

1212W. 32nd Ave
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Mr. Robert J. Schoettler, director,
Department of Fisheries,
4015 20th Avenue West, Fishermen's Terminal,
Seattle 99, Washington.

March 5, 1955

Dear Sir:

Puck Hyah Toot, the head man of the remnant non-treaty Wanapum band came in today to ask that I contact your department.

He told me that the Wanapums are preparing for their first foods feast, one of the most solemn of their religious feasts, that will be held in about six weeks according to the weather conditions. It is the earliest of the feasts and is observed in its pure form at Priest Rapids.

He asks if the Wanapums will be permitted to take fish from the Horn Dam on the Yakima river, known to them as Wanawish, for an essential part of this feast. He stated he did not wish to go there if permission was not granted, since the Wanapums have always been law abiding people.

He said that the fish available to them included suckers (qhown), white fish (simi) chiselmouth (l'lapti) and other varieties and that the traditional manner of taking them was with nets.

There are now less than seven of these Wanapums left. They are going to start putting up their old mat house on the shores of the Columbia at Priest Rapids, P'na, one of their old winter villages and their home since time immemorial.

He also extends to you or some member of your department an invitation to attend this feast. It is, I assure you, a rare honor seldom granted to white men. Were it to be witnessed it would be clearly seen that fish

are required for the solemn part of the feast, and taken as Communion is taken by the Proestants and Mass is taken by the Catholics, in the manner since time immemorial.

In event any one wishes to attend, the date will be known before long, and proper directions to reach the isolated area will be sent.

Sincerely

Click Relander

Written at the request of
Johnny Buck or Puck Hyah Toot

Click Relander