

By Alex Saluskin

Chairman Yakima Tribal Council

The first Salmon festival in which I had occasion to participate was in 1907.

My father, George Saluskin, Aleck Shawaway, John Wildman, Charley Washington, Pool-oot-kin and many others fished at Ahwatum

As a boy about 11, I carried the salmon to my grandfather's home of my grandfather, Chief Saluskin. There the women took full charge of preparing them for the feast.

Many people came to the feast, to rejoice at the first catch of any young fisherman or to thank the Great Maker of all things, in accordance with the religious beliefs and teachings of the people.

What I could understand from the old people whom we were the head of the feast was that their forefathers had held feasts to thank the Creator and pray that there would be an abundance of salmon migrate upstream to the spawning grounds.

The Awahtum fisheries were always there before the construction of the Sunnyside Irrigation dam, where the Yakima tribe had fished from time immemorial.

In the year of 1910, June 6, William Pims drowned while fishing

party to search for the body, but the body never was found.

On June 25, while searching for the body, Soctillo ~~Widd~~ Wildman fell into the river and drowned. His body was found later.

On May 24, the next year, Joseph Saluskin, Charley Saluskin and Te-ya-ya-ne Wynaco ~~were~~ were pulled over the dam. Joseph lost his life by drowning. Chief Saluskin loved his grandson and in his deep sorrow again he declared the day closed to all fishing.

On May 24, 1925, Charley Harrison, Jake Felix, Frank Andrews and Frank Johnson fell in during a heavy fish run. Johnson was the only one surviving.

After that, it became a tradition by mutual understanding that one day each year they should ~~DOO~~ have a memorial salmon day feast.

Jimmy and Charley Saluskin organized Salmon Day Rodeo which was abandoned.

So Sunday, May 26 became a day which we as the Yakimas dedicate to the leaders who have reserved the exclusive right to take fish on all streams running through and bordering our Yakima Reservation, and also to hunt and fish at the usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the territory.

The stories of the old people are always repeated in the days when there was ~~sOO~~ salmon in abundance in all of the streams and fishermen were

six days a week and on Sunday no one was allowed to fish for salmon and no one violated the tribal law.

Not too many years back it was still the general practice to follow closely to the old traditions and custom laws. Of course some fishermen traded this catch for vegetables, fruit, meat etc to farmers who came from across the river. No one said anything about it and the practice was not disapproved by the leaders of the tribe.

The fishermen supplemented ~~their~~ their food needs , in absence of any specific ~~lodge~~ language in the ~~tribe~~ 1855 treaty, that the salmon caught by the Yakimas shall not be sold or exchanged for other articles or bartered

It was always the general understanding by the Yakimas that they can do what ever they can with the fish. The right to take fish is the right reserved in the Yakima 1855 treaty.

The need for irrigation water and the building of the many irrigation systems and the uncontrolled intakes of the diversion headgates caused the destruction and depletion of the Salmon run in the Yakima river.

The impounding of water and flooding the spawning areas and pollution is also the major factor in reducing the salmon population in the Yakima river .

When Lewis and Clark journeyed down the Columbia Captain Clark wrote concerning his Celilo observations of Oct. 22, 1805... "the waters is divided into several narrow channels which pass through a hard black rock forming islands of rocks at this stage of water, on these islands of rock as well as at and about their lodges I observe great numbers of stocks of pounded salmon neatly preserved... ~~xxx~~ .. thus preserved these fish may be kept sound and sweet several years as those people informed me, great quantities as they inform us are sold to the white people who visit the mouth of this river as well as to the natives below."

The general practice existed at every place where salmon was the principal industry.

Ever since the salmon became one of the major industry of the northwest thousands of commercial fishermen migrated to the lower Columbia river. Large fish traps and fish wheels made the major reduction of the salmon run in the Columbia river. Naturally that caused the major reduction of salmon run in the Yakima river.

The Celilo falls is now gone forever, the fishermen who depended for their economic welfare are now looking around and asking the question:

What can I do to earn enough to support my family. Three hundred families are affected. These people are untrained or skilled

The right to take fish is the exclusive right which cannot be abrogated by state or federal government because it is the supreme law of the land in equal status with the Constitution of the United States. It is the authority of the tribe to regulate their people.

The Yakima Tribal Council is making a study of the situation . Maybe in one or two more seasons a reasonable regulation may be enforced

Northwest officers of
Civil War fame and other notes.

From Dr. Griffith:

I recall that Abe Lincoln, an Indian of white descent, told me about the old bathroom at Fort Simcoe when I was on recruiting duty in 1915. It was formerly a chapel and had stained glass windows in it.

