

# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

February 17, 1953

Mr. Click Relander  
Route 3, Box 146  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

I wish to thank you for your letters. I have read them with great interest and they have given me greater insight into the picture than anything else I have found to date.

To give you a little background of my picture, this action against the Government was brought under the Act of Congress of August 13, 1946, and refers back to the Act of February 20, 1929 wherein Congress authorized the institution of suits in the Court of Claims against the Government by the Nez Perce Tribe in accordance with the provisions of said Act.

The Indians state in their claim that "At the time of the advent of the white man into their lands, and from time immemorial, the Nez Perce Tribe exclusively owned and occupied certain lands now contained in the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The boundaries of these lands of the Nez Perce Tribe were known and identified by natural landmarks. The Nez Perce Tribe lived upon and used every part of these lands as far back as human habitation upon these lands has been traced. In their search for sustenance, the members of the Nez Perce Tribe roamed over and used every portion of these lands to the exclusion of other Indian Tribes. No Indians other than members of the Nez Perce Tribe ever entered upon these lands, except temporarily for friendly intercourse with the Nez Perce Tribe or upon occasional raiding parties."

Enclosed is a copy of the description of the lands ceded to the Government.

Further along in the outline of the claim, it is stated that "as a result of the trespass upon these lands of the Nez Perce Tribe, valuable deposits of gold were discovered on said land of the Nez Perce Tribe in the fall of 1860. Thereupon, miners and settlers in large numbers unlawfully, over the protest of the Nez Perce Tribe, came upon the lands of the Nez Perce Tribe."

It is further claimed that from 1860, for many years, gold was taken from the territory of the Nez Perce Tribe and that during these years gold in value in excess of \$50,000,000 was in this manner unlawfully removed.

Now, it will be part of my duty to ascertain whether their first statement that they use all of this land to the exclusion of other Indians is a fact. It is my opinion that there may be some overlapping, especially by the Cayuse Indians or Oregon tribes which might have claimed part of the Oregon State land.

Mr. Click Relander 2-17-53  
Route 3, Box 146  
Yakima, Wash.

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It will also be necessary for me to investigate their claim for gold discovery. Some authorities, I understand, show the first gold discovery in the territory which is now in the State of Oregon. Others maintain the first gold was prospected for in the Salmon River or Clear Water River of Idaho. I will need to know where gold was discovered, on what date, and how much actual mining was performed by June 9, 1863, also how many miners or prospectors were in the Nez Perce Territory by 1863.

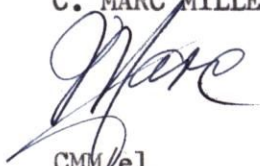
I believe I will soon have some maps which were prepared in the 1860's which would give us pretty good information as to location.

I am just beginning to receive enough information to know where I am heading in this appraisal job. As soon as I complete some necessary work here in Seattle, I will be driving to Walla Walla and will drop in to see you in Yakima. We will further discuss the old Palouse graveyard and maybe I can be of assistance in making it available.

With best regards to both you and Dean,

Yours very truly,

C. MARC MILLER



CMM/el  
encl.



NEZ PERCE LANDS

"... commencing where the Mon-ha-na-she or southern tributary of the Palouse River flows from the spurs of the Bitter Root Mountains; thence down said tributary to the mouth of the Tin-nat-pan-up Creek, thence southerly to the crossing of the Snake River ten miles below the mouth of the Al-po-wa-wi River; thence to the source of the Al-po-wa-wi River in the Blue Ridge Mountains; thence to the crossing of the Grand Ronde River, midway between the Grand Ronde and the mouth of the Woll-low-how River; thence along the divide between the waters of the Woll-low-how and Powder Rivers; thence to the crossing of the Snake River fifteen miles below the mouth of the Powder River; thence to the Salmon River above the crossing; thence by the spurs of the Bitter Root Mountains to the place of beginning."



# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

February 25, 1953

Mr. Click Relander  
Route 3, Box 146  
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Click:

I have again been delayed in my trip to Eastern Washington, this because of sickness in the family, and I do not expect to get to Yakima until after the middle of next week. It depends upon how fast Ruth recovers after returning from the hospital.

I am spending my time on some appraisal work and reading as much as I can of the Nez Perce history.

