



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center*

## **Grace F. Thorpe collection - Scrapbook: Return Surplus Lands to Indian People, 1971**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 10:14:47

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DAVIS, CALIFORNIA, 95616  
PHONE 756-0800  
Friday, April 2, 1971

Deganawidah-Quetzalcoatl University  
cordially invite you to attend the official transfer of property ceremonies  
at 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, 1971

400 watch DQU get site deed from US

Toyon to become Indian territory

[[edding?]] (Calif.) Record-Searchlight  
Thursday, May 27, 1971  
By Greg Lyon  
R-S Staff Writer

Wintu and Pit River Indians and Indians of All Tribes won a peaceful  
victory Wednesday in their fight to take over the former Toyon Job  
Corps Center in Central Valley.

Confrontation gave way to negotiations when the federal government  
backed off from a hard-line "no-talk" policy.

A settlement reached after a day-long session between Indians, the  
Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Shasta County Community Action  
Project is to turn title to the 61-acre site over to the Indians within two  
years.

As a first step the BIA gave CAP a permit to administer and maintain the  
land.

CAP and the Indians are to have 90 days to present their program for  
the use of the site and get enough money to keep it maintained in its  
present "mothballed" condition.

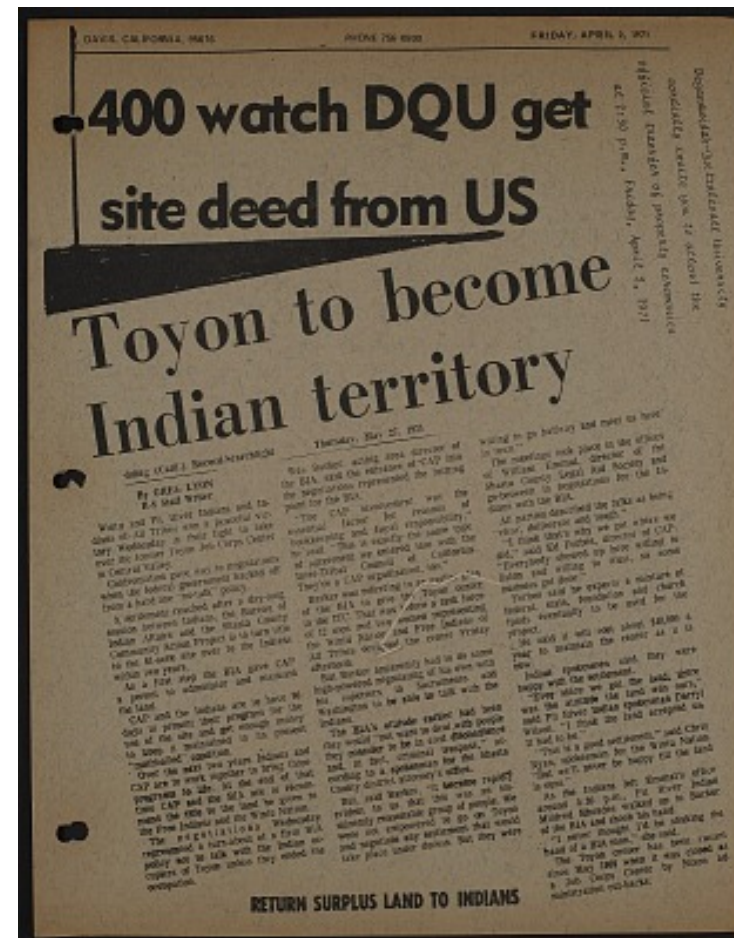
Over the next two years Indians and CAP are to work together to bring  
those programs to life. At the end of that time CAP and BIA agree to  
recommend the title to the land be given to the Free Indians and the  
Wintu Nation.

The negotiations Wednesday represented a turn-about of a firm BIA  
policy not to talk with the Indian occupiers of Toyon unless they ended  
the occupation.

Wes Barker, acting area director of the BIA, said the entrance of CAP  
into the negotiations represented the turning point for the BIA.

"The CAP involvement was the essential factor for reasons of  
bookkeeping and fiscal responsibility," he said. "This is exactly the same  
type of agreement we entered into with the Inter-Tribal Council of  
California. They're a CAP organization, too."

Barker was referring to an earlier plan of the BIA to give the Toyon



center to the ITC. That was before a task force of 12 men and two women representing the Wintu Nation and Free Indians of All Tribes occupied the center Friday afternoon.

But Barker apparently had to do some high-powered negotiating of his own with his superiors in Sacramento and Washington to be able to talk with the Indians.

The BIA's attitude earlier had been they would "not want to deal with people they consider to be in civil disobedience and, in fact, criminal trespass," according to a spokesman for the Shasta County district attorney's office.

But, said Barker, "it became rapidly evident to us that this was an imminently reasonable group of people. We were not empowered to go on Toyon and negotiate any settlement that would take place under duress. But they were willing to go halfway and meet us here in town."

The meetings took place in the offices of William Emmal, director of the Shasta County Legal Aid Society and go-between in negotiations for the Indians with the BIA.

All parties described the talks as being "clear, deliberate, and tough."

"I think that's why we got where we did," said Ed Forbes, director of CAP. "Everybody showed up here willing to listen and willing to trust, so some business got done."

Forbes said he expects a mixture of federal, state, foundation and church funds eventually to be used for the project.

He said it will cost about \$40,000 a year to maintain the center as it is now.

Indian spokesmen said they were happy with the settlement.

"Ever since we got the land, there was the attitude the land was ours," said Pit River Indian spokesman Darryl Wilson. "I think the land accepted us. It had to be."

"This is a good settlement," said Chris Ryan, spokesman for the Wintu Nation. "But we'll never be happy till the land is ours."

As the Indians left Emmal's office around 5:30 p.m., Pit River Indian Mildred Rhoades walked up to Barker of the BIA and shook his hand.

"I never thought I'd be shaking the hand of a BIA man," she said.

The Toyon center has been vacant since May 1969 when it was closed as a Job Corps Center by Nixon administration cut-backs.

RETURN SURPLUS LAND TO INDIANS

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