

NESIKA ILLAHEE POW-WOW

Royalty Enjoys Trip to Gathering of Nations

In April, Jennifer Easter, Samantha Lynch, and I attended the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M. We had the pleasure of attending the Miss Indian World pageant and an opportunity to meet the contestants. During grand entry, we had the chance to meet royalty from all over the United States and Canada. It was my first time going so I thought it was a great experience. A bald eagle opened one of the sessions.

I would like to thank Craig Whitehead for having us represent the Siletz Tribe. I would also like to thank Selene Rilatos and Caroline Easter for being our chaperones and making sure we did everything we needed to do and for making sure we were everywhere we needed to be. Marlene and Tiffany Stuart drove from Kansas and we all represented our tribe with pride.

Some of our side trips included Sky City and the Acoma Casino for lunch. Marlene took a lot of pictures; we posed with the outgoing Miss Indian World and she was very gracious. We also posed with Irene Bedard, who's an actress from the movie "Smoke



L to r: Samantha Lynch, Jr. Miss Siletz; Holly John, Miss Siletz; and Jennifer Easter, Little Miss Siletz

Signals" (my favorite movie of all time!) and was also the voice of Pocahontas. It was a great trip despite the lost luggage, overbooked flights, and diverted trips. If you ever have a chance to attend the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow, do because I highly recommend it.

During my term as Miss Siletz, I have traveled to many pow-wows in Oregon, such as the Oregon State University and University of Oregon pow-wows. I've met many interesting people such as royalty from other tribes and organizations. I will definitely

remember this opportunity in my life and I will remember everything about it.

The one thing that will stand out the most will be how much the tribe and the community have stood behind me in the actions I have made in being Miss Siletz. I hope you feel that I have represented the tribe and community well. I feel that I have done the best of my ability. It has been fun and a very great honor to be Miss Siletz 2000-2001. I strongly recommend that more young Siletz ladies run for Siletz royalty. It's a fun and rewarding experience.

Holly John, Miss Siletz 2000-2001

The best thing about my trip to Albuquerque was watching the Miss Indian World pageant. The pow-wow was okay, but you didn't get to dance much unless you competed. The competition wasn't fair because they picked people out of the audience to be judges. I liked going to the Acoma Pueblo, but we didn't have time to go on the tour. I would like to go to the pow-wow again to run for Miss Indian World. What encouraged me to want to run for Miss Indian World was seeing a girl that I know run and get second runner-up.

I encourage girls to run for Jr. Miss Siletz in the future. I had a great time this year representing my tribe, traveling to different pow-wows. I like going to all the different pow-wows because I got to meet a lot of different royalty and see new dances from other cultures.

I'd like to thank the Pow-Wow Committee for sending me to all of the

pow-wows and I'd especially like to thank Craig Whitehead for all the hard work he's done for the royalty this year.

Samantha Lynch, Jr. Miss Siletz 2000-2001

Hello, my name is Jennifer Easter and I am Little Miss Siletz 2000-2001. I would like to take this time to say thank you to the Pow-Wow Committee for sending me to the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in April 2001.

The most rewarding thing to me was meeting Miss Indian America, Miss Indian World, and all the other royalty from different states. I also had some time to go site-seeing and see how Indians make their own pottery and jewelry. This is how some of them make a living. I was amazed at the pottery and the designs that they had on them. The designs on their pottery tell a story about which tribe they belong to.

I also attended the pageant where they pick the Miss Indian World 2001-2002. This year, they had 24 girls for contestants and each girl was judged for her talent, speech interview, and a dance competition. For their talent, some told stories; these stories were spoken in their own language and then told in English. Two contestants sang spiritual songs in their own language. One contestant told how her grandmother taught her to tan her own hides. These three things were the most rewarding to me.

Also at the pageant there was a movie star and a disc jockey; they were the emcees for the evening. They were really funny. After the pageant, we had a chance to talk with them and teach them how to say Siletz the right way. We also had a chance to talk to the group Ulali; they performed at the pageant and they were pretty good.

I would like at this time to encourage all girls to run for the title of Little Miss Siletz because it can be very rewarding for you. You get to travel to pow-wows, parades, and other things. I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported me for Little Miss Siletz throughout the year. I hope that I have made you all proud of me because I was very proud to represent my tribe wherever I went. Thank you to my mother, grandpa, sister, aunts, uncles, and cousins for **everything** you have done for me. I love you all!

Jennifer Easter, Little Miss Siletz 2000-2001

Tipi Drawing

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Roll # _____

For Siletz Tribal members to use during the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow on Aug. 10-12, 2001. One entry per household, please. Deadline for entries is July 31, 2001. Names will be drawn soon after the deadline. Return the form to:

Siletz Pow-Wow
Attn: Tipi
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

