

Cushman



*History
Of The
Puyallup
Tribe Of
Indians*

PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS PROJECT REPORT CUSHMAN SITE

Prepared for

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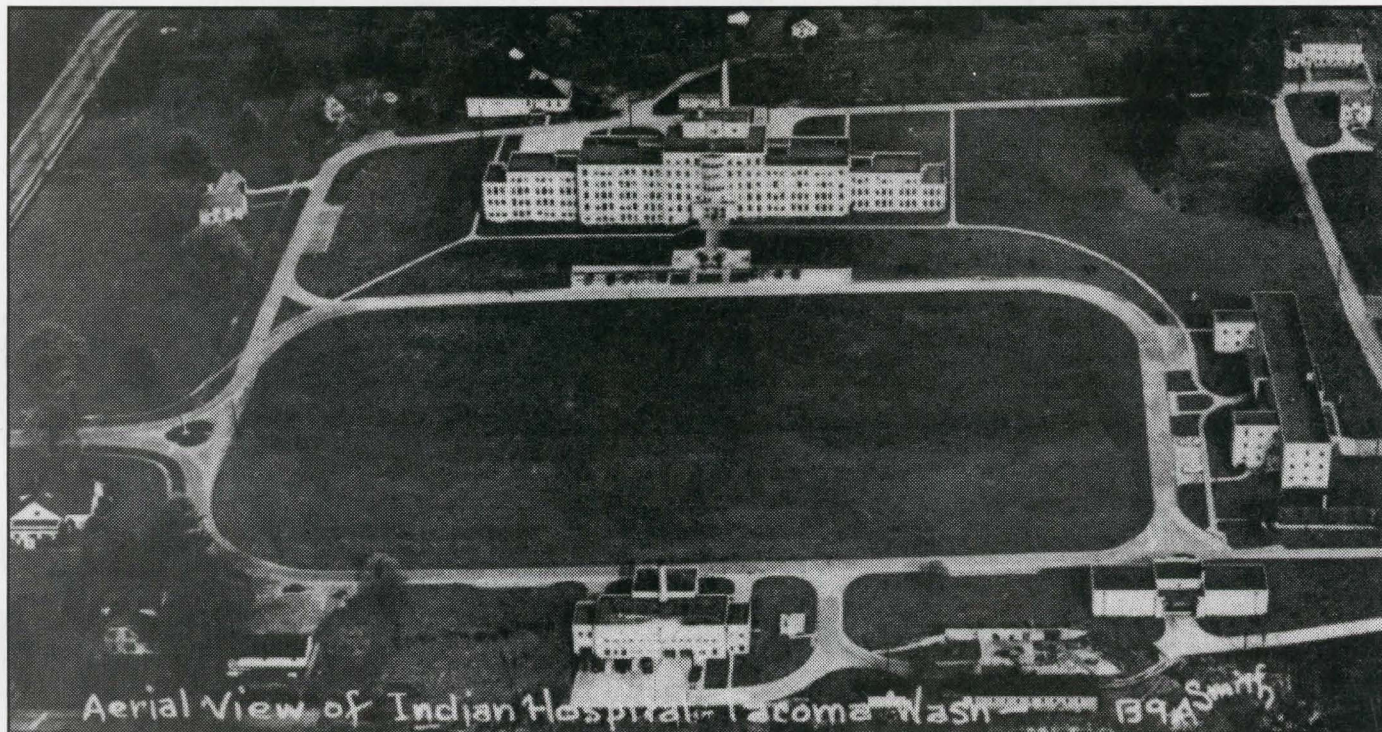
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CUSHMAN AREA

To do justice in telling the history of the area most commonly known as Cushman it is important to recognize that the area has been occupied and visited by thousands of Indian people over the years.

It has been a gathering site because of the several villages in the immediate area, and also for those that gathered there to attend school. Many were either a patient in the hospital or visiting family that resided there. It was a favorite place to hold Indian bone games, potlatches, ball games, salmon bakes, pow wow's, and funerals, meeting, social and religious purposes for unknown time. It was a favorite stopping place for many who were going into the valley to pick hops, berries and seasonal work in the summers. As a hospital it served as employment for many and was the source of income in supporting Indian families.



There are many stories, and as it continues today, to be a site sacred to the Puyallup people. The area is known to Indians throughout the country. Both the school and hospital have a very personal history for the many that has visited the area sometime in their lives.

The Puyallup Indian Reservation was established under the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.) 10 Stat. 11.32) As a result of differences between the tribal people and the government agents, in the size location of the reservation, a war broke out following the treaty between the U.S. Government and the tribes under the Medicine Creek Treaty. Because of the small area then established, and the problems that ensued, another agreement at the Fox Island Council, Several years later, in August of 1856, the Puyallup reservation was expanded.

The project area is located in what is now known as the Indian Addition to the City of Tacoma, State of Washington. Previously, this particular area located on the East Side of Tacoma was known as the School Farm. After the allotments, which were assigned, officially in 1886, an area of 600 acres was reserved as the school farm and was intended to be the area reserved for educational purposes as defined by treaty.

The Treaty of Medicine Creek established a school under Article 10. The first attempt of a school was on Squaxin Island Reservation, one of the tribes as a signatory of the Treaty. After several years it was determined that this particular site was a failure and then moved to the Puyallup Reservation. Both the Agency site and the school were located at Puyallup.

BACKGROUND

Several early sites need to be noted. According to Marian Smith, the author of a book entitled "Puyallup/Nisqually, a village was located where Clay Creek, empties into the Puyallup River not far from Cushman school. Haeberlin and Gunther, anthropologists' in another book entitled "Indian of Puget Sound" identify it as a main village calling it catcqud.

T.T. Waterman identified in geography of sites the location as a creek near the Cushman school. XE'labid. "Place where salmon eggs are stored." The suffix -abod beans "leavings." Another site in the general area was Swan Creek, near the Cushman School, B sxwa'qed, "place at the head of something, where there are swans." Lastly, he identifies a place near the edge of the marsh, east of the Puyallup river, Xe'x-ale, "place where there was a battle" (xelx, battle). This is near the car barns at Twenty-Fourth Street and Portland Avenue.

In connection with this particular area it is necessary to point out that the probability is the very first agency house and school site was located at Portland Avenue and East 28th Street. An addendum to the thesis done around 1918 by Elizabeth Shackleford by a former student, Henry Sicade states that this was the first location of the school. It was later moved because of flooding of the river previous to the river channel being changed by the Army Corp of Engineers.

In an early report, by Harlan Smith, Volume II, Part VI, of the Jesup north Pacific Expedition, p.399, "A shall heap at least 1 meter high by 15 meters wide is located near the western end of the bridge over the Puyallup River, and directly north of the school on the Puyallup Indian Reservation near Tacoma. Tree stumps at least 45 cm. In diameter, standing on this heap suggests for it a considerable age. The road leading from Tacoma to Puyallup, which crosses the bridge here, cuts through this shell-heap, exposing a small section. The shell and soil material appears to be the same as in the shell-heap is composed of a great quantity of ashes, charcoal, and black earth, some burned and crackled stones, numbers of clam and mussel shells, a few shells of other sorts, an occasional animal bone, and rarely an artifact."

