

AIANEA Scholarships Available

This scholarship opportunity is available through the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA). Two scholarships will be awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native students pursuing a degree in the natural resources field, who are or will attend an accredited college or university.

Application deadline is April 1, 2006. Selected individuals will be notified by May 1, 2006.

The scholarship application and information can be accessed on the AIANEA Web site – www.aianea.com.

Oklahoma Health Program Now Accepting Applications

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2006 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be held June 4 – July 29, 2006, on the OU Norman campus.

American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students who are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense eight-week enrichment program offering mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry,

physics, and biology. These courses are designed to increase students' knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Travel, lodging, and meal expenses will be provided for each student accepted into the program.

Applications for the Headlands program can be found at www.headlands.ouhsc.edu or call 405-271-2250.

Application deadline is March 15, 2006.

Grants for Your School

"Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year" – These awards recognize exceptional classroom social studies teachers for grades K-6, 5-8, and 7-12 who teach social studies regularly in elementary, and at least half-time in middle/junior high and high school settings. Maximum award: \$2,500.

Eligibility: Anyone may nominate. Self-nominations will be accepted. NCSS membership is required. **Deadline: April 1, 2006.** www.socialstudies.org/awards/teaching/

From the Superintendent's Update #138, Oregon Department of Education

"The battle for Indian children will be won in the classroom, not on the streets or on horses. The students of today are our warriors of tomorrow."

Wilma P. Mankiller, Cherokee

"The world is constantly changing. One of the strengths of Indian people has been our adaptability. In today's world, education is what we need to survive. We need doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists.

"We can become these things and still live in a cultural way. We need to live in two worlds, the educated world and the Indian cultural world.

"Education will help protect our land, our people's health, and provide knowledge for our people. We must teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. Also, we must teach the language, the culture, the ceremony, and the tradition of our people."

Walt's Words of Wit and Wisdom

by Walt Klamath

Well, another month has passed. Goodness how time does fly, especially when you don't want it to.

I do get a lot of input about writing things, mostly about long time ago. Course, the ones asking about long time ago weren't born till termination.

I guess there are some interesting things that did happen, sometimes I think for the better. Fast food was the deer and fish. Talk about fast when one goes after a steelhead with a pitchfork.

Those little slimy critters are equivalent to the speed of light. Real fast food, like a deer being chased by a dog. Yes, fast food that was good for the healthy body.

What was on my mind though was not fast food; not hungry yet today, but pretty soon will be. Talk about automobiles. Many people that I talk with today have not seen a crank. When I mention crank, they get the wrong idea.

All cars used to come with a crank. When the battery was too low to turn the engine, you had to get the crank out and turn the motor a quarter-turn at a time. Over-compression of one of the cylinders after a few turns and some language that is not permitted, maybe the engine would start.

Many times it would be a bad battery. One couldn't afford to buy a new one, one from the wrecking yard in South Beach may be worse than the one in the car.

Anyway, most of the time people would look for a hill to park on so they

could coast and start the engine.

Course some of the cars didn't have starters, like some of the Ford Model T's. These had to be cranked every time and sometimes a hill didn't do any good.

Sometimes had to drain the oil, take it in the house, and warm it up in order to even crank the darn thing. They had four coils, each had a different tone. They too would get ornery and a little cantankerous. They would have to be put in the woodstove oven to dry out, I guess.

Then we would put them back in their little box and get the warm oil and put it in the crankcase and pursue another attempt to start the motor. Sometimes it would, sometimes not.

If one didn't retard the spark lever, that fool motor would kick like a bay mule. You see, the cars didn't have automatic spark advance like the modern cars do. It was controlled by a lever on the steering column, the left side.

On the right was the hand throttle. One would put the throttle halfway down, the spark all the way up. A piece of wire went to the front for the choke and after a fashion, maybe it would start.

The transmission on the Ford was something of a forerunner of the Fordomatic in the future. It had a planetary gear system. The bands were worked manually by one of the three pedals on the floor and the hand brake.

All would be well, motors running a distinct sound until we came to a hill. Now, that fool thing has gravity-feed fuel.

I don't remember where the gas tank was normally on the rigs, but when it came to a hill, one had to turn around and back up the hill in order to keep the gas running. My uncle put a quart gas tank on the dashboard of the one at home so he didn't have to back up the hill.

All the cars that I know of had cranks and I have cranked most of them sometime during my early years. The Chevrolet 4-cylinder, then 6-cylinder, and Willy Knight's Plymouth all had cranks. In some tractors, that is all that they had.

All the cars but Ford, though, had automatic spark advance so you didn't have to be concerned about them kicking. Many arms have been broken by Ford.

I will say, though, that it gave us something to do. I have spent many a day cranking that old Ford. Don't know why it wouldn't run.

My uncle did show me how to start it one time. He worked at Kernville Logging Co. rafting logs. He spent the week there in the bunkhouse and came home on weekends. Well, after he showed me how to start that "T," I did manage to get it out of the garage and drive it around the farm. Had a heck of a good time.

One time, though, something did go wrong. When my uncle came home, the "T" was out in the field. I really don't remember how I got out of that or if I did.

But I do remember that the fun times were over. Now I had to haul wood, cow manure, and all kinds of jobs. That really was not what I had in mind.

Course, I did have some ideas though, like hauling one pole at a time. That wasn't bad 'cause it was a mile or so to the woods. But this too was short-lived when my uncle noticed that the gas can was empty too soon.

Nowadays, a person couldn't turn that engine over fast enough to start it by a hand crank, I don't think. Those starting motors turn real fast. Sometimes I think the motor slows down when it starts. A hill won't do any good 'cause most are automatic transmissions. Can't push start, can't coast start, only way it can start is by battery.

The year of that "T" was 1927, long before I was born. I became interested when I was 6. Later years, I would get a Model A Ford. That gas tank was on the cowl, still gravity-feed.

The beauty about that was the gas line had a shut-off valve in the cab. On a date, reach down and turn the gas off and soon it would run out of gas. If that didn't work, well, turn the gas back on and go home.

That Model A Roadster has a long history. When I was in high school – won't go into all of it here, have done portions of it in the past editions of our newspaper.

Anyway, a glimpse into the past – guess it seems more fun now looking back than it was living it.