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July 20, 1999

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Natural Resource Trustee Council July 2 1999  
 Kennewick

Department of Ecology  
 NWP-Kennewick

The NRTC wishes to hear a response from the people about Hanford. I would like to respond as I'm not sure if the Council knows the early Indian history of Hanford.

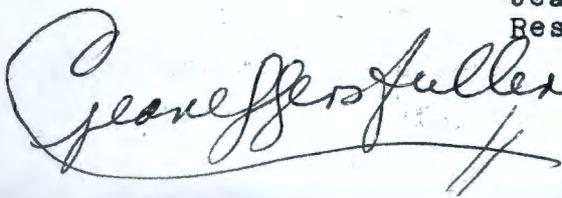
The place of today's Richland was once called Chimna (warm grassy place) and the peninsula was the personal private land belonging to the Wallawalla Great Chief Peupeumoxmox, highest Chief of the Wallawalla Nation that covered nearly 1/3 of Washington State. To Priest Rapids belonged in common to the Wallawalla people (pams) which included Hanford. This area was the winter home of the Wallawalla from the Wallawalla River.

Across the Yakama River on the south were the Chimnapams, below them were the Horse Heaven wehopepams and below them on the Columbia were the pishquitpah and Umatallams. They all basically wintered on the Yakama River. They were all of the Wallawalla Tribe and spoke the Wallawalla language. The Shahaptin were in Idaho, now called Nezperce = which was only a jewelry fad wore by many Indians on the Columbia River.

In the 1855 Treaty Stevens gave peupeumoxmox the right to build a little house, a trading post where his cattle and ponies ranged, which was the Chief's own land of Chimna. The Wallawalla continually complained and didn't want to live in Oregon so the US Government was in favor of giving them land of their choice in Washington State. Their then Chief Momily (hoh-me-ly) chose the Chimna peninsula from the mouth of Yakama River to below Priest Rapids which was their land and was to be the Wallawalla Reservation because they were Washington Indians. Because of the mounting fear of the Young Chief Joseph war, the government did not grant the reservation, although the Wallawalla continued to live in their ancestral haunts along the Columbia River, and the Wallawalla River.

Richland and Hanford land originally belonged to the Wallawalla and their chiefs, so they should have some say in the outcome of Hanford.

Jean Eggers Fuller  
 Research Historian of the Wallawalla



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