Around 1986, an archaeology test dig was done at the site. At this time a proposed road was to cross from Portland Avenue, across the gulch to the compound. The Office of Public Archaeology out of the University of Washington did the report by Lynn L. Larson. (The report, Reconnaissance Report No. 47, will be attached.) The project area is adjacent to a draw or gulch that runs north to south and is on the western boundary of the tribal headquarters.

A more recent project being proposed central Puget Sound Regional Transit (RTA) Lakewood-to-Tacoma Commuter Rail Project in Tacoma and Lakewood, Pierce County, Washington. A cultural resource assessment was prepared by Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services Limited (LASS) in March of 1988. This report will be attached to this document.

CEMETERIES

A cemetery was mentioned in a report done by E. Shackleford in her thesis on the History of the Puyallup Reservation, page 30. "Of course, the Indians' custom in regard to burying their dead body out in a canoe, and put the canoe up in a tree. One cemetery was in a grove on a point of land near the foot of the present interurban bridge, another was further up the river.

Several clippings found in old newspapers also mention within the local area skeletal remains being found. One dated January 18, 1902, "Hidden For Centuries" – Indian Skeleton Found Under the Roots of a Tree" –

"On the western end of the grounds at the Reservation school, the crumbling skeleton of an Indian has been found by Superintendent Terry. A road was being constructed at the place, and during the excavations that

were necessary the bones were unearthed.

For more than 200 years the skeleton must have lain in the place of its discovery. A large tree had grown over it, and the rings indicated that it was of great age. The skeleton was found on the top of a great pile of clamshells. As the ground thereabouts is the only high land in the vicinity, it seems that these shells must have been deposited there when the sea washed over the lower part of the valley. The Indians could come upstream in their canoes, and find it a convenient spot to camp.

Possibly some tragedy took place in those far off days, and the superstitious natives forsook the place on that account. The fact that the skeleton was on top of the clamshells shows that the place was not used as a camping ground afterwards. Over the bone about two feet of fine soil had accumulated, and then the roots of the tree took hold, and hid them from sight for two centuries.

The skeleton was in a crumbling condition when found, many of the bones having turned to dust. The skull, however, was whole and is now in the possession of Mr. Terry. It shows the characteristic flattening of the forehead that is to be observed among the older Indians of today. The practice of molding the skull has now fallen completely out of use, none of the younger generation having been operated upon.

Another clipping was found in regards to the finding of parts of a mastodon. However, it only says in the article is across from the City of Tacoma and the exact location is unknown.

In 1905, there was controversy regarding a proposed road through a cemetery in the vicinity. It is unknown at this time whether this cemetery was an extension of current Cushman cemetery and the exact location is unknown. Today "X" street is currently known as Grandview Avenue. The Puyallup Indians put up a fence across the road and local citizens attempted to continue their efforts to build the road through the cemetery and threatened to go to court.

In 1912, in connection with this same subject an article appeared in the Tacoma Daily Ledger (4-27-1912) "To Preserve Tribe's Old Burial Grounds" Puyallup Reservation Sends Representative Here to Seek Protection for Graves of Forefathers.

An effort to preserve an Indian burial ground against the encroachments of civilization in the extension of municipal improvements was made yesterday by James Goudy, a leader of the Puyallup Reservation Indians, who asked the municipal commission to vacate a strip on East X street south of the Cushman Indian school where it had been proposed to construct sidewalks. The strip adjoins the Indian cemetery where many aborigines are buried.

Goudy said the government has prohibited interference with the Indians graves and said trouble might result if the burial plot should be interfered with further. Recently 13 graves were uncovered in grading East X Street. Goudy desires to avoid a repetition of such an occurrence.

In October of 1914, Hearings before the joint Commission of the Congress of the United States to Investigate Indian Affairs in regards to another issue regarding the Cushman School. One of the persons interviewed was Henry Sicade a representative of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Business Council. Mr. Sicade's concern was regarding the cemetery and the Presbyterian Church. He stated "Congress passed an act dividing the school farm of 600 acres into town lots; the City was encroaching on that land, so the property was sold, with the exception of 25.63 acres, which was set aside and known as the Puyallup Cemetery tract." That was the Puyallup Cemetery tract. That was the Indians' graveyard.

When these lots belonging to the school farm were sold, the Indian Commission composed of three men of which J.G. Anderson was one, in some way, through some mistake, got 6.2 acres of this cemetery plat, had it

platted out, and some was sold before the Indians found out, so we had a meeting and it was agreed among the commissioners and the Indians that the proceeds of the sales of those lots should be turned over for the benefit of the cemetery for improvements, and for the upkeep, beautifying it. The property was sold and we never got things.

That left us 19.43 acres for the cemetery. The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions sent a missionary out among us, and through the missionary's effort, he raised some money to build a church, and we Indians put up half of what the church cost. Later the church had to be removed to higher ground as the Northern Pacific railroad put up tracks so close to the church it was feared a spark might cause a fire to the church. He was on to say, "The agent, Mr. Eells suggested that we should put the church up alongside the buildings, alongside the graves. We agreed the church should be on the graveyard property."

"The minister asked to put up a little parsonage and it was agreed to give him a site alongside of the church. The minister contrived a way to fence two acres and within that particular area that was fenced were quite a number of graves."

Concern was also expressed that eventually the government gave a deed to the church for that particular piece of land and that approval by the Indians was fraudulently obtained. The major concern was that there were graves there. Unfortunately, it is difficult to ascertain today, exactly where these graves are located.

On July 12, 1974, a Quitclaim Deed between the Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians returned the subject property to the Tribe.

On July 1, 1977, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians filed a Statutory Warranty Deed to the United States of America in Trust for the Puyallup Indian Tribe.

One of the largest cemeteries today of the Cushman Indian Cemetery, located on the grounds. This particular cemetery has unknown numbers of burials. At one time the Clarks Creek cemetery was relocated to Cushman. At that time it was known as one of the largest cemeteries of the Puyallup.

On March 21, 1928, the Senate and House of Representatives passed an Act to Provide funds for the upkeep of the Puyallup Indian Cemetery. The Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to set aside on the books of this office under an appropriate designation the sum of \$25,000 from the tribal funds of the Puyallup Indians accruing under the Act of March 3, 1893 (Twenty-seventh Statutes at Large, page 633), as a permanent trust fund at 4 percent interest, to be credited semiannually and used only for the upkeep of the Puyallup Indian Cemetery.

CHURCHES

The Secretary of Interior issued an order to the General Land Office directing that a fee simple patent be issued to Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian church and it consisted of 1 and 43 hundredths acres.

Today there is only one church located on the site. The property was returned to the Tribe and services the Presbyterian Faith.

Within the subject area there was at one time a Catholic Church located nearby. A newspaper clipping tells of its demise. It says: "it was located on the south bank of the Puyallup River. It was built in the early 70's to replace a former house of worship, which was falling into disrepair. It had been standing then for five decades. It is said that the former church, located 300 feet from the present church, is said to have been one of the first Catholic Indian Missions in the Northwest.