Lincoln told me that it was in this chapel that Archer's wife and little son were laid out after their death.

Lincoln's mother was an Indian woman who was living with an officer. She warned the men at the fort that the Indians planned an attack there. When she went to the Klickitat they followed her, caught her and hung her on a rock near the mouth of the Klickitat river.

Oregon City was in the 11th military district.

Tucker and Loring--2 companies.

All correspondence of the War Department referred to The Dalles as Camp Drum, a single issue ration post. It was made a double ration post--artillery being added to the infantry. It was known as Fort Drum at the Dalles.

Jordan published the first newspaper at the Dalles. He espoused the cause of the south and was assigned in the Confederate Army as chief of staff for Bouregard.

Winder was stationed here as captain. His son was named after Steptoe. He went to Walla Walla and was second in command under Steptoe in the Expedition into the Indian country.

He went to the South and was with Stonewall Jackson. He was killed in the battle at Cedar mountain.

Capt. Taylor and D. Mac Gragg were here and at Walla Walla. He was a lt. cavalry or dragoon, second in command with Capt. Taylor. Gragg later fought with the Union. He was with Custer when Custer defeated Jeb Stewart in the battle of Gettysburg.

Gaston, killed in the Steptoe expedition was also here.

Crooks was at fort Simcoe.

Philip Sheridan organized a company of dragoons--mounted men from the valley of Champoeg.

Archer was killed at Atlanta.

Pickett made a trip across the mountains and was here awhile in 1859. He was the George Pickett who gained fame at Gettysburg.

For some reason or other, Loring didn't get along well with Jeff Davis. All the others got to be major generals.

Randolph, a surgeon from Virginia, was with Steptoe.

Charles Reynolds was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg. He was a general.

old road to Simcoe from

The Dalles.

I remember you crossed the river here went down the valley to Hopper Mills, it was up a draw on the other side of the river and down a valley. It is on that road that the Polon monument is located. That is the monument marking the place where he was killed.

The old road turns right, goes down and west to below Ft. Simcoe and crosses Toppenish creek.

The road to Walla Walla went out to Dufur road, crossed three miles, crossed 15 miles where the Brooks place is now, then on east, crossed the DeChutes river at the Free Bridge., then came along highlands on south of the river to Arlington

Yakima Reservation: (Father Wilbur)

I would recommend that a portion of the principle reservations, those that have large tribes of Indians settled upon them, be surveyed into small tracts in order that the Indian Department may be enabled to give to each Indian a home in his own right, for the use of himself and family.

From my personal knowledge, having been in the field in this Territory for the past seven years as a deputy, I am satisfied that there is nothing that could be done that would tend so much to civilize as well as christianize the Indian as to give him a small tract of land and let him realize that he is a man and that he must depend upon his own exertions to procure a livelihood. This would serve to break up his tribal relations; it would create a desire for agricultural implements, a permanent house instead of the bark shanty and a thousand other wants of the civilized man, thereby inducing him to become an inhabitant of one locality rather than a wanderer seeking a precarious living by the chase as his forefathers have done for centuries before.

The only reservation in this Territory, and the only one in the United States, so far as I know, where the Indians are increasing in number, is the Yakima agency.

The Rev. J. H. Wilbur has induced about two hundred red families to "adopt the habits of the whites" to the extent of becoming farmers. They have selected small parcels of land, built comfortable houses, have good churches in which they hold regular services, and are fast becoming not only civilized, but christianized. A survey of a portion of the best lands in each principle reservation would be a great blessing to the remaining few who are fast passing away.

They want "something they can leave their children when they go to the happy hunting ground." The reservations, if surveyed into small tracts and a portion set aside to such as are willing to occupy it with a proviso that it shall never be sold out of the tribe would in my opinion work a lasting good to a race of people who are rapidly decreasing in number.
L. P. Beach, Surveyor General, Washington Territory. (1870?)

Officers at Fort Simcoe

August, 1856 - monthly reports from all Posts. Robert S. Garnett assigned to command troops ordered to establish the temporary post, Fort Simcoe in the Simcoe Valley, Yakuma County, W. T., Aug. 6, '56, by orders No. 10 of that date from Hqs, Northern District of the Pacific.

Joseph B. Brown - assistant surgeon.

Dickenson Woodruff, Capt., 9th Inf. Co. F

Francis L. Bowman, " " " " G

Harvey Douglas 2nd Lt. " " " G

Charles A. Reynolds " " " " F

Absent

Henry M. Black, 1st. Lt, 9th Inf.

