



SPECIAL EDITION

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

Yamel Indians Lived Here

A Story of Tragedy...

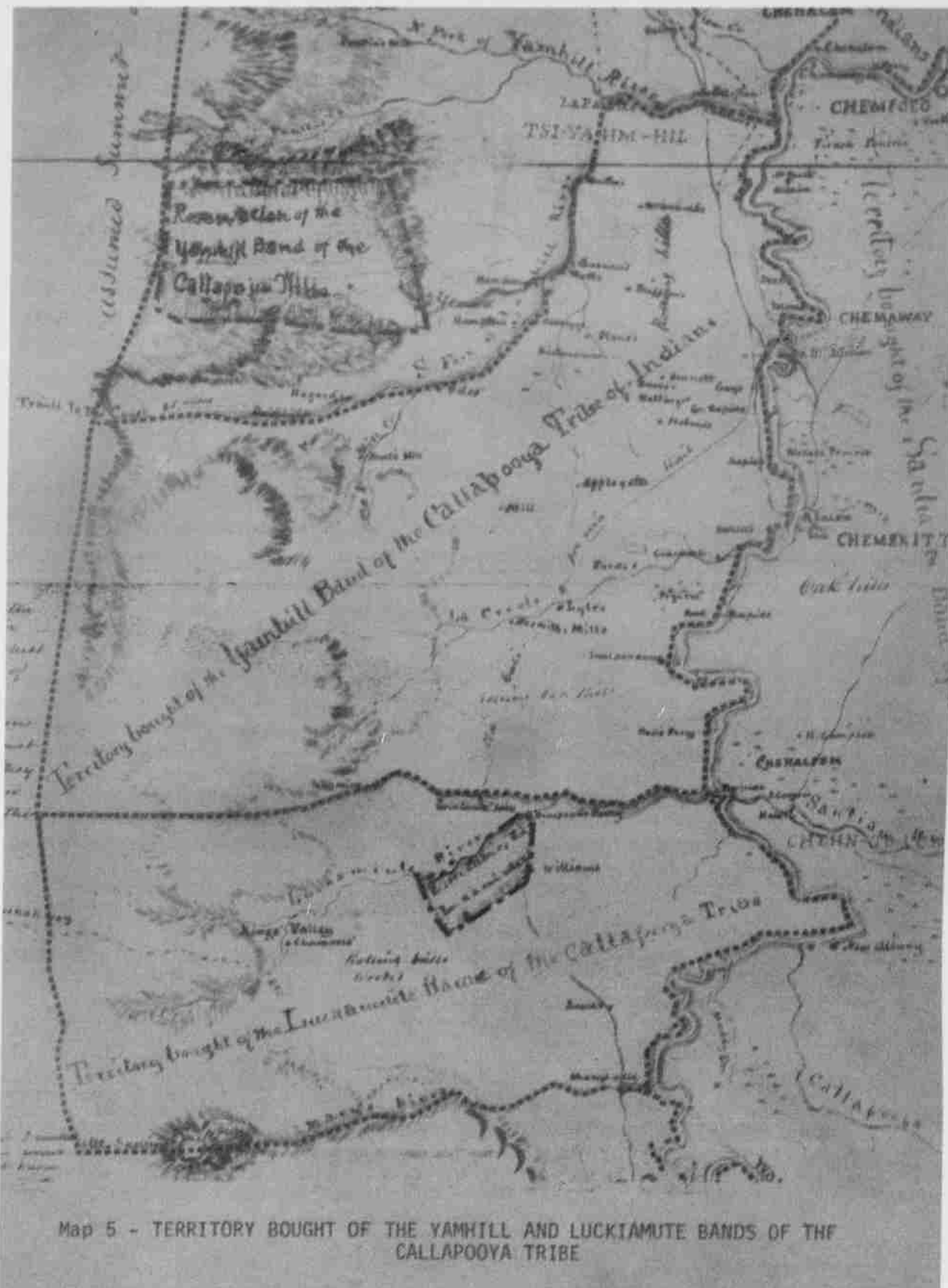
The Kalapuyans by Harold Mackey, Ph.D. is the 1974 Indian history classic for the northern Willamette Valley and particularly for The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR), which honor the Kalapuyans as one of main Tribes of the Confederation.

With the reissue of the book last month, *Smoke Signals* is spotlighting one unheralded, almost lost, group of Kalapuyans called the Yamels, an ancient Indian name that has long since morphed into the "Yamhills."

The new edition of the book, just released last month at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem, has been updated with a new afterword and appendices from CTGR. It comes courtesy of the Mission Mill Museum and the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department.

For this report, I am grateful to Tribal member and Tribal Cultural Resources Director June Olson, as well as Cultural Collections Specialist Lindy Trolan, Tribal member and Cultural Protection Specialist Connie Schultz and local historian Dennis Werth for their direction, advice and efforts, and to recently deceased Tribal Elder Merle Holmes, a lifelong student of the Tribe's history, for his willingness to share what he had learned over the years as well as providing valuable historical material.

The history, part of an on-going occasional series of historical pieces, refers frequently to a number of texts and cites page numbers to encourage readers to head back to the sources for more.



A page from *The Kalapuyans* shows the territory of the Yamel Bands. As you can tell from the map, their name had already been changed to the Yamhills.

■ *Many hints of their lives remain but much may never be known.*

By Ron Karten

Like a river fed by many streams, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) look to five Tribes as their cultural and historical fore runners. Of these Tribes, the Kalapuyans included more than a dozen Bands related by geography and language (including one that kept the same name as the umbrella

organization) and another called, the Yamels. The territory of the Yamels included what is today the Reservation of the CTGR.

Seventy-year-old William Hartless, a Mary's River Indian, described three Bands of Yamels. (Mary's River Indians were another Band of the Kalapuyans.) In fact, according to June Olson, "There were a lot of little bands here. They were

fragmented, and that's why we could be terminated so easy."

In a 1913 interview, Hartless said that the Yamels lived on both sides of what is today the Yamhill River, and that their territory was bordered on the north by the current locations of McMinnville and Dayton, on the west by the Coast Mountain Range, on the south by the cur-