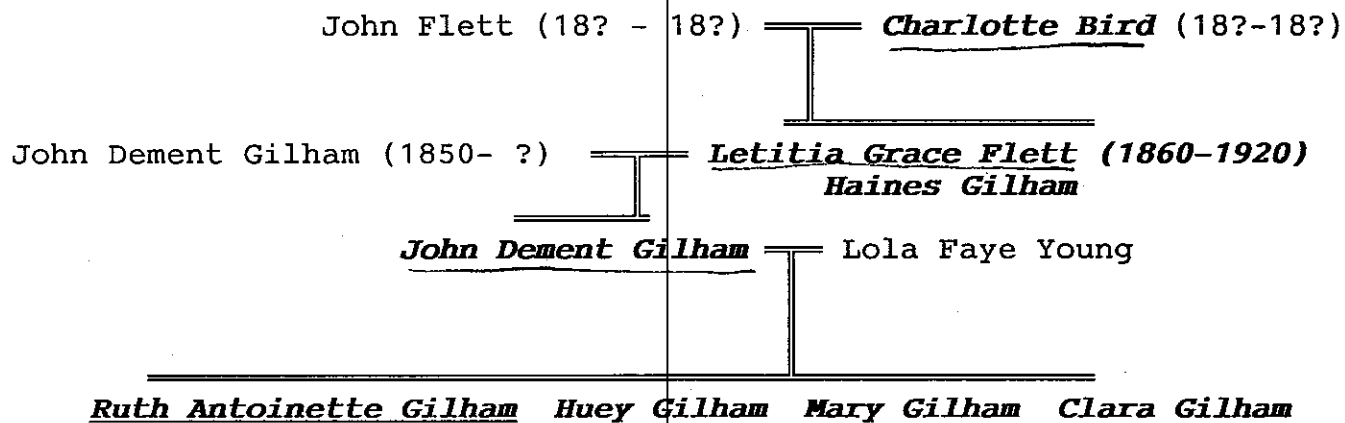


Family Tree for **Ruth Antoinette Gilham Hare Ryser Obi**  
December 10, 1991

Cowlitz Tribal Lineage



## Cowlitz Indians seek money and recognition

TOPPENISH, Wash. (AP) — Cowlitz Indians living on the Yakima Indian Reservation want the U.S. government to return Western Washington lands taken from their ancestors.

They contend the land was taken in years following the 1855 Indian treaty when Isaac Stephens was Washington's territorial governor.

Members of the Cowlitz, which the U.S. government has not recognized as a tribe, were awarded \$1.5 million in 1973 as compensation for land taken in 1863.

But the money, which is controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and has since grown to \$5.7 million, cannot be released without authorization from Congress, according to the BIA.

Meanwhile, members of the Cowlitz tribe have been pushing for federal recognition as a sovereign tribe.

"What's probably going to happen is if this group gets federal recognition they will get the funds," said Bill Smith, an enrollment official with the BIA in Portland, Ore. "But if they are not successful in getting recognition then there could be a bill passed to distribute the funds."

Congress must first establish who is a descendant of Cowlitz tribal members dislocated by the government more than 100 years ago, he said.

Many Cowlitz members moved to the Yakima reservation from their ancestral grounds near the Mayfield Dam on the Cowlitz River in Lewis County, said Ida Tahkeal, a historian for the Cowlitz group.

Others have established residence in Western Washington, with a large number of Cowlitz members living near Longview.

"About half of the Yakimas are lineal descendants of the Cowlitz," Tahkeal said.

The group has petitioned for the release of the money since the award was made, Tahkeal said but has been stymied by the lack of government action. The push for tribal recognition would help, she said.

A spokesman for the BIA in Washington, D.C., said the recognition request has been reviewed but was sent back to the group for further information.

About 50 Cowlitz descendants held a meeting at the Yakima Indian Agency on Aug. 8 to elect officers and discuss legal strategy. William Charley was named chairman.

An enrollment board was also selected to verify the number and names of Indians living on the Yakima Reservation who have Cowlitz lineage.

Charley said about 4,500 Cowlitz live east of the Cascades and a smaller Cowlitz group lives west of the mountains.



Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 7: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (Male)

Date of birth: 12/11/1903

Place of birth: Madison, WI

Date of death: 2/3/1983

Place of death: Seattle, WA

Mother: Lisette Faye Baumburger (#28)

Father: Fredrick Ernst Ryser (#27)

Spouse(s): <Unspecified>, Ruth A. Gilham (#6), <Unspecified>

Child(ren): Marguerite F. Ryser (#9), Fredrick Ernest Ryser (#12), Lola Elizabeth Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 8: Ida Victoria Stevens-Carlson (Female)

Date of birth: \* UNKNOWN \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: \* Data not entered \*

Father: \* Data not entered \*

No marriages on record.

Child(ren): Marguerite F. Ryser (#9)

Comments: Child out of wedlock, probably from Troy Idaho

I.D. #: 9: Marguerite F. Ryser (Female)

Date of birth: 9/19/1941

Place of birth: Tekoa, WA

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Ida Victoria Stevens-Carlson (#8)

Father: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7)

Spouse(s): Ron Haymen (#31)

Child(ren): Kimberly Lyn Hayman (#33), Ronald Eugene Hayman Jr. (#32)

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 10: Christ E. Ryser (Male)

Date of birth: 9/5/1945

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)

Father: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7)

Spouse(s): Mary Ann Kurisoki (#60)

Child(ren): Christian Ernst Ryser (#59), Neal Sullivan (#61)

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 11: Lola Elizabeth Ryser (Female)

Date of birth: 6/17/1944

Place of birth: South Bend, WA

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)

Father: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7)

Spouse(s): Andrew J. Rudis (#53), <Unspecified>, <Unspecified>

Child(ren): Jason Edward Rudis (#58), Bonnie Jean Rudis (#54), Peter Bernard Rud

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 12: Fredrick Ernest Ryser (Male)

Date of birth: 10/12/1942

Place of birth: Tekoa, WA

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)

Father: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7)

I.D. #: 1: Rudolph C. Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: 9/12/1946  
Place of birth: Elma, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)  
Father: Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7)  
Spouse(s): Nancy K. Bodtker (#5)  
Child(ren): Christian W. C. Ryser (#2), Jon M. C. Ryser (#3), Morgan A. D. Ryser  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 2: Christian W. C. Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: 9/3/1968  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Nancy K. Bodtker (#5)  
Father: Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 3: Jon M. C. Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: 12/9/1970  
Place of birth: Pullman, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Nancy K. Bodtker (#5)  
Father: Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 4: Morgan A. D. Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: 3/25/1973  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Nancy K. Bodtker (#5)  
Father: Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 5: Nancy K. Bodtker (Female)  
Date of birth: 4/11/1946  
Place of birth: Eugene, OR  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Bernice Derickson (#15)  
Father: William Smith (#17)  
Spouse(s): Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)  
Child(ren): Christian W. C. Ryser (#2), Jon M. C. Ryser (#3), Morgan A. D. Ryser  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 6: Ruth A. Gilham (Female)  
Date of birth: 7/16/1915  
Place of birth: Thorp, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lola Young (#36)  
Father: Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Spouse(s): Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7), Henry Harry Hare (#13), <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Robert John Ryser (#14), Barbara Jean Ryser (#21), Richard Jerald Ry  
Lola Elizabeth Ryser (#11), Christ E. Ryser (#10), Rudolph C. Ryser (#1)

Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: Living in Sumner, Wa on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 48: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1820  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Byron Young (#49), Ed Young (#50), Virginia Young-Gandy (#51), Benja  
Etta Young-Maybin (#52)  
Comments: Probably a resident in Michigan or came from England in c1820

I.D. #: 49: Byron Young (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1840  
Place of birth: Michigan  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (#48)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: Lived in Puyallup on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 50: Ed Young (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1840  
Place of birth: Michigan  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (#48)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: Lived in Spokane, WA on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 51: Virginia Young-Gandy (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1840  
Place of birth: Michigan  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (#48)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: Lived in Spokane, Wa on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 52: Etta Young-Maybin (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1850  
Place of birth: Michigan  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (#48)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: Lived in Tacoma, WA in February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 53: Andrew J. Rudis (Male)  
Date of birth: c. 12/??/1936  
Place of birth: Cosmopolis, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Lola Elizabeth Ryser (#11), <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Jason Edward Rudis (#58), Bonnie Jean Rudis (#54), Peter Bernard Rud  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 54: Bonnie Jean Rudis (Female)  
Date of birth: 10/24/1963  
Place of birth: Aberdeen, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lola Elizabeth Ryser (#11)  
Father: Andrew J. Rudis (#53)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Joshua James Rudis (#55)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 55: Joshua James Rudis (Male)  
Date of birth: 3/28/1982  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Bonnie Jean Rudis (#54)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 56: Peter Bernard Rudis (Male)  
Date of birth: 7/28/1966  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lola Elizabeth Ryser (#11)  
Father: Andrew J. Rudis (#53)  
No marriages on record.  
Child(ren): Eric -----+Rudis (#57)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 57: Eric -----+Rudis (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1985  
Place of birth: California  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Peter Bernard Rudis (#56)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 58: Jason Edward Rudis (Male)  
Date of birth: 9/24/1973  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lola Elizabeth Ryser (#11)  
Father: Andrew J. Rudis (#53)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 59: Christian Ernst Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1974 *Aug 6 -*  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Ann Kurisoki (#60)  
Father: Christ E. Ryser (#10)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 60: Mary Ann Kurisoki (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Christ E. Ryser (#10)  
Child(ren): Christian Ernst Ryser (#59)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 61: Neal Sullivan (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1980  
Place of birth: Seattle, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Christ E. Ryser (#10)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 62: Jeff Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Fredrick Ernest Ryser (#12)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 63: Darion Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Fredrick Ernest Ryser (#12)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 64: Ron Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Fredrick Ernest Ryser (#12)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 65: Gene Baker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*



Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Chuck Baker (#66), Jim Baker (#67), Jack Baker (#68), Sharon Baker (  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 66: Chuck Baker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Barbara Jean Ryser (#21)  
Father: Gene Baker (#65)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 67: Jim Baker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Barbara Jean Ryser (#21)  
Father: Gene Baker (#65)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>, <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 68: Jack Baker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Barbara Jean Ryser (#21)  
Father: Gene Baker (#65)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 69: Sharon Baker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Barbara Jean Ryser (#21)  
Father: Gene Baker (#65)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 70: JoAnn +++++++ (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Robert John Ryser (#14)  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 71: Virginia +++++++ (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Robert John Ryser (#14)  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 72: Donna Kangus (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Fredrick Ernest Ryser (#12)  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 73: Alice +++++ (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Richard Jerald Ryser (#22), <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Ricky Ryser (#74), Mark Ryser (#76), Ken Ryser (#77), Yona Ryser (#7  
Another Kid (#79)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 74: Ricky Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Alice +++++ (#73)  
Father: Richard Jerald Ryser (#22)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 75: Michelle Ryser (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Richard Jerald Ryser (#22)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 76: Mark Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Alice +++++ (#73)  
Father: Richard Jerald Ryser (#22)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 77: Ken Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Alice +++++ (#73)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 78: Yona Ryser (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Alice +++++ (#73)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 79: Another Kid (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Alice +++++ (#73)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

Spouse(s): Donna Kangus (#72)  
Child(ren): Jeff Ryser (#62), Darion Ryser (#63), Ron Ryser (#64)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 13: Henry Harry Hare (Male)  
Date of birth: \* UNKNOWN \*  
Place of birth: u  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Ruth A. Gilham (#6)  
Child(ren): Robert John Ryser (#14), Barbara Jean Ryser (#21)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 14: Robert John Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1933  
Place of birth: Bay Center, Wa  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)  
Father: Henry Harry Hare (#13)  
Spouse(s): JoAnn ++++++ (#70), Virginia ++++++ (#71)  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 15: Bernice Derickson (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1915  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Bertha O. McCurdy (#23)  
Father: Murray A. Derickson (#24)  
Spouse(s): Folmer N. Bodtker (#16), William Smith (#17), Ed Tapper (#18)  
Child(ren): Nancy K. Bodtker (#5), Nathele M. Bodtker (#20)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 16: Folmer N. Bodtker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Mother Rasmussen (#25)  
Father: Father Bodtker (#26)  
Spouse(s): Bernice Derickson (#15), <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 17: William Smith (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Bernice Derickson (#15)  
Child(ren): Nancy K. Bodtker (#5), Nathele M. Bodtker (#20)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 18: Ed Tapper (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*

Spouse(s): Bernice Derickson (#15), <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Dick Tapper (#19)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 19: Dick Tapper (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1945  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Ed Tapper (#18)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 20: Nathele M. Bodtker (Female)  
Date of birth: 5/20/1947  
Place of birth: Eugene, OR  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Bernice Derickson (#15)  
Father: William Smith (#17)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>, <Unspecified>, <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 21: Barbara Jean Ryser (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1935  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)  
Father: Henry Harry Hare (#13)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Chuck Baker (#66), Jim Baker (#67), Jack Baker (#68), Sharon Baker (  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 22: Richard Jerald Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1937  
Place of birth: Bay Center, WA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Ruth A. Gilham (#6)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Alice +++++ (#73)  
Child(ren): Ricky Ryser (#74), Michelle Ryser (#75), Mark Ryser (#76)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 23: Bertha O. McCurdy (Female)  
Date of birth: 11/1/1893  
Place of birth: Iowa  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1987  
Place of death: Bend, OR  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Murray A. Derickson (#24)  
Child(ren): Bernice Derickson (#15)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 24: Murray A. Derickson (Male)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1891  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: 3/21/1979  
Place of death: Eugene, OR

Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Bertha O. McCurdy (#23)  
Child(ren): Bernice Derickson (#15)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 25: Mother Rasmussen (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth: Denmark  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Father Bodtker (#26)  
Child(ren): Folmer N. Bodtker (#16)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 26: Father Bodtker (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth: Denmark  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Mother Rasmussen (#25)  
Child(ren): Folmer N. Bodtker (#16)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 27: Fredrick Ernst Ryser (Male)  
Date of birth: 10/4/1880  
Place of birth: Bietenburg, Swiz  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1976  
Place of death: Coeur D'Alene, ID  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Lisette Faye Baumburger (#28)  
Child(ren): Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7), Frieda Ryser (#30), Elma Ryser (#29)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 28: Lisette Faye Baumburger (Female)  
Date of birth: 8/3/1880  
Place of birth: Stauffenbach, Switz  
Date of death: 9/9/1948  
Place of death: Coeur D'Alene, ID  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Fredrick Ernst Ryser (#27), <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Ernst Fredrick Ryser (#7), Frieda Ryser (#30), Elma Ryser (#29)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 29: Elma Ryser (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1907  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1983  
Place of death: Tekoa, WA  
Mother: Lisette Faye Baumburger (#28)  
Father: Fredrick Ernst Ryser (#27)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 30: Frieda Ryser (Female)

