians and non Indians from far and near at the first foods feast. I do not know the number of salmon the State Department provided through channel, but it appeared sufficient.

These people, of course, are not-enrolled and they have continued to live in their ancestral range and are now working for the PUD. The upper dam, Wanapum, of the Priest Rapids Project, was named for them because of their cooperation with the white man, although their forebears signed no treaty with the government. They are, in reality, a band of the Shahaptian linguistic stock, the last descendants of a religious clan whose pure fountainhead was born at Priest Rapids.

Any intercession with the Department of Fisheries you can make for this religious ceremony, which will in reality begin this next Friday, will be appreciated. Any questions I can answer regarding this traditional ceremony, or the people, I will be glad to do so.

For Frank Buck, Rex Buck, Bob Tomalwash,
and Harry Yyena and Wanapum kindred.

Most Sincerely
Click Relander
(Now Low Look)