Father DeDecker appealed to Jim Cross, an Indian member of his congregation, who bought the land on which the church stood. The presence of the slaughter house made the situation undesirable, and the congregation had been dwindling for years, so the church was dismantled and abandoned and the building rented to the Meat Company for a nominal sum." The exact location is unknown, but is said to have been on land that was party of the allotment of James Coates.

PUYALLUP INDIAN SCHOOL-AGENCY SITE

Employees of the government were scattered among the three reservations. The carpenter and assistant farmer were sent to Puyallup. This greatly decreased the effectiveness of the system of training the Indians. Eventually, Puyallup got all the employees. In 1862, the blacksmith and physician, in 1874 the agent, came and a school was started.

In 1860, Supt. Geary, was to carry out the policy of "Ultimately collecting all the Indians west of the mountains at Puyallup" ordered the agent for Puget Sound to remove there, and spoke of the establishment of an industrial school at that point. This removal was not effected until 1863, though the school would have been removed a year earlier, if it had not been for the fact that the teacher was need to perform other duties in connection with the Indian Service. The school was finally opened at Puyallup in 1864. (Shacklefor thesis 1914)



The Commissioner Report of 1864 (p.205) reported the Squaxin Island School a failure and consequently moved it to the Puyallup reservation and put Mr. Ward, the assistant farmer, in charge. He said, "I am happy to inform you that a number of children are in attendance, and are progressing today under instruction." (A.R. Elder, Indian Agent, WT, to Hon. C.H. Hale, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T.). He reported that 180 Indians had been treated, one death; and he recommended that "a fine be imposed or a penalty be inflicted upon all those Indians who attempt to cure the sick by incantations."

In 1865, the Commissioner report said the school was suspended (teacher died).

In 1867, the Commission Report said: "there does not seem to have been much good accomplished by the few schools established among them. The school at Puyallup is progressing rapidly, under Mr. Spinning. With limited funds, teacher has been able to receive children from their parents, board and clothe them. In order to make an Indian school successful; the children must be taken from the influence of their parents, separation of from the old. It was reported their was a comfortable school house and a good teacher, but funds were needed for food and clothes and housing for the pupils."

In 1868, it was report the school was discontinued for want of means to sustain it. It also stated "I have addressed the eradication of certain evils; slavery, polygamy, gambling, flattening of skulls, whiskey..."

In 1869, the Commission report Samuel Ross, Brevet Colonel of the U.S. Army, reported to Hon. E.S. Parker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs - "the principal reservations, Nisqually and Puyallup, exhibit evidences of former neglect." ...All children between between the ages of five and twelve should be taken from their parents, either by compulsion or compensation, and removed from the influences of all Indian Tribes, and placed in industrial schools."

In 1870, it was reported that there was a "School only in name" and a new and convenient school building was erected.

In 1871, the report stated that there was eleven students and could increase to twenty-four. In this year a law was passed prohibiting the employment of army officers in the Indian Service and Col. Ross was let go.

In 1872, General R.H. Milroy, Superintendent, reported to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs regarding the education system at Puyallup. "There is no agency building and I found the school shops and employee residences poorly constructed, small, one story buildings badly arranged, and miserably located, about one mile above the mouth of the Puyallup River, on land subject to frequent overflow from high waters of the river and backwater of tides. I found no school farm, nor an attempt at one, and no land fit for such a farm on the side of the river where the building are. I found that the school has been an almost total failure, as I was unable to find or hear of a single Indian male of female, who had learned either to read or write from the whole seventeen years of teaching there." He further stated: "Indeed the fund appropriated for the support of a school there, only \$750 per annum to clothe and board them is wholly inadequate, and the hovel in which the few occasionally there are taught, fed and lodged, is unfit to be designated with the name schoolhouse."

In 1873, Byron Barlow reported an increase of one hundred and twenty seven persons on the reservation. In regards to the school he said: "For want a suitable school buildings and proper appliances the school for the past year has not been very successful, but now that a large and substantial boarding school building is nearly finished and in a very desirable place, with plenty of good land for a school farm ... I feel confident of a good showing in the future..."

In 1874, an attempt was made by employees of the Northern Pacific Railroad to convince the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the Puyallup Indians should be removed from their reservation. Tacoma was chosen as the terminus of their new site at the head of Commencement Bay Washington Territory. In a letter to the Commissioner, date February 24, 1874, "knowing their propensity to vice- to a town which must eventually be a place of great importance cannot but be detrimental, not only to the inhabitants of the place, but to the Indians also and must greatly retard its growth ad propensity. We therefore earnestly press upon your consideration and the question of the removal of this band to some other locality; feeling confident that such a course will conduce, not only to the good of the town community, but also the good of the Indians themselves."

That same year the Board of Missions made a visit to the reservation and wrote the Commissioner of deplorable conditions of the Indians on the Puyallup Reservation. He expressed the opinion that the provision which the treaty made for schools was very inadequate. He recommended that a school for girls is started and the present boarding school is enlarged so as to provide for both girls and boys.

He also recommended that a day school be implemented. He stated that "Mr. Beatty also opposes, on grounds which are untenable, the proposition to remove the Indians to a new reservation. No pleas for their remaining can possibly equal the argument for their removal founded upon general principles, illustrated in the daily experience of this Tribe, and its present and future perils and exposures. The interests of both races require a wide space between them. A range of lofty mountains or a broad expanse of water would be serviceable barriers to the encroachments and vices of the dominant race. The existing reservation has no barrier. Settlers are pressing upon the line on all sides, but one, and that one is the waterfront contiguous to Tacoma. This line is the most exposed and easiest to cross. The uniform results of contact in other cases are very obvious here. If the Policy were to exterminate the red men, no more convenient spot could be designated for the purposes.

By 1876, a day school was in operation and continued in that manner until 1880. (Eels memoirs). In 1879, Indian Agent R.H. Milroy, reported the Puyallup reservation making rapid progress into genuine Christian civilization. He recommended again, that provisions be made for giving Indians fee simple-titles to portions of their lands, provisions should be made compulsory for putting all Indian children in industrial boarding schools from the time they are five years of age until eighteen years of age under proper instruction; and that provisions should be made for enfranchising Indians.

In 1881, it was reported there were 60 pupils in the school, which was a full capacity boarding school. The agent recommended additions to the school to accommodate more students, as being much needed – as that number of Indian pupils could readily be obtained here.

He also recommended that: "an amendment of the rules and regulations for the government of the United States Indian Police, so as to deny te privilege of resignation mentioned in Section 21, and to require that every Indian policeman without regard to his rank, who voluntarily entered the service shall be considered as having enlisted for one year, and can only get out of said service before te end of the year by death or dismissal.

In a police report logbook kept by T.R. Wilson, the reason for the latter recommendation becomes clear. He said: "An order from General Milroy went out to fill up the school to the number 60. The Indian police were to go out and take the children from their homes and fill up the school. Several of the police tried to resign and the reason was that they did not think it right to compel parents to send in their children against their will. I told them they could not resign but that I would refer the matter to Gen. Milroy, whose order I should obey. On August 26, he received an order from Gen. Milroy, to assemble the police force and inform them that they could no more resign their position as policemen, than a private soldier could resign his, which could not be done at all, that eac must resume his place and promise faithful and prompt obedience to all order from their superior officers or forfeit all pay for the current quarter; and under any circumstances those who refused or failed to obey order would be tried by the Gen. When he next came to the reservation."

