

Mr. James Hovis, tribal attorney,
Mr. Watson Totus, cemetery chairman

Click Relander
3701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Wash. 98901

and for reference of Robert Jim,
Tribal Council Chairman

Feb. 18, 1969

Dear Jim and Watson:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter copy I have in my possession with signature "Norm" (Norman Fuller, realty, for AEC, now retired) with a note appended from Marc Miller.

This might be of considerable value to the Yakimas in future developments relating to the Tomalawasy ancestral burial grounds.

Mr. Rice's survey of the Ben Franklin site shows 25 burial grounds, but I do not believe that figure should be mentioned in any early negotiations. I am sure there are many more than that.

While Mr. Rice asked me for any material in this line, I merely told him I had some things, I was sure, but they were difficult to locate immediately.

I have notes taken as result of the trip to the burial locations, which I could not make with the AEC, Johnny Buck and Tomalawash. It was at that time the AEC promised Johnny Buck and Johnny Tomalawash that the Tomalawash burial grounds would be marked, fenced and protected. The AEC boundary at that time assured protection.

At Johnny's request I visited him two times, another time he came to the office, but he was always too ill to make a trip to the site to see how it was being protected. This illness ended in his death.

I believe, as Mr. Hovis does, that litigation is more expensive than acquisition of the burial site. But I also believe that the matter of all the burials in the potential Ben Franklin Reservoir is something to keep in mind, document as well as possible now and have material for Mr. Hovis in event of any discussions he deems advisable with the agencies concerned.

One item is the ceded lands map which shows this area in "Yakima territory." This is a photostat of a map in the Regional Office. Also, Watermelon George was interviewed during the Swindell survey and this concerns the White Bluffs area. And I believe there are many Yakimas with ancestors buried in the area.

Sincerely

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