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SHOWDOWN ON CLAIMS CASE NEAR

A showdown on the "Docket 80" Southern California Indians Claims Case is expected soon.

The federal government this month will ask the three-member Indians Claims Commission to throw out claims of Southern California Indians for 13 million acres of land and certain water, hunting and fishing rights.

Attorneys for the Southern California Indians say they will fight the government's motion to dismiss the "Docket 80" case and will move for a hearing on the case this November. Long Beach attorney Raymond C. Simpson, one of three attorneys for the Indians on "Docket 80", outlined progress on the claims case at a meeting held at the Morongo Indian Reservation.

Simpson and attorneys Robert Kilpatrick and Charles Burch are legal representatives for the Indians. San Diego Superior Court Judges Byron Lindsley and Robert Staniforth are advisors on the case.

Simpson explained that "Docket 80", so called because it is the 80th case on the docket of the Indians Claims Commission since that body was established by Congressional law in 1946, has been left "hanging in the air" since it was first filed in 1950 by attorney Norman Latelle.

Claims involved have now been expanded to include 13 million acres which Southern California Indians are alleged to have occupied and used and therefore to have owned by aboriginal possession and use before 1852.

Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, which ended the war between the United States and Mexico, Indians in California became subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S.

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ABOUT YOUR NEWSPAPER

Monthly editions of this newspaper will be available at ten cents per copy at most reservations in Southern California.

Arrangements for delivery of the paper to your doorstep can be made through your tribal council representatives if you live on or near a reservation.

Copies will also be available soon at central points on reservations such as community centers.

Mail subscriptions are not available at this time.

Your newspaper shall make no profit on sales of copies or advertising. After costs of printing and distribution are paid, all revenue shall be set aside in a special fund for future distribution by legal tribal council representatives on each reservation where the newspaper is sold.

We ask for your help in supporting this paper by buying copies for yourself, relatives and friends.

Please send all comments and suggestions to "The Indian Reporter", Post Office Box 396, Banning, California.

REPORTERS NEEDED

Reporters are needed on each Indian reservation in Southern California to keep all Indians in the area abreast of latest developments through this newspaper.

News of youth activities, special events or ceremonies, births, deaths and marriages or tribal government activities on your reservation is of interest to the entire Southland Indian community.

Tribal council members on each reservation will be asked to select a reporter for their reservation. Please contact your council and volunteer your help.

Without your news this newspaper can not continue.

CLAIMS CASE

(Continue from page 1)

In 1851 Federal representatives negotiated various treaties with the Indian tribes of California. By these treaties, Indians surrendered about three-fourths of the entire acreage of California in return for promises of certain lands and various goods and services.

In 1944 California Attorney General Robert W. Kenny, acting as attorney for the Indians of California, negotiated with the government for a settlement of $5,165,863 for certain lands in California at which missions were located by the Spaniards before 1848 and which had been promised to the Indians of California but taken away.

Under limitations of the Jurisdictional Act of May 18, 1928 a ceiling on the value of Indian land was put at $1.25 per acre and claims for recovery were limited to the scope of promises of the 1852 unratified treaties.

Also a provision for "off-sets" (deductions for goods and services provided to the Indians by the government) resulted in a deduction of more than $12 million from the total settlement of $17.8 million.

The present "Docket 80" case--in which 55 Southern California Indian bands are now participating--involves land in Southern California not included in the original 1944 settlement.

A similar case by Indians of Northern California, "Dockets 31 and 37", has already received a favorable judgment from the Indian Claims Commission.

That decision is being appealed by the government to the Court of Claims.

Simpson said that attorneys on the "Docket 80" case have agreed to work closely together and keep the case moving ahead as quickly as possible.

He said a great deal of confusion has been caused by the switching of attorneys and noted that some 29 bands in Southern California were without any legal representation as of July because their contracts with attorneys had expired.

Attorneys on the case are now attempting to get contracts from bands without legal representation.

