

March 27, 1960

Mr. Jim Berkey,
1309 Hains Ave.,
Richland, Wash.

Dear Mr. Berkey:

I have delayed writing you until I heard from the Wanapums about their feast.

Frank Buck came to see me this morning so I could contact the Army and get clearance for root digging on the firing center etc., and to tell me that they have just examined condition of the roots and have just set April 3, Sunday, as the feast date.

I told Frank about your letter. It is quite, all right of course to bring the Explorers. Frank said you were welcome to eat at the feast but if you were picnicking you could use the yard of his house, not far away.

He said you should be there before noon. About noon and afterwards, with the crowd on hand and the religious ceremony under way, it is not possible to talk with him or his brother, Rex. If you were there by say 10 or 11 o'clock it would be a good time.

These feasts may be attended by you (the Creator, they believe, gave food for all to share, ~~like~~ equally.) However they are laboring and poor people and "hosts" to kindred on the reservation and friends. I always take along some cakes, cookies, or coffee. They do not expect it but it is appreciated if the crowd is large.

If you arrive with your Explorers and party, present yourself outside the long house, inquire for Frank Buck or Rex, and then introduce the members of your party to them. They will invite you inside the long house at the proper time or tell you what to do. Ask their permission for any picture taking. They do not mind, but sometimes the elderly guests oppose pictures. This is because it is their old time feeling that it is disrespectful to the dead.

I may have to attend a meeting of the board of curators of the State Historical Society that date, and may not arrive until late, or may be held at Tacoma until too late to come.

Your interest in these people and their traditions is appreciated.

Sincerely

Click Relander