With best regards,

C. MARC MILLER



CMM/el

# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

April 10, 1953

Mr. Click Relander  
Route 3, Box 146  
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Click:

I have been intending to write you every since returning to Seattle. I have waited, however, until I have received the prints of the negatives I borrowed from you. I received them last Saturday and found them to be very excellent pictures. I am taking most of them to Washington, D.C. with me, principally to show the type of country involved in the appraisal.

I wish you to know that I greatly appreciate your assistance and advice in these matters. Your letters and material have been of great help and I wish to do something to assist you in your research work.

I am leaving tomorrow morning for Washington, D.C., where I expect to spend the next two weeks in checking available material in the different agencies there. I will be staying at the Raleigh Hotel and, if there is any information which I could secure for you, or any source of information which you feel I should check, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

As soon as I return from Washington, I will call upon you to return your material and I would like at that time to do something to compensate you for the research work. Perhaps that burial ground is the answer. In any event, I will soon know more about my problems and when I return will know more definitely the matters involved.

With very best regards,

Yours truly,

C. MARC MILLER



CMM/el



# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

C O  
P Y

August 18, 1953

Mr. Norman Fuller  
Administration Building  
Richland, Washington

Dear Norm:

As you probably know, I have been doing some work with the Department of Justice on Indian claims in the Northwest. Last week there was a hearing in Yakima before one of the Indian claims commissioners, in which the Priest Rapids Indians were very helpful to the Department of Justice in attempting to limit the claims of the Yakima Indians.

You of course know of these two leaders of the Priest Rapids Indians, principally Puk Hiah Toot (Johnny Buck) and To Mal A Wash. After the trials, these two men through an interpreter asked me if they could not go in and view their old burial grounds in the Hanford area as they remembered that I had had a discussion on the matter with Colonel Mathias at the time of the acquisition of the Hanford area. At that time, Colonel Mathias promised these Indians they would always be allowed permission to go in, not only to the burial grounds but the fishing grounds, but they would be allowed there only under escort. At that time, Johnny Buck was given a pass to get into the area. I have been advised that recently the passes were not renewed and the Indians have not been allowed to visit their grounds.

I have promised these two Indians that I would write you because of my background in the picture and ask if something could not be done to satisfy these two old men, especially since they have been always friendly towards the Government and have always cooperated in surrendering whatever land was necessary without making demands upon our Government for payment and services. Of all the Indians that I have dealt with, these Indians are the most deserving. They have wondered if it would not be possible to have them go with one of your men to stake out the burial grounds so that the location will not be lost upon their death.

These men are very religious men, adhering strictly to their old Indian traditions and religion which has been referred to as the "Dreamer" religion. To them the burial ground of their ancestors is very dear.

I would appreciate anything that you could do for them, and if there is anything you desire as to my remembrance of the old understanding between the Indians and Colonel Mathias, I would be glad to furnish same. I would also appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

With best personal regards,

C. MARC MILLER



CC. Mr. Click Relander, c/o Yakima Republic

*Pluton film works*

*World War II*



Click

Will you advise the Priest Rapids  
Indians of the inclosed letter.

If you can let me know  
when they wish to go into the  
area I'll write Fuller & have  
Gilbert meet them.

Best regards

W. F. R.



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

CR:NGF

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

HANFORD OPERATIONS OFFICE  
September 20, 1953  
P. O. BOX 550  
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

Mr. C. Marc Miller  
c/o Pacific Northwest Land Company  
Fourth and Pike Building  
Seattle 1, Washington

Subject: INSPECTION OF INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS

Dear Mr. Miller:

Our Security Division has given consent to Johnny Buck and To Mal A Wash, of the Priest Rapids Tribe, going into the plant area to mark the location of Indian burial grounds, as requested in your letter of August 18, 1953. Since the Indians probably will be returning to Priest Rapids soon, to remain for the winter, arrangements for taking them into the area can be made by Ralph Gilbert getting in direct touch with them.

To avoid great disappointment to these men, it might be well for you to warn them that some of the graves may have been destroyed because we did not know of their location at the time of construction of certain plant facilities. We would appreciate knowing where the remaining burial grounds are located, however, so that they can be respected in the future. We will make careful record of their location.

If you can get word to us as to the approximate time the men will wish to go into the plant area, Ralph Gilbert will get in touch with them and will make all necessary arrangements for passes, etc., and will escort them on the trip.