"We want this claims case to move", Simpson said. "It's about time that something happened on 'Docket 80'."

ATTORNEYS SEEK HELP IN CLAIMS CASE

Some history on life in Southern California before 1852 could help win a larger settlement on the "Docket 80" Claims Case for Indians of the area.

Attorney Raymond Simpson, one of three attorneys for the Indians on the case, urges all Indians to compare notes on past history and to send any information on relations between tribes to lawyers

"It is extremely important that your attorneys have all information on relations between tribes before 1852", Simpson told persons attending a meeting at Morongo Indian Reservation in July.

"The more Southern California Indians can show that tribes were related, the better it is for the claims case", Simpson said.

He listed information on marriage, trade, celebrations, hunting, fishing, and food gathering between tribes as very important.

Simpson explained that the Indians must show that there was inter-tribal activity before 1852 in order to gain a settlement for 13 million acres.

If that activity cannot be shown, an eventual settlement might be based just on the small individual areas of each reservation and not the total area, he said.

SOBOBA BOY OK AFTER ACCIDENT

SOBOBA--Young Chuck Brienes, grandson of Soboba tribal spokesman Anthony Mojado Sr., is recovered from injuries which he received July 15 when a car hit him.

Chuck suffered a bruised hip and cuts on the face when he was hit by a car outside church Sunday morning. He was rushed to Hemet Valley Hospital where he received several stitches.

As a result of the accident the scheduled July 15 meeting of the Soboba Band was postponed until this month. The meeting was called to discuss new sanitation and water regulations.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The California State Department of Employment is attempting to form a fire crew for the Morongo Indian Reservation.

For details telephone the department at 849-2297 or visit the Banning office at 375 N. San Gorgonio.

MORONGO TRIBAL EXPENSES APPROVED

MORONGO--Voters here in July approved proposed expenditures of local tribal funds totaling $5,780, including the proposed purchase of land for a community center and recreation area.

Members of the Morongo Band passed all seven measures on a ballot to authorize the tribe's business committee to spend tribal funds.

The following expenditures were authorized:

1) Business committee general expenses such as travel, postage, stationary and office supplies--$750;

2) Expenses for operation and maintenance of the reservation's domestic water system, including the payment of electrical power charges--$1,000;

3) Purchase of a blackboard to be used for posting general notices and business items--$30;

4) Fees to hire an attorney for legal advise on contracts, research, letter writing and attendance at general meetings --$300;

5) Fees to relocate one mile of fence (running north from the main entrance to the reservation) to the proper boundary line of the reservation--$500;

6) Money to purchase 4.9 acres of land west of the old agency reserve for a baseball field and other recreation facilities for the reservation's 95 children, and

7) Funds for an architect to draw up construction plans for a new community building to replace the present one--$300.

IT'S THE LAW

An individual Indian living on an Indian reservation may hire an attorney for legal representation without the approval of the Department of Interior's Solicitor's office or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Approval of the Solicitor in Washington, D.C. is necessary, however, if a tribe wishes to hire an attorney. Under federal law, the solicitor must approve both the attorney and terms of his contract with the tribe.

Frank Barry is chief solicitor.

PALA POW-WOW SET

PALA--A weekend of authentic Indian songs and dances is set for August 31 to September 2 here when the nation-wide Drum and Feather Club holds its annual Pow-Wow.

The annual celebration will include a soft ball tournament, children's foot races, water mellon eating contest, and many other events including a fiesta for all.

American Indian dances from all parts of the United States will be exhibited.

The Drum and Feather Club is an inter-tribal organization with members from all parts of the country.

Admission to events is free, but donations will be accepted to finance construction of a new club house to house all organizations.

FOUR-H WINNERS

RINCON--Ed and Fred Mazetti, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Max Mazetti, won first prizes at the San Diego County 4-H Fair held at Del Mar last month.

