

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
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April 2, 1955

State Department of Public Assistance,  
PO Box 167, Yakima

Mr. Nile D. Meservy, visitor:

Dear Mr. Meservy:

Johnny Buck came down from Priest Rapids today and had received your letter to him sent to 214 West Elizabeth Street. While I was somewhat handicapped by an adequate interpreter I determined that he had just received the letter.

Johnny Buck is Puck Hyah Toot, the leader of the non-treaty remnant band of Priest Rapids Indians. They have been busy preparing for their first foods feast of thanksgiving, perhaps the last ever to be held at Priest Rapids if the dam construction is authorized.

As you may or may not know, Priest Rapids is the home of these people and Johnny Buck's home and their house is there and has been. But as he is older now, he does not wish to live isolated in the winter when he may become ill and 214 West Elizabeth was given as his address, since he is available there in the winter.

I talked to him and ascertained that his condition is still as it was when he qualified for assistance.

He receives no per capita payment, is not an enrolled Indian and is incapable of working. He has fallen heir to no money or land, has contracted for nothing etc.

He wishes to know if it will be possible to see you some time after April 17. Much work is required to prepare for the feast, a very sacred religious ceremony with them. Then considerable work will be required to put the mats away, take down the lodge, etc. He thinks it will be about a week after the ceremony that he will be coming back down.

I am enclosing a clipping to give you a little more additional information on Puck Hyah Toot and his people.

If you wish to come to the feast that Sunday, he says you are welcome. It will commence shortly before noon.

Please feel free to call on me for assistance in this matter of "requalifying" him, because this is the only means of support he has.

Sincerely

Click Relander