On December 27th, Tyee Dick an appointed sub-chief was arrested on charges of trying to get up a mob of Indians to compel the closing of the school during the outbreak of smallpox. His conduct was judged to be unruly and unbecoming a chief, his office of such chief was adjudged forfeited.

A student of the school on writing his memoirs painted a rather gloomy picture of many of the hardships and depredations, which were endured by the students. "Beatings and starvation; for days and sometimes weeks

– missing teachers leaving at will and other students being left in charge; whippings on trivial pretense and especially the cruel punishments given the girls for small offenses; lack of clothing and bedding; provisions were always short and we often went home to stock up and those who could not stock up visited the stores and cooked in the woods. When caught in the treacherous act of cooking trout or salmon, we were punished or put into jail...” (Sicade – Shackleford Report).

In 1880, four girls and fourteen boys left Puyallup and went on to the Chemawa Indian School at Forest Grove, Oregon. They were considered the most advanced from the Puyallup Indian School and had achieved about the sixth grade.

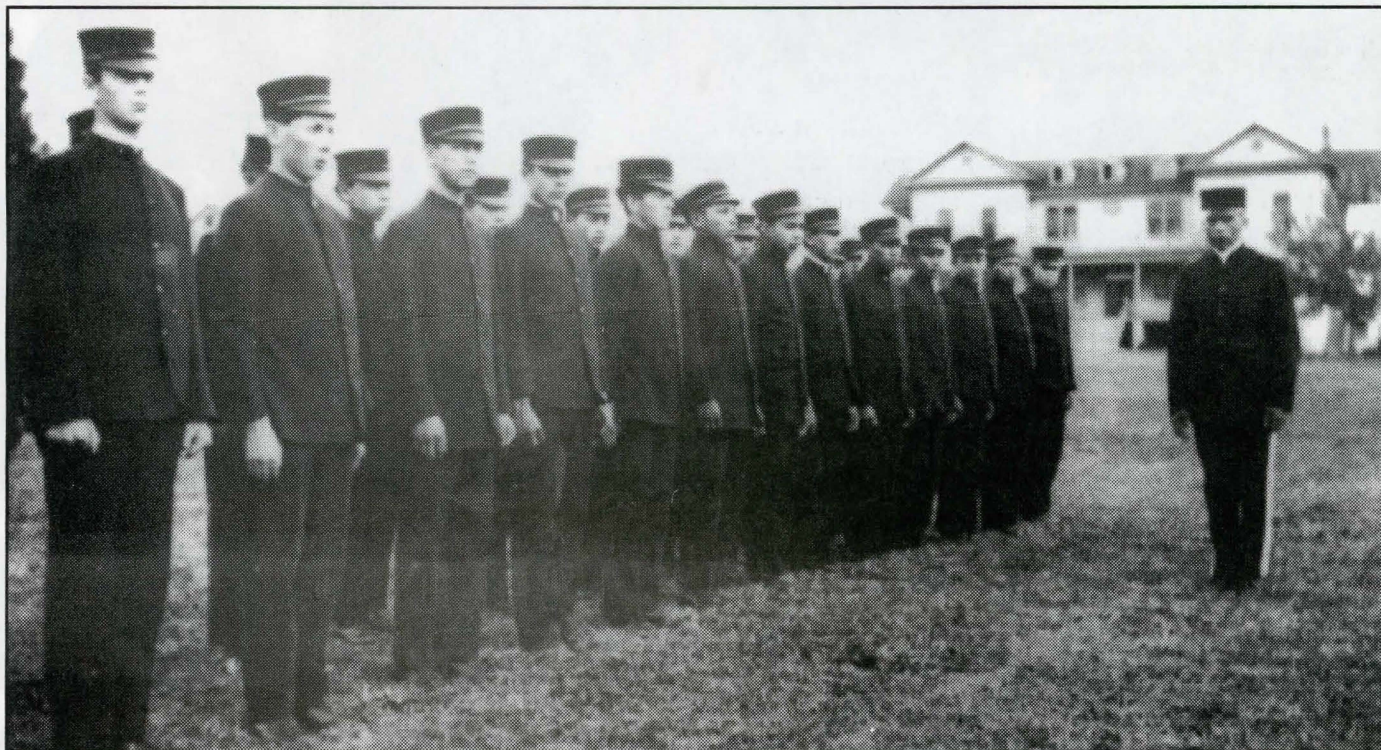
More new buildings were erected and provisions to accommodate sixty boarding school students. In 1881, more buildings were erected and the capacity was increased to accommodate eighty scholars. The following year Edwin Eells took charge. He said that: “the records show the average attendance for 1882 to have been 60 pupils; 1883, 65 pupils; 1884, 75 pupils and from 1885 to 1890 80 pupils which was all that could be accommodated, the only changes during those years being the increased efficiency of the school which attained a high order.”

An article in the Tacoma Times, May 12, 1920, tells of the school closing its doors after sixty years of service. It was reported that attendance was 225 that year. The campus by then had been reduced to forty-two acres. Hundreds of acres originally set aside for the school had been sold for City lots.

The Superintendent had charges brought against him of abuse and the school was closed. Talk was prevalent that the future site might be used as a home for disabled soldiers.

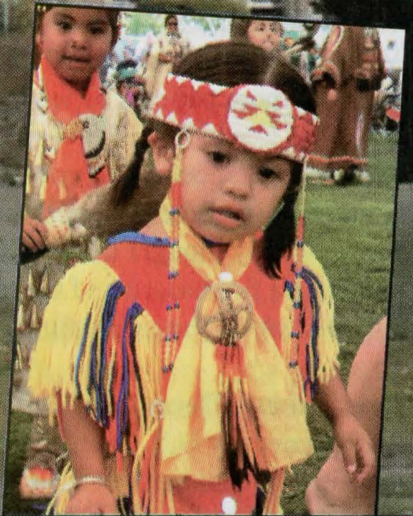
VETERANS HOSPITAL

The records at the Puyallup Tribe say little in regards to the hospital after the closure of Cushman Indian School. An article from a Tacoma Newspaper, dated March 23, 1921, entitled “Disabled Veterans Learn Useful Trades,” makes reference that the facilities are now known as the United States Public Health Hospital, at Cushman and that Uncle Sam is doing his utmost to reconstruct, mentally and physically the soldier heroes who still suffer from the effects of war. There were 200 men in the hospital.





POW WOW



2002

Tacoma Ledger – April 23, 1921 – states that the transfer of the Cushman Hospital, No. 59, of the United States Public Health Service to the jurisdiction of the Veterans Bureau is requesting \$250,000 for improvements and enlargement of the facility.

A later article dated **September 15, 1921** – states that the transfer of the Cushman Hospital, No. 59, of the United States Public Health Service to the jurisdiction of the Veterans Bureau is requesting \$250,000 for improvements and enlargement of the facility.

Tacoma Ledger – October 2, 1921 – “Government Spends Much on hospital” - ...The first patients were received at the hospital a little more than a year ago. Since that time, approximately \$35,000 has been spent for repairs and equipment. There were 42 buildings and 242 patients. Staff consisted of 10 medical officers, 1 dentist, 25 female nurses, 20 male nurses and orderlies, 2 dietitians, 3 occupational therapy aides, 5 physiotherapy aides and 3 vocational education teachers.

