

April 28, 1955

Mr. Johnny Buck (Puck Hyah Toot)
Shoptalok, Priest Rapids

Dear Puck Hyah Toot:

I received a telephone call today from the suyapos who are working on the dam.

They told me it is important I get you and others like Rex, Frank and Bobby together, and bring you to see them on May 12. At that time they will give the official name, Wanapum, to one of the dams they are planning to build. That is a Thursday. May 12.

It is important too that you bring dress up clothes--also Rex and Frank -- because we will take pictures that may go into Washington.

We should leave early the morning of the 12th of May from Yakima, as early as 6 o'clock if possible. We will eat with them and meet men we have not met yet.

If you want to bring along Johnny Tomalawash, that will be alright, although I suppose he will be feeling sick as he has been. Or if you want to send word to Alba Chowaway so he can come along, that will be fine too. We will all go in the one car, my car.

I am writing a copy of this to Moxee so you will be sure and get the word, and am also writing to Frank. This is an important meeting and much about the future will depend upon it. I will explain how really important it is when we are travelling to meet the people. We will go to Ephrata.

Just so I will know you get this message, drop me a note right away in the enclosed envelope.

[1955?]

to come to Yakima early on the 12th for this trip to Ephrata where the PUD people wish to see them regarding naming one of the dams after them, Wanapum.

I have written a book concerning these people, entitled *Drummers and Dreamers of Priest Rapids* and it is due for publication next spring. I shall take pleasure in seeing that you obtain a copy since it is true history of an Indian leader, Snowhala, who in estimation of many was greater than Kamiakin, Spokane Garry etc.

There is little money in historic books of this nature but I have made the old leader a partner just in case it clicks enough to help them reestablish their home along the river, that is their wish.

I have moreover testified for the Department of Justice in their behalf so to speak against the claims of the Yakima Nation for additional compensation in the ceded lands case now pending. Yet the Yakimas, knowing of my honesty to help a humble and poor few, have also asked me to write the history of the Treaty with the Yakima Nation. This is being published by the Yakima Tribe in connection with the Treaty Centennial next June 9.

If there is any "illegality" to possession of eagle feathers, the Wanapums wish it only know that they would desire them rather than see them destroyed. As you may know, eagles are bounty birds in Alaska but their export is prohibited by law.

Please again accept the thanks of the Wanapums, which will be conveyed personally in due time, and accept too my apology for a long letter necessary to explain a few highlights.

Most Sincerely

Click Relander

(City Desk: The Yakima Daily Republic)