Date of birth: c. ??/??/1905  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lisette Faye Baumburger (#28)  
Father: Fredrick Ernst Ryser (#27)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 31: Ron Haymen (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Marguerite F. Ryser (#9)  
Child(ren): Kimberly Lyn Hayman (#33), Ronald Eugene Hayman Jr. (#32)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 32: Ronald Eugene Hayman Jr. (Male)  
Date of birth: 4/22/1968  
Place of birth: Allentown, PA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Marguerite F. Ryser (#9)  
Father: Ron Haymen (#31)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 33: Kimberly Lyn Hayman (Female)  
Date of birth: 2/11/1964  
Place of birth: Allentown, PA  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Marguerite F. Ryser (#9)  
Father: Ron Haymen (#31)  
No marriages on record.  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 34: Richard Jack Gilham (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Charlotte Bird (#35)  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
Spouse(s): Lola Young (#36)  
Child(ren): Huey Gilham (#39), Ruth A. Gilham (#6), Mary Gilham (#38), Clara Gil  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 35: Charlotte Bird (Female)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: \* Data not entered \*  
No marriages on record.  
Child(ren): Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 36: Lola Young (Female)

Date of birth: c. ??/??/1896  
Place of birth: Sumner, WA  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1947  
Place of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)  
Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)  
Spouse(s): Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Child(ren): Huey Gilham (#39), Ruth A. Gilham (#6), Mary Gilham (#38), Clara Gil  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 37: Clara Gilham (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1921  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: Lola Young (#36)  
Father: Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>, <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 38: Mary Gilham (Female)  
Date of birth: c. ??/??/1919  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1958  
Place of death:  
Mother: Lola Young (#36)  
Father: Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 39: Huey Gilham (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: c. ??/??/1935  
Place of death:  
Mother: Lola Young (#36)  
Father: Richard Jack Gilham (#34)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
Child(ren): Jack Gilham (#40)  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 40: Jack Gilham (Male)  
Date of birth: \* N/A \*  
Place of birth:  
Date of death: \* N/A \*  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Huey Gilham (#39)  
Spouse(s): <Unspecified>  
No children on record.  
Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 41: Benjamin Franklin Young (Male)  
Date of birth: 7/6/1849  
Place of birth: Michigan  
Date of death: 2/8/1920  
Place of death: Ellensburg, WA  
Mother: \* Data not entered \*  
Father: Grt-Grt GrandFather Young (#48)  
Spouse(s): Mary Jameson (#42)



Child(ren): Edwin Young (#43), Byron Young (#44), Roy Young (#45), Glenn Young (Emma Young-Pyles (#47), Lola Young (#36))  
Comments: Founder of the Sumner Index & editor of Sumner News-Index

I.D. #: 42: Mary Jameson (Female)

Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: \* Data not entered \*

Father: \* Data not entered \*

Spouse(s): Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)

Child(ren): Edwin Young (#43), Byron Young (#44), Roy Young (#45), Glenn Young (Emma Young-Pyles (#47), Lola Young (#36))

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 43: Edwin Young (Male)

Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)

Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)

No marriages on record.

No children on record.

Comments: <None>

I.D. #: 44: Byron Young (Male)

Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)

Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)

No marriages on record.

No children on record.

Comments: Living in Tacoma on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 45: Roy Young (Male)

Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)

Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)

No marriages on record.

No children on record.

Comments: Living in Ellensburg, WA on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 46: Glenn Young (Male)

Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)

Father: Benjamin Franklin Young (#41)

No marriages on record.

No children on record.

Comments: Living in Sumner on February 13, 1920

I.D. #: 47: Emma Young-Pyles (Female)

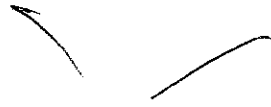
Date of birth: \* N/A \*

Place of birth:

Date of death: \* N/A \*

Mother: Mary Jameson (#42)

Milton Elma



H

Tere  
Theresa Riesen

Gene Krall

Geraldine Krall

Doris

DeLores

Thelma

~~Setina~~ Masceen

Juanita

Bernita

Ocean  
City  
1947

Elma  
1946

Chris  
Elma  
1945

Belle  
Sokol Blvd.  
1944

1943  
1942

Good  
Born  
Tekoa

1941

1887  
42  

---

1931

1940

1941  
Born  
Tekoa

Family tree created using program from BIG BLUE DISK #10.

Fredrick E. Ryser (1889 - 1970)

Ernst F. Ryser (1902 - 1981)

Lisette Baumburger (1891 - )

Rudolph C. Ryser (1946 - )

Richard Jack Gilham (???? - )

Ruth A. Gilham (1915 - )

Lola Young (???? - )

Christian W. C. Ryser (1968 - )

William Smith (???? - )

Nancy K. Bodtker (1946 - )

Murray A. Derickson (1891 - 1979)

Bernice Derickson (1915 - )

Bertha O. McCurdy (1893 - 1987)

Family tree created using program from BIG BLUE DISK #10.

Fredrick E. Ryser (1889 - 1970)

Ernst F. Ryser (1902 - 1981)

Lisette Baumburger (1891 - )

Rudolph C. Ryser (1946 - )

Richard Jack Gilham (???? - )

Charlotte Bird (???? - )

Ruth A. Gilham (1915 - )

Lola Young (???? - )

Family tree created using program from BIG BLUE DISK #10.

Murray A. Derickson (1891 - 1979)

Bernice Derickson (1915 - )

Nancy K. Bodtker (1946 - )

Christian W. C. Ryser (1968 - )

Jon M. C. Ryser (1970 - )

Morgan A. D. Ryser (1973 - )

Nathele M. Bodtker (1947 - )

Drive across railroad tracks.

going to South Bend.

Calli truck brake down

and mom was surprised to  
pull dolls truck to.

Red Pick up -

Information →

1930s.

Hugh

Thomas Henry

Gilham

Photo evidence

1936 ~~Red~~ -

Mary Ray  
on Alaska



Bergman Franklin Perry

He decided he was going to  
quit sailing -  
headed for Sheridan, Ore. Sheridan Sea

offered a deal - a friend  
offered him a deal - if  
you agreed to make you  
would

---

Trask would sell  
the order to BFP -  
just a change of the  
address of the account and  
asked him to buy the order.



notes: let I D Gilman

14 Grey Cleft 44 Chen Bird

July 3rd - 1929 Bird

Born: Summer

10/10 Faye

Oct 1928 Wagers young

John I D Gilman

next door neighbors.

Playful boy

Chenlet Bird - was let in  
Grey cleft's room.

J.D. Gilham owned

Summer Sematry -

Benjamin F. Sematry

had to city.

---

Mary Garrison was

from Texas (was) BF Sematry

was her second husband.

maiden name was

Mary Ellor - Calhoun.

---

related to John C. Calhoun

Why named Marguerite.  
Who was Marguerite  
Miss Standish Kilburn  
your friend in Zetser?

~~Answer~~

~~BT~~  
There is Miss Ware  
working  
yes & I bought

942-3165

lid

J D Gilham

(Freddy) Milison's son - Skiff J. D. Gilham  
1885 - 1929

John Flett  
left the bridge

Teacher Flett spiked upon road.

