

### C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of Pearl JOE.....

..... have been recorded?..... If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

Pearl JOE was paddling in the North Thompson river which flows past the School property. She was with the other girl pupils who were under the supervision of one of the sisters. The Principal had issued orders that none of the pupils were to be permitted to swim or to wade beyond shallow water.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

The Principal concurs with my opinion that no paddling or bathing be permitted under any circumstances in the North Thompson River by the school pupils. A rowboat manned by a competent swimmer should have been in use to patrol the area where the pupils were paddling.

*HE Taylor*  
Chairman—Indian Agent.

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INDIAN AGENT

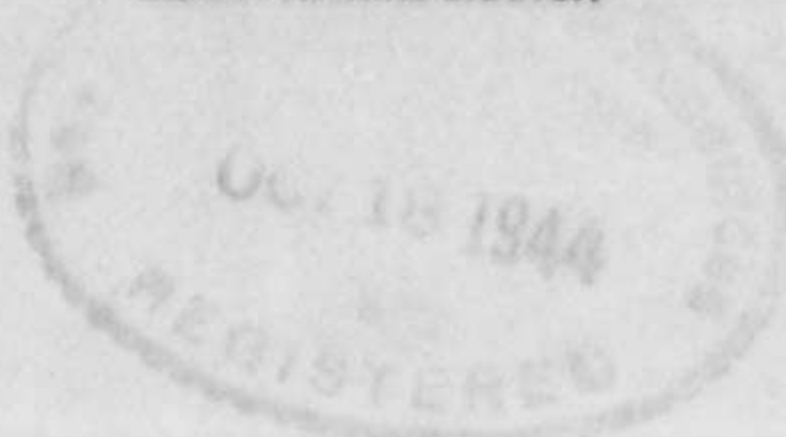


CANADA

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE  
FILE \_\_\_\_\_

154-0-23



Kamloops, B.C.  
October 14, 1944

Department of Mines & Resources, Indian Affairs Branch,  
OTTAWA.

I enclose herewith memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of Pearl JOE, pupil No. O-751 of the Kamloops Indian Residential School and a member of the Hope Band in the Lytton Agency.

The delay in forwarding this report is due to my being absent on statutory leave when the death took place on September 4th, 1944. Upon my return from leave on September 26th, Dr. Smillie, who was called to attend the child, was absent on his holidays and only returned to duty today.

In the presence of Dr. Smillie and the Reverend Principal of the Kamloops Indian Residential school, the attached report was compiled and signed. The parents of the girl were notified immediately by the school principal and they appeared to be quite satisfied with the explanation given of the cause of death and offered no criticism. The principal forwarded the body to the parents for burial and paid all expenses in connection therewith. It would appear that no one was able to prevent this girl from suddenly swimming beyond her depth, contrary to the instructions issued. The principal admits that a boat should have been in use when the children were paddling and he has forbidden any future use of the river by school pupils. The Coroner did not consider it necessary to hold an inquest or an inquiry. Dr. Smillie was called immediately and answered so promptly that he was at the river when the girl's body was brought ashore. She was apparently a good swimmer and had she kept her head and swum with the current it would have brought her into shore, a short distance down stream from the school. She apparently got panicky and the body was brought ashore by

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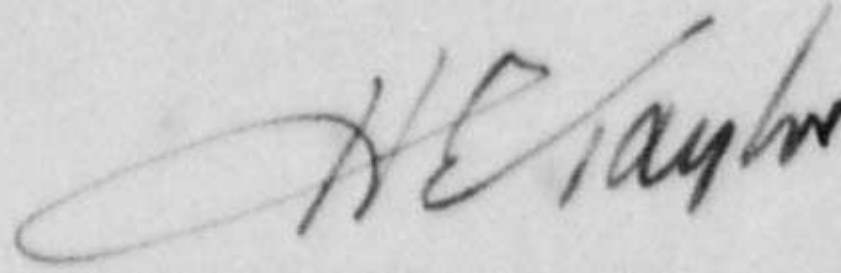


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Indian Affairs Branch

October 14, 1944

some soldiers who were swimming from the opposite bank.



H. E. Taylor  
Indian Agent.

HET:MBD  
Encls.

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154-0-23

Ottawa,  
October 19, 1944.

Mr. H.E. Taylor, Indian Agent, Kamloops, B.C.

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing memorandum of inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of Pearl Joe, No. 0751 of the Kamloops Residential School. It is noted that this girl was accidentally drowned.

R.A. Hoey,  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

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## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of  
.....JOSEPHINE LOUIE - (aged 12)....., Pupil No. New  
of the.....KAMLOOPS..... Indian Residential School at.....KAMLOOPS, B.C.,  
who died at Royal Inland Hospital,.....(place) on September 3rd.....19 45  
Kamloops, B.C.

### INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.

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A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? September 2nd, 1945
2. At what time of day? 8 a.m.
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? To sister nurse Mary William.
4. What means were taken to afford relief? Put to bed and given mild laxative.
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? One teaspoon of Castor Oil and two glasses of orangeade.
6. When was the doctor called? Sept. 3rd - 8:30 a.m.
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? Sept. 3rd - 9:30 a.m. by passenger auto.
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? ---
9. Add any other useful information here.  
This was a new pupil. She arrived by truck from Penticton in an unwell condition. Her brother said they had eaten many wild berries and much fruit before coming to school.

