

# KLAMATH TRIBUNE

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## Withdrawing Members Meet; Termination Sales, Continued Income Discussed

The sale of tribal property to pay the withdrawing members, the reappraisal, and continued income for the withdrawing group were among the subjects covered during a meeting of the withdrawing members at the council hall on September 18.

Perry Skarra, Assistant Area Director, and the Management Specialists staff were invited to bring tribal members up to date on developments on the termination program.

It was reported that there can be no sales of tribal property until the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture have jointly named the areas designated to be sustained yield areas. Skarra announced that this is in the process of being done at the present time.

On October 27, 1958, the work of the Management Specialists will be terminated and the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs will take over. It was announced that Earl Wilcox, who has been forestry consultant to the Management Specialists, will head the sales office. "The fringe units will be put on the market as quickly as possible," Skarra stated. He informed the group that some of the larger units are being split, and this will require recruising. It is planned that five cruisers will be used to get the job done as quickly as possible.

In answer to questions about the reappraisal, Wilcox explained that there need be no change in the boundaries of the remaining and withdrawing areas unless there are mineral values found. The reappraisal will simply establish a new estimation of the value of the tribal property. Skarra stated that the law does not provide for any drilling for minerals or use of expensive equipment. He read from the amended law, those sections which limit the appraisers to a review of "all reasonably ascertainable elements, . . . Without

making any new and independent appraisal." According to the law, the Secretary of the Interior is required to report the results of the reappraisal to the chairmen of both the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs by Jan. 15, 1959. The cost of this reappraisal will be paid by the tribe, but Skarra pointed out that the entire amount will be reimbursed to the tribe by the federal government.

The matter of making continued payments to withdrawing members was a major topic of discussion. Skarra informed the people that the area officials were working on this problem and had called Washington urging that "every effort be made to get cash to the credit of the withdrawing members."

"The Secretary made a promise," assured Skarra, "that the Bureau will make a payment this fall." However, he could not say how much it will be.

It was also pointed out that the right of tribal members to meet the high bid on property put up for sale may result in less cash for the withdrawing members. Under the law, a tribal member has the right to apply up to 100 per cent of the amount estimated by the Secretary to be due him from the sale or taking of forest and marsh lands, and up to 75 per cent of his interest in other tribal property. Skarra was unable to estimate how many tribal members were planning on exercising this right, but stated that this may very seriously affect continued payments to the withdrawing members.

As to whether the United States could buy the Klamath Marsh now, rather than wait until 1961, Skarra reminded the group that according to the law, the title to the tribal marsh lands is scheduled to be taken in the name of the United States on April, 1961. Certain tribal members felt that delaying the sale

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## DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCES OPENING OF LAND SALES OFFICE

The Department of the Interior announced on Sept. 15 that the Klamath Tribal Land Sales office will open in Klamath Falls on October 27. Earl R. Wilcox, former Klamath Reservation forester, was named to be manager. The Portland Area office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs will supervise the new office, which will administer sales of

### Chiloquin Booklet Now Available

**YOUR KEY TO CHILOQUIN** — a forty-three page booklet, has just been published by the Klamath Education Program.

The booklet deals with the town of Chiloquin, the only incorporated town on the Klamath reservation and the center for many tribal members.

Prepared by the Klamath Education Program staff with the assistance of Bert Swansen, Political Science Department of the University of Oregon, the booklet contains information about Chiloquin's Mayor-council system, and descriptions of the services which the city offers.

It also includes excellent illustrations by Edison Chiloquin. The town of Chiloquin was named after this artist's great great grandfather.

As a follow up on **Your Key to Chiloquin**, the Klamath Education Program and the Klamath Reservation Discussion Group are jointly planning another booklet designed to give specific information about the candidates for the forthcoming November City elections.

Copies of **Your Key to Chiloquin** are available at the Klamath Education Office in Chiloquin or from members of the Klamath Reservation Discussion group. A charge of fifty cents per copy is being made to defray the cost of its printing.

Klamath Indian tribal property under provisions of the Klamath Termination Act (Public Law 587, 83rd Congress, as amended).

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Glenn L. Emmons said the sales office will help to carry out provisions of Public Law 85-731. One provides that the Secretary of the Interior perform all functions of the Management Specialists under Section 5 of the Act of August 13, 1954. Most of these functions have been completed. All that remains is for the Indian Bureau to sell sufficient of the Klamath property to satisfy interests of the withdrawing members of the tribe. The Termination Law provides that each member of the tribe electing to withdraw shall have his interest in tribal property converted into money and paid to him.

In taking over the new Klamath Tribal Land Sales office, Wilcox will be returning to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, from which he resigned in January, 1957, to accept a position with the Management Specialists as their forestry advisor. He is a native of Washington State and a graduate in forestry of the University of Washington. He worked for the United States Forest Service while in college and for two years after his graduation in 1938. He left the Forest Service in 1940 to join the forestry staff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Crow Agency where he remained until army duty in World War II. He was discharged as a captain in January, 1946, and returned to the Bureau of Indian Affairs where he served in various forestry positions at the Taholah and Western Washington agencies until 1951, when he returned to active duty in the army for 15 months.

He was Chief of the Forestry Branch at the Klamath Agency

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