Ralph H. Jim

(Merritt Funeral Home)

WAPATO - Toppenish - Ralph H. Jim, 36, of Rt. 4, Box 4035, Wapato, died as a result of a car accident Friday night.

Mr. Jim was born in Cayuse, Ore., and had been a long time resident of the Valley. He was employed as a ranger aid at the Yakima Indian Agency, and was a member of Yakima American Legion post 133.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Beatrice H. Jim; three sons, Ralph, Jr., Raymond and Jaime Jim, all of Wapato; three daughters, Marian, Rebecca and Julynne Jim, all of Wapato; three brothers, Robert and Kiutus Jim, Jr., both of Wapato, and Russell Jim, Toppenish; five sisters, Mrs. Marie Shilow, Mrs. Myrtle Eyle, and Mrs. Mayme Smith, all of Wapato, Mrs. Tillie Lallashute, Harrah, and Mrs. Victoria Rasberry, Goldendale; his mother, Mrs. Rose Jim, Wapato; and three aunts.
TOPENISH—Ralph Jim, 36, Rt. 4, Box 4035, Wapato, was killed and Lyle J. Cloutier, 26, 506 N. First St., Topenish, seriously injure in a one-car accident three miles north of here on Highway 97 about 9 p.m. Friday.

Cloutier was taken to Central Memorial Hospital with a skull fracture and body bruises.

State troopers said the men were in a north bound car driven by Cloutier when it struck some guard posts and overturned throwing both men out and rolling over Jim. The car came to a stop in the southbound traffic lanes. The 1965 model hardtop was demolished.
WHITE SWAN—The oldest of the Yakima tribal historians have no
knowledge of when the first mid-summer encampment was held along
Toppenish Creek. They know only it was a long time ago.

The venerable, Alex Saluskin, stirred by the spring up of the
first two tepees, where they will pop up like a cluster of mushrooms,
paused a time at Fort Simcoe State Park where he is in charge of the
museum to recall early encampment days.

This year's encampment will open Saturday at 10 a.m.
and continue 10 days. Watson is chairman of the encampment.

The traditional memorial parade will open the activity. This is
when families mount horses in old equipage, if heirlooms are still
possessed, and parade them. Otis Shilo and Frank Sohappy will announce
the families represented in the memorial, when the regalia of the dead
is brought out and displayed before handed down in the family. This

Here will be some empty tepees in the big circle surrounding
the dance house and the canopy covered gaming stands, tables and
concessions. These were owned by someone who has died and after
the memorial, the tepees may be used by the family. (more)
After the parade in honor of the dead a potluck dinner will be held in the long house. All families camping at the grounds have been invited to participate and join with families just arriving at the encampment. Saluskin said there will be families from throughout the entire Northwest at the dinner.

During the remainder of the encampment there will be war dancing at night, with the first contest for boys 10 and under scheduled for Saturday night. Non-Indian tourists or non-Indian residents of the Valley are welcome to attend the war dances and other activities said Saluskin. Guests will be asked to donate to the dance contest fund.

Concessions are charged a fee and funds from their operation help defray the contests and for special police.

Saluskin recalls watching horse races just east of the encampment grounds. His is where Cecelia and some Tatus now live.

He remembers that his Chief Weyawiot Saluskin and his family had many race horses and that his father and others remained with the horses day and night.

"We didn't trust anyone when we were preparing for a race," he recalled.
second ad encampment

"Whenever any of our horses were matched with others, the announcer circled the village saying 'Saluskin's horse Chestnut has agreed to run against the black horse from Wna-pa-me, Yu-Yu-ne-nme, tomorrow evening."

"The match race was called a turn stake race. The two tribal groups lined up on each side of several starting and finish lines, about two hundred on each side. Women bet among themselves and so did the men. Saddle horses, blankets, guns, clothing were wagered. "After bets were made the horses were brought out and guarded day and night."

Saluskin recalls that George Lee and Thomas Yallup were known as the best match race riders in the Yakima country.

But there have been no horse races at encampments for many years.

