

May 9, 1965

Mrs. Guy Travis,  
Box 574,  
Prosser, Wash.

Dear Mrs. Travis:

I have copied out fragmentary notes re: individuals you wrote about, and trust with some patience you can interpret them or your grandson can make out enough from them to go with material on hand.

Pictures you requested are very scarce, as far as I'm concerned. I have only the one picture of Kiutus Jim, and the one of Jim Looney is only one of two which I have. I am hopeful you will be able to get them copied and return them to me since I will need them for my files. I do not know where the negatives they came from are.

As to Nipo Strongheart, he is not a member of the Yakima Tribe, cannot prove his entitlement to enrollment, although holds an "honorary" membership with the tribe. He is like many who cannot prove their sufficient blood lines. Nipo is quite an intellectual, speaks before groups like the ~~Hawaiian~~ ~~Boards~~ Baha'i, etc.

If you or your grandson would write him at Box 211, Hollywood, 28, Calif. perhaps he would loan you a picture of himself. You could tell him I have given you notes based on information he has given me.

Kiutus Jim Died April 24, 1960. He was 70. Stories I note say he died in the Veterans Hospital at Walla Walla. He was in the Toppenish Valley Hospital at Toppenish when I called on him three days before his death. He told me he was going to die in a few days, that "they have come for me." The doctors etc. said he was doing fine. I was with his son at that time, Robert Jim. He said you know more about these things than young Indians like my son. They don't understand. But they came for me, stood right beside my bed, holding drums and dressed in buckskins. They would have taken me then but the nurse came in."

He was perfectly rational when I talked to him, looked good and talked good, but insisted that he would die in a few days. And at that time he told me a few little Indian stories which he said, "my son doesn't believe in" and again said "I know you understand." These were stories about mysterious little people who could move rapidly, almost fast as sound, travelled by night, watched over people and once "whisked by me several times and then I took a stick and poked ahead of me and found I was about ready to step over a cliff but they warned me that way."

Kiutus said his name meant something like "skinny" because he was slender when he was young, his ribs almost showed.

I think this is about all I have time to dig up at this time, spent considerable time Saturday and today looking it up and digging out appended notes. Hope it is helpful. Sincerely Click Relander