Very truly yours,

*Norm*

Norman G. Fuller, Chief  
Real Estate Branch  
Community Management Division



# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

November 12, 1953

Mr. Click Relander  
Yakima Daily Republic  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

The report I referred to on the Yakima Indian Reservation is that of F. X. Salzman, chairman of the Yakima Appraisal Commission, especially the letter of June 30th, 1910 addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have a photostatic copy of this report with the map attached.

On Page 5 of said letter the first paragraph states: "The map and all schedules of land and timber accompanied or attached to this report are made a part hereof."

This report included an appraisal of lands in Townships 6, 7 and 8, Ranges 13, 14 and 15, in which areas were located many homesteads. I am wondering if a copy of the appraisals of each section are in the Agency file? That part of the report has been taken from the records in Washington and we have been unable to secure the list of land covered by the appraisal which would include the description of individual tracts. I am wondering if you could find out whether they are available at the Agency? If so, I would like to make a trip over and make an inspection to take what notes from them are necessary.

I assume this report on the land would be quite lengthy. Otherwise, I would like to have a copy of same and would be glad to pay the expense of securing it.

Any advice or assistance you might give me in locating this part of the 1910 Commission report will be greatly appreciated.

Awaiting your advice,

Yours very truly,

C. MARC MILLER

CMM/el



# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

March 16, 1954

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 North 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click

I have neglected to write to you for some time, but I have thought of you many times, and although I have driven through Yakima, it would be mostly on weekends or in the evening, and I would not have anything particularly to bother you about.

My Nez Perce appraisal has been assembled and a preliminary draft sent to Washington. I expect to have their comments and suggestions any day, and will then have the report completed and corrected. That job will then be finished except for the matter of testifying before the Congressional committee in Washington.

As to the Yakima matter, I have almost completed my investigation and have sent a preliminary report to the Department, asking their advice as to the date of the appraisal. As you probably know, the present report on the Yakima area is only for the land within the western extension of the reservation, which was erroneously patented. The question arises as to whether the Indians should be paid for the land on the date of the individual patents, which will require making appraisals from 1888 to 1925, or whether a mean year can be agreed upon and all valuation placed at that time. The transfer of land in the reservation shows quite an interesting history of that country. When I finish this report you may be interested in some of the information. I have a list of all of the patents issued within the reservation.

Judging from the location of the earliest patents, I am wondering whether they were actually for homesteads or whether they were for way houses on the trail or road. For instance, the few earliest patents within the reservation were in Klickitat County almost on the county boundary line at a point where the old maps indicate a road over the Simcoe Mountains. Since this would be the most direct



route from the south to Fort Simcoe, I am wondering if there is any information available to show how the people traveled from The Dalles to Fort Simcoe? Did they cross the Simcoe Mountains north of Goldendale or did they go around the mountains near the location of the present road? If you have any information on this I would appreciate it. I can remember reading Judge Kuykendall's report of his family coming from Oregon, and he could probably answer my question if you do not know. It is not too important so don't spend much time on it. It would be just incidental to my investigation.

I was glad to receive your articles from the paper, and they were read with much interest in my office. I have heard nothing regarding the Priest Rapids Indians. As you remember, I secured the permission from the Atomic Energy Commission for Johnny Buck and Tu-ma-la-wash to inspect their old burial grounds and mark them. They seemed quite anxious to have that permission and I hope they have been able to arrange to do so. I was advised by the Hanford authorities that they would be glad to know the location, as they would then attempt to preserve them and would also fence them. If this has not been done I think for historical reasons it should be pushed. If the trip has not already been made, I would certainly like to go with them. I know I could get clearance to accompany the party from the Atomic Commission.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours

C. MARC MILLER



CMM vd



# The Pacific Northwest Land Company

FOURTH AND PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASH.

C. MARC MILLER  
ARTHUR D. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE SENECA 5323

June 21, 1954

Mr. Click Relander  
Yakima Herald  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click

I delayed writing to you after receipt of your letter of June 13th, until I had a meeting with Mr. Donald H. Clark. Both Mr. Ramsey and I had a nice long visit with Mr. Clark at his home yesterday. Today I received your letter with enclosures regarding Cedar Valley and the Toppenish Indian meeting on the 3rd of July.

Your suggestion to contact Mr. Clark was certainly a good one, as we did receive a great deal of information from him. He has a collection of letters from old pioneers in Cedar Valley, which gave us a great deal of information usable in our report. It appears that there were two colonies established, one an early Baptist colony starting in 1882. This group settled around the Klickitat area of Cedar Valley. A little later a colony of Polish people was established, who settled in the northpart of Cedar Valley in Township 7, North, Range 14 East. This Polish group also established a lumber mill. It appears that most of the Polish people left the area before proving up on their homesteads.

