

RF: In the beginning?

YD: Yeah, is that even—

BG: Point nine-two.

RF: Point nine-two. Okay. So it's almost one acre, but it's kind of shaped kind of—

YD: It's triangle-like.

RF: Yeah. Kind of longer this way than this way.

YD: Well, it goes like that, you know, back there like this. And it comes up and it comes up this way and [unintelligible]. And then like that.

RF: Mm hmm. That's pretty good, one acre, but it's all right here, so ... What'll probably happen, or I would think would happen, is probably someone's going to come up and do a survey. You know, I think they'll look at the legal description and make sure that it's ... Because it may be you have more land than you think. Or maybe less, I don't know. I don't know that. But the boundaries, I'm sure, have been established.

YD: Yeah. The boundaries have been established. Like you said, it might be even a little bit bigger.

RF: It might be a little bit bigger, that's right. One acre's a pretty good piece, a pretty good chunk. Do you know what his middle name was, Yakima?

YD: Gil.

RF: Oh, Roman Gil, okay. Just like Richard.

YD: Mm hmm.

RF: Okay. And he passed in '85.

YD: Mm hmm.

RF: And Richard it's '92 or '93.

YD: Somewhere in that area. I'm not too sure.

RF: I think this is a lot to go on. It's more than we had before. I think we could probably pursue this as far as getting death certificates and that type of thing. I'm not sure without checking with realty where they're at on this probate, if it's anywhere.

BG: Well, you have to initiate the process. And so what we can do is help you by tracking down the death certificates. But you'll need to send us a letter, basically saying these people passed away, I understand a probate needs to be completed and per our visit, you guys agreed to help me out with the death certificates. And so I'm requesting at this point it be done. And from that letter, we'll work on getting the death certificates. And then, we would forward all that to realty. And then the realty branch then would work up the probate to have those records ready. So when that judge comes around, probably some time next year, they'll be able to act on it.

YD: So, do you want that letter written up real soon, or it don't have to be that soon?

BG: Whatever, I guess. You don't have to stop and do it right now.

YD: Okay.

BG: But you know, the next couple of days, maybe, or a week.

YD: Okay.

RF: Yeah, it just takes time, that's all. Once the process starts, it just takes a certain amount of time, regardless of when it starts.

BG: It's going to be at least a year

RF: It seems like that's the normal time. Even when everything is in place, it takes about that long.

SB: So if, say, the stuff with Merle—do you think that if he is deceased, there might be some heir anywhere? Or do you have any idea [unintelligible]? [unintelligible].

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YD: Well, I understood he was down in Jamestown [unintelligible] somewhere. That's what I understood. That's the last thing that I knew or heard about it, that he was alive and it's just that he went to some kind of convalescent hospital or something like that. It might be Sonora.

SB: Because Dick had the idea that [unintelligible].

[unintelligible]

YD: I think he's got a sister living in Sonora — Elsie?

SB: [unintelligible]

YD: Yeah, mm hmm.

YD: I don't know if you remember that Chuckie that lived over by Murphy?

SB: I heard that name a long time ago.

YD: He passed away too in an old folks' [unintelligible].

BG: So, to your recollection, Merle was [unintelligible], huh?

YD: Yeah.

BG: From around these parts?

YD: Yeah. Most of his relations were in Murphy.

BG: Well, later this week, I'll make some calls and probably write some letters to these counties to see if we can come up with some info. And we'll get that ball rolling on finding the death certificates. And as for your brother Melvin, have you talked to him recently?

YD: I haven't seen him for thirty-five years, or maybe thirty-seven years.

BG: Wow.

YD: He don't write, he don't do nothing. He knows where I live. I gave him my post office box number, 41. I had that box, I don't know, a year, a couple of

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years and it hasn't changed. But I don't even know if he's alive. Although  
Velma—

SB: White Bear?

YD: Yeah. She was over here greeting me one day, and she brought another  
lady over with her. And she said, Yeah, Melvin's in Sacramento. You guys might  
know Velma, huh?

SB: She's from [unintelligible].

BG: I've heard the name.

YD: Now, if you get in touch with her, she might know his address and what's  
going on with where he's living.

