

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

In 1850, California became the 31st state and settlers moved into Mendocino County, fenced their property which stopped the Indians from getting to their traditional food gathering places and hogs and cattle were allowed to feed on acorns, clover and grasses, traditional foods of Pomo people. The Pomo people had to travel further away from their territories to find food and the lack of nutrition weakened their bodies which made them susceptible to disease. As populations decreased from disease and massacre Indians had few options such as, flight to remote unsettled territories in attempts to survive in secrecy; live under the protection of an Angelo rancher or farmer who provided food and shelter in exchange for labor and limited freedom; or survival by any means such as killing cattle to feed their families for which their punishment was often massacre of entire communities in retaliation for even a single killing of an animal.

Clashes increased between the settlers and the Indians during the 1850's as more people moved to Mendocino County and the government's solution was to remove the Indians to reservations. The Nome Cult Farm opened in 1856 to grow food for the Nome Lackee Reservation in Tehama County, in 1856 the Mendocino Reservation was established and Nome Lackee Farm was formally recognized in 1870 as the Round Valley Reservation. Numbers of people who were traditional enemies, spoke different languages, did not live comfortably together were forced to live together with shortages of food and housing at the reservations.

Pomo people from the Ukiah Valley, Cloverdale, Hopland, Anderson Valley, Point Arena, Mendocino, Sherwood, and Usal communities were forced on the Mendocino Reservation. The reservation was not a success because of the illegal activities and mismanagement that occurred at the reservation by the Indian agent and local ranchers and it was abandoned in 1866. Most of the Indians who were forced on the reservation had already returned to their homelands prior to the closing of the reservation and only a few were taken to the Round Valley Reservation.

Indians from across the state were forced on the Round Valley Reservation to segregate them from the Angelo-Americans and to open Yuki traditional territories for settlers. Concows, Achumawi (Pit River Indians), Mitom, Mato, Eel River Wailaki from Island Mountain, Alderpoint, Garberville and Xenia, Wappo, Cahto and Hat Creeks from the Sacramento Valley, Yahi, Yana, Yankee Hiils, Huchnom, Shanel Pomo were driven to the reservation.

As small groups and individuals escaped Round Valley Reservation, they traveled together for safety, camped along rivers and creeks and searched for relatives only to find their traditional homelands appropriated by settlers. The people understood they needed to band together for protection, find safe places to live and to provide nourishment for their families knowing that they had roots in different places. They worked and/or lived on Angelo owned ranches and in some cases were able to purchase land from ranchers and farmers and in some cases in the general areas of their traditional land base.

By the early 1900's Indians were considered impoverished, starving to death and landless. The Indian Office Appropriation Act of 1906 was the first in a series of appropriations to purchase land for "homeless California Indians" which continued through 1933. June 18, 1934 the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) "was imposed by the United States to supplant traditional forms of indigenous governance in favor of a tribal council structure modeled after corporate boards and that each tribe to be reorganized agree to the process by referendum." [Indian Laws and Cases pp. 15]

.....“The Act permitted tribes to adopt written constitutions and codes from a model constitution prepared by the Department of Interior and adopted by most tribes. Missing in the IRA constitutions were the three key concepts in the Anglo justice systems. Neither separation of powers, separation of church and state, nor the power of judicial review were included”. [Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Over Matters Arising In Indian Country 1934-1953: The establishment of Courts Under Tribal Authority. Pp. 4] All rancheria bands were considered by the BIA to be IRA tribes until their purported termination under the Act. It is important to remember that in 1935 the Pomo Indians understood their traditional forms of government but there was a tremendous number of people who could barely read and write and not able to comprehend the constitution model. Each tribe held secretarial elections, (participation by the Secretary of the Interior) all the members would be notified and a majority of the members must participate in the election for it to be valid [a very important point].

Following are accounts of land acquisitions by Indian groups who did not consider themselves separate tribes but Pomo Indians with roots in different places and beginning in 1906, using “homeless California Indian” funds, land was purchased in Inland Mendocino County by the federal government to establish rancherias for “homeless Indians living in the county.

