

# THE COURIER-TIMES

SEPTEMBER 1, 1951

## **Samish Indians Sue For \$41,500,000; to Meet at LaConner**

The Samish Indian tribe of Washington has filed suit against the U. S. Government for the sum of \$41,500,000 on the basis of breach of the Point Elliott Treaty of 1855. The Samish originally owned land in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties for which they received no consideration when it was taken over by white settlers. Other Western Washington Indian tribes are suing for a total of \$700,000,000. They are being represented in the lawsuit by Warren J. Gilbert and Harwood Bannister of Mount Vernon, and Frederick W. Post and Malcolm McLeod of Seattle.

The Samish tribe will meet at LaConner, Sunday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. to discuss the claim and other vital matters, including closure of the enrollment on Sept. 30, 1951. All Samish are urged to attend the meeting or to contact Mrs. Mary M. Hansen, 5404 35th Ave. S. W., Seattle 6, Wn. for further information.

It is probable that the Indian Claims Commission will come to the Puget Sound country this fall to hear testimony substantiating the claims.

Tribal Council officers are: Chairman, Alfred Edwards; vice-chairman, W. P. Hatch; councilmen, Tommy Bob, Kelly Snohomish, Don McDowell, Lyman Kavanaugh and J. H. Knowles, Jr.; alternates, J. H. LeBallister and George Barrett; secretary-treasurer, Mary McDowell Hansen.