BG: Okay. Velma White Bear?

SB: Mm hmm.

YD: Mm hmm.

RF: [unintelligible]

[ ]

RF: Everybody know. Everybody knows, but somebody don't know. Well,  
that part sounds pretty good. So far so good. Just on that probate matter, right?  
It's just something that has to be done. It's just, until that happens, I guess, things  
are going to be kind of tied up relative to the land, anyway. It's kind of  
important. I'd kind of like to survey Silvia as a tribal member some time on  
certain things as [unintelligible]. I was going to question one of those. But like I  
said, until they find out a little bit more from our housing person, you know,  
what would she have to do to be eligible for a HIP house. If not on this land, then  
other land. Yeah, then that's where we would go from there. You know, to me,  
that would be the only option.

YD: Yeah, okay.

RF: There may be other options too, so ... But we can sure check on that. I would think there's also education, some possible education benefits.

YD: I think that's what she's got a brain for.

RF: Scholarships, things of that nature. And I think there's some of that available. Some options like that. Higher education [unintelligible]. The only thing probably not would be that assistance program because you have to live on—

BG: Oh, general assistance.

RF: Yeah, yeah. I think it's only entitled [unintelligible]. Which is kind of a ... well, you have to almost be disqualified from anything else to be eligible for that. That's kind of a program of last resorts. [unintelligible].

BG: Yeah. It's a new program of the last four years or fifteen years.

RF: It just came to California.

BG: Right.

YD: Oh, okay.

RF: But it's just something, I think, that's just getting the word out, you'll probably find there's some definition as to be eligible, you have to live on and you have to be in a designated service area and the tribe's got to have land to have a service area. So they're working out the kinks a little bit so ...

BG: But certainly the bureau operates a scholarships or higher education program, and I believe the requirements there are—maybe [unintelligible]. And/or a quarter degree Indian blood. And so there is some funds, you know, [unintelligible] Sheep Ranch for that program. So if you were seeking funding assistance through that program, it could be done. You would need to obtain an application from I think it's Abby over at the area office.

SB: Yeah. She's [unintelligible].

BG: Okay.

SB: Another thing we were talking about CIMC because now I'm unemployed. So I'll be [unintelligible] training or I can come over here and kind of get used to what's going on at the Rancheria here and get documentation form and say to the form that she was willing to agree to be my boss and write up what she would want me to do. That would probably be an option. That [unintelligible]. At least for a few months.

BG: Would they need your membership as a tribe in the consortium? Have they talked about that?

SB: I don't know. They sent you a paper to sign. It's just like on-the-job training. And I told them that we were going to be trying to get organized, but right now, I was wondering if they had time to work with him and find out where the [unintelligible], and stuff like that. But I said that I would probably be working with him.

BG: Uh huh. Okay.

YD: There's one right in Angel's Camp. I don't think anybody ever—I wouldn't mind having a stamp put on there that all my rela—my dad, my mom—mostly my dad—all his relations are buried in an Indian burial ground over there.

BG: Oh, in Angel's Camp?

YD: In Angel's Camp. I wouldn't mind having a seal put there so nobody can ever touch that ground. It's a small—it's about, oh, I don't know, about half as big as the sign there. The fence is all caved in. That's one my dad just put over there. He's buried there.

BG: How many grave sites are there?

YD: Oh, boys, you got me a good one there.

BG: More than a half a dozen or so?

YD: Oh, yeah.

RF: Because I think under that Heritage Commission, there are certain—  
reparation, or there's some protection for grave sites, that you can't  
[unintelligible] living within them.

YD: There is more than half a dozen.

BG: Right. And I think, I thought half a dozen was the number, though I may  
be a little off on that.

RF: Is that on private property? Or is it within a larger cemetery? Or ... is it  
kind of off to the side out in somebody's pasture?

YD: Yeah. It belongs to Bob [Rollo?], Bobby.

BG: Bob [unintelligible]?

YD: Mm hmm.

BG: Is he related?

YD: No.

SB: Related to Judge Rollo, huh?

