

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

Yakima, Washington.

Oct. 24, 1954

Dr. Erna Gunther,  
Dept. of Anthropology,  
University of Washington, Seattle.

Dear Dr. Gunther:

I presume you are acquainted with the latest developments regarding the Priest Rapids Dam, but in case you are not, I am enclosing a clipping in which a paragraph is marked.

I am writing now so you may be assured of my interest in this matter, and may pass the word on to Dr. Osborne, in view of possible developments.

The proviso noted is evident. I am hopeful that it will also be included in any license issued. It is the best safeguard I know of against indiscriminate looting that usually attends dam construction.

I have notified the Grant County PUD that in event their engineers discover some especially attractive site, that any exploration of it is a matter for the University and that the Wanapums will cooperate to their utmost.

In the matter of the relics, these are rocks, sacred to the Wanapums, on the island in the river opposite their camp. There is, I think the possibility here, that in event a dam is built and water inundates the island, these historic rocks may be removed, by the contractor and the Wanapums will give their cooperation to that and to further preservation of them as is proper. This would certainly relieve the state of a considerable expense, other than possibly moving some of them to Vantage.

Anyway, the way is being set up and I just wanted you to know of our cooperation in this matter.

If Dr. Osborne, or you have instructions or "hints" of procedure in event of discovery of a likely looking site, would you please send them for transmittal to Glenn Smothers, manager, Grant County PUD, Ephrata, or to me and I will send them to him immediately.

I hope this general outline is satisfactory to you, remembering that the "anapums are closely related to many of the burials in that entire region, and have been plagued by various excavations of some burials that are no older than 10 or 20 years!

I believe it may also pave the way toward a satisfactory handling of situations low on the Snake River in event of Ice Harbor Dam. There are many "live" burials in that region.

I have been "hounding" Dean G. to get going on his Fort Simcoe writing, and I have every ~~indication~~ indication that he is doing that as he promised to have something for me to look over, soon. I am helping him out in my humble way with what material I am able to muster. I think that Simcoe should be an ideal field for Dean.

I am encouraging my Indian friends from the Priest Rapids area to produce some artifacts and specimens, feather fans, gaming bones, fish gigs, gorges for sturgeon, tri-pronged gigs for white fish, small specimens of nets made of hemp and small replicas of fish weirs. I think in time I may have several of these articles, and perhaps some twisted or old style tule mats and shall remember your interest in things of that nature when the time comes. I plan to use them in my "publicity" for ~~Drummers~~ Drummers and preamers of Priest Rapids, later

Do you know of any good stories dealing with ethnology etc. in our general area? I'm always on the lookout for them as you know.

I hope you don't believe I am "presuming" in this matter of the Priest Rapids Dam, graves etc. but it should certainly curtail the usual widespread pillaging of an area that attends any dam project.

Sincere Regards

Click