Economic
[illegible]y

Navajo Agency
Window Rock, Arizona

September 14, 1962

Mr. Walter Lewis
P. O. Box 453
Tuba City, Arizona

Dear Mr. Lewis:

We have your letter dated August 30, 1962 in which you state that "Shoie noel thi", Moencopi Allottee No. 53 (Moencopi) had traded his allotment to your father, John Jenkins in 1907 or 19[illegible], and you are now claiming it.

Apparently your father never made any attempt to secure Government approval of the purported trade of this allotment. Since it is trust property and under the jurisdiction of the Government, no sale or other disposal thereof is of any validity without the approval of the Government. Since there has been no such approval, the legal heirs of the original allottee "Shoie noel thi", must be determined by the Examiner of Inheritance. After the legal heirs have been determined it is possible that they would be willing to recognize the previous transfer of the land to your father, and, if so, they should sign a joint letter to this effect. We will then take the matter up with our Area Office to see if it is possible to confirm the matter by securing a deed of transfer from the legal heirs.

While we are awaiting the heirship determination to be accomplished, we need more information from you as to the details of this so-called trade of the allotment to your father. In other words, just what did your father pay for this allotment and when was the payment made? A statement should be made stating when and how much was paid for the allotment and signed by two witnesses that were present at the time or were told by your father and the original allottee that the trade had been made.

We also need information as to the date of death of the allottee and the names, ages, and addresses of his wife and children.

We are also wondering how you can claim the allotment yourself since you state that it was traded to your father. How did you acquire it from your father and what did you pay for it? Is your father still living?

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We are unable to make any promises to you as to whether or not the original land trade as you claim would be legally acceptable, however, we need all of the information we can get from you in regard to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. D. Long

Agency Realty Officer

cc: Subagency Superintendent, Tuba City Subagency
cc: Superintendent, Hopi Agency, Keams Canyon, Arizona

cc: Realty - Allot. 53 (Arizona)
Chrono
M/F

Ec-Dev:EMDyer/rl - 9/14/62

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