

April 27, 1968

Yakima - Herald & Republic
Yakima, Wash.

Sirs: Mrs. Billy asked me to
send a copy of this story about her
and her statement to you with
a request that you publish it -
at least her statement.

The attached shows how we
handled it in The Sentinel

Pete May



Mrs. Louise Billy, as a spokesman for the Rock Creek Indians, who have always dwelt along the Mid-Columbia, has a message to make public on the occasion of the flooding of the ancient shoreline of the river in her area.

It is a message that is not completely clear to the White Man, yet part of it may be sensed and appreciated by anyone. It is a lament, a tribute, and a protestation, all in one.

It challenges ~~XXSTATEMENT~~ an impression given by another newspaper, based on the beliefs of other Indians (to the north and east). It states that these beliefs were not shared by her or her people, who were the river dwellers from antiquity, who were and are the residents of Rock Creek, Celilo, Klickitat, and both shores of the Columbia from its downriver gorge to the

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flatlands of Umatilla.

Mrs. Billy's statement is directed at other Indians as much as to the White Man. It rejects the common Indian religion of myth for a deeper form of belief, and it re-states the right of she and her followers to be heard. The statement follows:

LOUISE BILLY)----1 col outline

(enclose statement in quotes)----- "



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Mrs. Billy's statement is directed at other Indians as much as to the White Man. It rejects the common Indian religion of myth for a deeper form of belief, and it re-states the right of her and her followers to be heard. The statement follows:

"On this day, (Tuesday 4-16-68), this land, and that hour, (10 a.m.) I am raising my right hand and speaking true from my heart, as God is my witness.

"God created this land and rocks and He set forth the Great Mid-Columbia River from sunrise to sunset.

"Then He created fish and named all different kinds.

"And He created all mountains and put on that mountain a deer. And all small animals and all kinds of fruits and all kinds of roots for the American Indians.

"Then God spoke to his created Brothers and Sisters and showed all the peoples this Mid-Columbia River and mountains. From that time on, We the American Indians, lived on both sides of this river. And when one died, he was buried along this Mid-Columbia River on Washington and Oregon state.

"And this day (Tuesday) I am praying about the John Day Dam that has closed today and backed up and flooded all the bodies of my peoples cemeteries on both sides of this river, that was buried centuries ago.

"I, the American Indians, still living on this land and along this Columbia River, our Creator has made for us to live on.

"This day I'm praying for those buried along the Columbia River to my Great Creator. —Louise Billy."

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end were not available but the office of the resident engineer reported that since some slight adjustments were made in the water flow, the ladders apparently have been working very well. "No malfunctions have been observed," said F. J. Hoag, assistant to Mr. Williams.

Other reports of water leakage were described by Hoag as "normal and to be expected." One point on the SP&S Railway relocated track required "some correction," the spokesman said, but was not a point of danger.

Water level of the pool reached elevation 257 early Sunday, and has been held there since. The 257 mark is the normal low-level operating point, and it is unlikely that it will advance higher until maximum stream flow caused by spring runoff may advance it to the 265-foot maximum.



"COMBINING," a picture by Neal Slater of the Bickleton Hilltoppers, is typical of photography by 4-H club members.

Photo training sessions billed

Youth interested in starting a 4-H photography club will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the courthouse meeting room, according to County Extension Agent Dick Moulton. Adults with experience in photography will meet with boys and girls to help establish realistic goals for a photography club. Several adults will display their best original photos and slides of Klickitat County subjects.

This is National Photography Week and the extension office has received several displays of 4-H photo club work from eastern Klickitat county. Exhibits have been received from Bill and Liz Morris, Bill and Russ Wheelhouse, Kathy Savage, and all members of the Rock Creek Beavers at Roosevelt. From Bickleton's Hilltoppers 4-H Club exhibits have been received by Willa Biglow and Kathy and Neal Slater. These exhibits will be on display tonight. All interested youth and adults are invited, Moulton concluded.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Dennie Ross, principal of the Lyle High School, resigned effective with the close of the school year. His letter of resignation was presented to the Board at the regular meeting on April 8.



4/16/68
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Louis Billy