

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Sept. 10, 1954

Department of Justice,  
Room 2129 Dept. of Justice Building,  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Re: Yakima Claims Case No. 160

Dear Sir:

I am sending an informative letter that may be of use to The Department relative not only to Case No. 160 but possibly to others, because the people are so "inter-mingled."

During a vacation trip beginning August 21 and continuing through Sept. 6, I spent considerable time at Celilo, The Dalles and Hood River in Oregon; LaPush, an Indian settlement on the Coast of Washington, and Neah Bay, another Indian settlement, as well as Olympia, state capital.

At the Oregon settlements contacts, devoid of rationalization or prejudice were with people of similarity to the Wanapum band of non-treaty Indians at Priest Rapids. At the other places I obtained a clearer insight into Indian psychology, attitudes, material and non-material culture and anatomical structure as contrasted with typical tribes of those with whom I am already familiar, and of whom I have made sculptures.

<sup>none</sup>  
In ~~xxx~~ of my Indian contacts did I discuss Indian claimsmatters, nor was the subject broached more than on one occasion. I made some field notes and concentrated on completing two sculptures. One subject was Tommy Thompson of Celilo, the Mid-Columbia "chief" who broached the subject of claims and who seems growingly embittered at the attitude of cognate tribes. The other sculpture was of Alice (Slim Jim) Charley

8

of Hood River, who tells me she believes she is over 90 and is undoubtedly the last pure blooded Hood River or Dog River Indian now living. Her age is not a matter of record but is deduced by her knowledge of the first white settlers she recalls when she was a girl.

Both of my subjects impressed me as to their similarity with the Wanapums, far distant along the Columbia River, ie: their moral rights along the Columbia now being excluded or claimed by the treaty Indians whose ancestors did not occupy land on the south side of the Columbia River in Oregon except in incidental cases, yet who now base various claims on fisheries there now located.

Like the Wanapums they speak a dialect of the language commonly used by the Yakimas; and like the Wanapums some of their people intermarried with the Yakimas but are not now nor have they been on friendly terms with them, although circumstances of intercourse frequently compell them to come together at social meetings, burials, etc.

The case of Alice may or may not typify numerous cases fringing on the Yakima Reservation to the south and southwest. I understand there are others like her living up near Husum. The "Rock Creek" people, living north of the Columbia River to the east of the reservation, have much in common. I recall that at one time during the preparation of the Yakima claims and in the early stages of negotiations regarding the Celilo fishery, this Rock Creek group considered withdrawing from the Yakima Nation and filing separate claims, but they did not. Thomas Yallup, a Yakima tribal councilman was one of this group and his father, "Chief" William Yallup was "head" man living at Rock Creek where he was annual host at one of the root feasts.

In the case of people like Alice, they have never lived upon the reservation but their husbands or wives were enrolled upon the reservation, or they held public domain land. When her husband died she was left to shift for herself. But now that she is growing



old, and has consistently pressed for a share of her husband's estate, listed as worth \$20,000 in a probate just issued by the Indian Bureau office at Portland, Ore., a Yakima whose wife was related to her husband came to see her for the first time, calling her "Aunt Alice." Yet for years, and now, she is destitute and without help of "kinfolk by marriage."

There is a vague indication in the remarks dropped that wives of Yakimas, who did not live on the reservation, can not claim the land of their husbands upon his death and that this land reverts to the tribe, by tribal rules. And I suspect this is the case in considering "inheritance of fishing stations."

Near Hood River I checked into source material relating to The Dalles and the Indians in that area. I find that much material is potentially available and it is possible that things may work out so it could be drawn upon if there is necessity to do so. This would be in event of litigation over the Celilo fishery, in which the plaintiffs would seek to exclude all but one tribe from sharing in possible benefits.

This repository material includes much information left by Col. Lang, who was assigned to The Dalles in years past, including a copy perhaps of the famous Lang report which I have been promised on loan. This Lang report I remember hearing, was sought for extensively by the Yakimas in the pursuance of their fishery case, and may or may not have been found ~~known~~ by them on file in some department. I understand it includes a survey requested made by Lang for the Department, and covers Indian bands and locations along The Dalles and at Celilo, especially on the Washington side of the river.

Lang, whose family was in Indian service perhaps as early as the '40's was encouraged to come to the Oregon country and The Dalles region in particular by Senator Nesmith. He engaged in sheep raising, merchandising and other activities for many years. The ~~more~~ extensive



file of his writings, ledgers and correspondence was retained and enlarged upon by his two unmarried daughters. The last of them died about a year and one-half ago.