Charlot Bird

Tom Gilham  
Alara Gilham

① Stelliam

Flett Dairy

Margaret Gilham  
Kies of Tubercular

opened a school in Virginia Ave

in her own house. -  
always gave books as a gift

1929  
1/1

Axel and wife ---Carlson had three children

Ester Carlson Brown

Carl Carlson

Ida Carlson May have been married to

Stevens. She had one child. She only finished the 4th grade at the country School near Dry Creek. Her mother Mrs. Axel died in 1932. <sup>Ida</sup> She moved to Troy from the farm with her dad. Dad died and she lived in Moscow with sister and later went to a home in Caldwell. She still lives there. I have the address and I will send it to you as I am getting more information from a former classmate.

Ida is now about 72. She and her sister have visited Troy about 10 years ago.

I have written this in haste as I have several committments this week.

You will hear from me within a week.

Stella

Moms #

Challenge the Audience;  
Make them Think.  
What is the Point?  
The missing Link.  
Why was this Written?  
What should I Feel?  
This play is Inconsistent.  
Like the bumps on an orange Peel.

Christian W. C. Ryser

Cowlitz Tribal Development Association  
Seattle, Washington

March 29, 1973

The Honorable  
Brantley Blue  
Commissioner of The U.S. Indian Claims Commission  
1730 K Street  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Commissioner Blue:

This letter is to be expressive of our deep concern and profound aggravation. We are speaking to you of the kind of sentiments and anxieties that cause men to sharply disagree over common interests, forget comforts and desire a just remedy. We have been treated unfairly and we mean to set right this treatment. We need your help as you can give it.

I write to you about a questionable approval on March 3rd of this year of a proposed compromise settlement called Docket 218, presented by the claims attorneys: Weissbrodt & Weissbrodt, by a group of people who were claimed to be a representative group of Cowlitz Indians or those of Cowlitz descent. As our enclosures show, the settlement is to be an award of \$1,550,000 .

The members of the Cowlitz Tribal Development Association whom I represent are eager to see that all tribal members, offically enrolled members, be allowed to play a part in a decision of this magnitude. Surely this must be allowed to happen before this matter is closed, perhaps forever.

We believe we have grounds to challenge this March 3rd decision; simply because: no official registration of people there at the meeting was taken (as we discuss below) and the notice of the impending meeting was in fact hurriedly disseminated so that scarcely anyone knew of the meeting or the decision to be made.

We quote from a report by Chester J. Higman of the BIA here in Western Washington:

- 1)...no provision for Cowlitz Indian and any others who attended to register...
- 2)...it was impossible to make an accurate count (of those attending)...
- 3) The Tribe does not have an accurate record of how many

are considered affiliated with it.

In his opinion(Higman)the notice was adequate and was made to 384 persons. Incidentally he is the Tribal Operations Officer(Enrollment)from the Western Washington Agency of the BIA.

We further challenge the March 3rd decision because we believe no one but officially recognized Cowlitz members can vote on Cowlitz Tribal issues and that all officially recognized Cowlitz Tribal members must be thoroughly informed about the issue on which they vote before they are asked to vote. And, we further believe that because Cowlitz Tribal members are widely disbursed all over the State of Washington and the other states, each officially recognized voting member should be afforded the opportunity to vote by ballot on such an important, major issue.

To accomplish the first step, we believe the Cowlitz Tribe must seek to fulfill these basic requirements before a vote is taken. Without fulfilling these very fundamental requirements any vote to accept a settlement of Docket 218 is meaningless.

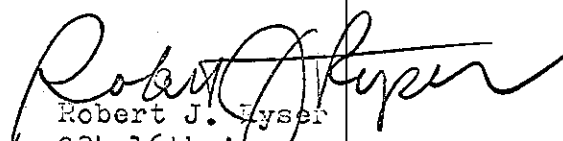
We believe there is a concerted effort to settle the Cowlitz Tribal claim by forcing a settlement, taking unfair advantage of a general ignorance of tribal people. They just don't have the kind of information that is needed.

We see the need to stop these tactics that "steam-roll" all deliberations, questions and discussion. While the March 3rd meeting was disorderly during certain discussion periods, the behavior of the Tribal chairman and others was highly suspicious, i.e. the Tribal lawyer.

Indeed why allow business of this kind to be conducted at a meeting clearly being held in a place totally inadequate, with people standing. People trying to hear, to vote, to ask questions. We have underlined some important sentences in our enclosures.

A representative(member)of the Cowlitz Tribal Development Association is coming to Washington D.C. during the first part of next month(April). We are hopeful he can meet with you at your office and discuss with you this very critical matter. A letter will be coming requesting an appointment soon.

Yours respectful,

  
Robert J. Lyser  
924 16th Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98122



COWLITZ TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Seattle, Washington

March 29, 1973

Mr. Abe W. Weissbrodt  
Law Offices of  
Weissbrodt & Weissbrodt  
1614 Twentieth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Weissbrodt:

A group of people, all members of the Cowlitz Tribe, just recently forming the above named association and myself: a member of that group wish to bring to your attention our shocked opposition to the proposed compromise settlement. We are not infavor of the terms of Docket 218 as they are described in a document we have received with your letterhead dated March, 1973 and titled, 'Report To Members Of The Cowlitz Tribe By Claims Attorneys'. We intend to challenge the decision taken at the meeting of March 3rd and claim that those present were allowed to vote in an election conducted unfairly and with many errors. We claim that the decision was taken hurriedly and under the influence of dread instilled by council. The entire report is so slanted to persuade the members of the Tribe that further litigation is too costly, both in time and money.

Furthermore, we challenge the decision of March 3, 1973 on the following points:

- 1) Notice of the meeting and its agenda was not properly given, nor timely, nor sufficient to satisfy the notice procedure.
- 2) The Tribe did not have a roll of members nor was there a formal check of tribal enrollment cards in the possession of many of the tribal members.
- 3) The meeting place was clearly not adequate to conduct a meeting of type held, given the magnitude of the issues involved. The environment was not conducive to effective discussion or debate.
- 4) No safeguards were instituted to insure the participation of the unschooled, the handicapped and others whose civil rights require attention.

5) Finally, we regard any settlement proposed as unsatisfactory and incompetent if there is no provision for raising an issue over tribal ownership of lands, timber, water and like resources.

We are currently in consultation with attorneys, discussing a course of action in the courts to be taken. We contemplate injunctory motions to seek a halt to the further carrying out of the March 3rd approval decision.

In closing we hope to indicate to you that our only quarrel with you is probably in regards to the proposed compromise settlement. We are not in a hurry and we are becoming more and more aware of the awful burden we bear in seeing that our families and tribal members gain what has been "taken" from them and denied to them for so long by a just, but overweening government.

Yours with respect,



Robert J. Ryser  
924 16th Avenue, Apt 203  
Seattle, Washington

They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it.

--Red Cloud

COWLITZ TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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March 29, 1973

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--Red Cloud

Tribal Operations  
Enrollment  
173.110 - Cowlitz

Western Washington Agency  
3006 Colby Avenue, Federal Building  
Everett, WA 98201

March 7, 1973

Mr. Roy I. Wilson  
Chairman, Cowlitz Indian  
P.O. Box 13071  
Spokane, WA 99213

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Enclosed are copies of Superintendent's letter written to Area  
Director, Portland Area Office and report of Tribal Operations  
Officer (Enrollment) of the March 3rd Cowlitz Tribal meeting.