Tacoma News Tribunes – October 20, 1923 – “Hospital Head is Chosen” – Announcements of the commanding officer and the complete staff of medical officers who will take charge of the bit United States Veterans’ hospital for neuro-psychiatric patients at American Lake, Following its completion November 1, was received...”

Tacoma Times – February 6, 1924 – “Renew Fight for Cushman Vet hospital” – American Legion to Seek Reversal of Closing Order and Improve Facilities – First steps in a renewal of the fight to prevent the closing of Cushman Veterans Hospital June 1, were taken. Requests were taken through resolution urging the Veterans Bureau to maintain the hospital as a permanent institution by recalling order of November 21, directing no more patients be received.

Immediate resistance of the proposed transfer to the new facility was made by the patients housed at the Cushman facility. Many viewed the new facility at American Lake as not being as well adapted as that at Cushman. Many thought that it was an insane hospital. Arguments by VA officials were that Cushman hospital was a fire hazard and the transfer of patients should be made. There were reported to be 39 buildings of wood frame structure.

Tacoma Times – December 12, 1927 – “Tacoma Wins Row To Keep Vet hospital” – Cushman Institution To Be Retained By U.S. Indefinitely; Room is Needed – “A sign of victory for Tacoma interests which have been urging development of the U.S. veteran’s hospital in the city was contained in the announcement Monday that the government had abandoned its plan to close Cushman hospital in 1928, and had decided to change the character of the American Lake Hospital.

Tacoma Ledger – December 8, 1928 – “the Cushman Hospital – Announcement that no more patients will be received at the Cushman veterans’ hospital and as soon as the last of the men now there has been discharged the veterans’ bureau will abandon the institution, all ex-service men requiring hospitalization being sent to the hospital in Portland. The Cushman hospital, while it was located in structures not especially designed for the purpose; has been regarded as a model institution, and Tacoma Will regret to have it abandoned as a home for suffering veterans.

CUSHMAN INDIAN HOSPITAL

An appropriation of \$100,000 was approved for maintenance of Cushman hospital as an institution for the treatment of tuberculosis among the Indians of Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

“Cushman Hospital actually belongs to the Indian service. The buildings there were erected to house an

Indian school and for some time the plant was employed for that purpose."

The hospital was scheduled to be closed as a Vet hospital on January 15th and within six months reopen as a tuberculosis hospital for the Indian Service.

Tacoma Times – January 8, 1929 – "fight hospital – Clubs Object to Proposed Change at Cushman – A protest meeting of the Roosevelt Heights and the Portland Avenue Improvement clubs will be held ... Plans will be made to voice a protest against turning Cushman Hospital into an Indian tuberculosis home..."

Tacoma News Tribune – July 7, 1929 – "...Dr. John Alley arrived in Tacoma Monday to formally open this new hospital and take charge of it. The Cushman property, built originally for an Indian school, served for some years as a United States veterans' hospital closing in that capacity last January 1. Under authorization from Washington it was transferred into an Indian hospital, opening in that capacity Monday. I expect to have at least 200 patients here during the first year..."

Tacoma Times – June 21, 1930 – "...Since Dr. Alley took his post as superintendent of the hospital, July 1, 1929, more than 700 Indian cases have been received at the hospital. Any ailing Indian may present himself at the hospital and receive attention and treatment.

The institution exists largely for the treatment of tubercular Indian children between the ages of 4 and

There were more than 200 patients and they attended school everyday and received an eighth grade education from a staff of three teachers. The article went on to say the hospital occupies a site of 30 acres and is under the supervision of the Department of Interior. It was established July 1, 1929, when the Cushman hospital was abandoned. Dr. Alley said construction of general hospital building was under consideration.

Tacoma Ledger – May 15, 1931 – "Indians Will Sell Hospital" – By a vote of 80 to 2, the Puyallup Indians at a tribal election voted in favor of selling the present Tacoma Indian hospital to the United States government at a price to be set by a board of appraiser which meet within a week.

The deal involves about 33 acres of land and building which are now being used as a hospital for Indian children...the government has been paying an annual rent of \$9,000 to the Puyallup Tribe...the price to be paid for the property will be around \$400,000, it was learned. This sum will be divided equally among the 340 members of whom only about 150 are adults. The hospital will continue to be operated for the benefit of the Indians, Dr. John N. Alley, medical supervisor said yesterday. He said that the only purpose of the government in seeking title to the land is to make it possible for improvements to be made.

An article a month later said the land was to be sold for \$228,500 and Congress in the next session will appropriate the purchase price and is also expected to make available funds for the construction of permanent hospital buildings. In the past the government has refused to build because it did not have title to the land. It went on to say: "every man, woman and child will receive approximately \$672..."

Tacoma News Tribune – February 18, 1933 – "Puyallup Indians Want U.S. To Buy Old School," members of tribe to start campaign for purchase of Cushman school here" ... Tribal leaders, Silas Cross, Chairman, William Davis, Frank Wrolson, Silas J. Meeker, and Benjamin Wright met with Congressman Wesley Lloyd Tacoma requesting his support.

Tacoma News Tribune – March 9, 1936 – "300 Indian Patients are Being Cared for at Federal Hospital Here.

In April of that same year the paper reported that "the first step in improving the Cushman Indian hospital must be the acquisition of the hospital by the Indian service from the Indians to whom it belongs, so that the government can spend money on rebuilding it, Dr. Alley explained. Last year the hospital lost \$1,500,000 for permanent construction because the site was not in federal hands, he declared.

Tacoma Ledger – May 23, 1937 – "Would Buy Cushman Hospital" -...this is the third time that the proposed purchase has been placed before Congress. A favorable report was made to the House Committee on Indian Affairs. "The report is said to have recognized that the purchase of the site, while practically closing the tribal affairs of the Puyallup tribe, was keeping the property for the benefit of Indians in general: that there is a danger of fire and loss of life in the present wooden structures; that the facilities are far below the minimum standards for medical service and that there are continually about 250 patients in the hospital and that field studies already made have made it possible for preparation of preliminary plan to begin at any time."

Tacoma Ledger – March 4, 1937 – "Tribal Council Agrees to \$228,525 Appraisal Figure - ...at a Puyallup Tribal Council meeting last evening at the Tacoma Indian hospital the council agreed on the proposition made several years ago to dispose of the property known as the Cushman hospital...the member of the Council are Frank Wrolson, Joseph McKay, Silas Meeker, Francis Andrews, and Jerry Meeker.

Another bill was introduced in Congress by John m. Coffee for the purchase of Cushman again with the hope that preliminary plans for a new hospital would begin.

Tacoma Ledger – May 25, 1937 – "...Dr. John N. Alley superintendent of the Cushman Indian Hospital for the past eight years, will retire after eight years...Alley has operated the big institution with an average of about 250 patients, performing more than 6,000 operations personally during his eight years, without a complaint..."

Dr. Jesse H. Hendry was named as the superintendent-replacing Dr. Ally who had retired from the United States Indian Service.