YD: Yeah, he's a German. That's where all of us kids were born. We were born  
on that ranch, every one of us. Except for—one of them was born in Crescent  
Hill. I've got it down here in this book. [unintelligible] These are exactly where I  
was born, what time it was, my dad's [unintelligible]—when he was born and  
my mom, when they were born. I've got everything all written down here.

RF: Sort of like a family Bible, you could say. Usually it's in the living room.  
Everyone's baptismal records, everything's in there.

YD: See, I don't even have a birth certificate. I was born natural.

RF: A lot of them don't.

YD: I had a problem on that. I went down there to the DMV to apply for my  
driver's license [unintelligible] I missed one out of all them questions. I paid it

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and everything and they said, Do you have a birth certificate? And I said no.  
They said, ID card? No.

RF: Got to have those.

BG: That's right.

YD: I got slapped in the face. So I walked out. I got an ID card now. But it took  
me years and years to get it. [unintelligible] it's in a book.

RF: It's got all the facts.

YD: All that's written down there. My dad had written all that down there. It's  
not my handwriting, it's my dad's handwriting. And he held it as—what do you  
call that?—

RF: Heirloom?

BG: Family history.

YD: Yeah. Well, what do you call that? There's a book for that. That you write  
all your secrets down and this and that. That's what—

RF: Oh, like a diary.

SB: Like a diary.

BG: Oh.

YD: And he checked it and checked it and checked it. When he died, I kept it  
because it had all the records in it. All your enrollment number, my mom's  
enrollment number is there. We had an old enrollment number. Everything's in  
that book.

BG: Well, that would be helpful too, just in the process of reorganizing or  
organizing the tribe. You [unintelligible].

YD: Well, I can go way back. I know who was living up there, how many  
people. How many houses were up here. I go way back.

RF: I guess on that end, it kind of depends on how far back you want to go. You know who, basically, the families were that were here back in the beginning. I guess [unintelligible]. Maybe you want to limit it to just those families. That information [unintelligible]. That's always the question that probably takes the most time to determine. It's one of the hardest things to work out, too. Because it could be so many, if you wanted it to be. Or it could be so few. It can be very restricted. It might be just people that you want—

YD: I would like to keep it restricted, you know, just to a few, not, you know—

RF: Hundreds and hundreds.

YD: No.

RF: Well, I think that's your call, again. If you want it to be just off of your grandparents or your great-grandparents or your mom or your dad or whomever—your uncles, your aunts and their kids. It's up to you.

YD: Is that going to make it I cannot bring ... Does that mean ... If I open it up ... By me saying "open it up," let's say that we—not we, we don't even use that word; that's just something that was put up there as headquarters for the Miwok Indians.

BG: Could you say community building, maybe, or something like that?

RF: Center.

YD: Does that open it up for everyone to try to grab a piece of that pie?

RF: No, not really. I think what you can do, Yakima, that is, once you've determined what criteria you want them to meet—like they have to be directly descendent to your aunt, whoever, or uncle—and then you can pretty much determine the criteria for membership. You can draft a constitution if you'd like. You can have tribal elections if you want. You can have a tribal government or people who represent the tribe. And I think you can control things like that through tribal laws. Things like that. Let's say you're Miwok, you put your community center here. Well, that's for the benefit of the tribe. And you've already defined who that is. See, that's what I'm saying. Nobody else can come in and say, Well, we're Miwoks from Iola or we're Miwoks from Jackson and

then Tuolomnie and Buena Vista. You know, we want use that and take that. Well, no, they can't do that. It's not theirs. It's your tribe. It's your band.

YD: That's why I asked you that one question.

RF: You can control that.

YD: If I open up or if I did something like that, would it open it up? And you said no, it's up to you.

RF: That's up to you, that's right.