"In 1904 there were people from Rock Creek, Timberline, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Colville, camped at the same location as the approaching encampment. The Whal-y-pams and the Whisians camped north of there at the next camping place. They had a platform built there and held square dances. Charley Wannasav, Enock Abraham, and Ben Olney were the fiddlers.

(more)
third ad

encampment.

"At the south side of the same site, the tepees and tent
long houses were set up. Parades and war dances were held."

Saluskin remembers that the oldest Waki as, when he was a boy,
said encampments were held the second week of July each year and
continued until the first week of August.

"Some returned to their homes and some travelled to the mountains
to the camas digging beds and to pick huckleberries.

"When they travelled they stopped at Taak, now Glenwood, and there
were other overnight camping places. They had horse races
and played palute, the stick and bone hand game."
A stipulation, in a proceeding, 154 to 32, provides that 8,176,000 acres of
ceded lands settlement, explained in detail by Paul
Niebell, claims attorney.

meeiting were required to dispense with the
proposed financial

meetings end promptly at 10:30 p.m.

Two days and part of the third, of the scheduled

were made for a recount when George Utene, chairman,

The resolution lost by a narrow margin

the following:

The president signed a resolution of a general

the Yakimas, greatest

mitigation for lands acquired by the government for

and the tribe was headed toward

under the treaty of 1855.

Yakima Indian

Tribe was headed on a long road toward

financing the Yakima.

and the government for

presented a report on

tribal

of the Yakima.

Tribe, the government for

pulp

mill and other industrial operations tied in with the Yakimas, greatest

and the government for

financing the Yakima.

and the government for

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mill and other industrial operations tied in with the Yakimas, greatest

and the government for

financing the Yakima.
land ceded by the 14 tribes and bands which became the Confederated
Yakima Indian Nation by treaty in 1855 be valued at 50 cents an
acre, as of March 8, 1859, date of ratification of the treaty. The
U.S. Senate reported the treaty making a land title with the government as
the government had allowed 3 1.2 cents an acre.

The total valuation is $4,088,000, of this amount there are

deductions of $641,300 expended by the government

for carrying out treaty terms. A 335,000 additional government

claim was eliminated for expenses of protecting, managing and selling

the tribal claim. However, since the government

extended the deduction by 10 per cent of the tribe's

from

the timber sales. Absorbed the claim.

The net judgment would be $3,446,700, approximately

half a million more than will be credited to the Yakimas when the

processing is completed.

The decision entails the Yakima and Colville tribes on

the division, approval of the stipulation by the Government

Claims Commission, and congressional approval

of an appropriation bill. Once deposited to the Court of Claims, the

money involved in $487,868, again $487,868, at 4 percent.

Decision on the Yakima-Colville division is necessary because

a portion of the ceded land involved in the claim was occupied by

a portion of the tribes making up the Colville federation, the ratio

being approximately 15 per cent Colville and 85 per cent Yakima.
Attorneys for the Colville claim that they should receive half of the money judgment.

Niebell pointed out division on a population basis would be equitable. He pointed out that a Claims Commission decision, in 1954, set the enrollment of some of the tribes making up the Colvilles, the Entiat, Wenatchee, Moses Band and Palus Indians on the Colville Reservation at 697 persons.

The gain in enrollment since then would give the Colvilles an estimated 800 to 900. The present Colville enrollment was 4,067 in 1954.

Present Yakima enrollment is 5,246, a gain of over 500 since 1954.

Based on the estimates the division would be approximately $517,005 for the Colvilles and $2,929,605 for the Yakimas.

Terms of the Congressional bill would provide disposition of the money. And the Indians have been told the government policy is opposed to individual payments in entirety. This is because payment of the entire fund in individual shares—could conceivably lay the government open to recovery suits by Indians yet unborn when the demand is made for their ancestral heritage from the treaty.
Leonard Smiskin and Joe Meninick were interpreters during the three-day General Council. Nipo Strongheart of Yakima descent, now living in Los Angeles, was asked to say grace for the Saturday night dinner.

The strongly debated resolution which would have terminated all but the Yakima language in the Yakima Park Industrial Operations, associated with timber, was presented by Elmer Olney.

