

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO **Elko 01140 "A" LRH**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

WASHINGTON December 14 1918.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Urging immediate
action.

RECEIVED
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
DEC 14 1918
98877

The Commissioner
of Indian Affairs,

Acc
41263
1914

My dear Mr. Belle:

September 15, 1913, Burt Moon of Arthur, Nevada,
a Shoshone Indian, filed allotment application, Carson
City 06192, now Elko 01140, for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11, T. 38
N., R. 59 E., M. D. M., under section 4 of the act of
February 8, 1887 (24 Stat., 388), as amended.

R
Under date of February 20, 1918, evidence was
required in the form of a corroborated affidavit, setting
forth in detail the character of improvements and fully
describing the extent of use or occupancy of this land.

November 11, 1918, the local officers at Elko,
Nevada, transmitted evidence of service and reported no
action taken or appeal filed.

Elko 01140 "K" LSH

In a letter dated March 27, 1918, addressed to the Register and Receiver of the U. S. land office at Carson City, Nevada. L. A. Dorrington, Special Agent in Charge, in connection with this and several other cases, stated that these Indians "are located far back in the interior, in sparsely settled communities; the roads at this time of the year are almost impassable, and the nearest notary is often from 75 to 100 miles distant. This will probably prevent these Indians preparing their affidavits, much less having them corroborated by two witnesses."

The regulations, approved April 15, 1918, governing Indian allotments on the public domain under section 4 of the general allotment act as amended, state that the affidavits attached to the applications for allotments may be executed before "either the Register or Receiver (of a U. S. land office), or any U. S. Commissioner, or the judge or clerk of any court of record, or any agent, special agent, or inspector of the Indian Service, or any officer authorized to administer oaths and having a seal, in the county or land district where the land lies."

Elke 01140 "X" LEH

In view of the foregoing extract from the regulations, it would seem that Mr. Dorrington and the other agents might be able to secure the affidavits required from these Indians without causing the inconvenience mentioned by Mr. Dorrington.

You are respectfully requested to endeavor to secure, if possible, the evidence required by this office that this case may be properly adjudicated.

Very respectfully,

C. M. Jones
Assistant Commissioner.

12-6 mvd

39585

Land-Allots.
98877--1918
B V C

DEC 20 1918

Mr. J. R. Dorrington,
Special Agent in Charge,
Reno Indian Agency.

My dear Mr. Dorrington:

This Office is in receipt of a letter from the General Land Office, dated December 14, 1918, (Elko #1140 "R" LEB), concerning the allotment application of Burt Moon, Shoshone Indian of Arthur, Nevada, covering land in Section 11, T. 32 N., R. 59 E., N.D.M.

It appears from said letter that the applicant has been served with a notice of certain evidence required in the form of a corroborated affidavit, setting forth in detail the character of improvements, and fully describing the extent of his use or occupancy of the land, to which no reply has been received, or appeal filed. The Land Office requests that we endeavor to secure, if possible, the evidence required, in order that the case may be properly adjudicated.

In connection with this matter, your attention is invited to the regulations approved April 15, 1918 (copy enclosed) covering Indian allotments on the public domain, wherein it is stated that the affidavits attached to the applications for allotments may be executed before "any agent, special agent, or inspector of the Indian Service, or any officer authorized to administer oaths, and having a seal, in the county or land district where the land lies", in addition to other officers mentioned in the regulations.

In view of the various officers before whom these affidavits may be made, and their accessibility to the applicants, it seems that the time usually allowed in cases of this character is amply sufficient to meet the needs of the situation, and it is therefore requested that you endeavor to have the necessary affidavit filed in this case by the applicant at the earliest prac-

INITIALING COPY - FOR

tt

tionable date. It is also requested that you take similar action in other cases of this character now pending in your district.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) C. F. Evans

Chief Clerk.

12 418 18

8-1142

Land-Allots.
9677-1918.
70

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Use and Occupancy
Affidavits.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
Reno Indian Agency,

Reno, Nevada,

Feb. 27, 1919.



The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Upon receipt of Office letter of December 20, 1918, citation as above, we again wrote Bert Moon, Arthur, Nevada, requesting him to prepare without further delay affidavit as to his use and occupancy of the land embraced in his allotment filing Carson No. 98192 (now Eiko 0140 "K" LEH). This affidavit has just been received and is enclosed herewith.

In connection with assisting the Indians in preparing and filing use and occupancy affidavits, we respectfully advise everything within our power has been done to have the Indians execute the same promptly, but we have been and are severely handicapped by the conditions existing in this jurisdiction and it has been impossible to prevent delay in some of the cases. The Special Agent in Charge of the Reno Agency is also the Supervisory official of the Ninth District and must necessarily devote a large portion of his time to the duties of that activity, leaving the bulk of the office and field work of the Reno Agency to the clerk. Furthermore, the work of this jurisdiction has now increased to such an extent as to be beyond the abilities of the present force and the clerk, who should be in position to handle a large part of the field work, is forced to devote most of his time to the work in the office. The Indians under the jurisdiction of the Reno Agency are scattered over the entire State of Nevada and nearly two-thirds of California. Distances are long and traveling facilities limited. Most of the Indians live away from the railroads, in the interior, in the less populous sections. Particularly is this true of the allottees and those who have filed on lands. Notary publics and other officials empowered to administer oaths are few and far between and it is often necessary to go fifty or a hundred miles to reach such an official. Even should the clerk visit these remote localities, he can only urge prompt action on the part of the Indian, but has not the authority to take their acknowledgments to their affidavits.

We were further handicapped, this year, through

the oversight of the Office in not allotting this office funds for work in California, where seventy-five percent of our activities are located and ninety percent of our allotment filings, most of which were made with the assistance of this office.

Consequently, under the existing conditions as outlined above, it is necessary to dispose of field matters largely by correspondence, which is very unsatisfactory, to say the least. Many of the Indians live at a distance from the postoffice. They cannot read or write and very rarely receive mail and letters frequently remain in the postoffices undelivered for months, or are returned to this office. When a letter does reach them, it may be weeks before they have it read to them.

About a year ago, we began to receive copies of notices to Indian applicants to file use and occupancy certificates, the originals having been forwarded to the Indian direct. We immediately wrote each Indian, urging immediate action in complying with the General Land Office's orders and enclosing a form of affidavit which could be used in connection therewith. We also wrote to white people, friendly to the Indians, soliciting their aid for the Indians. In California, we were fortunate in getting in touch with several Indian Service officials and employees who rendered valuable assistance. In this manner we secured responses in quite a large number of cases. Others we wrote a second time, and even three and four times. These Indians, with but few exceptions, filed on the land in good faith for the purpose of establishing homes for themselves and their families and no action should be taken in cancelling their filings until every effort has been made to secure their compliance with the regulations. We are anxious to give them every possible assistance, and will appreciate a list of those who have not complied with the notices and may be in position to visit these Indians personally.

Very respectfully,

W. J. ...
Special Agent in Charge.

JP-