1. Redwood Valley (general area of traditional homeland of Masút, Kacha and Kachake).

“A long, long time ago, Indian people lived on White people’s land south of where the Rancheria stood, slightly east of where West Road crosses the railroad tracks today. Other Indians lived near a spring on Mariposa Ranch and on what is now known as Fetzer Vineyards.”

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.131]

80 acres were purchased from W.A. and E. M. Ford for the use by two or three bands that resided in Redwood Valley at that time. The Redwood Valley Rancheria was established but the deed did not specify the band or community for which the land was purchased. In 1935, the Redwood Valley Band voted to accept the IRA. SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp. 246]

2. Potter Valley (general area of traditional homeland of Shanél (Canel), Sedam, and Póomóo).

“Old man Busch (white) had a little village on his place at the upper (north) end of the valley. The people from there wandered down and all were more or less related. They bought the Potter Valley Rancheria in 1892. at the northwest end of the valley had a small rancheria in 1892.” 12 acres were purchased from B. Marks and M. Newfield for \$10, ten names were on the original deed and one of the purchasers was a Huchnom man from the Tomki area.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.131]

The federal government purchased 16 acres were purchased from Joseph Spotswood for the use of Potter Valley Band of Pomo Indians. In 1935 the Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted IRA elections and Potter Valley voted to accept the Indian Reorganization Act.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.246]

3. Guidiville (traditional homeland of Shó qhaajal / Shokadjal).

“In 1869 or 1870, a group of people originally from the Northern Pomo territories of Potter Valley, [Redwood Valley], Sherwood and the coast got together and, led by Jim Bartlett, purchased land at the end of the present Talmage Bridge. From there the group moved to the land under the

beautiful oaks where the Ukiah [Russian River Cemetery District] Cemetery now stands on Low Gap Road. They purchased the parcel. In 1885, the band bought property on the south side of the [California] State Hospital (now the site of the City of 10,000 Buddhas) in Talmage. The land became known as Mushtown, named after a Pomo staple food--acorn mush#### “The Bureau of Indian Affairs purchased land behind the State Hospital and many Mushtown people moved there. Others moved to Potter Valley, Pinoleville or Coyote Valley. It was first called Kelseyville after Kelsey, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Agent for California. It is now known as Guidiville” [Rancheria and Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians].” In 1920 the State Hospital property was sold to a grape grower named Milo Guidi.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.132-133]

Note: The Guidiville people were originally from Redwood Valley Calpella area.

In 1909 approximately 84 acres were purchased for use of the Guidiville Band of Indians. In 1935 Guidiville voted to accept the IRA.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.247-248]

4a. Pinoleville “Dogtown“ (traditional homeland of Shó qhaajal / Shokadjal).

“There was never any Indians there until they bought the place. Potter Valley Indians helped buy Pinoleville”. Edna Guerrero interview, June, 1976.

“In 1878, a group of Northern Pomo Indians led by Captain Jack of Potter Valley escaped from Round Valley to Ukiah. The members of this group pledged their labor to a White man for three years in exchange for property located on the Dunsing Ranch near where Jensen’s Truck Stop on [North] State Street is now. It was called Dogtown because there were so many dogs living there and it was named. Pinoleville. When the wood on the property was gone, the group split up. Some left to buy land in Coyote Valley and others either traded or bought 100 acres near Ackerman Creek”. [1893 off Orr Springs Road].

4b. Pinoleville Private Trust Land. (traditional homeland of Shó qhaajal / Shokadjal).

In 1893, 16 Indian men and their families either traded or bought 100 acres from Isaac Reed. The land was located north of Orr Springs Road. In 1893 Indians in California could not be owners of property so a private trust was created in the Mendocino County Superior Court and the court appointed five trustees to administer the business of the property for the beneficiaries of the original deed holders, Jack Napoleon, Dick Briggs, Fuller Williams, Steve Wright, Ben Lake, Harris Lake, Old Man Frank Miller, Dutch Stevenson, John Baechtal, Sam Boone, Jack Mayd [Mace], Old Man Bill McGee, John Brigham, George Allen, Henry Hale’s mother and father, The Scotts’ grandfather.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.133-134]

4c. Pinoleville Rancheria (traditional homeland of Shó qhaajal / Shokadjal).

