

Jr. Miss Siletz Enjoys Gathering of Nations

by Tiffany Dawn Stuart

This past April, I, Tiffany Stuart – Jr. Miss Siletz 2001-2002 – attended the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M., with Miss Siletz, Waleeska Riding In, and her mother; Little Miss Siletz, Leslie Lundy, and her grandmother; and my mother, Marlene Stuart, and my grandmother, Maxine Rilatos. While in Albuquerque, we attended the pow-wow and Miss Indian World Pageant, and visited the Pueblo Cultural Center and Old Town.

At “The Pit” where the pow-wow was held, there were so many Indians. Before grand entry, I met royalty from across the country. They introduced themselves and asked me questions. I asked questions like who and where they were from, what they represented, or what they had to do at their pageant.

The floor for grand entry and intertribal was always packed. I was proud to wear my shell necklaces, basketcap, and apron skirt while competing. I got to see old friends and pow-wow buddies. I met Miss Indian World, NAMY winners, and a Navajo code talker.

The Miss Indian World Pageant was held at a convention center in downtown Albuquerque. The con-

testants showed a 3-5 minute presentation about their tribe or did a Native demonstration. The current Miss Indian World, Ke, and her dance group demonstrated Hawaiian dances. It was an enjoyable night.

The Pueblo Cultural Center was a very well-developed establishment. It had a restaurant, store, offices, museums, and an outdoor space in the middle of the center where presentations took place. We ate traditional foods like blue corn pancakes, oven bread, corn fries, homemade guacamole, frybread, and corn soup at the restaurant.

The store had many souvenirs and native items. Under the center is a Pueblo Museum, where we saw a short movie on pottery and learned about their ways of dress, government, tools, and all the aspects of their life in the past and present. We also had the privilege to see Aztec and Hopi dancers do their tribal dances.

I talked to a girl my age who is Hopi and learned a great deal from her, that her family was strict on learning Hopi ways and knowing their language. Since it was Native American week at the center, there were many people there and different tribal presentations.



A Navajo code talker and his wife with the Siletz Royalty

The Siletz Royalty was asked to introduce themselves to the crowd by the director of the center. We were treated very well and were presented with a pin that had their tribal emblem on it. If I had the chance, I would go back and visit the center and museum again.

Old Town had stores where you could buy anything from jewelry to rugs. It was a good place to go for souvenirs. We ate frybread and beans at a little restaurant called Frybread Mama's.

On this trip, I met many people and saw wonderful sites. I learned I should always introduce myself. A woman was looking at my crown, so I introduced myself and we started talking. She said

that she had relations in Siletz, so I introduced her to my grandmother. The women knew who Archie Ben was, my great-grandpa (my grandma's father), and was related. I want to continue dancing and learning the Siletz ways, which Grandpa Ben did his whole life.

All in all, I had a good time in Albuquerque. I would like to thank the Pow-Wow Committee and the tribe for funding my way and my mother's way to New Mexico. I also want to thank my mother and grandma for going to Albuquerque and supporting me.

May God bless you all and every one of you are in my prayers. It has been a wonderful year representing the Siletz people.



Siletz Royalty and Zuni dancers in New Mexico



William Depoe Jr. takes part in the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow. To see photos of many of the participants, including Siletz Royalty, visit www.gatheringofnations.com/galleries/powwow02.