

the place received the name of "Burnt Ranch." Roughly five hundred Indians died in this massacre. Before death, they had gathered to thank the creator and to celebrate life.<sup>19</sup>

Only a few Tolowa survived the Yontocket massacre. Among the survivors was a man named Pyuwah, a richman or headman. He was in the sweathouse, the house of knowledge, when the massacre began. Pyuwah and other headmen went to the water and hid, breathing through the reeds.

Allogan Slagle, Native American lawyer and author of the unpublished Tolowa Nation Federal Petition for Recognition, wrote:

This was the sacking of the Tolowa sacred center. There is no mention anywhere that this could have been a "war dance." The whole point of an attack by coast and Klamath Rangers at such a time was complete demoralization of a defenseless civilian population.<sup>20</sup>

If one compares the white and the Tolowa versions, it becomes clear that the Bledsoe emphasized the events leading up to the massacre, "presumably in some way to justify the violent action taken by the whites."<sup>21</sup> In contrast to the Indians detailed the massacre itself. The settlers "surmised" that the Indians killed California Jack and the miners. The Tolowa in all probability did not see the relationship of California Jack to the massacre. This would