Tacoma Times – June 21, 1938 – "Commissary at Hospital is Destroyed" Other buildings at Cushman are saved as flames sweep supply structure. "Tacoma agents of the U.S. Indian Service were busy today compiling a list of supplies necessary to the maintenance of the Cushman hospital following a fire late Monday night which razed a commissary on the hospital grounds." Property in the building was estimated at \$25,000 and the building itself the loss was estimated at about \$5,000.

In July of 1939, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes announced he feels safe in predicting that the Congress will provide an appropriation for the reconstruction of the Tacoma sanatorium for Northwest Indians. H.R. 2653 would authorize acquisition by the United States from the Puyallup Tribe of the buildings and grounds constituting the Tacoma Indian sanatorium.

Tacoma Time – August 5, 1939 – "Indian Tribal Lands to U.S." – Bill to Buy Cushman Site Goes to White House – "After years of preparation, a bill authorizing the government to purchase the Puyallup Indian tribal lands which the U.S. Indian hospital now occupies here under lease, was passed by the house Saturday and sent to President Roosevelt for signature."

Congressman Coffee who sponsored the bill stated "All Tacoma Groups have urged this action for many years as it means that in due course extensive innovations will be made by Bureau of Indian Affairs and new permanent fireproof buildings will be constructed."

Tacoma News Tribune – March 25, 1941 – “Hospital Bids Will Be Called” - ...Work to be done includes a hospital building, nurses quarters, attendants quarters, laundry and shop-building, commissary building doctors cottages, engineers’ cottage and five car garage.

Tacoma News Tribune – April 8, 1941 – “Will Erect Buildings at Cushman” – Open Bids may 28 For Hospital; Cost Around \$1,750,000. “Climaxing 10 years of negotiations, bids for reconstruction of the Indian (Cushman) hospital here are to be opened at 2 p.m. on May 28 at Washington D.C., it was announced...”

The new hospital building will be a six-story structure of fireproof brick and the tile over reinforced concrete; it will be 384 feet by 55 feet, having a four-story rear wing 80 by 55 feet.

Tacoma News Tribune – July 25, 1941 – “Excavation work for the largest and finest hospital in the United States Indian Service is in progress this week as 2002 East 28th Street. The million-dollar project will, within the next 18 months, set up six large brick buildings in place of the present 39 wooden structures, which have stood 50 years. L.H. Hoffman of Portland is contractor, and Laurence P. Johnson of the Indian service is architect and construction engineer. When completed, the medical center will be comparable with the Marine Hospital in Boston and other great health center maintained by the federal government.”

Tacoma Times-September 26, 1941 – “Hospital Permit is for \$985,000 – Largest single building permit in many months was that for 985,000 for construction of the U.S. (Cushman) Indian hospital – granted Friday by the City Building Inspector C.S. McCormick to L.H. Hoffman, Portland Contractor. Sponsor of the Project was listed as the U.S. Department of Interior. Funds for the construction were authorized several months ago, with L.H. Hoffman being awarded the contract.”

In October an article appeared in the Ledger regarding a problem in getting reinforcing structural steel. It was causing delay in getting the project completed.

On April 7, 1942, an article in a local paper stated: “A new U.S. Indian (Cushman) hospital is rapidly rising on the site of the old one East 28th Street. A view of the main hospital building and nurses quarters, more than 60 percent complete.

Other buildings are almost finished – Laundry and shop is 96 percent complete, commissary 99 percent and attendants’ quarters 96 percent. Government representatives will inspect the buildings April 20 and will accept them from the contractor if they come up to specifications. Hospital will house 333 patients.

Tacoma News Tribune – April 27, 1943 – “Hospital Completed” – Institution for Indians is Large, Complete – “One of America’s great medical centers, the new, modern, million dollar Cushman Indian hospital is now complete except for finishing touches and landscaping.”

“According to Dr. Jesse H. Hendry, staff superintendent and physician, the center has facilities for general medical treatment, surgery, orthopedic treatment, Xray, tubercular and obstetrical cases.”

A photo of the hospital and grounds appeared **May 5, 1946**, in the Sunday Ledger news Tribune, entitled “Indian Get Good Care”. Proclaimed by many medical men as the finest hospital in the Tacoma area is the modern U.S. Indian hospital...The entire layout was completed October, 1942, and the contract for the unit was over \$991,000...”

In June of 1949, Dr. Hendry retired after 17 years of service. In October of 1950 Secretary of the Interior Chapman announced the appointment of Dr. Edward J. Johnson, 45, as superintendent of the hospital.

Cushman was known as the largest Indian medical center in the U.S.

During these years many local volunteer, civic groups, missionaries, teachers worked within the hospital in an effort to improve and enlighten the lives of those who were patients at the facility.

Tacoma Tribune & Ledger – July 4, 1954 – “Medical Care of Indians Shift Locally” “Responsibility for furnishing care for some Indians is being transferred to local agencies from the Bureau of Indian Affairs under a new directive from the Department of the Interior.”

...To Be TB Center – “Tuberculosis patients are expected under the new ruling, at least while they are in the hospital, but it is expected that eventually all other general patients will be handles by local agencies with Cushman hospital becoming a tuberculosis center for all Indians in the Northwest.”

Tacoma News Tribune – October 14, 1954 – “hospital Cuts Indian Care” – “The U.S. Indian hospital here is being converted to use for tuberculosis patients only, and the staff being cut accordingly, acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs Barton Greenwood had advises local officials.”

Total reduction in staff/personnel amounts to 15 to 20 percent. All general patients were anticipated to be discharged by December 31.

Tacoma News Tribune – May 11, 1956 – “TB Cared for At Cushman” – “...Cushman was converted into a TB sanatorium Jan. 1, 1955. Prior to that it had been a general hospital.”

...the administration of the hospital was switched from the Department of interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S. Public Health Service in July 1955. Dr. Charles Mallery, medical officer, was in charge.

Five doctors, plus occasional consultants from the ranks of Pierce County Medical Society members, care for some 270 patients a day at Cushman. The hospital has been under the U.S. Public Health Service since July, 1955.

Tacoma News Tribune – January 26, 1959 – “Drop in TB May Shut Cushman” – “...The Tacoma Indian Hospital may close by late summer because of the reduced incidence of tuberculosis among Alaskan Indians.

Meanwhile, the State Department of Institutions revealed today it would not be averse to acquiring the facilities for conversation to a juvenile diagnostic, reception and treatment center.

The decision to close rests with the U.S. Department of Health, Welfare and Education, Dr. Mallery said.

The Tacoma patient load declined in the past year by 35 percent, dropping from about 285 cases to an average of 161...”

Clippings from local papers in March of 1959 tell of the efforts by local and northwest Indians to keep the hospital from closure. Meetings were held. Joe McKay stated in one of the articles (3-8-59) “We have more than just the 300 or so members of the Puyallup Tribe – We’re trying to get the whole northwest behind us.”

