

[Wanapum]

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

May 9, 1955

Mrs. A.E. Turner,
625 Forest St.,
Bellingham, Wash.

Dear Mrs. Turner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wanapums of Priest Rapids, which came to the office where I am city editor, today.

I can assure you that feathers as you mentioned, will be most highly appreciated and valued by these few people, the remnants of a band identified by Lewis and Clark as the Mokulks 150 years ago and estimated at 2,000 to 3,000 in number. (There are less than a dozen of them now)

The address would be Johnny Buck, Beverly, care Priest Rapids Indian Camp. (Johnny Buck) is the name by which Puck Hyah Toot, the old leader, is known.

However because they are now getting ready to start out into the hop fields, berry patches etc. to earn money during the summer I really think it would be better to send them to me, direct at the Yakima Daily Republic. Puck Hyah Toot and his sons are coming in later this week and we are to go to Ephrata at the invitation of the Grant County PUD which is naming the upper dam of the proposed Priest Rapids Dams, Wanapum, in honor of these non-treaty people. You understand of course these people have no legal right, nothing only a moral right, and the PUD, through my intercession, has promised to set aside a place for their long house and home, beside the water, because any dam there will flood their present home. This they are doing to perpetuate the old culture.

Moreover, and with your permission, I would like to run a picture in

paper, showing Fuck Hyah Toot opening the package containing the feathers and would send you a clipping, or I would just take a picture of him at the office and send it to you.

I would appreciate a clipping from the paper that you noticed the story about these people. I do not know whether it was the story that told how when the tree was cut down, the "eagle" turned out to be an owl, and the "anapums were disappointed, or whether it was just the story that told of them asking for the feathers. That is another reason why the feathers you have would be highly appreciated by the Wanapums.

I am enclosing for you a few clippings that will give you a general idea of my interest in the "anapums. I have "gone to bat" for them because the government and no one would heed their pleas, and with the approach of the dam, they were threatened with loss of their last place to live. It is most gratifying to know that they have friends, at distant places, and it is gratifying to learn from the Grant County people that they have the humane interests of these people in mind. Of course, these people do not share in any of the government settlement made with various Indian tribes, the treaty tribes, for destruction of the fisheries.

Thanking you again for your interest, until the time the Wanapums can write one of their quaint notes to acknowledge that the feathers have been received, I am,

Most Sincerely

Click Relander

(City Editor, The Yakima Daily Republic,
Yakima, Washington.)