

K. A. Braniff
Box 61
Keyport, Wash.
6 January 1957

Dear Mr. Relander;

I have just finished reading your book *Drummers and Dreamers* and would like to offer my congratulations. I'm sure that anyone who reads it will understand the Indian better and I'm happy to see you bring out the many "truths" about the Yakima which of course is either not known by most people or difficult for most to believe.

Needless to say, I certainly am envious of you being able to know Puck Hyah Toot and his People because I have always wanted to go over to Priest Rapids. It certainly has been one injustice after another the way our government has treated the Wanapums, of course this applies to the Yakima Nation.

Perhaps I can tell you a little about myself. I am an Anthropology major from the U. of W. (1940) but somehow through complications such as the War I have ended up an Electronic Engineer here at the NavTorpSta Keyport. I met Alex Saluskin in 1927 and since then I have attended all of the Yakima "Doings" that I could possibly get to. I'm sure that I am considered one of them.

It is certainly too bad about Johnny Buck's death because I hate to see the old "long hairs" die off. I am a firm believer in leaving the old-timers to their own customs and especially religion since it will be but a short time and they will all be gone.

I have been taking part in the Washat at Satus and feel that those people are without a doubt the most sincere and honest people that there are. Their religion I feel fits in very well with my own philosophy of life. By the way I wondered while reading your book why no mention of Watson Totus and his people at Satus was made....

Is there anything that can be done for the remaining folk of Priest Rapids.... So happy and the rest. If possible I would certainly like to aid these People in any way that I could

If you can find time it would be nice to hear from you.... congratulations again....

Very truly

Ken Braniff
Ken Braniff

K. A. Braniff
Box 61
Keyport, Wash.
28 March 57

Friend Click Relander;

Thought that it was about time that I answered your most welcome letter of 7 Feb. It certainly was a pleasure to hear from you.

I went to the Long House gathering on the 22nd of Feb and thought that I might see you there. Maybe you were there and I just didn't recognize you. It would be nice to meet you sometime and have a little pow-wow and discuss our friends the Indian.

This year is the 30th since I met Alex Saluskin and he invited me over to his place to talk over old times. I usually take part in the dances and Alex gets quite a charge out of this.

I also talked to Watson Totus and he has promised to drop me a card in time for the Root Feast but I'm sure you know how they are when it comes to writing.

Perhaps I am guilty of participating too much in the dances and not helping the Yakima out with more progressive and beneficial assistance but I am sure this intimate association with them is to their liking and helps to establish their confidence in me. It is rather difficult living so far away to be among them more than 3 or 4 times a year. However I am very sincere about my feelings for them and will be only too glad to aid them in any possible way.

As you probably remember I am employed by the Civil Service and am an Electronic Engineer which of course is a long ways from the Injun way of life and I can't always take off for the reservation at any time altho they are very lenient with taking "leave".

Irving Petite was over to visit us several weeks ago and tells me that he is going to do a story on me. If it can help in any way to bring out the truth about our dealings and treatment of the Indian then I am all for it. Most people are amazed as well as aghast at the way the Indian was dealt with, especially those tribes that had the courage to fight bitterly for their cherished country. This is one of my favorite topics of discussion and at least I am proud to say I have a few converts.

Well I better not get started on this subject or this letter will end up a volume....

Once again it certainly was a pleasure to hear from you and if you can find the time I would appreciate hearing from you....

Sincerely

Ken

Ken Braniff

KEN BRANIFF
Box 61
KEYPORT, WASH
20 FEB 63

MR CLICK RELANDER,

THANKS FOR THE INFO ON THE
BOOKS. ENCLOSED FIND CHECK TO
COVER COST OF THE FOLLOWING!

- (1) STRANGERS ON THE LAND — \$2.25
- (2) 1855-1955, THE YAKIMA — \$2.00

IF OK — IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU
AUTOGRAPH YOUR BOOK FOR ME,
I READ WHERE MY "INDIAN FATHER" ALEX
SALUSKIN IS PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT
TO MAINTAIN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT. I DON'T
GET OVER TO TOPPENISH MUCH — MY JOB
HERE WITH THE NAVAL TORPEDO STATION
SENDS ME TO FAR-OFF PLACES QUITE A
LOT. I STILL WOULD RATHER HAVE A
BEEF RANCH THO.

STILL HOPING TO MEET YOU ONE OF
THESE TIMES.

VERY TRULY
KEN BRANIFF

Ken Braniff
229 Eldorado Blvd
Bremerton, Wash.
6 April 1965

Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32nd Ave
Yakima, Wash.

Dear friend,

I bet that you think I'm a great one for not writing sooner to express my appreciation for your getting those autographs of the Yakima Tribal Council in Strangers on the Land. Thanks too, for the nice note and autograph on the title page.

My job with the Bureau of Naval Weapons has been keeping me on the road a lot. The 19th of this month I'll be making my 8th trip to Pearl Harbor and maybe in June to Guam. In addition, I have been to San Diego a dozen or so times. Each trip usually lasts about 2 weeks which doesn't make my family very happy either. I'm sure I would rather just be going over to the Yakima country to see my Indian friends.

I haven't been to any doings over your way for a couple of years--in fact I haven't seen or heard from Alex Saluskin for sometime. While I was at a Blackfeet camp in Brockett, Alberta two years ago I talked to Alex Wesley and he said that Alex was in pretty good health but Ellen wasn't in such good health. I'm sure going to try and find time to get over and see them this spring or summer.

By the way, did you see the article in the last Sun P.I. Parade Section on the Apache people of Arizona building recreation areas on their reservation. It brings them quite an income and the program is under a "whitemans" guidance who is sponsored by the tribal council. Do you think the Yakimas might use such a program--if so I'd be one of the first to apply for a job. All of my life I have considered taking a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs but many people including Saluskin have advised against it. However since I am already a Federal employee with 20 years in, counting my Naval service maybe I'll find something suitable. I love the outdoors so much and especially Eastern Wash. I know the Yakimas well and I'm sure that I could help them if I find the right opportunity.

In one of the last letters that I received from Oliver LaFarge he stated that much improvement had been shown by the Federal government in their feeling toward the Indian. In fact he said that he had hopes that they might improve even more and that maybe I might sometime find a position where I might be able to do some good for the Indian.

Anyway, a few days ago I wrote to the Bureau in Portland and inquired about available positions. If you by chance run across any available opportunities that I might apply for I would appreciate hearing about them. In addition to positions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs there might possibly be jobs with the Game Dept., Fisheries, or Recreation within the Tribal Council jurisdiction itself. Anyway I keep hoping that one of these times there may be such an opportunity.

In regards to comments on your Strangers on the Land. I think that it not only makes a handy brief reference on Tribal history and laws pertaining to the Yakima but in addition it provides a very good insight to the personalities and feelings of the Indian. Your character Joe Leather is a fine example of some of the modern Indians. Several times when I have stopped at Vantage on a hot summer day for a "cool" one I have seen an Indian that goes right along with Joe. They are certainly faced with the problems of living with two cultures. All they really ask is for people to understand them but unfortunately not many people will even try to.

I'm certainly still looking forward to meeting you one of these days and I hope that you won't delay your writing as long as I did. As you probable notice, I have moved since your last correspondence but I am still in the Bremerton area.

Thanks again for the autographs----I really appreciate them.

Best Regards

Ken Braniff
Ken Braniff