YD: You can tell—

RF: How wide you want it or how narrow you want it or do you want it to just ... I think the thing you're looking at is, to be the fairest, you know, really, who would have a right to membership today? Would it be just your children and your brothers and your ... Again, your aunts and uncles [unintelligible]. So that's probably the biggest question. How many [unintelligible]. What you have to look at is, well, if we go with my uncles and aunts and all of my cousins, as an example, and their children—let's say that's 100 people. Well, it could be a hundred. Or it could be maybe more than that. What you can control there is, you could have open enrollment seasons. You could have closed enrollment. You could have them go through an enrollment approval process. People have to apply. You might have people—elders, maybe—say, Well, okay, we know that they're members and they meet these requirements so can be members. You vote on their membership. And so it isn't an automatic process. It takes something to be a member of the tribe. Just like it would be if you wanted somebody off of the membership role. Let's say that it's a member of another tribe. Well, you'd have a law in place that would deal with that. Just like you would for bringing them in, there's a rule for taking them out. That's just something to think about. There's just so much to think about because there's so many different things that are part of this.

YD: Well, if I got somebody to help me in that part, such as maybe Silvia can help me and we could work together on this thing.

RF: Mm hmm.

YD: She's well educated—a whole lot better than I am. [unintelligible] There's some things that I am smart [unintelligible] and we can share it together and bring everything up to date.

SB: Would you have to wait a long time for the probate [unintelligible] to get an office? Because all I've got is a typewriter to try to type things up for him, and it's so much easier to put things on computer and ... Because he has no office and, like his phone, he doesn't have a recorder. You know, if something comes up to leave a message for him.

RF: Well, actually, what you could do is, if you go down here downtown [unintelligible].

[laughter]

RF: Down here. This is downtown. And they had an office space down there for rent. You could rent that. You could make that your tribal office. You don't have to be here. It can be off the Rancheria. Because a lot of tribes do that. They don't have their—at least to start with. See, start it out—

YD: [unintelligible]

RF: Uh huh.

YD: The funding, now. Where does the funding come from? The government?

RF: Mm hmm.

YD: [unintelligible].

[laughter]

RF: Well, see, that's a very ... Well, let's see, how would I explain it? Every tribe—every federally recognized tribe—and Sheep Ranch is—we have fifty-two of the ledgers [unintelligible]. There's a pot of money that comes down every year. And what they have done is each tribe is given a share of that money. Okay, now your share would enable you to do an office, hire staff, hire consultants.

YD: Why can't we ... how come it cannot be placed up here?

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RF: What's that?

YD: A building. An office.

RF: Well, it's the land [unintelligible]. Well, if that's resolved, it's like your house. Or your community center or ... And the tribe, too, in time—

YD: Yeah, there used to be buildings down here but it's a big building.

RF: It's not a little office space.

YD: No. It's a large building. I would say approximately, maybe four times as big as this.

RF: That's a pretty good size.

SB: No, because they don't [find?] many stores. Like he said, they just have just a post office.

YD: No, we've got [unintelligible]—

RF: No, that's the general store and that's everything rolled into one, I think.

YD: We don't have no rest room connected there.

SB: No, it's [unintelligible], you have to go out of town.

YD: You've got to go over there to [Mountain Ranch?] or to Murphy's or to Avery.

RF: Yeah, that's a trip. That's right. It's not a ...

SB: So there really isn't going to be much office space. I mean, anything that's open is just going to be what they have right there. I mean, like these people's homes.

RF: Well, that's an option, too. We've had them do that, use their homes for their offices. But I'm thinking ... You know, if that were the only space available, you could use that for that.

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YD: When I look at it, though, it's big.

RF: It's too big.

YD: It's too big.

SB: You wouldn't be able to have another thing added on? So that he could have [unintelligible] but he could have, like, another business site for office.

RF: I'm not sure he can because of certain requirements.

SB: Oh.

RF: If you use the program more, it's for certain things. You can't use it for those same things again for like five years or something like that. There's some restrictions on it, but there are different things you can do.

BG: Well, I don't think we would be doing it under HIP. It would be more like they would make a kind of endowment.

RF: Possibly, possibly.

YD: This isn't a question, okay. [unintelligible] You've seen the house now—

RF: Right, right. I think the bed was right here, if I remember.

YD: Okay. If you recall what was said, that I could add on to this building. But it only has to be a 12 x 12 [unintelligible]? That's all I can add on to it, a 12 x 12. And I can do that on my own.

RF: Mm hmm.

BG: Yeah, I don't know.

RF: I don't know. What I would look at here, because I'm not sure it's restricted to just that any more. They've changed the rules a little bit since then. They've got some new regulations out. But I'm thinking that—see all you had before was a renovation, I think.

