



DRUMMERS AND DREAMERS

Click Relander

Americana—\$6.00

Approx. 288 pages, large 12mo
25 illustrations from photographs
and end sheet map

One of the last westerly frontiers, where the Columbia rushes through a desolation of sand dunes, sagebrush, and basalt cliffs, has found an interpreter. Click Relander writes with a sureness of treatment about a remnant band of Indians and the land colonization of the Pacific Northwest.

The eight survivors of the once numerous tribe dwell at Priest Rapids in the last tule mat long house. They are Wanapums, River People of the Dreamer faith, descendants of the mysterious prophet, Smowhala. His philosophy extended to tribes throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and into northern California and British Columbia during the crucial days of Indian surrender to a new way of life.

The vast land holdings once possessed by the River People are being rapidly altered by such Atomic Age undertakings as the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, great multipurpose dams, the Hanford Atomic Energy Project, and the Yakima Firing Range.

Today the headman of the Wanapums is Puck Hyah Toot, a descendant of Smowhala who was trained by the Prophet himself. Lately, because his days are short, Puck Hyah Toot, the Last Prophet, who calls the author Now Tow Look, his brother, has disclosed to him the mysteries of the past so that the Wanapums will not become a forgotten people.

Mr. Relander has drawn upon extensive historical and ethnological research. Consequently the writing is not limited by geographical boundaries but extends to those persons and things with which the River People came in contact—the little-known Palouses, who lived to the east; the unsung northern chief, Moses; Old Fort Simcoe in the Yakima Valley; the astounding Indian agent, the Reverend James H. Wilbur; and to other personalities and history-making events.

More than a simply told tale of a remnant band, DRUMMERS AND DREAMERS presents a representative account of the future of many reservation Indians throughout the nation whose long and unequal struggle to retain the rights promised them seems never to end. The story is of all Indians for all Americans.

Following the profession of a newspaperman, Click Relander came to Yakima, Washington, in 1945 and is city editor of the YAKIMA DAILY REPUBLIC. His many years of close study of the rapidly disappearing Indian tribes of California's San Joaquin Valley equipped him to become a friend and brother to the Wanapums of Priest Rapids in the Northwest.

Date

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