Sincerely yours,

(s) John B. Benedetto

Acting Superintendent

✓ Enclosure

cc: Evelyn Bashor, Secretary/W/ Encl.

Tribal Operations  
173.110-Cowlitz

Western Washington Agency  
3006 Colby Avenue, Federal Building  
Everett, WA 98201

March 6, 1973

Memorandum

To: Area Director, Portland  
Attention: Tribal Operations

From: Superintendent, Western Washington Agency

Subject: Cowlitz Tribal Meeting - Proposed Compromise Settlement

Attached are two (2) copies each of correspondence and documents relating to the meeting of Cowlitz Indians held March 3, 1973, at the Cowlitz Grange Hall near Toledo, Washington. The purpose of this meeting was to vote on a proposed compromise settlement of the Cowlitz claim for \$1,550,000.. The enclosures are as follows:

1. Notice of meeting, which was prepared by the Tribal claims attorneys. When the claims attorneys sent the notice to the Cowlitz Chairman, the date, time, and place of meeting had not yet been determined and Tribal officials later filled in this information manually.

2. Certification of mailing the Notice of the meeting signed by the Secretary and dated March 3, 1973.

3. Certification by Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment), Western Washington Agency, stating that the Agency mailed the Notice of the meeting to Tribal Offices, Agency Offices, and other Indian Organizations per the attached list. The certification is dated March 5, 1973. Also enclosed is copy of Agency letter sent to the Chairman dated February 12 offering Agency assistance in providing publicity. It is our understanding that the Cowlitz Secretary furnished a copy of the media list to the claims attorneys on which has been circled the names of the media to which notices were sent.

4. A nine (9) page report about the proposed settlement. Sufficient copies of the report were reproduced for distribution to those attending the meeting.

5. Letter of December 20, 1972 from claims attorneys to Department of Justice and the reply of Department of Justice dated January 16, 1973, agreeing to proposal of compromise.
6. Copy of letter from claims attorney to Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe, dated February 7, giving instructions about preparing for and conducting the meeting. The letter states that a copy was also sent to the Bureau's Washington Office.
7. Resolution of Cowlitz membership approving the compromise settlement, signed by the Chairman, witnessed by the Secretary, and signatures certified by Agency Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment).
8. Minutes of membership meeting signed by the Cowlitz Chairman, Roy I. Wilson, and witnessed by the Cowlitz Secretary, Evelyn Bashor. The signatures have been certified by the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment) of the Western Washington Agency.
9. Resolution of the Executive Committee approving the compromise settlement, signed by the Chairman, witnessed by the Secretary, and signatures certified by Agency Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment).
10. Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee approving the compromise settlement, signed by the Chairman, witnessed by the Secretary, and signatures certified by Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment).
11. Report of the meeting prepared by Mr. Chester J. Higman, Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment) of the Western Washington Agency, Everett, Washington, who was delegated to attend the meeting as official representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
12. Superintendent's delegation of authority to the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment)

In his report the Agency Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment) expresses his opinion that

1. There was adequate notice of the meeting.
2. The written explanation, of the proposed compromise settlement, copies of which were available to those attending, was read out loud in its entirety, and was followed by questions and discussion.
3. The meeting was conducted in a satisfactory manner.
4. In his opinion there was no undue influence or pressure used which would have affected the outcome of the voting to approve or reject the proposed compromise.

On the basis of the information supplied, by the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment), I recommend approval of the compromise settlement, and hope the recommendation will be forwarded to the Secretary promptly.

After consultation with the Area Tribal Operations Officer, he agreed that a copy of this letter should be sent directly to the attention of the Chief of the Claims section in Washington, D. C. in order to expedite preparation of material for Secretarial consideration. If the Secretary recommends approval of the claim and the Indian Claims Commission accepts the settlement, the claims attorneys hope it will be possible to get the funds appropriated within the next 30-60 days so that they will begin to earn interest for the Tribe as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(s) John C. Donnell

John C. Donnell  
Superintendent

cc: Washington Office, attn: Guy Lovell,  
Chief Tribal Claims Division.

Subj.  
Br. Chrono  
Master Chrono  
CJHIGMAN:bp 3-6-73

ng

ns



REPORT BY TRIBAL OPERATIONS OFFICER (ENROLLMENT), WESTERN WASHINGTON AGENCY  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, EVERETT, WASHINGTON, OF MEETING OF COWLITZ INDIANS  
HELD MARCH 3, 1973 AT THE COWLITZ GRANGE HALL NEAR TOLEDO, WASHINGTON.

The meeting was called to vote on whether to accept a proposed compromise settlement of the Cowlitz claim-Docket No. 218.

1. Attendance at meeting

The meeting was presided over by Roy I. Wilson, Chairman of the Executive Committee. All other members of the Executive Committee were present. These were Ms. Tanna Beebe, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Evelyn Bashor, Secretary, Archie Iyall, member; and Roy King, member.

The Tribal attorneys were represented by Abe W. Weissbrodt, and Patrick Winston. Accompanying the attorneys was Dr. Vern Ray, who has done the anthropological work on the Cowlitz case for the Tribe. Western Washington Agency representatives were Chester J. Higman, Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment), the delegated B.I.A. representative, and Mrs. Patricia D. Rudd, Enrollment Assistant.

There was no provision for the Cowlitz Indians and any others who attended to register, and the meeting hall was so crowded with people both sitting and standing that it was impossible to make an accurate count. However, the estimated number present was 250-275, at least four times greater than the usual attendance at Cowlitz tribal meetings. The Tribe does not have an accurate record of how many are considered affiliated with it, but the Secretary estimates there may be 400-500 adults. On this basis, it is my opinion that there was a representative group present of people who claim to be Cowlitz Indians or who are of Cowlitz descent.

2. Notice of meeting

A. The certification of the Tribal Secretary, a copy of which is a part of the accompanying letter, states that on February 21, 1973, Notice of the Meeting was sent to 384 persons. According to the Secretary, this total includes adults on the tribal membership records for whom addresses are known, and 132 people who have written the Western Washington Agency or who have made verbal inquiry about the claim.

B. The Western Washington Agency was not asked to participate in planning the meeting, but the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment) offered to assist in any way possible. The Agency staff was able to help by furnishing a list of newspapers, TV and radio stations for tribal reference, and a copy of the list is a part of the accompanying letter dated March 6, 1973. The Secretary supplied the tribal attorneys a copy of this list, on which are circled the media to which notices actually were sent. This marked list presumably will be supplied by the attorneys. At the meeting, the Secretary had only the original copies of newspaper clippings about the meeting and she gave these to the tribal attorneys to be reproduced.

The Agency also assisted in providing publicity for the meeting by sending the Notice of Meeting to Tribal Offices, other Indian organizations and a list of these is also part of the letter. The

On the basis of the above publicity efforts, I believe there was adequate notice of the meeting and that the notices were sent sufficiently in advance.