Ed won the blue ribbon for his hereford steer and a 7th place award for showmanship. Fred won first place for his angus steer at the 10-day fair.

PALA--Members of the Pala 4-H Club won 16 prizes at the San Diego County Fair last month--four of them first place awards.

Luann Mojado won a first for his gameboard with depressions for marbles. Janice Diaz copped a first place award for her cake, cut and decorated to resemble a butterfly. Peter Trujillo won firsts for his coffe table and candle sticks.

Table lamps made from plastic bleach bottles were exhibited by Louis Castillo, Darrell and Peter Trudillo, Joseph Scott and George Machado.

Coffee tables were also entered by Louis Castillo and Luann Mojado. Castillo entered a bookcase also.

Cooking awards were also won by Doreen Lavate for her muffins and Bernadette Trujillo for her cookies. Bernie and Adele Magee won ribbons for their gathered skirts.

SOBOBA MAY FACE CONDEMNATION SUIT

SOBOBA--The federal government may start condemnation proceedings against this reservation to acquire easements over some 309 acres of reservation land.

The Boboba Band last month received an offer of $26,000 for easements over 309 acres of low land at the west end of the reservation near San Jacinto from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Engineers say the land is needed for flowage easements for construction of the San Jacinto River Levee Flood Control Project.

The appraisel of $26,000 is seen as a prelude to condemnation proceedings by the government to get easements for the project. If the reservation refuses the offer, the government could file suit under the Land Acquisition Act of 1960.

Easements would be acquired by the government in the name of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Army engineers claim the flood control project would improve other land on the Soboba reservation because it would increase the carrying capacity of the single channel that now carries flood waters from the reservation.

The government offer is expected to be considered by the Soboba Band at a general meeting this month.

There are 5,055 acres of land included in the Soboba reservation.

BOWLING CHAMPS

SOBOBA--This reservation has its share of women bowling champions.

For the second straight year six girls from the Soboba reservation won first place in the winter league tournament at the Ramona Lanes in Hemet.

Winning the trophy for the Evan's Honey Bees were: Captain Patricia Arres, Marion Chacon, Gladys Reader, Alice Helms, Jessie Gilmone and Ellen Vivance.

REMINDER

Voters who did not vote in the last general election in November, 1960 must re-register in order to be eligible to vote in the coming November general election.

NEW INDIAN BUREAU CHIEF NAMED

PALM SPRINGS—Ute Indian A. H. Harris, 41, was named last month as head of this city's Bureau of Indian Affairs office.

Harris, who has spent 15 years with the federal government's Indian Bureau, succeeds Ray Jackson as head of the Palm Springs office.

The local office overseas the affairs of the Agua Caliente Indian tribe and holds in trust about 32,000 acres of Indian land in Palm Springs.

Born on a Ute reservation in northeastern Utah near Ft. Duchesne, Harris served for one year as a member of his home tribal council and as a private real estate employee of the Ute tribe.

He served four years with the Air Force in the Aleutians and South Pacific during World War II before joining the Indian Bureau in 1947.

Harris has worked with the bureau in Utah; Klamath Falls, Ore.; Window Rock, Ariz.; and Muskogee, Okla.

His wife, Lucille, is a member of the Paiute tribe.

Jackson, who left the Palm Springs office last May, was promoted to the post of chief of the acquisition and disposal section, realty branch, in the bureau's Washington, D. C. headquarters.

BASEBALL

MORONGO—The Morongo Warriers received an invitation from the Chicago White Sox organization to play a group of White Sox farm rookies at Sawtelle on August 4.

Team manager Lloyd Marcus said his club would not take up the offer. Marcus said the Warriors do plan to defend their title at the all-Indian Baseball Tournament at Parker, Arizona in September.

TRIBAL MEETINGS

PALA—A general meeting has been set for Sunday, August 12 here to discuss payments for operation of the reservation's domestic water system and other matters, according to Robert Lavate, spokesman.

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