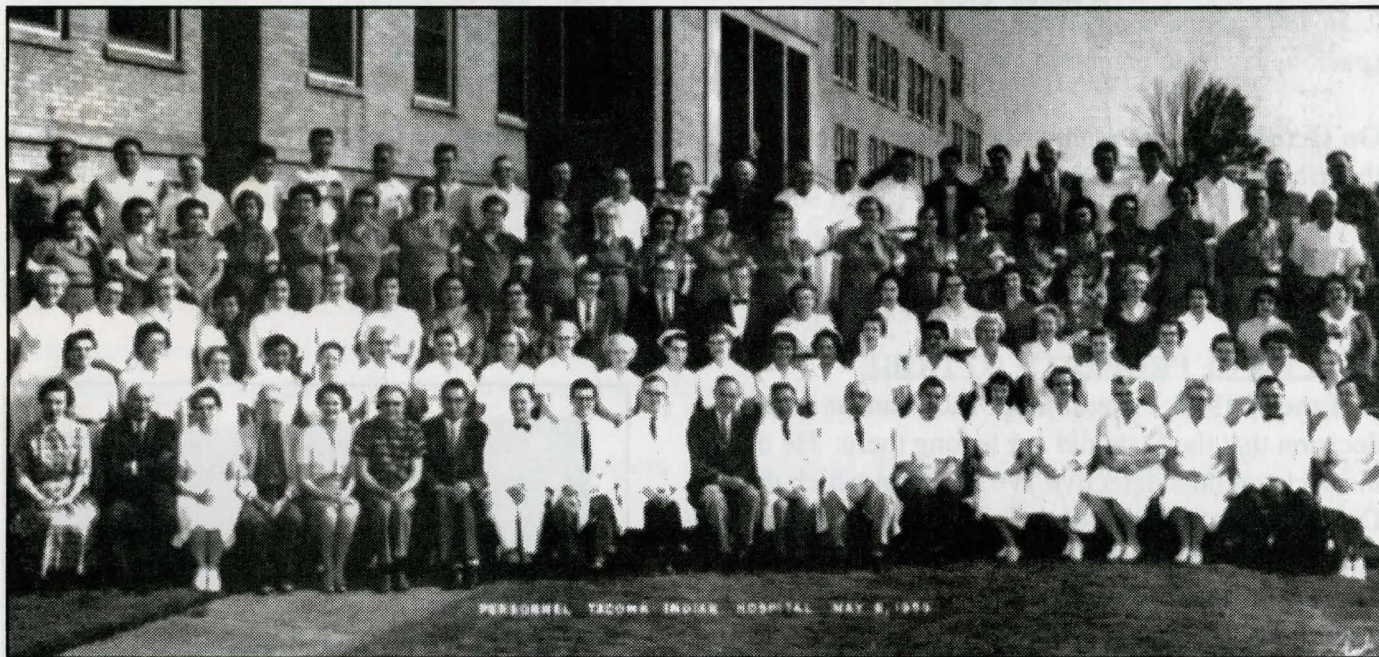
More than 150 Indians representing tribes from Minnesota to Oklahoma and west jammed into the auditorium of the U.S. Indian hospital to protest formally the proposed closing on March 14th. Tacoma civic leaders, and social workers and other friends of the Indians fought the idea of the proposed closing.

They crystallized their displeasure with a firm and tersely written three-part resolution directed at Congress and with supporting resolutions from tribal council of various tribes for review and to congress and the U.S. Department of health for reply...(3-15-59).

Former Sixth district Congressman John Coffee stated in his address "a fervent message in support of Indian rights. Economy should not be considered when it deprives people of their basic rights. Long a fighter for a fair deal for the Indians, Coffee felt it would be a travesty to take away a hospital from the Indians which Tacoma had fought so hard to obtain." (March 15, 1959).

In spite of all the efforts to hold onto the hospital for the care of Indians a hearing was set before the house Interior Subcommittee on Indian affairs on may 19th in Washington D.C. It would require federal officials to obtain certification from state health officials that a closing of or reduction in an Indian health facility would not intensify a shortage of hospital facilities. (May 6, 1959)

Tacoma News Tribune – July 6, 1959 – "U.S. Hospital Here to Shut Down Sept. 15th" – the Department of Health, Education and welfare announced today that it would close the U.S. Indian Hospital in Tacoma on Sept. 1, according to word received from Congressman Thor C. Tollefson in Washington.



He said that after Sept. 1, the General Services Administration, which handles disposal of government property, would first notify Federal agencies the property is available. If none shows interest, GSA will ascertain whether there is any requirement for the property by state, county, political subdivision or municipality for use as health, education, parks, or recreation facilities. If no application for such purposes is accepted, the property will become available for sale to the public."

A document entitled STAFF STATEMENT AND DETERMINATION – dated May 25, 1960, states the property was determined excess to the Public Health Services, Department HEW, on December 11, 1959, Holding Agency No. 7513-28 and surplus to the needs and the responsibilities of the federal government on March 28, 1960.

CASCADIA DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

The State of Washington, acting by and through the Department of Institutions was the applicant and made application for transfer of federal surplus real property at public benefit allowance.

The facilities proposed use was to be a Diagnostic and Treatment Center for children, both male and female, who are admitted to the Washington State Department of Institutions by the State Juvenile Courts.

A deed was executed July 10, 1961, for the term of twenty years to the State of Washington for the property commonly known as the Cushman site.

The Puyallup Tribal community had sat and waited out this twenty-year period. When the date became close urgent plans were in the making to seek the return to the rightful owners.

Tacoma News Tribune – June 12, 1980 – “Cascadia Conflict rooted in Past – Site has been symbol of tribal presence since 1854.”

...The government last March declared that the state was no longer living up to a condition of the deed because it was phasing out its juvenile program. It filed notice in the U.S. District Court that it was taking the property back and gave the state a month to get out. On April 22, following a month of bureaucratic red tape, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Everett filed a deed in the Pierce County auditor's office, declaring the land to be held in trust by the federal government for the use of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

...In 1973, tribal chairperson Ramona Bennett, led a handful of her supporters onto the diagnostic center's spacious lawns to erect two teepees to call attention to their hopes for the land's return to the tribe.

On October 23, 1976, the tribe moved again but with more force. About 30 Indians, including several of the tribe's elders gathered in the center to celebrate the opening of an Indian health center on the grounds.

A week later after two-thirds of the youths held there had been evacuated to other detention centers, the state agreed to begin negotiations to leave the center. The Indians withdrew.

RETURN OF PROPERTY TO TRIBE

In June of 1980, Federal judge Jack Tanner made a decision that the State did not belong there. He based his decision on a defective 1961 deed in which the U.S. Department of Interior declared the 30-acre site surplus and transferred it to the state for a \$9,000 appraisal fee. The state contended they had spent \$1.7 million remodeling the facility for a juvenile center.

By December of 1980, many of the tribes programs had moved into the building. The Law Enforcement Division was one of the first.

Only recently some of the problems surfaced regarding the states use of the facility. In 1990, an environmental study was done on the tunnels, which run under the main grounds of the site. It was determined a great deal of contaminated material was disposed in the tunnel system.

In October of 1991, Chen-Norten notified the Department of interior, Office of Construction Management that “as requested by your delivery order No.16 dated September 30, 1991,”...visited the facility and reported initial deficiencies: some concerns which were addressed in a letter.



News Tribune Washington (D.C.) Bureau – the Puyallup tribal administration building, housing part of the Chief Leschi School and tribal offices, is so unstable it could be severely damaged by a windstorm or collapse in an earthquake, an engineering firm has concluded.