In 1906, the government purchased approximately 95 acres from E. M. Ford to establish the Pinoleville Rancheria (east of the private trust property). The agent approached the people of the established Pinoleville [Private] Trust Property to ask them if they wanted their property to become part of the newly established Pinoleville Rancheria and according to Eleanor Stevenson Gonzales, a meeting was held and the people voted not to become part of the new rancheria. The Pinoleville Private Trust Property has never been a part of the Pinoleville Rancheria. The rancheria was named Pinoleville Rancheria and Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians. In 1935 the Pinoleville Band voted to accept the IRA.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California.

Note: I have separated the Pinoleville land purchases because presently the Pinoleville Tribal Chairperson (Leona Williams) is reporting 4a as traditional Pinoleville tribal land, 4b was supposedly purchased for the Pinoleville Tribe, 4c the Williams council has created a new constitution in which one of the criteria is that to be a member of the tribe, an individual must be descended from the first court appointed trustees (not the original deed holders). In 1995, Leona sued 4b claiming ownership, however Mendocino Superior Court (I believe Judge King) made the ruling that the property was intended for the beneficiaries of the original deed holders. Also, a former trustee visited the regional Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to verify that the land was indeed (according to Williams) in trust to the Pinoleville Tribe. BIA had no records of the property (because not in trust to a federally recognized tribe) and the official could not give the 4b trustee a letter confirming the property was not in trust to the Pinoleville Tribe. 4b. Property taxes have been paid on the property continuously since property taxes have been collected by the Mendocino County Tax Collector (there have been years of delinquency). 4a is simply a misstatement since there was not an indigenous community named Pinoleville and 4c remember Indian groups did not consider themselves separate tribes but Pomo Indians with roots in different places.

5. Coyote Valley (traditional homeland of Shódakai)

“Dick Duncan and his relatives left Pinoleville in 1878. They were originally from Redwood and Potter Valleys. They went to Coyote Valley and bought 7 acres of land on the East Fork of the Russian River from L. B. Frasier for \$200.00. Those listed on the deed as Indians of the Ca-ba-kana and Katca tribes of Redwood Valley.” There were sixteen names on the original deed and the land was known as “Old Rancheria”.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.134]

In 1909 approximately 101 acres were purchased for the Coyote Band of Indians. The band was a IRA tribe. In 1957 the Army Corps of Engineers acquired the Coyote Valley Rancheria for the establishment of Lake Mendocino and the rancheria was terminated.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.162, 171]

6. Burke Ranch, Yokayo Rancheria (traditional homeland of Shó qhaajal / Shokadjal).

“In 1857, James Huston Burke, also known as Huse Burke, bought 974 acres of land between Robinson Creek and Burke Hill in the southwest end of Ukiah Valley. He was a farmer and a shepherd originally from Missouri. He married twice and had two children. His first marriage was to a Yokayo woman, the sister of Sam Burke. They has a son who they named Green. When Green Burke was old enough, he managed the ranch for his father. Some Yokaya people were living on the Robinson Ranch on Robinson Creek at the time. They eventually moved down to the Burke Ranch and joined the growing Indian community there made up of the Yokayo relatives of Green Burke’s mother’s people. This community became known as Burke Rancheria. In 1881, they bought Yokayo Rancheria on the east side of the Ukiah Valley [east of the Russian River] which they have held for over 100 years as private tribal trust land.” Presently the community is known as the Ukiah or Yokayo Rancheria and the Yokayo Indian Community, a non-federally recognized tribe of people.

7. Hopland (traditional land area of the Shoqowa (Cocoa).

“Shortly after the Bloody Island massacre, the people of Shanel complained to Peter Campbell, Alcalde, or mayor, at Sonoma, of mistreatment by the Mexicans at Feliz Rancho and asked him for protection. He gave them a league of land on the northeast side of the [Russian] river and about 100 moved to the new rancheria. The Shoqowa Pomo lived there for over fifty years. Alice Elliot, who was born there, recalls many people in residence.”

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.136]

In 1908, the U.S. government purchased 1,600 acres from Jesse W. and Edna Day for \$5,750.00. Part of the original purchase remains present day Hopland Rancheria. The Hopland band was a IRA tribe and the rancheria was terminated in 1966.