### 3. Claims Report

A. The Claims attorneys had prepared a nine page comprehensive written report arranged under the following headings:

- I Introduction
- II Background Information
- III The Settlement Negotiations
- IV Awards Made by the Commission to Other Tribes Located West of the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington
- V Comments on the Proposed Settlement
- VI Conclusion and Recommendation

Copies of the report were passed out before the meeting started, and when it was called to order, the Chairman announced that copies were still available for those who did not have them, and said there would be an additional 10 minutes allowed to read the report before the meeting started, after which the attorney would read it to the meeting. Before the report was read, however, Mr. Abe W. Weissbrodt, one of the claims attorneys, gave a short history of claims brought by Tribes prior to 1946, the creation of the Indian Claims Commission by the Indian Claims Commission Act passed by Congress in 1946, how the Cowlitz brought its claim under this Act, and the progress of their claim. This was largely a summary of the information given in the Introduction and Background Sections of the report.

Then he said he would be glad to discuss anything about the settlement, but if there were questions about how the funds will be distributed, whether Indians in general are being treated fairly, whether or not the Tribe has a chance to be recognized, these were not pertinent to the compromise, and so he would be unable to answer them. The Chairman followed by explaining that the boundaries had been established to the people's attention was called to a map posted on the wall which showed the boundaries of the land to which the Indian Claims Commission decided the Cowlitz had aboriginal title), the date or taking had been finally fixed after the case had been appealed, and he said the only point to be decided was whether to accept the compromise settlement. He also said that the question of how the money would be divided was not an issue at this meeting but if the settlement was accepted, this question would be discussed at future meetings.

B. Reading of the Report and other documents. Following the Chairman's remarks, Dr. Vern Ray, the anthropologist, who has worked on the case for a number of years, was asked to read the report, which he did in a loud enough voice to be heard, and slowly enough so the people were able to read along with him. It was not necessary to interpret because those present were able to speak and understand English.

After reading of the report was completed, Mr. Weissbrodt read the letters exchanged between the attorneys and the Department of Justice

specifying the accepted basis for a proposed compromise settlement.

4. Questions and answers and discussion about the settlement.

The Chairman announced that in order for discussion to begin, it would be necessary to have a motion. Therefore, the Secretary moved that the people present give authority to the Tribal Council to write a proposal accepting the compromise settlement. This motion was confusing, one reason being that the governing body of the Tribe is the Executive Committee in accordance with the Cowlitz Constitution. The motion later was amended to replace "Tribal Council" by "Executive Committee". The main reason, however, was that the motion appeared to give authority to the Executive Committee to accept or reject the compromise, and it was clear from the comments which followed that the people felt they should make this determination. After discussion, it was clarified that the people would vote on a resolution whether or not to accept the compromise, and a similar action would be taken by the Executive Committee. Then Mr. Weissbrodt read the resolution which had been prepared to vote on. This is the resolution approved by the Cowlitz Tribe that is being submitted with the accompanying letter.

The discussion about the proposed settlement consisted both of questions and answers, plus comments and opinions of individuals. A request was made to have members of the Executive Committee give their opinion. The Chairman, the Secretary, and members Archie Iyall and Roy King, stated they approved the settlement. The Vice-Chairman said she wanted to wait until the people vote and would vote in accordance with their decision.

There were more questions which were answered by Mr. Weissbrodt, and individual opinions were expressed. In the case of those opposed, some of the opposition was based on misunderstanding of how claims cases are handled. One concern was that the proposed settlement is small in relation to the present value of the land. Mr. Weissbrodt explained that value is based on the date of taking, not present day values. Others felt the case should be carried to a conclusion because of the possibility of a greater award. Mr. Weissbrodt gave the reasons why the claims attorneys believe the compromise settlement will provide the maximum amount of funds to the tribe because the possibility of a larger award could be offset by increased attorney expenses and the loss of interest for as much as 4 or 5 years while the case is being decided.

Finally, when the discussion became heated and emotional, there was a call for the question. A vote was taken on whether the people were ready for the question to vote on the resolution. Three vote takers were appointed and a hand vote was taken. Those in favor were 141 and those opposed 15. This was followed by a vote on the motion to approve the resolution accepting the compromise settlement. Three vote takers were appointed, one who was opposed to the compromise and had spoken against it in the meeting, one who was in favor, and the Vice Chairman, who had stated she would vote in accordance with tribal decision. Those voting who were seated, stood and were counted row by row. Those who had no place to sit and who were standing raised their hands and were counted by sections. The vote to accept the settlement was 172 for and 36 opposed.

Following the vote, there were some dissenting comments and a motion was made to reconsider the action. The motion was criticized by those who had voted for the compromise, after which the person making the motion withdrew it. An effort was then made to pass a motion asking those voting against the proposal to vote in favor of it so that the action would be unanimous. This motion was not approved. Tanna Beebe, Vice-Chairman, said she would go along with the decision. She said, however, that she objected to the method by which the vote was taken, and what she considered the direction of Chairman by the tribal attorney. The Chairman replied that he had consulted with the attorney for legal guidance only.

5. Opinion of the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment)

Although the voting and the discussion made it apparent that the great majority of those attending the meeting were in favor of the compromise, I was concerned about the action taken to cut off the discussion. However, it was initiated from the floor, it appeared to be legal, and was approved by more than 90% of those who voted on it. For these reasons, I believe that even if the discussion had been prolonged, it would not have made any significant difference in the vote.

In my opinion, the general meeting was conducted in a satisfactory manner and no undue pressure was used which would have affected the outcome of the voting.

6. Meeting of the Executive Committee

Following the General meeting, a meeting of the Executive Committee was held. At this meeting, the resolution passed at the general meeting and the minutes of that meeting were signed by the Chairman, witnessed by the Secretary, and their signatures certified by the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment). Then a similar resolution was properly moved, seconded and unanimously passed by the Executive Committee, then signed, witnessed, and the official signatures certified. Finally, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting as it related to the compromise settlement were approved, signed, witnessed, and the official signatures certified.

These official actions were followed by explanations from Mr. Weissbrodt and the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment), how the approval of the compromise settlement is made by the Indian Claims Commission, how funds are appropriated, and the procedures followed in preparing and passing legislation governing distribution of the funds. The claims attorney, Mr. Weissbrodt, and the Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment) explained that the Tribe may propose any legislation it wishes and Mr. Weissbrodt said that the attorneys will be glad to write the legislation as directed by the Tribe. He emphasized that there should be general agreement by the Tribe on how it wishes the funds to be distributed before any legislation is submitted.

The meeting then adjourned.

Chester J. Higman  
Tribal Operations Officer (Enrollment)  
Western Washington Agency  
Everett, Washington,

*Purdy Rysse*  
*mag*

LAW OFFICES

WEISSBRODT & WEISSBRODT

1614 TWENTIETH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

TELEPHONE  
COLUMBIA 5-1933

I. S. WEISSBRODT  
ABE W. WEISSBRODT  
RICHMOND F. ALLAN  
RUTH W. DUHL  
MARSHA E. SWISS

March 1973

REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE COWLITZ  
TRIBE BY CLAIMS ATTORNEYS

I. Introduction

This is a report to the members of the Cowlitz Tribe with respect to a proposed final settlement of the land claims of the Cowlitz Tribe in the case known as Docket No. 218, before the Indian Claims Commission.

Following negotiations conducted by the Claims Attorneys for the Cowlitz Tribe with the Government's Attorneys, the Department of Justice has advised, on behalf of the United States, that it is prepared to agree to the entry of a final judgment against the United States, in favor of the Tribe, which will provide for the payment to the Tribe of the sum of \$1,550,000.

Under the procedures established by the Indian Claims Commission, it is required that the proposed settlement be submitted to the members of the Tribe and its governing body for a vote as to whether or not it should be approved.

