

Mrs. John J. Para,
Box 107, Othello, Wash.

Nov. 10, 1955

Dear Mrs. Para:

Thank you for y ur continuing interest in the Wanapums and their problems.

The Wanapums' plea to the Federal Power Commission won them the protective clause in the exploratory permit to assure that their graveyard, and rock relics (painted and carved rocks on the island at Priest Rapids Dam site) be protected.

The license to build the dam contained another protective article, noting that the "Wanapums" shall negotiate an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs" and that the Area Office at Portland shall administer their protective needs. But you will recall the Wanapums were not treaty people, and they are not wards of the government, so why the Indian Bureau wants to move in now and take them over, we don't as yet understand. Especially, when the Senate and House have joined in a resolution, now two years old, that the government terminate control over all its Indian tribes! And, especially, when in the past, the Indian Bureau has said it could not recognize the Wanapums and did not recognize them.

The two dams, rather than one, was because of the Atomic Energy Commission. One high dam would have endangered the project, downstream.

With one high dam, the Wanapum graveyard would have been flooded. With two dams, it will not be flooded.

The Grant County PUD has shown a very humane interest in the Wanapums, asking their permission and calling them into Ephrata to name the upper dam, Wanapum, in their honor. The Wanapums were very cooperative, interposing no objections to the various kinds of work entailed in the exploratory permit, whereas they could have made it very costly for the Grant County PUD. That is where they are different from other Indians.

It has been things like that that have held up the book. Today's mail brought a letter that they want to get the jacket printed and other things out of the way while we are making time. They were ready to issue the book this winter or early next spring. I thought it best, and so did some of the book stores, to delay it past the summer lull, issuing it in time for well establishment before the 1956 Christmas trade. So the publisher changed the date at my request to Oct. 2 or Oct. 6, I forget just which.

I am sending one of the advance circulars that has been issued.

I have made tentative arrangements to visit various cities with the Indians when the book comes out. These would include Spokane, Ephrata, Pullman, Wenatchee, Ephrata, Moses Lake, Seattle, Portland etc.

Graham at Spokane has a standing order in with Caxtons for so many of every book published by that company, sight unseen, and I suppose that we would be at Gramams.

I would suggest that if you feel definitely that you wish a book at this time, you return the slip to me, noting on the margin whether you want it at Spokane, Ephrata or Moses Lake. Then I can turn the order over to the store there and it will be helpful to me in finishing arrangements for the book parties. It may be that some of your friends will also wish one so I am enclosing a few extra copies. No payment is desired at this time of course. You would be notified of the time we would be at the store in question, but if that is inconvenient, your copy would be there for you when you are in that town.

It may be that the historical society you refer to would wish to have us appear before them which might be arranged en route from Ephrata to Pullman or from Pullman to Ephrata.

Your reference to the Adams County Historical Society is interesting. I don't know, but will check when I go to Tacoma Dec. 10 for a board meeting, if the society is yet old enough to become a member of the state. If this tie-in has not yet been established, please give me the name of the secretary. You will note I am a board member of the State Society

Personally I believe that individual membership in the State Society is desirable. This entails a \$4 membership for which \$3.50 goes toward a subscription to the Washington Historical Quarterly, published at the University of Washington. One of the most interesting sidelights is the Northwest History Conference. This will be held at Tacoma next May. It was held at Spokane last May. It is participated in by writers, history teachers, scholars, etc. and their discussions are very interesting in the history field and by all means the Ritzville Women's Club should be represented at the history conference. You obtain many valuable guidances in local and state history setups. Our top speaker last year was Mr. Babb, librarian of Yale.

If our weather holds good, I would consider a speaking engagement before the Ritzville group, explaining what has been accomplished at local and state levels by such societies, how we have secured \$130,000 here for a museum in Yakima, etc. But that would hinge strictly on the weather.

You will hear more of the Wanapums in the months ahead. They are making me up a buckskin jacket to wear on our book tour now. And they are very thankful for the good will of the Grant County PUD. The PUD has agreed to move their home and set it up near the reservoir in a suitable place. These and other rxxx things are being slowly worked out, but this cannot be done with much publicity etc. Their interests come first.

Rather a rambling idea, but maybe it will give you a few ideas.
A clipping is also enclosed.

Most Sincerely

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