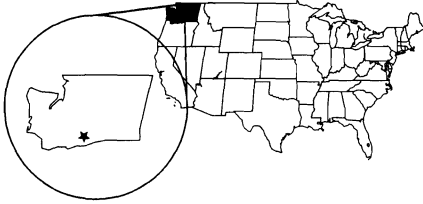


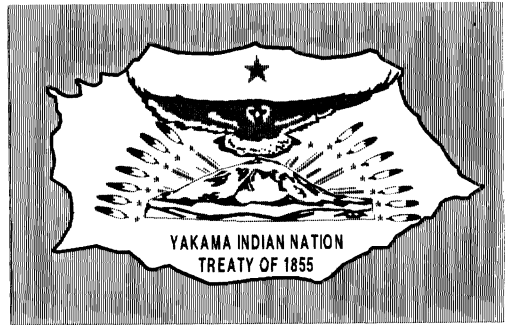
YAKAMA (OR YAKIMA)



A reservation was granted to the Yakama (formerly Yakima) in a treaty signed in 1855 by Governor Isaac Stevens of the Washington Territory and representatives of the Cayuse, Umatilla, Wallawalla, Nez Percé, and Yakama tribes. Some Paiutes and a few members of other tribes also

live on the Yakima Reservation in south-central Washington. The tribe recently changed the spelling of its name to reflect a more accurate pronunciation in its native language—its seal and flag are expected to follow suit.

The Yakama Nation, about 6,300 strong (AID, 39), has a flag (sample flag provided by Elmer's Flag & Banner, Portland, Oregon) showing a silhouette map of the reservation in white, edged in dark blue against a sky-blue background. Within the map is a depiction of Mount Rainier, the impressive mountain, sacred to the



Yakama, which rises just beyond the reservation. An eagle in full color soars above the mountain. The sacred eagle symbolizes the Yakama's ability to survive by fishing for salmon in the waters of the Columbia River.

Above the eagle an eight-pointed "morning star" in gold symbolizes guidance and leadership. Radiating from Mount Rainier are fourteen gold stars and fourteen eagle feathers honoring the bands of the Yakama Nation. The feathers represent the fourteen chiefs who signed the treaty of 1855, while the fourteen stars represent the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nations. Below Mount Rainier, in blue, is "YAKIMA INDIAN NATION" and "TREATY OF

1855” (the new spelling may soon be added when the existing stock of flags is exhausted—the revised flag is depicted here).

For the 1855 Treaty’s centennial in 1955, members of the “Old Toppenish Long House” adopted a flag to represent the people of the Yakama Reservation (“As Long As The River Flows”, *Akwesosne Notes*, III:4, May, 1971). That flag, clearly a predecessor to the current one, used most of the same symbols but did not include the reservation map or the writing. 🍀