SHEEMI KE JANU Talk From the Past. Kaplan, Victoria. Ukiah Title VII Project, Ukiah Unified School District. Ukiah, California. 1984 [pp.136]

The California termination bill was passed by the Senate on July 18, 1958 and signed by the President on August 18, 1958. The 1958 Act was amended by the Act of August 11, 1964 (P.L. 88-419), extending the Act's provisions to all rancherias and reservations lying wholly within the State of California. "The Rancheria Act of 1958 ended the governmental sovereignty of 39 California Indian Rancherias as part of the Indian "termination" policy of the federal government that sought to extinguish the federal trust relationship to certain Indian tribes. Termination ended federal programs, transferred tribal land interest to individuals and imposed state criminal jurisdiction on California Indians." [Tillie Hardwick Lecture Series, California Indian Museum and Cultural Center] (Redwood Valley Rancheria, Potter Valley Rancheria, Pinoleville Rancheria, Guidiville Rancheria, Hopland Rancheria, Coyote Valley Rancheria)

In the 1970s tribes began taking legal steps to regain federal recognition status as Indian bands. Coyote Valley Rancheria gain recognition in 1976 with the court declaring the termination of Coyote Valley Rancheria in 1957 was invalid and Coyote Valley regained their status as a federally recognized tribe, in 1979 Coyote Valley purchased approximately 57 acres in Redwood Valley and the land was placed in trust in 1982 (Shódakai Casino). In 1978, Hopland regained their status as a federally recognized tribe (Shokawa Casino). Guidiville regained federal recognition in 1991.

Tillie Hardwick, Pinoleville Pomo bought a civil cause of action against the federal government seeking to restore the federal recognition status of 18 terminated California tribes. The settlement with the United States and the Department of Interior resulted in the judgment restoring federal recognition to 18 rancherias, including Pinoleville, Potter Valley and Redwood Valley in Mendocino County.

All tribes in Mendocino County are IRA tribes. The people voted to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. As far as I know that has never changed. If the tribe wants to get out from under IRA, it has to go through a process which could be lengthy and then they still might not be able to relieve themselves of the IRA.

I am going to share with you the history of how the Pinoleville Rancheria tribal council by the process of writing a new constitution will or has disenroll 6 complete family groups who were members of the tribe prior to termination and who were tribal members after the Tillie Hardwick decision which re-recognized the Pinoleville Rancheria. The 6 family groups are not descendants of the 5 original trustees of the private trust property. The BIA has basically sanctioned a new tribe using the federal recognition of an existing tribe and ignored or disregarded a Federal Court Decision which re-established the Pinoleville Rancheria based on the Tillie Hardwick decision.

The re-recognition of the Pinoleville Rancheria (aka Pinoleville Reservation, aka Pinoleville Pomo Nation) was based on the federal court Tillie Hardwick decision. The court recognized the Pinoleville Distributees and the descendents as federally recognized Indians of the Pinoleville

Rancheria. A February 1934 Membership List was actually a government survey for the IRA and the 15 names listed were of whose families were originally from Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Guidiville Rancheria, Long Ridge out of Covelo, and Coyote Valley. A March 1, 1937 Membership Roll was a census count of persons living at Pinoleville at that time and it listed 121 names of persons whose families were originally from Buldam on the Mendocino Coast, Long Ridge, Yokayo Rancheria, Redwood Valley, Sherwood Valley and Potter Valley. A April 22, 1960 Distribution Plan was actually a list created for The Rancheria Act of 1958 (termination act) and was composed of persons and their families with assigned trust allotments on the rancheria. The re-recognized Tillie Hardwick Pinoleville Rancheria membership roll was based on the March 1, 1937 and April 22, 1960 lists (according to a member of the original council).

In 1993 a Pinoleville Rancheria general council meeting was held regarding a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) project, those in attendance waited approximately 1-1½ hours and a quorum was not established so people left. It was alleged that Leona L. Williams and her cohorts used the sign-in list for the HUD meeting to recall the sitting council and after the “election, Don Rich immediately faxed related paperwork to the BIA (Central/Regional?) office to validate and recognize the newly elected interim governing council. Chairperson Leona L. Williams has been Chairperson since 1993, her domestic partner, Don Rich was Tribal Administrator from 1993 to approximately 2004-5 when Leona’s daughter Lenore Brown Steele (2001, tribal council secretary) became tribal administrator and Don Rich became EPA Director. Nancy Williams (Leona’s sister) has been a council member since 1993, in 2001 was tribal treasurer and in 2003-2004, Head Start Director, Angela James (Leona’s daughter) has served as council member and in 2001 was vice chairperson and is presently a member of the tribal council.

