

December 9, 1963

*Sub
Indians*

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Mrs. Julia Shanahan Riddle
Mrs. Mary Shanahan Nofflet
4865 South Lawton
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107

Dear Mrs. Riddle and Mrs. Nofflet:

Further reference is made to your letter regarding distribution of the remaining funds of the Cherokee judgment award.

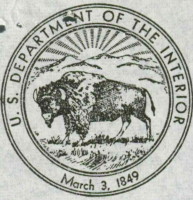
The enclosed letter explains that under the law funds remaining after distribution of the award shall revert to the Tribe and expended for any purpose authorized by the Principal Chief and upon approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

I believe the letter will answer any questions you may have about the award, but if I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure
jy



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PER CAPITA

MUSKOGEE AREA OFFICE
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

Hon. A. S. Mike Monroney
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

This will acknowledge your referral of November 27 of a letter dated November 21 from Mrs. Julia Shanahan Riddle and Mrs. Mary Shanahan Nofflet of Tulsa.

By this time, Mrs. Riddle and Mrs. Nofflet should have received their shares of the claims of their mother and brother (Charlotte Shanahan, Cherokee 9234, and Leo Nelson Shanahan, Cherokee 9288). These claims were certified for payment on November 18 and their checks for one-fifth share in each claim were mailed direct from the Treasury Department, Kansas City, Missouri.

We believe that they may have misunderstood the discussions and proposals that have been made for the use of the funds that will revert to the Tribe pursuant to the Act which authorized the distribution of the judgment funds (Public Law 87-775). The Act provides that after three years from date of approval of the Act, the right to file claims for unpaid shares shall be barred and the unclaimed shares shall revert to the Tribe. This would include the proportional shares of deceased heirs of \$10 or less and inherited shares of \$5 or less which are not to be paid. The Act further provides that tribal funds that revert to the Tribe, including interest and income therefrom, may be advanced or expended for any purpose that is authorized by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Principal Chief has held meetings at various places throughout the Cherokee Nation for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the Cherokee Indians for the use of the surplus funds and various programs and projects which have been suggested by Cherokee Tribal members have been discussed. We hope that Mrs. Riddle and Mrs. Nofflet attend one of the tribal meetings, the next of which are scheduled for December 6 at Claremore at 10 a.m., Pryor at 3 p.m. and Wagoner at 7 p.m., to obtain first hand information relative to use of the surplus funds. If it is

not possible for them to attend one of the meetings, they should write W. W. Keeler, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to express their views regarding the surplus funds.

With regard to the \$280 per capita payment which was authorized by Public Law 87-775, all claims filed on or before October 9, 1965 by living enrollees will be paid and claims filed on or before that date by an heir of a deceased enrollee will be processed for payment if it is possible to determine the heirs or legatees from the facts stated in the claim.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd) Virgil N. Harrington

Area Director

November 27, 1963

Mrs. Julia Shanahan Riddle
Mrs. Mary Shannahan Nofflet
4865 South Lawton
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107

Dear Mrs. Riddle and Mrs. Nofflet:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding distribution of the remaining funds from the Cherokee judgment award.

Your opinion that all remaining funds should be paid to the persons who are still living and not divided among heirs is understood. However, this is a matter which is governed by the terms of the judgment award, and which may not be arbitrarily changed.

Since the distribution of the Cherokee judgment award is under the jurisdiction of the Muskogee Area Office, I am asking the Area Director for comments on your suggestion, and will write you again just as soon as I receive his reply.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

jy

Tulsa, Okla.

11-21-63.

The Honorable Mike Monroney

Dear Sir.

CHEROKEE PER CAPITA PAYS

DEC 3 1963

I am writing in regard to the distribution of the remaining funds that were allocated for the Cherokee Tribe, various projects have been brought forth for the use of the remaining money which is not feasible, for instance a health or educational fund which would benefit but very few, since one has to be at least half Cherokee or you are not eligible for any benefits, either health or educational.

This money should be used for the original use for which it was intended and distributed accordingly, to all living enrollees or their heirs, I know a number of heirs who have filed claims over six months ago and have not heard from them, my sister and myself are two of these persons and we sent a notarized copy of the death of all persons that would have a share in our mother's or brother's per capita payment)

It is our opinion that all money remaining should be paid to the persons who are still living and not be divided among heirs as that was the original purpose.

Hoping you will see fit to give this matter your personal attention and come up with an appropriate solution Sincerely

Julia Shanahan Riddle 4865 So Lawton Tulsa 7, Okla Roll #9237

Mary Shanahan Nofflet 4865 So Lawton Tulsa 7, Okla Roll # 9224

Julia Shanahan Riddle
Mary Shanahan Nofflet