Remaining on the unfinished agenda were three items, besides possible reception of the delegate convention, matters of the tribe's hunting upon reservation territory.

One is the report from the delegation to Washington, D.C., another is legislative and tribal Council reports and a third is consideration of a resolution and petition on regulations governing fishing rights.

One of the speakers opposed tribal industrial ventures, needed, some pointed out because of non-employment of Indians on their own reservation, some pointed to major obstacles.

Proponents of industrialization emphasized they were not trying to eliminate private businesses but want to develop present resources whereby the tribe may profit.
SATUS LONG HOUSE—A move of dissident Yakima Indians to amend resolutions by which the 14 member group handle tribal business continued in legal difficulties today at the second of a two-day General Council or tribal wide annual session.

But election of seven tribal councilman remained on the agenda and as such had a clearance to proceed on schedule this afternoon from George Umtuch, General Council chairman.

Upwards of 500 Yakimas packed into the Satus Long House last night for the opening session. Two hours later they were so entangled in verbal debates the 10:30 p.m. mandatory adjournment time neared without a solution. When Umtuch announced the session would continue until 11 p.m. he followed through with an explanation that any General Council Action after 10:30 p.m. would be without effect.

The oft-raised issue was the extent of authority of the Tribal Council. This is a 14-person group elected by the tribe to handle tribal business.

Dissidents, led by Louis Cloud, an announced candidate to unseat Alex Saluskin, Tribal Council Chairman, proposed an amendment which would shear the council of power.
first ad.

E.J. Wilton, who has announced that he has moved from Tacoma to Wapato and is head of the Indian Association of Washington State is another announced candidate for the Tribal Council spot held by Saluskin.

Cloud and Mrs. Della Frailey, Wapato, chairman of the Valley chapter of the Indian Association joined in pointing out that under existing Tribal Council administration Yakimas are receiving no per capita payments.

The amendment proposed by Cloud would place a limit (no sum was specified) upon expenditures or undertakings of the Tribal Council in authorizing various programs.

Robert Jim, Tribal Council secretary pointed out that under various actions demanded by dissatisfied Yakima tribesmen, the Tribe would be without a Tribal body to handle its business affairs, would become non-existent and termination would result. Repeal of acts now regulating the tribe, he pointed out, would throw the tribe back to its Treaty of 1855 status when only full blooded Yakimas were tribal members, or open membership wide open so as many as 10,000 persons of any degree of Yakima blood.

(more)
In checking rules governing elections, act repeals etc., it was reaffirmed that amendments and such actions had to be announced 30 days prior to a General Council meeting which could then be called held and would require a two-thirds vote.

So according to quorum, quorum, the General Council could before 10:30 p.m. adjournment put the issue on the agenda for a specified date. Regardless of the discussions, unless a vote for adjournment is taken and carried, the election will proceed.

Louis Cloud, chairman, and Mrs. Mary Set, vice chairman and Alex Wesley, secretary, disclosed last night their candidates for the three positions.

Cloud is one, Leonard Commissary, Tom Albert, and others. Jim Alexander, Joe Mininick, and Louie Schappy, incumbent council, are to be supported by the newly-formed group, which has announced it has no affiliation with Wilton or the Association group.

Cloud spent six minutes reading the seven page list of names attached to the petition of his group asking that the Tribal Council be shorn of power. He announced there were over 150 names on the list.

(more)
third ad...

One test of voting strength came early last night when the
for against
Council voted 58 to 235 on a motion by Tullie Meacham Tulle to
hold an election for a vice chairman of the General Council.

By the vote the General Council approved the retention of
Kelly Jeneé Tanewash, incumbent.

Alex Wesley, secretary of the newly formed group was that group's
announced candidate for the position. But the total vote was far short
of the count of those in the long house entitled to vote.

Another issue raised last night was whether construction
of a $28,000,000 $98,000 community building and gymnasium at
Toppenish. The Tribal Council, by resolution, had approved $24,500
$24,500 in tribal funds to augment a $73,500 works program.