John W. Frazer " " " "

October, 1856, Monthly Reports - Officers Present

Robert S. Garnett, Major, 9th Inf.

Joseph B. Brown, assistant surgeon, medical dept.

James J. Archer, Capt., 9th Inf. Co. I - joined from absence without leave, Oct. 3, 1856.

George W. Carr, 1st. Lt, Co. I - joine from absence without leave, same date.

John C. Howard, 1st. Lt., Co. C - joined from leave of absence, Oct. 18.

Henry (Harvey ?) Douglas, 2nd Lt., Co. G - joined from leave of ab. O. 18

Jesse K. Allen, 2nd Lt., Co. C - joined from detached service Oct. 31.

Absent on leave - Frances E. Patterson, Capt. Co. C, 9th Inf.,
Charles A. Reynolds, 2nd Lt., Co. F, 9th Inf.

Absent without leave - William Meyers, 2nd Lt., Co. I, 9th Inf. Left company on detached service Oct. 16, '55, and carried as AWOL since December 15, '55.

November, 1856 - Officers Present

Dickenson Woodruff, Capt, Co. F, 9th -- joined from detached service at Fort Dalles, Ore. Terr, Nov. 21. Assumed command at Simcoe, Nov. 21, relieving Capt. Archer, commanding since Nov. 19, '56.

James J. Archer, John W. Fraser (Frazer?), Geo. W. Carr, John C. Howard, Jesse K. Allen.

Absent without leave - Patterson; AWOL - Garnett, Brown, Chas. A. Reynolds. William Meyers, 2nd Lt., Co. C, 9th, left company on detached service, Oct. 16, '56.

January, 1857 - Dickenson Woodruff in comman. Officers same as above. William Meyers returned.

February, 1857 - Officers same as above. Anthony Hager, ass't surgeon, assigned to post.

March, 1857 - same officers. Many AWOL

April, 1857 - same

May, 1857 - Officers present:-Garnett, joined from AWOL and assumed command of post May 17. Anthony Heger (name spelled Hager before), James Archer, Henry M. Black, John W. Fraser, John C. Howard, Wm. Meyers, Chas. A Reynolds, Jesse K. Allen, James B. S. Alexander, 2nd Lt., Co. C, 0th Inf, post adjutant.

Absent - Dickenson Woodruff, Henry Douglas.

Resigned - Francis E. Patterson.

Comments that no extra duty pay since August, '56; many men on sick list to shirk work; climate bad for rheumatic complaints.

121 recruits under command of Garnett and Capt. Black (arrived with Garnett?)

June, 1857 - same officers.

July, 1857 - same officers. Elisha E. Camp, 2nd Lt, 9th Inf., Co. I, on detached service.

August, 1857 - officers present the same as July.

September, 1857 - officers present same as July and August

October, 1857 - same

November, 1857 - same

December, 1857 - same. Officers present - Woodruff, Fraser, Carr, Howard, Harvey (Henry?) Douglas., 2nd Lt. Co. I, joined from AWOL Dec. 21, 1856.

Absent with leave - Garnett - for 60 days from time of leaving the Department, with permission to apply for one month extension, Special Orders No. 112, Hqrs, Dep't of Pacific, Benicia, Calif., Oct. 2, '56. Relinquished command, left post Nov. 19.

Absent without leave - Jos. (Jas.?) Brown, ass't surgeon; Chas. A. Reynolds, 2nd Lt. Co. F, 9th Inf.

Orders - assignment of Assistant Surgeon Anthony Hager to Simeon

Authorize Garnett to avail himself of leave granted in Special Orders No. 112.

January, 1858 - same officers, with addition of David P. McKibbon, 2nd. Lt., 9th Inf., Co. F.

James J. Archer left Company on Oct. 22, 1857

Letters mention troops engaged with hostile Indians

All this time building operations on - carpenters receiving \$4 & \$4.50 a day, masons \$5. Cook \$75 a month.

February, 1858 - same officers.

March, 1858 - same. P. A. Owen, 1st Lt., 9th (Co. C. ?) transferred.

April, May, June, July - many absent on leave or on detached service.

August, 1858 - Present Henry M. Judah, assumed command August 10, '58; Anthony Heger, James B. S. Alexander. All the other officers under Maj. Garnett on expedition against hostile Indians. Some few recruiting. Jesse K. Allen killed near Yakama River, Aug. 15. Many reinforcements - Co's D & E, 4th Inf., and C, G, & I of the 9th took the field against Indians for 50 days.

September, 1858 - Officers all back. Some on detached service.

October, 1858 - Garnett relinquished command Oct. 14 - sixty days leave. Compliments to Garnett and Wright over campaign.