1996 - present, Pinoleville Rancheria Chairperson Leona Williams begins her lawsuit in Mendocino County Superior Court alleging “The beneficiaries of the Trust Property are the *Pinoleville Indians*....*Pinoleville Trust Property with cemeteries are Pinoleville’s Historical Land Base.*” [PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES Volume 4, Issue 6] The court subsequently ruled that the trust property was for the benefit of the beneficiaries who were the original deed holders (16 Indian men). Williams appealed the case to the 9th circuit and the court agreed with the ruling of the Superior Court in Mendocino County. The PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES is the newsletter of the Pinoleville tribe.

November 1997 PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES Volume 2 Issue 5 “Chairperson Williams plans to investigate Pinoleville Trust Property Scam!!!!” “Chairperson Williams; “I had no knowledge of the monetary request or the PO box located in Ukiah” That is not true, Williams attended several meetings at the residence of the PO box holder regarding paying back taxes on the trust property. Following is a quote for the PO box holder, “Remember, we asked for a donation. Leona put that in our letter and I gave my name and P.O. Box number. How else would they know where to send their donations.”

On September 10, 1999 Governor Gray Davis signed the Tribal-State Gaming Compact (Revenue Sharing Compact) with quarterly payments of approximately \$350,000 to non-gaming tribes with the first quarterly payment beginning in 2002.

March 2000 PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES A NOTE FROM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL:
“In 1994, Pinoleville’s oldest elder was concerned about losing Pinoleville’s cemeteries for nonpayment of [property] taxes. This led Chairperson Leona Williams to look into that property; known local as the Trust Property, where the Tribe holds its annual Big Time. [Flyer dated October,

1995 Pinoleville Reservation First Annual Big Time Celebration Place: Pinoleville Reservation Ukiah CA (A complete misrepresentation of the truth, the event actually took place on the private trust property)].

December 2000 PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES “What is Tribal Sovereignty? Tribal Sovereignty is a Tribe’s inherent right to determine their own membership” According to an anonymous source, “There is no 100% sovereignty since U.S. Congress has plenary power over the tribes. They have the last decision. Tribes believe they have the right to self government, the right to determine membership. However, what is needed is for the feds (who support the tribes monetarily with grants and contracts) to require tribes to follow and adhere to the tribes own ordinances, resolutions, policies, procedures, in addition to the established federal laws. If tribes are not following the laws, then penalties or sanctions should be imposed” (5/2/2006).

Note: All Superior Court documents referring to the Pinoleville Indians are referenced to the “private trust” [beneficiaries] Pinoleville Indians and not the Pinoleville Rancheria Indians. A State Superior Court would not have jurisdiction in a court case involving trust property of a federally recognized tribe.

PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES April 2001 **Notes from the Tribal Council** “..Tribal Council continues to work on the Constitution.and we are finally close to having it completed.”

PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES A Voice for the Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians December 2001 ...“The Pinoleville Indian Reservation base roll originating from Sam Hale, Napoleon Bonaparte (aka Captain Jack, Jack Napoleon), Jim Reeve, Fuller Williams, and Jack Mace is in the first stages of implementation by the Citizenship and Naturalization Committee. Once again let this serve as a friendly reminder to update your membership files and provide documentation that you are a descendent of one of the five men mentioned. The deadline for completed applications with proper documentation is December 31, 2001 this date is an extension from the August 1, 2001 deadline”.

After 2001, recognized tribal members who were not directly related to the 5 trustees stopped receiving correspondence from the tribal office, were not welcome at the tribal office, were not able to participate in federally funded tribal programs. The Pinoleville Rancheria Tribe only posted public notices in a undetermined number of newspapers (viewed in the Ukiah Daily Journal and The Press Democrat).

