

KLAMATH TRIBUNE

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CHILOQUIN, OREGON

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KLAMATH INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

APRIL 1961

ORVILLE WRIGHT STUDIES BARBERING; HAS BRIGHT FUTURE IN SHOP OF OWN



Orville Wright gets in some practice barbering cutting hair of nephew, Warren Poitras.

Showing that college can begin at 40-plus is Orville Wright. The college in this instance is Moler Barber College in Portland where Orville is taking barbering training with the objective of eventually running his own shop.

Orville is a long-time local resident and can recite a good piece of reservation history. He was born at Klamath Agency and attended the old government boarding school there to the 4th grade. He enrolled at Chemawa in 1924, continuing there through the 7th grade. He left the Indian school in 1930, put in a brief spell at Chiloquin schools, then concluded his educational endeavors for 30 years except for a short time at a Portland body and fender school in 1939-40. Undaunted by the lay-off he picked up the schoolbooks again last fall and is making steady progress towards completing the 9-month course in June.

Between Chemawa and Moler, Orville didn't languish, picking up experience at everything from race horse jockey to sawmill hand. He worked at the family ranch in the Modoc Point area for a while, got in some boxing,

and like many of his contemporaries worked as fire guard for the BIA. "I know this reservation. I worked as fire guard all over the west end of it."

Speaking of the horses, Orville relates that he rode for several years, off and on, in relay, pony express, and Indian feather races. Most of his racing was done on a 1/2 mile track. He recalls that there was a lot of horse racing in the Southern Oregon, Northern California area back in the thirties. He notes the switch to rodeos these days and attributes the disappearance of racing to the fact there was "no money in it."

"What ruined things here was they wouldn't pay the riders off — needs good organization to handle it."

Orville doesn't remember just when he got started fighting but figures it was about 1930. One Damon Savage, local pool hall operator, started him out fighting in the 127-135 lb. class. "I fought over on the coast, semi-windups in pro bouts, and had my license in California."

Other activities included pull-

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Proposed \$5,625,000 On Boundary Suit; Settlement Depends On Decision By Tribe

"We are now in a position to present a proposed settlement to the Klamath Executive committee and Klamath General Council" on the boundary claim, stated Don Gormley, of the Wilkinson law firm in a letter dated April 20, 1961 to the Klamath Executive Committee.

According to Gormley, "the proposed settlement is for the amount of \$5,625,000.00, which would be the amount of the total gross judgement, after taking into account any and all offsets or counterclaims of the United States."

Gormley's report goes on to state: "We expect to meet with

Bank Officers Show Sound Judgment Payments

Bank officers, police officials and merchants expressed surprise and lauded the way in which Klamath Indians generally conducted themselves when they recently received their termination money.

Some 588 Klamath adults received their unrestricted funds each amount to about \$43,000.00. Of the total number receiving their checks, slightly over 300 adults are residents in the Klamath Reservation area.

"It was fantastic" was the way one banker expressed it, remarking on the fact that there were only one or two individuals in the whole area who asked for cash. Bank representatives stated that tribal members took full advantage of savings and checking accounts, taking away very little of their money in cash.

Many wild and unfounded tales spread about the Indians' use of their money which, upon a little investigation, were found to be newspaper accounts for instance, of one drunk with-drawee who landed in jail with \$4,000.00 cash in a paper bag denied by law enforcement

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both the Klamath Executive Committee, and Klamath General Council on Monday, May 15, 1961. (The General Council meeting will probably be at the Mosonic Hall in Chiloquin), for the purpose of presenting the proposed settlement for their approval. A representative of the Portland Area Office will probably also attend these meetings, as an observer."

"Subsequent to the meetings, the settlement, if approved by the tribe, will be presented to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval, which is required.

"Following the May 15 meeting, a hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 1, 1961, before the Indian Claims Commission in Washington, D. C., at which the Commission will take testimony and other evidence bearing upon the settlement. The Commission's approval is required under Section 15 of the Indian Claims Commission Act.

COUNCIL MEET SET

In a special session of the Klamath Executive Committee at the Education Office on April 27, 1961, the proposed settlement of the boundary suit was discussed, and a general council meeting was formally scheduled to be held at the Masonic Hall on May 15 in Chiloquin at 1:30 P. M.

General Council approval or rejection of the proposed \$5,625,000.00 settlement will be decided at that time. Don Gormley and Glen Wilkinson of the Wilkinson firm are expected to be on hand to give the details of the proposed settlement.

"This proposed settlement is the result of months of detailed negotiations by us, on behalf of the Tribe, and attorneys of the Department of Justice on behalf of the United States.

"If concluded by approval of the above-mentioned persons and the Commission, it would finally dis-

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