

Butler Traces Path to Music

by Quiss (Snoball) Butler Jr.

I was born on Nov. 19, 1945, on the Siletz Indian Rez. For the first 10 years of my life, I learned to hunt and fish with father like all the other Indian children from our rez.

In the mid-1950s, the big timber corporations wanted our trees, so the big problems started happening to our reservation. It was once 1.1 million acres of virgin, old growth. Termination became the big talk on our homeland. How I understand it today is that the big timber bought our tribal government. A few who were in power got very rich.

A lot of our children, myself included, were sent away. I was sent to The Children's Farm Home in Corvallis, Ore. There I spent four or five years of my life. I was severely abused both mentally and physically by the staff, to the point where I came back at a later date and had a gunfight with the police. I was 14 at this time.

At The Farm Home, I was becoming a problem because I ran home a lot. I was then sent to Maclaren School for Boys, a reform school. I was there until I was 18. I ran away just about every chance I got, for I had no idea why I was there. At 18, when I got out, I was a very bitter person. I had no idea of what was going on inside of me. I got a year in the county jail for fighting with an officer! In and out of jail until I was 21, then off to the Oregon state prison system. I got a full release "out of solitary confinement" in 1973.

This was the year Wounded Knee came down in South Dakota and this is what I was looking for! I had a few problems I wanted to work out with the system, so off I went. I was old Grandpa Crow Dog's main bodyguard, which was one of the biggest blessings in my life. He lit old memories of my



The cover of "Dancing Girl"

grandmother, who was one of the great gifted women of our time. From Wounded Knee I ran to Alaska for parole violation.

In 1975, Dino had become active in the Sundances and bought me a quart of beer to go with him to sundance. From then on, I traveled with the Peltier Defense Committee. In 1978 I went on "The Longest Walk" with the committee. These are the years I learned about the Red Road. I started sundancing in Nevada with the Manning family in honor of Tina Trudell. I then sundanced at Mt. Hood for 10 years. There I saw the need for singers and moved on to the Sundance drums. This is where my music gifts came to the surface.

Over the years as a singer and songwriter, I have been able to experience many miracles. In 1990, I wrote and recorded my album "Five Hundred Years We'll Cry No More." This is the year I became a lead singer on the Sundance drums. In 1990, I started to look to my own people. I had a big problem teaching other ways to my children, so I learned our own songs and ways.

In 1996, we began putting together the plans to build our own dance house. The tribe gave us \$15,000 to work with. It took two years, but we built it. Those were some lonely years. The tribe

Comment on Tribal Ordinances

Administrative Procedures

The Tribal Council has completed the first and second reading of the proposed Administrative Procedures Ordinance. The proposed ordinance establishes clear procedures for resolving disputes regarding administration of tribal programs with the authority to determine the rights, duties, or privileges of individual tribal members. The proposed ordinance requires tribal departments to develop regulations for the administration of any program with authority to determine the rights, duties, or privileges of tribal members. Tribal departments will be required to give the public notice of proposed regulations and an opportunity to comment upon them.

The proposed ordinance allows individuals to request that a department issue an opinion stating whether a rule or regulation applies to that person, property in which the person has an interest, or upon a discrete statement of facts. The proposed ordinance further outlines appeal procedures that must be followed by tribal members should

insured it for \$80,000 and it was appraised at \$120,000. The Spirits gave me 25 songs while I was building that dance house. "Dancing Girl" comes from those lonely days. This year I turned elder at 55 and this is the year I plan to retire, singing my songs and becoming an old folk singer.

May the Spirits be with you and all you pray for.

"Dancing Girl"

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any department order or decisions deny the tribal member a right or privilege, unless the action is governed by another ordinance or law. Personnel matters will not be governed by this ordinance, but instead will continue to be subject to the personnel handbook and other personnel regulations.

Cultural Resources

The Tribal Council has completed the first and second readings of the proposed Cultural Resource Lands and Sacred Sites Ordinance. The proposed ordinance formalizes the Cultural Resources Protection Program in the Law and Order Code and defines and describes its duties.

Upon enactment of the ordinance, any person proposing a land use action involving ground-disturbing activity on tribal lands must obtain a permit from the Cultural Resources Protection Program prior to commencement of such activity, with certain designated exemptions. Any person proposing to conduct archaeological activities on tribal lands must also obtain a permit, which will ensure greater tribal oversight of such activities. The proposed ordinance also established criminal and civil penalties for violations of the ordinance, including fines up to \$5,000 and one year imprisonment.

Research

The Tribal Council has completed the first and second readings of the proposed Research Ordinance. The proposed ordinance is intended to ensure that tribal members are free from unreasonably harmful, intrusive, ill-conceived, or otherwise offensive research and investigation procedures. Types of research included in the proposed ordinance

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