YD: Mm hmm.

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RF: You know, they came in and they added a room where they renovated your existing house. There may be an option there as well.

YD: Well, the only reason I had this thing, and it took me that long to have [unintelligible] and have this whole building rejuvenated, you know, done over—

RF: It needed it.

YD: —is, you know, I thought it was—you know, hey, if I get some company here, how will it be laying right in bed, I'm trying to sleep—

[laughter]

YD: ... they're out here talking. They want to look at the TV or they want to listen to the radio or whatever they're doing.

RF: It's better. It's a lot better.

YD: But since I got that and it took me that long, I enjoy it.

[laughter]

RF: Very much.

YD: I enjoy that. [unintelligible] I can go in there and go to sleep.

RF: That's right. I understand.

YD: Anyway, getting back to that one part, you think there was regulations on that about tacking on?

RF: Well, there's some new regulations on HIP. But as far as using it to cover government, which is a different program—it's all one pot of money [unintelligible]. Let's say that then for that particular thing, we'd be looking to using those moneys to construct, to build a ring of a double-wide trailer or something for an office building.

BG: Or a small office, like office trailers that they use from construction sites, or something like that.

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YD: Mm hmm.

BG: The small, one-room—

RF: Kind of like [unintelligible]—

BG: [unintelligible]

RF: Or something.

YD: Is it a possibility? What's the—

RF: Oh, we've seen it before. We've seen a tribe use it for that before. Usually it's a little bigger, but now they can do that. I don't know why they could not. See, right here is the restriction. There is no other option.

YD: Mm hmm.

RF: Either do your home or you do this or you have nothing. And so then they have to argue.

YD: Right.

RF: But it's a strong argument [unintelligible]. If we're going to organize, we need to have an office, and we've got to have staff and someplace for them to work. You could have people researching that. You could be doing other things for the tribe instead of [unintelligible] about the house. So I guess what we'd have to ask before, Would you like to complete anything if such a thing happens? I mean, on the side of the house—I mean, [unintelligible]. They'd have to do some site preparation and stuff. They'd have to do some leveling and they'd have to—I mean, depending on how big a one you wanted to put up.

YD: Well, I don't think it would have to be that big. Maybe a 12 x 12 or 12 x 24 or ...

RF: Oh, you'll probably want a—you'll want it a little bigger than the sink because you don't want to have to come back and say, Gee, this is too small now.

BG: Think big.

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RF: You want to be able to grow into it. So you want to start out with it a little bigger. Maybe a 14 x 60 or something. I don't know. But it depends on what you want. How many people do you think would be working in there? Do you need separate septic systems? Separate power source? Seem all that could be paid for by a grant, of course. So there wouldn't be much cost to you through the fund. It would cost your account. So—

BG: You know, Ray's been talking about possibly using the Aid to Tribal Government Program to pay for that cost. That's the same program that would pay if you were going to rent the building or if you were going to hire a staff person to do some work on your constitution or on your enrollment or ... that kind of stuff.

YD: Okay, now. Okay, we're going in the right direction. I can see that so far. We're not going off in a different direction. We're staying right to the facts. Let's say that this does come and happen. Do I have to write my own bylaws up, or what?

RF: Well, that's a good question. I'm thinking—and this is just our thoughts, of course. We talked about this, oh, two or three times when we were talking about it.

BG: What? [unintelligible]

RF: Well, Sheep Ranch. Just here at the very beginning, we were thinking—now, this is just something for you to think about—because of the amount of money that you're going to have available, which is pretty substantial ... Ten years ago, tribes had \$15,000.

BG: Maybe.

RF: Maybe \$15,000. Now they've got \$160, \$180, \$200,000 a year available to them to organize and run—provide services and programs to their members and that type of thing. And I've tried at this point extending that for you, believe it or not. I couldn't believe it myself. Sheep Ranch has got probably one of your better [unintelligible] versus any other tribe. And so because of that, what we're thinking is if you wanted the bureau to provide you with technical assistance to help you with your constitution and help you with your tribal laws and help you with the ownership, we could recommend that you hired somebody if you have