November, December - Archer in command.

January and February, 1859 - Feb. orders: get as many men ready as possible soon as can - report all serviceable and unserviceable means of transportation. Archer in command.

March, 1858 - Archer in command.

Post evacuated May 22, 1859. Buildings turned over to Indian Department same date.

Above notes made by Ethel Semple Swanstrom - War Dept,
Washington, D. C., October, 1936.

B.F. Kendall supt. Ind Affairs in
Relation to return of Arms.
(Bancroft)

Dalles Oregon Oct 14, 1861

Sir:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter from the Indian agent
at Yakima, A.A. Bancroft esq. in regard to arms.

His request may be somewhat extravagant but if you have any arms
belonging to the territory so that you could furnish them some sixteen
or twenty stand and a reasonable number of rounds of ammunition it
would seem to be one highly proper.

The employees are located some sixty five miles from the Dalles
among the mountains and circumstances not anticipated now might render
it important to have arms at hand.

Please advise me again in regards to this matter.

Direct to me care J. Hanman, Dalles Regards and
oblige.

Yours Respectfully, B.F. Kendall, supt. Indian affairs, W.T.

--
Copy

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Fort Simcoe W.T. Oct. 12, 1861

Sir: Will you cause to be sent to this agency forty stand of U.S.
rifles, muskets with four thousand rounds of ammunition for the same.
In case the muskets cannot be procured the rifle is next desirable.

Yours Respectfully

A.A. Bancroft, Ind. Agent

Yakima Nation.

Simc œ ..

Empty shell of government buildings ..

in00ed060d9earedetna0m0000

62 years after the fort was built and after the military rule passed, the Yakimas looked to the agency superintendent for the allotments of money and government regulations and in 1922 a bill was passed in congress providing for transfer of the agency and providing "50,000 for the work to Toppenish or Wapato.

Don M. Carr, superintendent since 1912 was handling a business close to half a million dollars a year in tribal funds and land leases for the Yakimas on the reservation. Wapato, center of Indian population on the reservation likely choice for headquarters.

Before 1920 ..Indian school was closed
decay starting

Mi roy 1882-85

Charles H. Dickson 1885-1886.

Thomas Priestly 1886-1890.

Webster L. Stabler 1890-91

Jay L^Ynch 1891- ~~1909~~ 1908.

S .A.M. Oar Young Q90890 1908-1912.

Don M. Carr...

~~16~~
 1451
 1856
 95

L. T. Erwin -

Wilbur entered service supt teaching in 1860, agency 1864

Organized in 1877, summer of 1877. J.H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

Dec 4-1874- Clothes ordered, shipped, not received, letter to E.A. Wyatt, commissioner.

Dec. 13, 1878, 3,500 belong to reserve, 2,000 live on it, 1,600 head of cattle, 25 head dollars a head, 15,000 head of horses.

Military took over Sept 1864, Lt. J.M Smith, Wilbur resumed Jan 1, 1871

1879 M. Royal was chief, left, 40 on force, too many, dismissed 30, unweildy. Eneas capt. Succeeded by John Lumley, J.H. Fairchild chief.

Feb 6, 1878, arrival of Paiutes, and of 200 Mowhalla indians.
543 paiutes

Oct 1879--Police force and families receiving 43,800 pounds of beef rations annually, 48 cents, \$1,752; 36,500 pounds of flour, sugar, coffee, syrup beans, rice and salt, total of \$7,337.50

November 17, 1879, Wilbur appointed John Lumley captain at \$8 a month, getting \$5; 1880 discontinued rations.

Wilbur, Methodist, dismissed Eneas, a devout Catholic.

1961
1877
84

1879--Eneas, 40,

Ortz, pvt. born in Oregon, a Paiute.

abyowan, private, temporarily employed at Tumwater. White Salmon.

Swinden, private, Tumwater, White Salmon.

John Lumley, first sgt. 43, born on the Cowitz, a Klickitat, \$5 a month.
appointed captain Oct 1, 1879

Thomas Simpson, at Tumwater, nominated for lt. commended.

Peer, sgt, born at Tumwater, a Wascoham.

Luxillo, a private, Skeinpa.

Oscar Mark, private, Klickitat.

Harlo, Yakima born.

Jim Wesley, private

Dave Wallamet

Dick Herman, a private, Paiute, born in Nevada.

Klickitat Peter, private, Yakima, \$000 Klickitat

Paddy Caps, Paiute, born Nevada.

Thomas Cree, lieutenant, promoted, pay \$80 a year and \$96 a year

Hottowit, died 1880.

enson.

