

[Tomalwash]

Click Relander

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Feb. 16, 1955

Mrs. Della Urquhart, director,
Department of Licenses,
Olympia, Wash.

Dear Director:

I am writing to you directly, regarding a communication sent via registered mail Operator's Division Case No. SR 62552 to Johnny Tomalwash, Box 89, Wapato, Washington.

Mr. Tomalwash, although he has been ill, came to Yakima today to see me concerning this letter. It was necessary for him to have it translated for him by persons with whom he deals at Wapato and was somewhat embarrassing. In fact it was more than embarrassing.

He informs me that to his knowledge the only citation given him was the one mentioned ... "Further on January 13, 1955 you were issued an arrest ticket for running a red light, at which time you were driving while license denied, therefore the Director of Licenses has denied your driving privilege for one year from January 13, 1955..."

I will make a special point of checking records at the Yakima sheriff's office tomorrow when it is open for that purpose.

Meanwhile I would appreciate it if you would make a re-check of this case and see if you have it correct. I am satisfied that a grievous error has been made.

If I find that Mr. Tomalwash has advised me adversely concerning the matter, I shall notify you immediately and extend my apologies.

If it is found that there has been an error made on the part of The Department a very clear letter to that effect is respectfully requested to help remove some of the embarrassment that has been caused him.

And if I find that Mr. Tomalwash has advised me wrong, I shall personally call upon him and see that the license is returned, immediately, as requested. It is my opinion that there is a serious case of mistaken identify which may require an investigation and fingerprinting to clarify.

It happens that he is one of a small band of Wanapum Indians, last year denied his traditional and pre-white occupancy of a fishery on the Yakima river, by the State Department of Fisheries, and now whose ancient home at Priest Rapids Dam site is further endangered. He and his "brothers" have been most cooperative so far regarding dam sites, but I cannot say how much longer this will continue if he is held up to ridicule and embarrassment.

His license number is 766417.

Sincerely,
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Now Tow Look
Historian, called "Brother" by
Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids

Yakima Valley Museum, Inc.
Board Member

Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society
Research Chairman

Historical Sites Advisory Committee,
Yakima District

Washington State Historical Society

Academy of California Church History
American Name Society
American Studies Association
Southwest Museum, Los Angeles
Tulare County Historical Society, Visalia, Calif.