It appears that many of the homesteaders filed on adjoining tracts of land under the Timber and Stone Act so that they could control 320 acres of ground. They certainly did not, at that early date, acquire the land for the timber.

Our investigation convinces us that the timber and stone entries, which were made on the land around Signal Peak, were, as you suspected, for a gold speculation rather than for the timber. I believe that I am now in a position to complete my appraisal on these Yakima properties.

As to your inquiry regarding value of land along Priest Rapids, I am wondering whether you actually intend to inquire about the Priest Rapids area or about land which would be higher up the river, above any possible flooding from the Priest Rapids Dam. As you probably know, the raw land along that stretch of the Columbia River has been



of very low value. It has been unfortunate that so many of the property owners in the Yakima Artillery Range area have been successful in establishing exorbitant prices for their land in many of the condemnation cases. I will give your inquiry some additional thought to see if I can come up with an answer for the location for the Priest Rapids Indians. You of course realize that the Government owns a great deal of land in the Grant County area, which would be across the river from their present site, and this may be objectionable to them. The Bureau of Reclamation have followed the practice of acquiring every bit of the land in that area which they could, and consequently they own miles of river frontage from the old town of Wahluke to the flat above Beverly. That Beverly site would be a very desirable location if it would be acceptable to the Indians. I know that the Bureau acquired this land at less than \$15.00 per acre. There will probably be some of that land above the flood reservoir of the proposed Priest Rapids Dam.

As to land on the west side of the river, there are several tracts for sale. I am enclosing for your information a listing of a ranch there which belongs to a Mr. Creelman. His nephew, Mr. Getty is operating the property, if you care to stop there and talk with him. You will note that there is 1357 acres of land in this ownership, so it is quite a large block of land, probably much more than the Indians want. It may be possible, however, to acquire a part of the ownership for their purpose.

As you probably know, Brown Brothers, who used to live at Priest Rapids on the farm just below the Vantage Bridge, are very friendly with the Indians and may be willing to dispose of a part of their lower land for the use of those Indians. On my next trip to Yakima I would certainly like to talk with you further about this, and assist in any way in acquiring a site for them.

I can't help but wonder what action was taken by the Corps of Engineers on giving a site from the Government ownership, as I had extended a little pressure along through channels of the Army, and had hoped to accomplish something there. I do know that Mr.



Mr. Relander - 6/21/54

Page Three

Stingley made a survey and proposal for the site, and I believe the land value for the area considered was somewhere between \$15.00 and \$20.00 per acre. The true value of that land, in my opinion, should be closer to \$7.00 or \$8.00 per acre.

With best personal regards, and thanking you again for the assistance you have so willingly given.

Yours very truly

  
C. MARC MILLER

CMM vd



Broedman

Belly on ranch

COLUMBIA RIVER WATERFRONT RANCH

1357 acres with 2 miles frontage on the Columbia River. Location 5 miles south of Vantage and the Vantage Bridge over the Columbia River.

Legal description: All of Section 5 west of Columbia River (432.8 acres);  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 7 (160 acres);  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 8 (160 acres); all of Sec. 17 West of Columbia River (444.5 acres);  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 18, all in Township 16 North, Range 23 East W.M. (160 acres), Kittitas County, Washington.

Over 200 acres cleared and ready to sow, 1200 lbs. clover and alfalfa seed on hand to plant. At least 800 acres can be irrigated with a pump lift of not to exceed 50 feet above the Columbia River. 300 acres of extra good soil for the growing of fine corn, that will sell for Chicago market price, plus freight charges.

Improvements: 4-room house, shop, machine shop and corral, mostly in Section 18. Johnson Creek flows through ranch and empties into the Columbia River.

Irrigation water is pumped from the Columbia River with a powerful Diesel engine and pump. Water rights in the Columbia River are being obtained, they are assured at this writing. Hydromatic ram and water tank.

Equipment: Caterpillar Diesel new last year, cost \$6000. Pump 8200 gallon. John Deere and Ferguson tractors. Large plow for sagebrush. Land leveler. Harrow, mowers, small tools, etc., all included.

Value \$50,000, subject to offer.

