

Interview with PAUL FRYE re: HENRY JOHNSON (See Paul Frye Interview)????

I wish to comment on some of the statements in this tape. I base my findings on early records of Skamania County and as I come to the questionable statements on the tape I will note them by number.

1. Henry Johnson's mother: Given in the 1870 census as (mixed blood). Her mother was Indian, her father, Kanaka, was born in the Sandwich Islands. It is probable that she was a daughter of the Kanaka Cowlippi as he is the only full-blood Kanaka found in the old records and had a very large family. His wife was Indian. **No positive proof of this**, as there were Kanakas living near Vancouver at that time. Her name is given as Larouse in 1870 census. She is not in the 1880 census.
2. Henry's father was Walter Johnson. One census gives him as "negro" and another as "mulatto". He was not a riverboat captain but was a steward on the old O.S.N. Co. steamers between Portland and The Dalles. He was killed by a train east of Hood River Oct. 1911. He was blind in his old age.
3. The 1870, 1880, and 1890 census of Skamania County all give the same year of birth for Henry Johnson: **1860**, so he could not possibly have been present in the Massacre of 1856 as the tape states.
4. He is supposed to have told of a great flood where the water ran mountainside to mountainside sometime in the 1850s and 1860s. There is no record of such a flood of that magnitude.
5. There is a little cemetery on the riverside of the highway between Ash's Lake and the Bridge of the Gods that the tape probably refers to but all records show that the soldiers who died or were killed in that area were buried at Vancouver. There was a low picket fence around this plot when I first saw it, but it is now gone.
6. Henry Johnson built his little home on the Strawberry Road in 1911. It is still there but remodeled and enlarged (1980). It is on the left side of Strawberry Road just east of the Guide Meridian Road.
7. Henry Johnson's speech was impaired because of an injury to his throat. He

worked at the Ryan-Allen Mill near Stevenson which was some time in the early 1920s. Floyd Shippy remembers him working there.

There are other statements in this tape that I question but cannot prove it, so will not mention them. If I am allowed to comment I would say that this tape is of no benefit to anyone as far as it concerns Henry Johnson.