

1212 N.32nd Ave.

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Capt. Clyde Knaggs,
Spokane County Sheriff's Office,
Spokane, Washington.

May 3, 1955

Dear Capt. Knaggs:

I am writing in regard to the remnant Wanapums and the blitz-bombing eagle.

Being in the newspaper business myself, I noted comments you made as quoted by the Associated Press and speaking for the Wanapums, as a brother and pending further contact with them, the Wanapums are highly appreciative and hopeful of a recovery in the case of the suspected eagle.

I expect to be in Spokane Friday and Saturday at the Pacific Northwest History Conference and will give you a call then to see how things have worked out.

The Wanapums and I are to be at Ephrata on May 12 and it might be that delivery of the eagle feathers at that time would be more appropro.

Seriously, I do not know whether or not you know much of these very sincere people but they are the last clinging to the old time religion in its pure form, that was born right at Priest Rapids. They could have demanded that the government or the Grant County PUD excavate old Indian burials for 12 miles up and down the Columbia, by virtue of a protective clause in the exploratory permit granted by the Federal Power Commission. It would have cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars. But they said merely let them lie, meaning not to go to the trouble of digging up and removing the old graves.

They are entitled to enroll on the Yakima Reservation, but have chosen to live at their old home village. And eagle feathers are a component of their very sacred religious ceremonies.

Eagle feathers are difficult to obtain. Bald eagle feathers, in fact when rarely obtainable sell for \$1 each.

Even the Golden Eagle feathers would insure the perpetuation of their old culture several years longer. And the down too is needed in their religious worship. So we are hopeful that a recovery has been made, and the feathers are now in your possession. If you do not plan to be in the office Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, would you please leave word at the Davenport Hotel where I may reach you or whom I may contact.

If you are acquainted with Mr. Joel Ferris he will attest as to my connection with these half dozen people, the last of the Solkuks, identified by Lewis and Clark and estimated at 2,000 to 3,000 in number.

Puck Hyah Toot, or Johnny Buck will be setting out soon from Priest Rapids with his few to work in the harvest, but I have sent word to them