A bid call has been issued for construction of the long house.

Mrs. Frailey pointed to use of tribal funds in this manner as
contributing to depriving Yakimas of
per capita payments.

Lawrence Goudy declared that an estimated $4 million
claim the government is preparing to pay has been budgeted and
will be budgeted and spent by Tribal Council action unless
power is taken from the council.
Editor: The Yakima Herald and Republic 12/11/63

This is a statement of facts from the Yakima Indian Nation to explain the Treaty of June 9, 1855, our religion and our long houses. Our Treaty superceded any other laws created by the white settlers.

The Yakima Indians reserved for themselves certain portions of their land for their generations to come. This land became the Yakima Indian Reservation and was reserved forever, or "as long as the river flowed into the ocean, the run rose in the east and set in the west." The last witness to the Treaty was the white mountain (Mt. Rainier Adams).

We were promised that we would not molest the Yakima Indian Nation with its abundant food which is used for thanksgiving services in respect to our Creator and the Creator of this universe.

We also reserved water, salmon, game, roots and berries, which had been given to us by the Creator.

The Yakima Indian Long Houses are religious places. These long houses existed since time immemorial and now built in more modern ways for present and future use and to serve religious needs of our people as well as community and social needs of the Yakimas.

When Yakima Indians in past days went to worship horseback, afoot or by other method of traveling to their long houses, they had names
for each day of seven days in the order of each week.

The long houses were used for Sunday services; for Communion or Thanksgiving each spring of the year and other times; dinner for new comers or birthdays, marriages, new membership and official councils. They were used for death rituals usually lasting three days and for dinners in honor of soldiers who had died in battle for their country. There were those who died for our present Yakima Indian Reservation and gave their lives. And other tribes came to join in our long house meetings. In respect.

Our ancestors within the ceded area have buried their dead in the same manner of those who lived along their respective fishing areas. We believe these people will come alive on the judgment day to be caught up with their living Creator according to His promised return.

Now, if the people of the state of Washington will not recognize our religion along with the gift of our people of over 10,000,000 acres of virgin lands to these white settlers, then I am at loss what to think. In the minutes of our Treaty, please note the words, "the garden." These meant the food for which we give thanks to our Living Creator each spring in our Yakima Indian Nation's long houses. And in these long houses, prophets brought messages and new sons.
These sons are still predominate in our live and services and councils.

A faith as big as a mustard seed is a big faith.

Martin Hannigan

P.O. Box 2,

Harrah, Wash.
WAPATO—The hard core of the Yakima Indian Nation withstood a persistent three-day attack clearly intended to demobilize the Yakima Tribal Council. And the special tribal wise or General Council ended in victory for tribalism.

An agenda, geared to scalp the Tribal Council of powers invested during past years with few exceptions reached a climax minutes before end of the special session by a vote of 162 for and 153 against a resolution. A majority vote is required for such an action.

The gathering at which 428 Yakima tribesmen were packed into the Wapato Long House turned into a renewed long standing inter-tribal controversy between E.J. Wilton, Tacoma, leader of off the Reservation Indians. And it sparked anew the Yakima Tribe's conflict with Congressman Thor Tollefson, Tacoma Republican who March 1 introduced legislation for termination of the Yakima Tribe. Previous legislation introduced by Tollefson, which Yakima leadership has pointed out as being detrimental to the Yakimas has been defeated.
The statements drew a quick retort from Alex Saluskin, chairman of the Yakima Tribal Council.

He denied that the Tollefson bill was favored by those connected with the Tribal Council.
Saluskin, at one time during the fast-paced discussion asked that persons "who long have been stabbing me in behind my back," present affidavits of their accusations, he would prove them wrong.

Robert Jim, Tribal Council secretary categorically refuted arguments advanced by proponents of the proposal and another speaker, who turned back advanced arguments was Stanley Smartlowit and Mrs. Martin Hannigan.

Tieo, a neutral in the controversy asked that the same respect be shown to the tribe's duly elected governing officers as is shown by opposing party members to the President after an election or the respect shown by soldiers for officers in uniform.