

"DRUMMERS AND DREAMERS"

By Click Relander
Caxton Printers, Ltd.
Caldwell, Idaho
(Reviewed by Herb Jenkins)

"Drummers and Dreamers," the story of the last of the Wanapum Indians living in the Priest Rapids area along the Columbia River, has all the sweep and surge of the mighty river which serves as its setting.

Click Relander, Yakima newspaperman, graphically traces the history of the once-proud band of Wanapums that numbered some 3,000 members at the time of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, down to the present day when less than eight members survive.

The book is written in vivid, colorful language, fast-paced and authoritative. It contains no mythical characters or fictionalized plot, but the very impact of the unfolding events pulls the reader along from the opening line to the last page. The story of creation, the ancient rites, the love of the Indian for his native land - all are told in the flowing, picture-studded language of the Red Man.

Few, if any, men are as well qualified as the author to write the story. For years he has been an intimate friend of the Wanapums and other Indians. He has helped them with business advice, written letters for them, and visited in their homes. Puck Hyah Toot, the headman of the Wanapums, honored Relander by calling him Now Tow Look, his brother, and disclosed to him the mysteries of the past so the Wanapums would not become a forgotten people. This, coupled

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with Relander's extensive study of Indian lore of the Pacific Northwest, has resulted in a well selected, carefully documented story.

Local readers will be interested to learn of the measures being taken by the Public Utility District of Grant County, builders of the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, to protect the interests of the River People. The ancient cemetery has been fenced to keep out violators and curiosity seekers. So far as possible, the picture rocks on an island which will be flooded by the Priest Rapids reservoir will be moved to safety on the river bank. Also, a Wanapum Indian will be employed during construction of the Priest Rapids Dam to make sure that his tribe's relics will be preserved.

Relander says in the book, "In all ways the Grant County Public Utility District showed a willingness to befriend the few Wanapums who had known few friends."

(The Wanapums have been very fair in their attitude toward building the Priest Rapids Dam. They said they regretted having to move their ancient meeting place but they realized that progress was inevitable, and they would not attempt in any way to halt construction of the dam. In appreciation of the cooperation of the Wanapums the upper dam has been named Wanapum.)

"Drummers and Dreamers" contains 51 photographs. Caxton Printers have produced an excellent book with an attractive binding, well arranged, with a very legible type face.

We predict an exciting evening's entertainment for any reader interested in the pageantry and drama of the Old West.