However, even if the Tribe and its governing body vote in favor of approving the proposed settlement, it cannot be carried into effect unless and until: (1) the settlement is also approved by the Secretary of the Interior (or his duly authorized representative); and (2) the settlement is considered at a hearing before the Indian Claims Commission and is approved by the Commission as fair and equitable.

If the proposed settlement is approved, the litigation will end and an award of \$1,550,000 will be made to the Tribe. If the proposed settlement is rejected, the litigation will continue.

The Claims Attorneys have previously reported to the Cowlitz, from time to time, on the progress of the litigation in Docket No. 218. For purposes of assisting in a full understanding of this report and the proposed settlement, we are repeating certain information pertaining to the nature of the claims and the history of the litigation.

In addition to this written report, Claims Attorneys will attend the meeting at which the members of the Tribe and the governing body of the Tribe consider the settlement and will be available to answer questions.

## II. Background Information

### A. The litigation before the Indian Claims Commission

The Cowlitz Tribe originally filed its suit under the Indian Claims Commission Act in August 1951. In this suit, the Cowlitz claimed compensation for the ancestral homeland of the Tribe, located in the southwestern part of the State of Washington, which the United States took from the Tribe without making any payment for the land.

For about fourteen years, little progress was made in litigating the Cowlitz claims.

In 1965, after the termination of an earlier contract which the Tribe had made with certain attorneys for services in prosecuting the claims, the Tribe entered into a new contract with Claims Attorneys Lyle Keith and Patrick Winston of Spokane, Washington, and I.S. Weissbrodt and Abe W. Weissbrodt of Washington, D.C. This 1965 contract provides that in the event the Attorneys are successful in obtaining a recovery for the Tribe on the claims, the Attorneys will receive as compensation for their services ten (10) percent of the amount of the recovery, and the Attorneys will be reimbursed for the moneys that they have advanced to meet the costs and expenses of the litigation.

The Claims Attorneys undertook an investigation of the history of the Cowlitz Tribe from earliest times, including a search for all available information as to the area of land which the Tribe used and occupied and the facts pertaining to the dealings between the Tribe and the United States. Dr. Verne F. Ray, anthropologist, was employed by the Attorneys to assist in this work. The investigation covered all historical and ethnological reports, documents, letters, maps and other writings that could be located in the National Archives of the United States as well as in collections of historical societies, museums and libraries.

Following the completion of this investigation and the performance of research as to the applicable principles of

law, the Cowlitz claims were brought to trial in October 1966 before the Indian Claims Commission on the issues of the boundaries and extent of the area of ancestral land which belonged to the Tribe and the date (or dates) when the United States took the land from the Tribe.

At the trial, the Claims Attorneys placed in evidence, the letters, reports, other documents and maps which they had collected. Dr. Ray testified as an expert witness on behalf of the Tribe. Also, at the trial, the Government Attorneys, seeking to defeat or minimize the Tribe's claims, placed in evidence the documents, other writings and maps which the Government had collected and presented the testimony of its expert witness, Dr. Carroll L. Riley, an anthropologist.

After the trial, the Tribal Claims Attorneys and the Government Attorneys submitted their respective proposed Findings of Fact, and their Briefs on the legal issues.

Then, on June 25, 1969, the Indian Claims Commission issued its first decision in the case. By this decision, the Commission determined the boundaries of the area of the ancestral homeland of the Cowlitz Tribe. It has been calculated that the area of the Cowlitz ancestral homeland, as bounded by the Commission, contained 1,716,000 acres. Also, the Commission decided that the United States took this homeland from the Cowlitz Tribe on March 3, 1855.

Under the law, as interpreted by the Commission and by the Courts, when it is proved that the United States had taken away the ancestral land of a tribe, the tribe is entitled to be paid for the land, based on its fair market value as of the date of the taking. Generally speaking and in most instances, the later the date of the taking of the ancestral land, the higher is the value.

The Claims Attorneys carefully studied the June 1969 decision of the Commission. We reviewed all of the evidence and the principles of law. Following this study and review, the Claims Attorneys concluded that there was some reasonable basis to consider that we might be able to convince the Indian Claims Commission to reconsider its decision as to the 1855 date of taking of the Cowlitz land and to find a later taking date. Accordingly, the Claims Attorneys filed a motion with accompanying brief, requesting the Commission to reconsider its decision as to the 1855 date of taking.

On June 23, 1971, following the reconsideration, the Commission issued its second decision. By this decision, the Commission changed the date of the taking of the Cowlitz tribal homeland from March 3, 1855, to March 20, 1863.

B. The appeal to the United States Court of Claims

Although the change in the taking date from 1855 to 1863 was somewhat favorable to the Tribe, the Claims Attorneys for the Tribe were still not satisfied. Again, we carefully reviewed the entire situation. On the discouraging side, we noted that in cases involving the various other Indian tribes located west of the Cascades in the State of Washington, the Commission had typically found taking dates of either 1855 or 1859. Accordingly, the 1863 date found for the Cowlitz Tribe was more favorable than the dates of taking found for other tribes of the western part of the State of Washington. Nevertheless, we considered that if an appeal was taken to the United States Court of Claims, we might be able to convince that Court to find a taking date later than 1863. Accordingly, we filed such an appeal.

The Government Attorneys were also not satisfied with the Commission's second decision, and the United States also filed an appeal to the Court of Claims, arguing that the earlier taking date of 1855 was correct and that the 1863 date was wrong.

The Court of Claims issued its opinion on the appeals in the Cowlitz case on October 13, 1972. The majority of the judges of the Court of Claims denied both the appeal of the Tribe and the appeal of the United States. It concluded that the Commission was correct in ruling in its second decision that the land was taken by the United States from the Tribe on March 20, 1863.

Since the Court of Claims decided that the 1863 date is the correct date of taking, both the Cowlitz Tribe and the United States are bound by that decision as matters now stand. The Court of Claims returned the case to the Commission for further proceedings.

III. The Settlement Negotiations

In the usual course of events, the next phases of the proceedings would be an investigation, followed by a trial before the Commission, for purpose of determining the fair



market value of the 1,716,000 acres of Cowlitz land as of March 20, 1863. Then, after the Commission issued its decision as to the value of the land a further investigation would be undertaken and, if the Government Attorneys so requested, a trial would be held at which the Government would be given the opportunity to prove that it is entitled under the law to "offsets" against, or deduction from, the value of the land, by reason of certain gifts or benefits it made to, or provided for, the Cowlitz Tribe, after 1863.

However, instead of proceeding to prepare for a valuation trial, to be followed by a further possible trial as to deductions from the value, the Claims Attorneys considered that it would be in the best interest of the Cowlitz Tribe that we take steps first to attempt to negotiate with the Government as to the amount which the Government would be willing to pay to the Tribe as a final payment on its claims, by way of settlement of the case and without further trial proceedings.

The task confronting the Claims Attorneys in the course of negotiating a settlement of the claims was to make a prediction, within some reasonable range, of what the Commission's decision might be if the claims were litigated to a final conclusion. We considered that if such prediction could be made and if a settlement could be made with the Government within the range of the prediction, this would be in the best interest of the Tribe since it would avoid the delays, costs and risks of further litigation.