J. O. Grady *oml*  
Principal.

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT

I attended JOSEPH  
to 12:00 noon 3rd  
Toxaemia from  
The contributory ca  
Do you consider that  
cised reasonable care and  
Did they follow out  
If in either respect,  
your carefully considered  
Child was taken  
Child also seen  
family indicat  
family were ill  
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CONFIDENTIAL

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED  
THE DECEASED PUPIL

2nd, 1945

I attended JOSEPHINE LOUIE from 9 a.m. 3rd Sept., 1945

to 12:00 noon 3rd Sept. 1945 The immediate cause of death was

Toxaemia from food poisoning.

The contributory cause of death was

mild laxative.

One teaspoon

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? Yes

Did they follow out your professional instructions? Yes

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

Child was taken to hospital immediately after being seen.

Child also seen by Dr. H.L. Burris. Information from the family indicates that the remainder of the children in the family were ill with similar symptoms. The food was consumed before admission to school.

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Principal.

P. S. Lement M.D.

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orandum.

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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of.....

JOSEPHINE LOUIE

have been recorded? Yes..... If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

Dr. P.S. Tennant communicated with Dr. Payne in Penticton for particulars re other members of the family, reported to be ill with similar symptoms. The parents of this girl should not have permitted her to travel 130 miles to Kamloops when unwell. Everything possible was done after her arrival.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

Sept 5/1945

*H.E. Payne*

Chairman—Indian Agent.

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REPORT ON DEATH OF JOSEPHINE LOUIE

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The child was brought by truck to Kamloops Indian Residential School from Kelowna on Saturday, the 1st of September.

On arrival the child made no complaints but wanted to lie down. On Sunday, September 2nd, she complained of headache and vomitted. This was attributed by the school staff to over-eating the day before. During Sunday night, the child vomitted several times and headache increased. Vomitus was green and mixed with mucus.

The doctor was notified at 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning, September 3rd, and the child was seen at 9:00 a.m. and sent into hospital, at 9:30 a.m. The child's condition suggested a toxaemia. She was complaining of severe headache and pain in the abdomen. She answered questions but was irrational in her replies at times.

No opisthotonus was present. Tendon reflexes were increased. No Kernig present. Abdomen was flat with generalized tenderness, but no area of acute local tenderness. No pathological signs present in lung examination, except an air hunger suggesting a diabetic coma. On entry to hospital, the urine was examined for sugar but only showed a faint positive reaction. The pulse was slow, breathing rapid with apparent air hunger. Temperature 100 degrees to 101 degrees Fahrenheit. The child died 2½ hours after admission to hospital. The main cause of death appeared to be gastro enteritis and cerebral toxaemia, probably from poisoning from ingested food.

A family history indicates that other children in the family at home in the Penticton area were suffering from similar symptoms. Enquiries are being made re their condition and food supplies through Dr. George Payne at Penticton.

On the morning of September 3rd, the patient was seen by Dr. H.L. Burris of Kamloops. Cause of death was given as food poisoning.

P.S. Tennant, M.D.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6451, file 882-23 part 1)

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154 - 0 - 23  
Kamloops, B.C.  
September 10, 1945

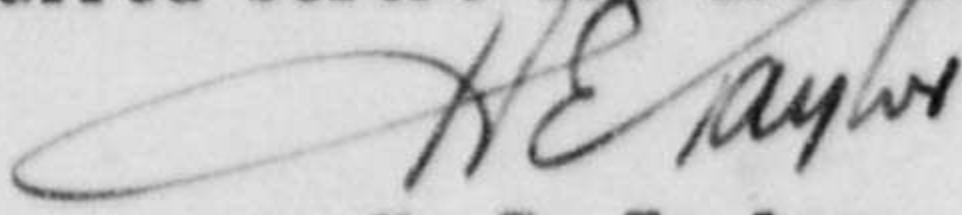
PLEASE QUOTE  
FILE

Indian Affairs Branch, Dept. of Mines & Resources,  
OTTAWA.

I enclose Memorandum of Inquiry and  
Clinical Report re the death on September 3, 1945  
in the Royal Inland Hospital, in Kamloops, of  
Josephine LOUIE, an Indian girl from Oliver, B.C.,  
admitted as a new pupil into Kamloops Indian  
Residential School on September 1st, 1945.

The school principal and Dr. P. S.  
Tennant, who attended the deceased, were present  
during the inquiry held by myself at the School  
on September 5, 1945.

The parents of the deceased were  
given notice of the inquiry, but did not attend.  
The father was in Kamloops previous to the inquiry  
and intimated that he did not desire to make any  
statement or any representations regarding his  
daughter's death, which apparently resulted from  
illness incurred before she arrived at the School.

  
H. E. Taylor  
Indian Agent

HET:MED

c.c. to B.C. Commissioner

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154-0-23

Ottawa, September 17, 1945.

Mr. H. E. Taylor, Indian Agent,  
Kamloops, B.C.

I desire to acknowledge receipt  
of your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing  
Memorandum of Enquiry and Clinical Report  
regarding the death of Josephine Louie, a new  
pupil of the Kamloops Residential School.

Philip Phelan,  
Chief, Training Division.

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