The entire Lang collection, amounting to several tons of furniture, relics, documents, photographs etc. was acquired by one individual.

This individual was Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKeown, ~~she~~ with whom I have strong friendly relations, and who has interceded in behalf of Tommy Thompson, seeking compensation and relief for Tommy and his people. I believe she would be agreeable, if it develops to that, to use some of this material to resist unjust claims that may be made by the Yakimas, if the rights of the commonly known Mid-Columbias are ignored by the Yakimas. She has denied access of various noted authors, universities, etc. even to her home because she is guarding it closely, although she did sell, for what she paid for them, a set of furniture used by Gov. Isaac Stevens. This was sold to the Washington State Museum. She herself wishes to utilize it in fictionized writing and historical novels, as she is now completing her fourth book for MacMillan that will finish an Alaskan source series. Much of the material is still virtually ~~unseen~~ uninspected even by her and is still in trunks and boxes and I noted one large box of old glass plate photo negatives, which she has not even gone through. I saw old Department and self-published books and pamphlets I never knew to exist, even with the benefit of extensive bibliographic background in the Americana field.

I suspected the existence of this vast amount of letters concerning Lang and was privileged to spend three days as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. McKeown, while I sculptured the last living Dog River woman, or Alice by day and inspected rare material until midnight or later and at odd times.

Alice had a fair knowledge of English and with some Indian words I knew to encourage her to friendliness, she warmed rapidly and was



able to give me some new insights on the Oregon and Washington side of the river around Hood River and Cascades, about which far less is known I believe than The Dalles-Deschutes region, upstream.

I was stumped at first by Alice's use of "Yakima" dialect and words but when she thoroughly warmed she gave me the Old Dog River words. She told me that her husband, the Yakima, beat her when she talked in her own language and it became almost compulsory for her to speak that only. Then, as though determined to be grimly avenged, she would give me the proper word in her tongue and compare it with the Yakima!

She is a direct descendant of chiefs and head men who figured in the Treaty negotiations between Joel Palmer and the Middle Oregon Tribes, explained the difference in preserving fish at that location with higher on the river and could define fairly well the Klickitat boundary, cross-river intercourse etc.

Importantly to me, the sculpture provided an opportunity for structural comparison.

At Olympia I examined uncatalogued and unclassified material in the state archives, finding only a scattering amount of possible slight value in material there. But here is much loose material, boxed, and yet unclassified and it is doubtful that this will be done for years to come.

One example: I noticed in a packing box of unfiled material a packet of 200 to 300 pps of letters, 200 communications, maps, reports etc. known as the Palouse Project. This related to correspondence and ~~prepar~~ exploratory preparations to construct an irrigation project in the Palouse country of Eastern Washington some 35 years ago; but the idea was abandoned. Time did not permit an evaluation, but it is possible that this may contain information that deals with land values, population, inhabitants etc. and would be relevant to the Palouse claims case [No. 222].



At Neah Bay , where Makah Day celebration was under way, I had the exceptional opportunity of studying physical characteristics, from a sculptor's standpoint, of a variety of Coast Indians, thus enriching and expanding my knowledge and ability along that line. I found I had no difficulty in picking out Indians who were "visitors" from British Columbia, or the interior of regions along the Northwest Coast and in instances, could even determine the fact that the man or woman was part of one certain tribe and part another, or part white.

The coast people are proud of their progress in civilization, in contrast to the interior Indians, yet there is the enevitable old-timer who clings to the old ways. Some of these declined to attend the celebration and I met a couple of them whounburdened themselves to me while the celebration was in full headway in another part of the settlement.

I saw no ethnologists, anthropologists or graduate students in attendance.

Such contacts enable me to scan microfilm dealing with the Oregon and Washington superintendencies with a keener insight and a wider perspective, and bears out my belief that the various claims are indeed overlapped and interwoven.

In event of litigation of the Celilo fishery, I believe a few points I picked up and have suggested here, will enable the Department or its field representatives to get more quickly to the core of vital facts, and at less expense and time to The Department.

I also feel that I may now revive typescript material already taken from the Oregon Superintendency thus far, with a deeper insight as relates to the Nanapums and others living down the river. This will be done shortly and forwarded. If the unscanned microfilm are required by Dr. V. more rapidly than I work through them, they will be returned, immediately as required.

Sincerely

Click Relander