

April 5, 1965

Mrs. J. Colin McLean,
181 Heather Lane,
Palo Alto, Calif.

Dear Mrs. McLean:

It has been quite a time since I've heard from you. There's been nothing special, things still seem to be coming along at the Yakima Agency and no especial new developments regarding the Yakimas other than they have received a judgment, to be determined as to exact amount, from ceded lands claim. This will involve about \$2 million, but around \$1,500 for each tribal member. Since part of the land they claimed was in the Chelan, Wenatchee country, they have negotiations under way with the Colvilles, which are entitled to a part of the claim.

I recall about a year ago you wrote me about your friend, Mrs. Mildred Schmidtman (spelling?) who used to know the Priest Rapids Indians and painted Johnny Buck. She was going to reopen a studio at Carmel, get the old paintings out, etc. I attempted to establish contact, get a photo of Puck Hyah Toot or Johnny Buck's portrait etc. but no contact was ever completed.

I may be in California in June and am wondering if you have her address and I could, if I am in that part of the state, perhaps look her up, see the painting etc. and see what value she places on it etc.

And now something else has come up on which she could be helpful.

Does she have any recollection of one of the younger Priest Rapids men, Harry Wyenna or Wynn. He was slender built, had but one eye and was one of their "drummers." The matter of helping him establish an age has arisen. This is looking toward the future, toward social security and his retirement from his job etc. (not for several years). If she recollects this man, could she write a note that she knew him about such and such a time and he appeared to be about such and such an age then.

Also, if she knows of anyone else who might have known these people that I can communicate with, this would be helpful. Of course L.V. McWhorter is dead, also Frank Rothrock of Spokane, Robert Sisk of Vantage and others.

Alex Saluskin worked for the State Park as a curator at Fort Simcoe State Park last summer. He had a trailer and lived there, serving as a curator at the museum. I don't know what he will be doing this summer. He had planned to come in and see me, but I haven't seen him for a month or so. The new Indian Community Hall at the site of the old long house near Toppenish was finished last fall and dedicated. It cost about \$100,000 but the government paid 80 per cent or more of that. Irrespective, there were many part-Indians who complained loudly, thought they should have the money (which would have amounted to a couple of dollars each) paid out to

them instead of going into a communityhall and youth center. There were enough of them theyhelped unseat Alex as Chairman of the Tribal Council. There will be another Tribal Council election next fall and I suspect Alex will attempt to gain one of the four or five seats which will be open at that time. I don't know whether Alex ever wrote you or not about the nice snapshots you sent, but he should have. As I wrote months ago, he was pleased to get them. However he is not too dependable about his letter writing.

Hopethings have gone well with you since I heard from you and that Mrs. Schmidtman has her studio in operation. I would still like to see a photo of the Indian painting, or any other paintings she might have on hand she made in that area and would guarantee their return. and I would like to hear from her as to her idea of valuation of them.

Sincerely Yours

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