

[Luce Treaty]

Mr. Charles F. Luce,
Tuttle & Luce,
Denny Building, Walla Walla

Jan. 18, 1956

Dear Mr. Luce:

One of the Snake River women, an enrolled Yakima, was in yesterday. So I am writing to you for her.

She is Annie Jim of General Delivery, Wapato. It may be she has something, and maybe not, although I told her that she should write to her uncle and see what light he can cast on the situation.

The situation: Fishhook Jim, Walla Walla no. 3213 seems to have obtained a fee patent along the Snake River at the site of Ice Harbor Dam. This was a grandfather of Annie Jim. This was a homestead, a regular citizen homestead, and she says it was on both sides of the river.

There were several people's names on this. There was a fire and only the "seal" was left. It was sent in to Spokane and a new paper came with names in this order Fishhook Jim, Thomas Jim (now dead) Annie Jim (an aunt) now dead, Agnes Jim (dead) an uncle, Harry Jim, who now lives at Nespelalem.

Harry Jim is the uncle I told her she should write to. The fact that she hasn't communicated with Harry Jim concerning this leaves me a little dubious, because Annie, like many others, have little understanding of laws etc.

It seems that this place went idle, excepting during fishing times in later years.

Annie says now that the place is owned by a white man named Brown. She has no idea how he obtained it. I suggested perhaps Harry sold it years ago. She doesn't know. She wonders if a look at the title records will show. She is writing to her uncle, although I doubt it, since she is not one to write, always comes in.

Seems too some Indians have told her it is worth a million dollars now! I put her straight on that.

But it just might be that there is something shady in the past. Perhaps a look at the records would show, if you are interested. Annie said she could bring an old woman down to talk with you if things look like she should. She said you could write her at General Delivery, Wapato.

In my forthcoming book, which could have been out now but I still considered it better to wait until the PR work got under way,

and besides, dealers advised that it would only lay idle in the summer and die before the Christmas rush, I recall getting into Fishhook Jimmy.

He went into Walla Walla with one of Dan Lyons sons to get the court to stop grave digging at the place where Ice Harbor Dam is to be built. They were unsuccessful. So I assume that the next thing was done--at least Annie and others told me that long ago, the land was homesteaded. Fish Hook Jimmy lived there to "protect" the graveyard until he died. The rest went off onto the various reservations.

Annie hasn't too good a reputation among my Indian friends. By that I don't mean she is trying to put something over. She is serious, but just very misinformed. But, perhaps as I said, you may be interested in looking at the records that would show how, when etc. "Brown" acquired the homestead.

The book publication date was set for Oct. 6. It will be out a month before but perhaps not on sale. Meanwhile I have been lined up for some 25 to 30 appearances, including one at Walla Walla, and maybe a speech or so around there. One of the Indians will be along with me. So we will get a chance to deliver to you, personally, your book.

Hope all is going well with you. Our next project in the Yakima Valley is the Fort Simcoe centennial, actually Aug. 8, but to be observed Aug. 12 with dedication of Fort Simcoe State Park.

Also, the Yakimas are preparing for the Department of Interior hearings, yet to be set, but to be held in the Valley, Seattle and Tacoma, to substantiate their claim that the tribal election was proper. The Commissioner is recommending a secretarial election which the tribe is resisting and which the "blue eyed" and "red headed" Indians are seeking in order to presumably obtain control of tribal affairs. Quite a battle and of course, you know where you can find me.

Annie went to the tribal office and apparently talked to Kiutus Jim, who has been in charge of enrollment and other tribal duties. So it is my assumption that Kiutus or Ki didn't place too much importance to her belief that the Jims have some sort of a thin claim, at Ice Harbor. But I suppose the record would show.

kind regards

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