In a letter, engineers from Chen-Northern Inc. of Billings, Montana. Noted “gross violations of the Uniform Building code in the 50 year old structure.

They said the building will not satisfy minimum wind or earthquake design requirements. Besides structural problems the report to the BIA said the Building’s concrete frame would offer “little or no lateral stability under wind or seismic loading.

The report pointed to various other aspects of the building’s structure and materials as contributing to its instability.

...There is considerable potential of collapse under the dynamic frequencies induced by earthquakes,” the engineers said.

Several other significant reports have been conducted. In regards to the tunnels a special study was done in 1990, by Ecology and Environment, Inc. “the report was based on the results of medical waste sampling conducted by EPA on April 12, 1990, and number of sharp objects mixed with the ash (needles, syringes, etc.), EPA should evaluate the treatment options recommended in the Puyallup Medical Waste Report.

After treatment to eliminate the potential of disease transmission, the manhole covers should be sealed to eliminate public access or the ash and medical waste should be removed. People working in the area, as well as future construction workers should be notified of the existence of the tunnel and of precautions to be taken while working in the tunnel or unearthing tunnel materials.

Contaminated material exists in the old steam tunnels and potentially could create a great deal of money in cleaning up this material. (Report available for review).

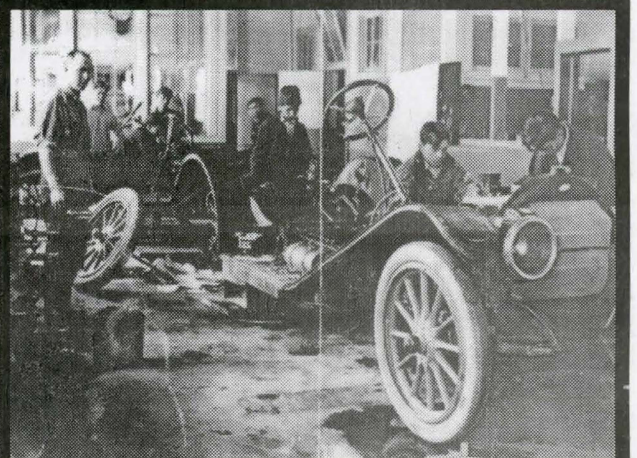
Austin CINA addressed a letter to Mr. Kim Rogers, dated June 17, 1999 regarding a Feasibility Study for Remodeling or Demolition of the Administration Building, Nurses Quarters, and Tunnels. This report was the conclusions that their firm had come up with regarding the feasibility of either remodeling or demolishing the three structures.

Their investigation determined that it was cost prohibitive to remodel the Administration building. The demolition costs for the 110,000 + square foot building are going to be high; mostly because of the associated asbestos abatement and lead paint removal procedures.

The nurse’s quarter building could not be remodeled due to its extensive damage. (Report available for review).

One letter in this report addressed to Frank Needham of Austin CINA Architects, dated May 21, 1999, stated that after review of two previous structural reports by Cooper Consultants, inc. in 1990 and the Chen-Northern report in December 1991 “that there major structural deficiencies in the present Puyallup Tribe Administration building.”

All of these studies were done prior to the recent earthquake. I have not seen any new report at the time of this writing. It is my understanding that FEMA was going through the building and was doing a report.



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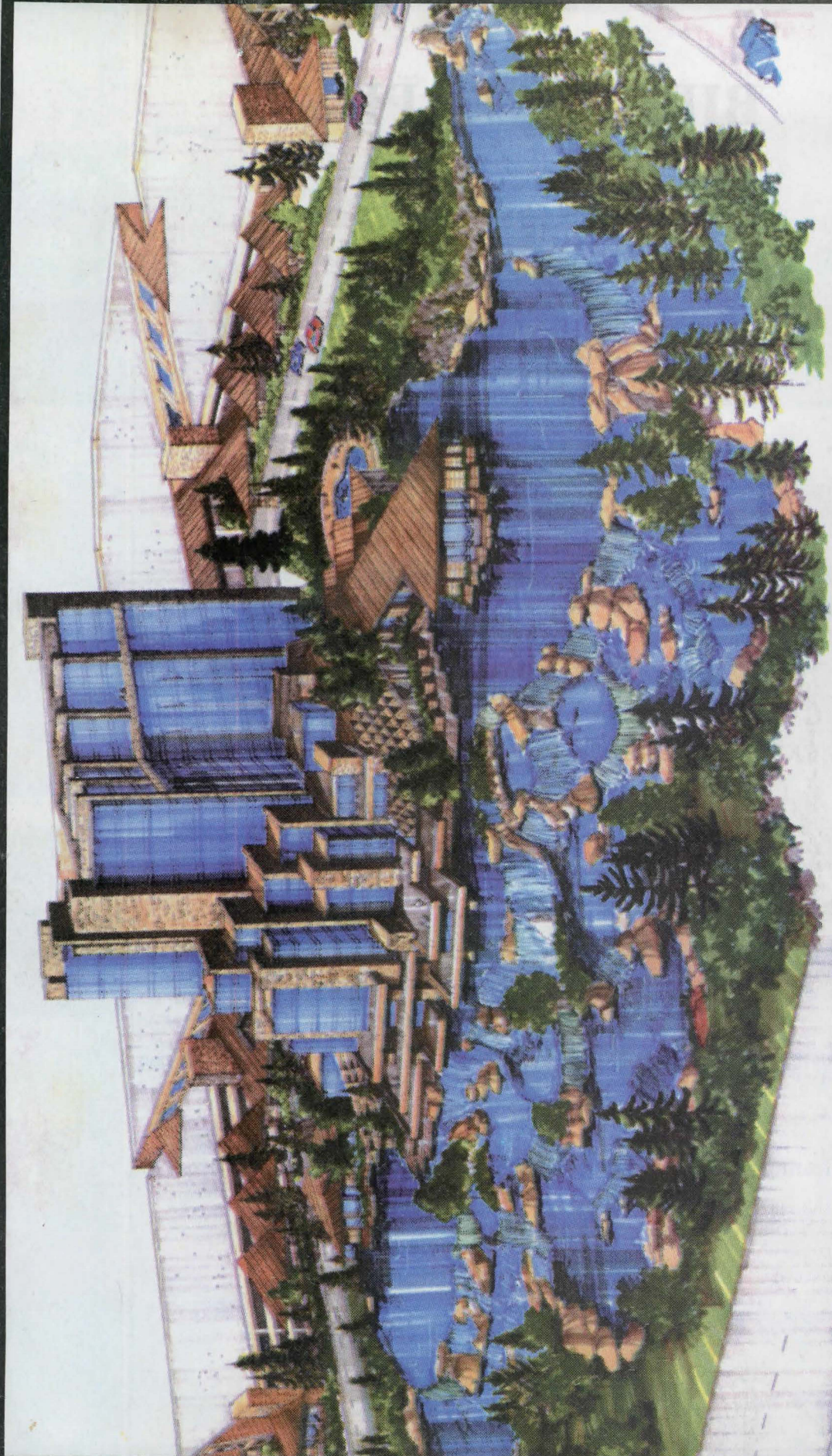
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