The task of making a prediction of the Commission's decision is admittedly very difficult. The Claims Attorneys undertook this task after careful investigation, study and analysis. The Claims Attorneys had the benefit of the investigations and reports made by appraisal experts who had valued tribal lands in western Washington which were comparable to the Cowlitz lands. The Claims Attorneys also carefully studied and analyzed the decisions of the Indian Claims Commission in which valuations had been made of comparable lands of other Indian tribes, particularly lands of tribes of western Washington, which bordered or were in the vicinity of the Cowlitz land.

After completing these studies and analyses, the Claims Attorneys entered into the settlement negotiations with the Government. As we have stated, as a result of these negotiations, the Department of Justice has offered, in substance,

that, if the Cowlitz Tribe agrees to end the suit, the United States will pay to the Tribe the sum of \$1,550,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed settlement are set forth in an exchange of letters between the Claims Attorneys and the Department of Justice. These letters are: (1) a letter dated December 20, 1972, from Claims Attorney Abe W. Weissbrodt to the Attorney General of the United States, and (2) a letter dated January 16, 1973, from Assistant Attorney General Kent Frizzell to Claims Attorney Abe W. Weissbrodt.

IV. Awards Made by the Commission to Other Tribes Located West of the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington

As noted, in connection with the settlement negotiations, the Claims Attorneys made a study of the cases, involving the land claims of the various tribes located west of the Cascades in the State of Washington, in which the Commission had already made final awards.

This study showed that, with respect to the Washington tribes located west of the Cascades, the highest final award made by the Commission up to this time was to the Chehalis Tribe in the amount of \$754,380, and the next highest final awards were in the range between \$300,000 and \$400,000. In the cases of most of the other tribes west of the Cascades in Washington, the final recoveries awarded by the Commission on the land claims have been less than \$100,000. The nature, quality and resources of the lands differed in the various cases, with some tracts being considered more valuable than others. However, by and large, the main reason for the limited recoveries in these cases was that the tribes were able to prove ownership of relatively small tracts of ancestral land.

It will therefore be seen that if the proposed settlement of the land claims of the Cowlitz Tribe is approved and carried into effect, the Cowlitz Tribe will obtain a final award in an amount approximately twice as great as the highest final recovery previously made to any tribe west of the Cascades in Washington.

During the course of the litigation in the Chehalis case, the Commission found the boundaries of the Chehalis tribal land. This tribal land (of both the Upper and Lower Chehalis) was determined to include altogether a total of 838,200 acres. As has been noted, the final award which the Commission made to the Chehalis Tribe for these 838,200 acres was \$754,380. This final award was based on a settlement negotiated by the attorneys for the Chehalis Tribe with the Government.

It will be observed that, under the final award in the Chehalis case, the average value per acre amounts to 90 cents (838,200 acres times 90 cents per acre equals \$754,380). It will similarly be noted that the average value per acre under the proposed settlement in the Cowlitz case amounts to slightly more than 90 cents per acre (1,716,000 acres times 90 cents equals \$1,544,400).

On the basis that the nature and quality of the Cowlitz ancestral land were generally comparable to the nature and quality of the Chehalis ancestral land in the mid-1800's, we believe that it may be considered that a 90 cents per acre settlement for the Cowlitz land is more favorable than a 90 cents per acre settlement for the Chehalis land. The reason for this is that, as a general rule, the Government argues for a discount for size when a larger tract is being valued. As noted, the acreage of the Cowlitz ancestral land was proven to be 1,716,000 acres, or somewhat more than twice the acreage of the Chehalis tract.

#### V. Comments on the Proposed Settlement

This report presents a matter of high importance to the Cowlitz Tribe.

As noted, if the proposed settlement is approved, the Indian Claims Commission will enter a final judgment for the Cowlitz Tribe in the amount of \$1,550,000. Then, Congress will appropriate the moneys to pay the final judgment. We believe that unless the approval of the settlement is delayed, there is a reasonable basis to expect that the moneys to pay the judgment will be appropriated by Congress in or about April or May, 1973. Next, in the normal course of events, after payment of attorney fees and litigation costs, the moneys will be temporarily invested, on behalf of the Tribe, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in obligations which are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the United States Government both as to principal and interest. Based on the current market, it may be expected that the interest yield to the Tribe will be somewhat higher than the rate of 6 percent per year. The investments will continue while the Tribe works out and presents to the Bureau of Indian Affairs plans for the use or division of the moneys for its members. The plans are then presented to Congress for its consideration and the enactment of a bill authorizing the use or division of the moneys.

On the other hand, as noted, if the proposed settlement is not approved, the litigation of the Cowlitz claims will go on. First, as has been noted, it will be necessary to investigate

{ the value of the lands, including all the resources of the lands, as of 1863. In this connection, it will be necessary to locate and employ a team of expert appraisers, including experts competent to value timberlands and agricultural lands. Then, a valuation trial would be held; and, after such trial, and after the Claims Attorneys and the Government Attorneys filed their respective proposed findings of fact and briefs and replies, the Commission would be in a position to issue its valuation decision. After the valuation decision is issued, a further investigation and trial with respect to "allowable offsets" or deductions from the value may be required, if the Government Attorneys consider it to be appropriate and advisable in the interest of the United States.

*5/19/63*  
Based on knowledge of, and experience with, other cases before the Indian Claims Commission, the Claims Attorneys estimate that, if the litigation in Docket No. 218 should be continued through valuation proceedings, another period of about three or more years might elapse before a decision on value would be issued; and if the litigation also should be continued through "offset" proceedings, still another period of about a year or more might elapse before the final decision would be issued by the Commission. Even after the Commission issued such final decision, there would be a further risk of delay resulting from an appeal of the Commission's decision, if either the Cowlitz Tribe or the Government were not satisfied that the decision was correct.

Accordingly, one of the primary reasons for the entry by the Claims Attorneys into settlement negotiations with the Government was to avoid long further delays in obtaining a final recovery for the Cowlitz.

Another important reason for the efforts by the Claims Attorneys to negotiate a settlement was to avoid additional costs and expenses to the Tribe. We estimate that the costs of a valuation investigation and trial, including the fees and expenses of the expert appraisers, would approximate \$100,000 and such costs would be deducted from any final recovery awarded to the Tribe. *deducted*

## VI. Conclusion and Recommendation

The Claims Attorneys are of the opinion that a settlement of the Cowlitz claims in Docket No. 218 on the basis of an award in the amount of \$1,550,000 is advantageous to, and in the best interests of, the Tribe.

We have considered that, if no settlement is made and the litigation continued to a final conclusion, it might be possible to obtain a somewhat higher award. However, no assurance can be given of such a higher award, and, in the light of decisions of the Commission in some other cases, a lower award might be given.

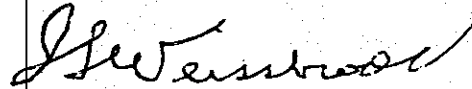
In any event, it is our opinion that the chances that such a higher award could be obtained are far outweighed by the disadvantages of the delay, the risks, and the additional expenses which would be involved in continuing the litigation.

We are strengthened in our conclusions by the fact that an award made as a result of this settlement would, at current rates of interest, earn more than \$80,000 each year. Thus, each year consumed in further litigation would be disadvantageous to the Tribe.

Upon request, the Claims Attorneys will be pleased to supply any additional information which you desire concerning the claims in Docket No. 218 and the proposed settlement.

The Claims Attorneys recommend that the proposed settlement be approved.

For the Claims Attorneys:



I. S. WEISSBRODT



ABE W. WEISSBRODT