Taxes less than \$100.00. Property all free and clear.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LAND COMPANY  
524 Fourth & Pike Building  
Seattle 1, Washington  
Se 5323



**C. MARC MILLER & ASSOCIATES**

REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS  
501 FOURTH & PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASHINGTON  
SENECA 5323

November 21, 1955

Mr. Click Relander  
Yakima Daily Republic  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click

I have delayed writing in reply to your recent letter, expecting that I would have the opportunity to call on you while in Yakima. I must confess that I have been in Yakima several times and had good intentions, but Ron Hull of the Department of Justice has kept me so tied up in my work that I have been unable to see you.

I greatly appreciate the copy of the Centennial you sent me, and I have read it with a great deal of interest. In fact I have re-read several parts of it many times.

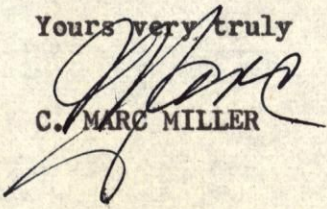
As to your new book, "Drummers and Dreamers", I wish you a great deal of success. I know it will be a very interesting book to read and I look forward to receiving it. I don't know which way you wish me to order them, but I wish to have five copies. You may place the order for me wherever you wish and I will send you a check for them. I note what you say about having my copy signed and an "X" or a thumb print of Johnny Buck. I would greatly appreciate that. I wish I had had a picture taken with him when he was in his ceremonial dress at the time I saw him in Yakima. It would be something for me to have in my Indian collection.

I am leaving Seattle next Monday to fly to Washington, D. C. to consult with the attorneys for the Department of Justice on the appraisal of the Coeur d' Alene Reservation. It is possible that I will be given the assignment to appraise the land which they ceded to the government, and although I am not certain, I think the date is approximately 1885. If I do have this assignment I will call on you and discuss the problems with you.

Thanking you again for your letter and the copy of the Treaty Centennial, and I look forward to seeing you soon. If you do come to Seattle, Stub Ramsey and I look forward to seeing you.

With best regards to you and the Wanapums.

Yours very truly

  
C. MARC MILLER

CMM vd



**C. MARC MILLER & ASSOCIATES**

REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS  
501 FOURTH & PIKE BUILDING  
SEATTLE 1, WASHINGTON  
SENECA 5323

May 31, 1956

Mr. Click Relander  
Yakima Daily Republican  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click

I was sorry to have missed you on your recent trip to Seattle. I did have many things I would like to have discussed with you regarding the Indian matters.

I have just this week finished my appraisal of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, and it is being printed by the Craftsman's Press here in Seattle. I leave here Saturday morning and fly to Washington. The Coeur d'Alene case is set to start at 10:00 A.M. next Monday morning, June 4th, and will probably run for about a week. This is the first major hearing on the appraisals which I have made. It seems strange that the first hearing should be of the appraisal I am just finishing rather than the Nez Perce appraisal which was finished two years ago. I think the attorneys for the Nez Perce are a little hesitant about their own claim and therefore are not pushing it at this time.

As soon as I return from this hearing in Washington I will have more time, and hope to be in Yakima so that I can see you. I am very happy to hear of your progress in the publication of your book, "Drummers and Dreamers", and I look forward to reading it. I still wish five copies over and above the one you so kindly offered. I had originally planned on sending one to Lee Yost, but I have other use for the five copies now. I am of the opinion that you stated some time ago that you had to pay for the additional copies in advance, so if you will let me know when you need the money I will send my check for \$30.00 for the five copies.

I note that there are only five survivors of the tribe dwelling at Priest Rapids, and I would like to make a trip down there later this summer to again visit the grounds. Every time in the past that I have been in that location I have been so pressed for time that I did not have an opportunity to go there. I would like to visit down there when the Indians are there and not away at the harvest fields. I will of course check with you before going.

Although I will probably see Lee Yost and spend some time with him in Washington, the Coeur d'Alene case on which I am testifying is handled by one of the other attorneys in Washington, so I will not be working



Mr. Relander - 5/31/56 - Page Two

with Lee Yost on this trip.

I know that the large aboriginal claim of the Yakima Indians is still pending and eventually that area will be appraised. They have indicated that they wished me to do this job, but it is too early to assign the work as yet. I have turned down several other appraisal assignments, but I would like to have the Yakima job as it would be very interesting.

With best personal wishes and hoping to see you soon.

Yours very truly



C. MARC MILLER

CMM vd