In January 2002, the Williams governing council was removed by a unanimous recall by the general membership, steps were taken to validate and recognize the newly elected interim governing council, on June 21, 2002 the Acting Regional Director, Amy L. Dutschle determined that actions taken at the January 13, 2002 meeting was in compliance with the tribe’s governing document, and in July, 2002 the Regional Director, Ron Jaeger reversed the decision made by Amy L. Dutschle. Williams filed a lawsuit against the interim tribal council. Questions were raised about whether Williams was using federal dollars earmarked for tribal programs to pay attorney fees in her lawsuits against her fellow tribal members.

Following is a declaration by a tribal member in reference to a January 7, 1996. “Concerning the alleged Pinoleville general council meeting of January 7, 1996, I did not attend that meeting. Since I was not in attendance I did not sign a voting roster for that meeting, which I was told, was called to ratify a revised constitution. My name was fraudulently signed, by someone to a roster at

that meeting. I was not there, I did not vote to ratify anything on January 7, 1996". She goes on to allege that her daughter warned her not to contradict Williams, her hand picked council or her boy friend (Don Rich)

because it would prevent her daughter from getting a mobile home through a tribal project." She continues " Until the September 2002 meeting at the Fountain Grove Inn in Santa Rosa, California, I believe there was never a Pinoleville general council meeting called by Leona Williams where a quorum was present. Any general council meeting I attended in Ukiah (where they should be held) never had more than 10-15 people in attendance. The only reason so many people showed up at the Fountain Grove meeting was money. Before the meeting Leona let it be known that anyone that attended would receive a \$100.00 and you had to sign a sheet to get the money. We were told the meeting was for discussing the future of the Tribe. There was no pre-meeting information that any vote was to occur to ratify a new constitution. Copies of the new constitution were made available minutes before Leona Williams called for a vote. Leona Williams allowed no debate. She merely ignored any challenges or questions at the meeting. She was rude and insensitive to anyone who disagreed with her. At this meeting Leona Williams was forced to disclose that she enrolled her boy friend Don Rich and his family through an adoption process that was evidently a secret process. At the same time Leona Williams has disenrolled some 80 tribal members who have lived their entire lives at Pinoleville, but they disagreed with her tactics "She cannot tolerate dissent; no dictator can."

Land purchases of private properties by federally recognized tribes are not automatically placed in trust status, the tribes must receive trust recognition by Congress or from the Department of Interior. The reason that the Congress or the Department of Interior must approve land acquisitions is that in 1972, the State of California paid California Indians (adults and children) 29 million dollars for their indigenous lands (equated to approximately \$.47 per acre). The following private properties were purchased by Pinoleville Rancheria in 2002, Lot No 9, 5.95 acres at 150 Pinoleville Drive, parcel no. 169 211 09, deed ref no. 07 946, recorded 4/5/2002, owner Pinoleville Rancheria, amt. Pd. \$325,000.00; Lot No. 4, 4.31 acres at 650 Pinoleville Drive, parcel no. 169 190 04, deed ref. No., 17 543, recorded 8/9/2002, owner Pinoleville Rancheria Amt. Pd. \$225,000.00; Lot No. 10, acres none listed, address none listed, parcel no. 169 211 10, deed ref no. 177 52 recorded 8/13/2002, owner Pinoleville Rancheria - 50%/Tien,LLC - 50%, amt pd. \$100,000.00. It has been alleged that Tien, LLC or the Agent for Service of Process, Michael Canales, La Jolla is not licensed. At Mendocino Planning Commission meeting of 3/1/2001, "Pinoleville Indian Reservation representatives indicate that they have no intention of expanding the Reservation boundary, but rather desire to acquire additional fee lands within the existing Reservation boundaries." October 22, 2003 California State Gambling Control Commission, Revenue Sharing Trust Fund Report of Distribution of Funds to Non-Compact Tribes for the Quarter Ended September... Pinoleville Reservation \$120,654.74; April 28, 2004 ...for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2004...\$118,318.37.