Shusta Sattas, Klickitat

Sattas Aleck, from the Satus, \$60 a year.

Geo Colways

1878--record of council, Yakima, own decision in case of man charged with murder. Council objected to having tried in U.S. court, protested they could settle on affairs, found guilty imprisoned a year at the agency, fine of 10 horses or more.

1888--George Talioferro, clerk and ex-officio chief. Moses Strong lieut.

Pe-el sgt. Charles Miller, Peter Klickitat, Wallace Arquette, Moscoe Miller, Isaac Asa and Sharlow, police men.

1880--

~~Adultery~~ Adultery..man confined to gaud hose in irons, three weeks; woman 15 lashes on bare back, man taken to blacksmith shop and ironed, sentence on women carried out by police.

Man and woman, another punishment confinement of man, irons, two months and 7 lashes at end; woman 1 month and 50 lashes, approved by agent, provision if deemed excessive could modify it.

Boy, gambling, one week confined, released.

Seven young men for marking calves without authority, tried by council, received 20 lashes each.

Woman, refusing to obey order of court and live with husband, confined to jail.

Stopping U.S. mail in Sattqs canyon, brought in. , released at request of mail carrier who did not wish to acquire ill will of prisoner's friends.

Arrest of Paiuts for leaving reservation without passes

"all of the prisoners escaped, having procured files and in that way cut off their irons."

One Indians, difficulty over horses, tried by agent, dissatisfied, went to Yakima City had parties arrested off reservation. Case decided the same, cost \$50 and two horses which council considered sufficient punishment for his contempt in appealing to a civil tribunal which had no jurisdiction.

But was persuaded underlied, vigorously, to go to jail.

1881--John Lumley, captain; Thomas Simpson, lieutenant; Pierre, first sgt. Thomas Cr e, second sgt.; privs Sharlo, Dick Herman, Klickitat, Peter; Wiamden, Yayowan, Otis, total number 10.

Convicted for taking horses off reservation, where they were

1883--"ilbur--Sometimes hundred miles outside of reservation,
"there being no law requiring a white man outside the reservation to
respect the authority of the Indian policeman. I suggest the enactment
of a law by Congress giving Indian policemen the power and authority
of a U.S. marshals in performance of duty outside the reservation

~~1883~~ 1885-- R.H. Milroy, agent.. "the most beneficial improvement
made in our Indian policy of late years, after that of industrial
boarding school away from the reservation is the creation of an Indian
police force. I have found them entirely trustworthy and reliable in
every emergency..

Divided reservation into 5 districts and had the Indians select
a justice of the peace in each district, taking the ~~statutes~~ territorial
statutes as a general guide. The Indian policeman in each district
performed the duties of constable for the JP.

I instituted a reservation court of three judges with original
jurisdiction in high criminal and civil cases and appellate jurisdiction
in appeals from justices of the peace, reserving for myself the
duties of a supreme court.

I appointed the first the during the first two years but ~~at~~
at a general election last fall 3 reservation judges and 3 commissioners
were elected to perform duties of county commissioners were
elected. The captain of police acts as sheriff. Board laid out
roads, dividing the reserve into three divisions

Thus the autonomy of the reservation is in good running order.
Used territorial statutes as general guides, special cases
amended one of these new laws was the institution of the whipping post for
wife beating..

branded and selling them for \$3 each, large horses and \$1.50 small.
domestic relations..

1889-- Fined seven dollars for selling one issue calf, paid fine.

Found guilty of trading issue cattle for horse. Sentence to return
horse to ID on account of being a cr pole.

Sold one issue calf, sentence 4 days work on road. Sold one issue calf,
calf, three days on road.

L.T. Erwin, report 1895, 25 cases tried by the court, Indians preferred to have cases tried by the agent.

Police force consists of 1 captain and 2 privates. I find that sometimes their ~~over~~ eyesight is poor and they fail to detect their intimate friends when they are drunk, but this exception they are diligent and faithful.

"hiskey, 83 convicted of selling liquor to Indians.

Legends.

Molo molo (copy) Mool-Mool.)

"The place of solid comfort. Story. A great cavern extended miles into the mountain. "Pure lemonade."

Great animal , half as large as a mountain, destroying people, eating them, shook down half of mountain (Adams)

Its flippers were as large as a tepee. It had two curved horns. On these horns it impaled people by the thousands.

It's weight sent it crashing through cavern floor.

It still lives, unable to disentangle itself. It's struggles cause sacred springs to bubble.

Yakimas say molo-molo will free himself from subterranean prison and visit man with disaster again.