

[Buck, Johnny]

[1953?]

March 31

Dear Friend and Brother:

Things are looking better. A government man came to see me and tell me that in about two weeks a surveyor or engineer is to come through to see you and any other interested "anap ms. He will go up to Priest Rapids with you. While I have a map showing the graveyard, he says he must see himself so there can be no mistake. He is doing that because he is the one who would know for sure whether, if a dam is built there or not, it would cover the graveyard, and the government has promised to preserve it to the best of their ability. He won't go into other things that I am still working on, working hard, writing letters and reading old things and old accounts as written by the government. But I think it is good news because we have someone now, directly connected with the Indian part of the government, who is interested in us and who has been told to look into these things.

I hope the feast came off good. And, I was sorry I couldn't be there, but I had the big meeting on with people who came here from Seattle, Walla Walla and down in Oregon to meet with me. That date was set before your feast date.

I haven't talked to her yet, but I suspect that Mrs. Chellis, the welfare lady, didn't get in, after coming up on the long trip. Martha Johnny couldn't explain very well when I asked her about it. I think that if she didn't get in that, is too bad. She has done lots for your people and was your friend. That is no way to treat a friend.

We will see about that, when you come down.

I am writing to the Army engineers to see if they have any old houses or places on the firing center on land they are taking in, that they will sell us cheap. Maybe you could use them.

Well, I have to write to Tomalawash and George Shapay about this government man coming. If others should know about it you can tell them. I want to tell you again, this man is coming for just the one purpose and can't do anything about other things you might want. And the fact that he is coming is no reason to think there will be anything in settlement like some Indians may try to tell you when they hear about it, because they are the kind of people who we call "greedy" people.

I suppose I will see you when you come down. The government man said he would tell me a day or so before he came here so I could make contact with you and have you ready to go up with him. I probably won't be able to go, because of the time of week, but I will talk to him before he goes and show him my map.

The man who comes to see you, this government man, you may talk to him and answer what he asks you, but, be sure he is the engineer. I don't know his name yet. I feel real good about getting this far ahead. McWhorter could never get that far. I think we will get much further. That is all for now. I am very busy.

Now Tow Look.



Buck, Johnny

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

[1955]

Yakima.

Dear brother, Puck Hyah 'oot:

Perhaps you are home by now and will get my other letters. But I am writing, taking a chance you are still around Redmond and some of you will come in looking for mail.

Much has been happening about the dam. And things are going very good for us. This I will explain to you when I see you. But there is no need to come rushing home.

You, however, should be here by November 15 or thereabouts, not much later, so we can talk with some more important men. This time we will talk about fencing the cemetery on the hill and other important things. But they want to meet you. There are many, many things to be talked over.

The way we have been doing is the good way, the best way to get results. And if you get this letter, I want to be sure we find out who this man is at Richland who wants to talk to you people. I get a letter from Mr. Gilbert and he knows of no Greenway or Greenwood. So that I want to find out before we go any further.

Then too, I want a note from you saying that it is right for Mr. Stockdale to take the canoe to Vantage. It will be loaned to him. You will keep ownership of it. He will put it where many people will see it, but where it will have a roof over it and be protected. And there will be no danger of it disappearing as the others did at Richland. This was what I talked to you about in Yakima but the man on whose place it is wants to have a note. So if you get this, send that note separately, simply stating. To whom it may concern. This will give my permission for Mr. Stockdale to take the canoe, which will remain in my name. It is to be kept at Vantage, where it is to be protected. Signed. Johnny Buck or Puck Hyah 'oot.

I am also arranging so that all the grave diggin along the

river will be stopped.

And I want to remind you again, that from now on out, no one must talk to anyone unless I am there or ~~xxxx~~ know what it is about.

Otherwise, all we have gained will be lost, perhaps just by one talking out of turn. And then I will be powerless to go ahead and save things or help out any more because I cannot work for years, as I have done, and have it destroyed and then expect to work that long again to save it.

The things you have wanted will, I feel sure, come true now, providing we keep on being honest and good people. That is essential because I will tolerate nothing but honesty and you and all your people have always ~~been~~ been most honest.

If Bobby is around, he should come back too.

And it is important that some of you figure on living, at least a part of the winter, at your home.

It is also ~~important~~ important that you start now, figuring on giving a big feast next spring, so these people we are working with can have an even better understanding of what we want. We will have a conference at that time with them. They are proving to be good friends. We want to do nothing to make them otherwise.

Remember, we are doing all this without big attorneys, costing much money like the others do. They get nothing, but the attorneys get the money from the Indians.

We will get what you want. A home in your land, where the "anapums" may always have for their home. Your graveyard will be safe so you may be buried there and never fear that you will be dug up, nor covered over with water.

So I am looking forward to seeing you before long. Donot rush home, but be sure and come by that date. Pick someone who is a good interpreter, although Bobby; Frank, Rex or Lester will be satisfactory.

I am very tired, writing so many letters, doing so much work. But if we gain what you want, I am happy.

Now how look

[Back, Johnny]

[1965?]

Yakima, Wash.,  
3701 Commonwealth,  
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Puck Hwah Toot:

I have marked something in the attached clipping for you to read.

Some time before his death your father told me about caching some things away on the Wahluke Slope, across the river from White Bluffs. This was done, he said, when they ~~learned~~ he learned he had to leave the area.

Now they are talking about opening some of the Wahluke Slope to daytime farming, meaning they can only go in there to farm during the day time, and not live there.

So I wrote the ~~above~~ part in the story, remembering what the Old Man had told me, just in case some people went in there and found the things he said had been cached there.

I know you would want them, and I thought this was a good occasion to say so. If you ~~don't~~ don't know about them, maybe Frank does, or Martha Johnny. The Old Man told me some other things were "hidden" there too.

Then Johnny Tomalawash told me about some other things over on this side of the river, not many, but mostly about some graves and things there, that were in the Hanford Project area, and we tried to get it fixed up so that the Hanford people would never destroy them by building other things over them.

So when I see you, we will talk some more about the things that were hidden, compare notes and see what we should do as I think they will be gradually opening up that area.

If you know specifically where they are, we will talk about that and I will help you write a letter to the proper person to be sure that someone else doesn't come in there later and get them and keep them.

your brother

Now Tow Look