

July 24, 1961

Mr. Barney Molohon,
6412 34th N.W.,
Seattle 7, Wash.

Dear Barney:

Sorry my vacation precluded an immediate answer to your inquiry concerning the Wanapums of Priest Rapids.

I'm very sorry that "Trummers and Dreamers" is out of print and the publisher, despite frequent inquiries concerning it, hasn't republished. And I'm sorry that I wasn't foresighted enough to acquire a few copies when it was in existence to put away for such as you. I've managed to hold onto but one copy.

When I get home I'll add the "fact" sheet from the book you requested. It is "Click-Melander," and the publisher was the Carlton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho.

As to the illustrations, I think I have plenty of pictures around and if you give me a general idea, I'll send you a couple, an old-style Wanapum long house perhaps, tule mats, in use a few years ago but now resurrected usually only on feast occasions; a character study of the Wanapum religious leader, now dead, or something like that.

I agree with you (and Herb) the area is worth publicizing in many ways and has appeal for tourists as well as the two dams, Priest Rapids and Wanapum of the Priest Rapids ~~PRM~~ Project.

There are the rock paintings at Vantage, the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park, the big new interstate bridge. And Priest Rapids is one of the oldest place name places in the State of Washington (1813, Alexander Ross). The old Colville road, one link of it was in that vicinity. Incidentally, you'll find one of the State Parks and Recreation Commission commissioners quite helpful on the historic sites angle. Perhaps you know him, Joe Whiting, who wrote "Forts of Washington Territory." His address is J.S. Whiting, 3705 55 S.W., Seattle. Right now he is apparently taking the lead in working up some new sites throughout the state and recognizes the importance of the area in which Herb is also interested in. The developments are just in the discussion stage as far as the Commission is concerned.

Regarding Indians, I think the entire deal on them now is their very rapid passing from the American scene through the various termination of reservations, passing of culture etc. Yet in our state and in Eastern Washington there are areas where the old culture is being retained and Indians are "accessible" to tourists. It isn't developing like your Gallup, N.M. but more so through preservation of culture by the people and their willingness for everyone to look in on them and see events which enter deeply into their way of life and very religion. This is evidenced markedly in the Wanapum or Priest Rapids First Foods Feast at Eastertime, usually the week before Easter, Easter Sunday or the week after, depending upon the maturity condition of food roots. The Grant County PUD has done much toward helping preserve this culture through setting up Wanapum Park where the surviving Wanapums (a band, not a tribe, yet live.) There are four of them and they are all employed on the dam projects, rather by the PUD in relation to the dam projects.

They were in reality a family clan and group of several families, carrying out the old Indian religion at the turn of the century version as introduced by Snowhala, the Last Prophet. There was a series of prophets who preceded the white man's advance from the east to the west.

As I recall the Seattle and other libraries in your area ordered several copies of *Drummers and Dreamers*. If it's unavailable now, it's because it has been worn out or something. That happens in some places. Even here the ~~librarian~~ librarians tell me that with several copies on hand you usually have to go on the waiting list. I suspect you could get a copy on loan from the state library through any local library in Seattle.

I'll start looking up a couple of likely pictures to send along when I hear whether you want a scan or individual. And if I have a clip in my newspaper feature story file concerning the Wanapum I think would give you an idea, I'll send it along.

The "facts" on the book requested will be appended. Meanwhile again accept my apologies at not being able to provide you with a copy. The book stores here tell me they have a steady fall for it, three or five copies a week, which doesn't interest Caxton apparently. And the attendant at Ginkgo State Park Museum told me they have at least five inquiries a week, sometimes more, from tourists.

The best of luck to you in your enterprise.

Sincerely

Click Relander