April 3, 2003 a Notice of Membership Meeting for the Pinoleville Indian Reservation was posted in the Ukiah Daily Journal to determine legal membership of the tribe. The notice included the Pinoleville listing of names, April 22, 1960 Distribution Plan, Membership Roll, March 1, 1937 and February 8, 1934 Membership List. Also there was a Tillie [Hardwick] Reorganization Committee Listing. The list was dated Monday, October 06, 2003 with 259 named listed with the following headings; Good, Member, Link to Tribe, Plan for Dist, Lineal PD, 1934 Roll, Lineal 34, 1937 Roll, Birth date. 29 names on the list were not tribal members and 9-13 of those names are direct descendants of John Stevenson. Non-Pinoleville Rancheria tribal names that appeared on the 1937 and 1960 lists were selectively allowed into the meeting.

2003 to early 2004, Charles Mitchell, Trustee, Pinoleville [Private] Trust Property was threatened by Chairperson Williams and an co-conspirator, Mr. Mitchell said that he filed a report with the Mendocino County District Attorney's office and by 10/31/2004 - 11/01/2004, Mr. Mitchell and his son Noland were murdered at their residence on the private trust property. To date the murders have not been solved.

April 14, 2004, Ukiah Daily Journal (UDJ) headline, "Pinoleville tribe confirms it's buying Sozzoni land". The article states that the property "belonged to the tribe in the 19th century and was known as Ke-Buk###ke-bul###". The Pinoleville tribe stated in a press release that the property contained a tribal village with ceremonial, cremation and burial sites and that ancestors of today's tribal members were removed from their homes. ###Generations of tribal members have dreamed of reclaiming the site,' the press release states." A quote from Tribal Chairwoman Leona Williams, "It is property that belonged to the Tribe and it has historical as well as sentimental value to us. It is ironic that we need to buy back our own land." What is ironic is that there wasn't a historic village in that area. UDJ, 3/27/2004, 105 acres consisting of 3 parcels, 17 acre vineyard, and 40 and 48 acre hillside parcels with a reported sale price of 1.62 million dollars. The closest historic village was K'ibuk'ibu' near Ko'mli. NOTES ON POMO ETHNOGEOGRAPHY BY OMER C. STEWART [Volume 40, no.2, pp. 30, 42]. Charlie Bowen born in Redwood Valley in 1854, his mother and maternal grandparents were Canel pomo (Potter Valley), his father and paternal grandmother were Katca (Redwood Valley) and his paternal grandfather was Mitom (Willits/Little Lake). "When ten years old moved to Round Valley, where remained eleven years; aided in purchase of land and establishment of Pinoleville Rancheria two miles north of Ukiah (1875)." "The Yimaba included a group called the Ko'mli people, renamed when they migrated from the village of Cokatcal on Russian River between Masut (Calpella) and Yokaia." According to Charlie Bowen, the fate of the people was "the result of fights over women within the group. When the group broke up, three new villages were formed: Kancibet [Ke-Buk###ke-bul, K'ibuk'ibu'?] on the mountain at the head of Ackerman Creek, ..."Yima, in Scott's Valley [Lake County]; and the new Ko'mli in Eight-Mile Canyon in the mountains east of Ukiah." According to Joe Augustine of Scott's Valley, "the people from Cokatcal had settled among the Yimaba at an early time and that...caused a change in their language." The head of Ackerman Creek is approximately 8-10 miles out Orr Springs Road and its head [water] is northwest of the headwater of Hensley Creek. Kancibet [Ke-Buk###ke-bul, K'ibuk'ibu'?] was approximately 12 miles from the Sozzoni property.

Chairperson Williams continues to create her own version of history. The following appeared in the PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES, November 2000, "A NOTE FROM THE TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON, LEONA L. WILLIAMS A Few Facts About Pinoleville History In 1893, the Pinoleville Indians purchased land for their Tribal members. This land would be for their homes and burial grounds. And at that time, Indians were not considered citizens, so a trust was set up called the Trusteeship for the Pinoleville Indians. The men on the 1893 deed are: Fuller Williams, Jack Mace (not Maize), Napoleon Bonaparte, Sam Hale, and Jim Reeves. (Indians have always been aware of their history and relatives). But as time goes on and the oral history is not presented to descendants, history tends to get 'lost'". PINOLEVILLE TRIBAL TIMES September, 1998 "Pinoleville Trust Property with cemeteries are Pinoleville's Historical Land Base," March, 2000, June, 2000, February 2001, April 2001, May 2001, December 2001 continued to reinforce the assumption that the Private Trust Property is the Pinoleville Rancheria's historic land base.

In 2004 a Head Start Review Report dated 03/18/2004 Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians 90C19778 / 000 / 2004. The areas of non-compliance identified in core questions: 9A Prevention

and Early Intervention, 6 areas non compliant; 9B Health Tracking and Follow-up, 1 areas non compliant; 11-Disabilities Services, 6 areas non compliant; Family and Community Partnerships, 11 areas non compliant. Program Design and Management had 22 areas of non compliance which included lack of fiscal responsibility and accountability without a structured program plan. The Head Start Director was Nancy Williams (Leona's sister) who was also a tribal council member which was a direct conflict of interest and it was alleged that her salary was reported to be \$10,000 but was actually \$100,000 with a high school education or a GED equivalent. In 2005 or 2006 a qualified education director was hired and his decisions were often overruled by Chairperson Williams and he was subsequently fired. Today, the Pinoleville Rancheria Head Start school is located off Pinoleville Drive in a 100 year flood plain next to a junk yard full of motor vehicles of various sorts and disposed trailers and modular homes.

In a letter from BIA Central Agency addressed to Ms. Leona Williams, Chairperson confirmed that the tribe "successfully completed a formal organization process. This process was completed when the tribe on June 26, 2005, at a General Council meeting, called for the purpose of voting on a Constitution did by a vote of 106 FOR and 22 AGAINST adopt a Constitution". Posted in the HELP WANTED Section of the Ukiah Daily Journal, Thursday, April 27, 2006 "Pinoleville Pomo Nation **30 day open Citizenship** Application packets are available at 367 N. State St. Suite 204 Ukiah, CA 95482" The notice ran for approximately 3 days.

The Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) Title VII (2005 - 2006) parent advisory committee **Parent/Guardian members** include Julian Maldonado (Angela James' partner), chairperson, Lenore Brown Steele (vice-chairperson, Angela's sister, Chairperson, Leona Williams### daughter), Angela James (secretary), Nancy Williams (Lenore and Angela's### aunt), Bruce Williams (Nancy's son), Leona C. Williams (Leona L. Williams### niece), and 2 non-related members; **Member at large**, Charlotte Alvarado, not related, **Teacher**, Cheryle Evans. The 2006-2007 Title VII budget has been approved by the advisory committee and the budget amount is based on students who are members of federally recognized tribes. Dolores Fisette, Assistant Superintendent is responsible for Title VII. What will be the consequences of Title VII monies when the 6 families who have students enrolled in UUSD schools are officially disenrolled? Will the Department of Health and Human Services have to rescind monies allocated in the budget for the disenfranchised students? February, 2006, according to Michael Delbar, 1st District Mendocino County Supervisor, Chairperson Williams has filed a small casino application (100 slot machines). Is this the reason that Chairperson Williams wants to cut her tribal roll. With only 100 slot machines the tribe will still continue to receive Revenue Sharing Trust Fund monies.

An AP Washington news article (not dated) titled "Indian Affairs official fired" The No. 2 official at the Bureau of Indian Affairs was fired Friday, a move he contended was retaliation for refusing to follow White House orders on a decision involving California Indians. Interior Department spoke Mark Pfeifle denied the assertion by Wayne Smith, saying the termination was "because of actions (Smith) took as an employee at the Department of Interior." Smith's former business partner, Phillip Bersinger, is being investigated by the FBI and Interior Department Inspector general for trying to use his relationship with Smith to land lobbying contracts with tribes.

It has been alleged that one of the regional directors (Jaeger?) who worked with Leona Williams retired from BIA Regional Agency just after the Thunder Valley Casino opened and that he took a position as commissioner at that casino. It was also rumored that he approached another chairwoman in Sonoma County about a commissioner position. It is rumors and news articles such as the 2

examples above that continue to fuel the assumption that BIA superintendents and directors don't care about Indian Civil Rights, illegal actions by tribal councils with criminal backgrounds, forged documents and the creation of new constitutions which benefit governing families and that BIA agency decision makers are lining their own pockets at the detriment of the disenfranchised families in Indian Country.