

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS

What is an American?

by San Poil Whitehead

An American is not a dictator, traitor or a racist. They value family, love, money and freedom. Most Americans today have jobs like a lawyer or doctor. Some of them play sports, like tennis, football, baseball and softball. We Americans have different culture like some of the Americans believe in God some believe in just sitting on the couch and watching television and others believe in hard work. Americans have different ways of their appearance because some are obese, skinny or a normal body. They eat different types of foods like vegetables, meat, sugar, grain or oily foods. They don't all have to be from North America because some are African, Chinese, Mexican and Native Americans. We travel in different ways like horses, trains, plains, boats, cars and bikes or they walk. We communicate with telephones, walkie-talkies, radios, and smoke signals.

I'm a Native American. I'm from the Tututni, Colville, Nez Pierce, Siletz and Sanpoil Tribes. What I do for fun is I go and dance at pow-wows and play sports. A pow-wow is where we dress down in our ancestral regalia and dance and I play baseball, football and basketball. When I get older I hope to be a professional baseball player and for my back-up career I want to have a normal life. My mom drives a minivan. I communicate with a phone and I live in a house with my brother and sister. My dad died about five years ago.

There are 10 million things about being an American but I put down the basic things. I am a Native American and proud to be one too.

Editor's note: San Poil won first place in the NW District of the Elks for this essay. The contest, part of the Elks' Americanism Program, was sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and conducted nationwide. The NW District includes lodges from Florence to St. Helens. San Poil entered his essay through Toledo Elks #1664.

Charles "Lucky" Miles, 1932-2008

Charles "Lucky" Miles, 76, of Salem, Ore., passed away May 20, 2008, of a stroke at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, Ore.

Charles was born April 23, 1932, in Marysville, Calif., to Tuck Miles and Juanita Larson.

He attended Catholic elementary school and completed high school through the Army.

He served in the military and served in Korea, and was discharged in 1957.

Charles married Marianne Harrison in Reno, Nev., on Nov. 23, 1957. He was a loving father to seven children.

He worked as a welder most of his life. He was a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Redland Grange. He enjoyed racing,

walking his dog Peanut, fishing and playing with his grandchildren.

He is survived by wife, Marianne Miles, of Salem; and children Charles Miles, Jr., Jamey (and Missy) Miles, Darby (and Lyndi) Miles, Heather Miles, Holly Miles, and Danny Miles; a sister, Juanita Smit; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by son Joshua Miles; brothers Keith, Jay and Freddie Miles; sister Roberta Miles; and mother Juanita Larsen.

Memorial services were held May 31, 2008, at the Siletz Tribal Community Center in Siletz.

Services were entrusted to the care of Affordable Burial & Cremation Co. of Newport.

Bert Alured Bartow, 1922-2008

Bert Alured Bartow was born in Reedsport, Ore., on Aug. 16, 1922, and died in Reedsport on April 27, 2008. His 85 years on the family farm on Scholfield Creek were spent cultivating his unique playful humor and growing a family to be proud of. He touched many lives as a community volunteer and was also known to all as a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Bert was born to Jim and Grace Walker Bartow. He was raised on the Scholfield Creek Farm by his mother and his uncle, Alured Walker. His father died from injuries sustained in a 1923 logging accident.

Bert lived his entire life on the family farm, with a few necessary exceptions. He attended school (grades 1-12) in Reedsport. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was wounded in action in Italy. He received several decorations and citations during his service

to his country, including a Purple Heart and two Bronze Battle Stars.

Back home, Bert married Helen Mae Murphey on Nov. 24, 1946. The ceremony was held at the Rebekah Hall in Reedsport and the couple eventually settled into their home in Reedsport, where they lived for 15 years before moving back to the farm.

He worked as a choker-setter in the logging industry for Cape Arago Logging Company until 1950, when he went to work for the city of Reedsport and continued to work in the Maintenance Department until his retirement as a maintenance foreman in 1981. In 2003, Bert and his wife Helen were honored by the Reedsport community as "Pioneer Citizens."

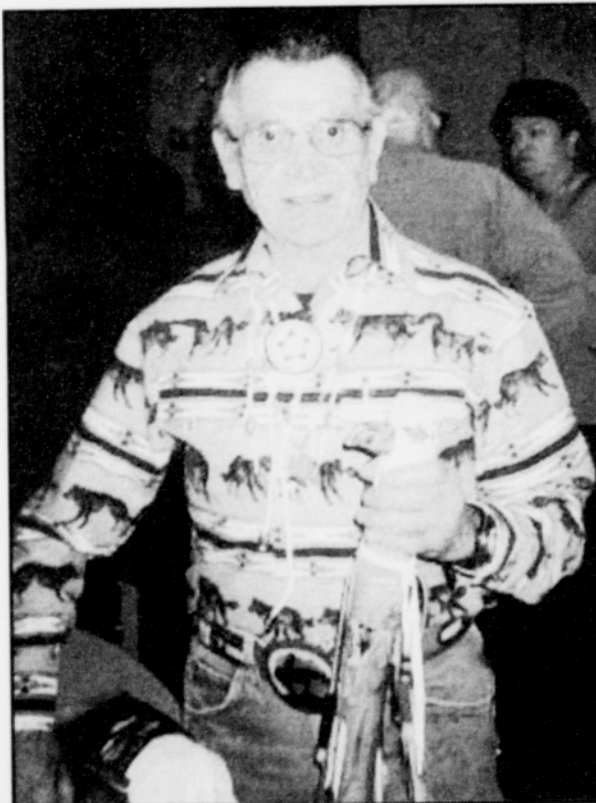
Bert was an active volunteer in many community organizations and projects. He served with the Reedsport Fire Department for 13 years. He held



Above: Students dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" at the Siletz Valley Schools Talent Show.

Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh

Right: William Whitehead and classmate re-enact a scene from "Alvin and the Chipmunks."



Charles "Lucky" Miles

Downey Family Reunion

Siletz Tribal Community Center, Government Hill

July 12, 2008

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact: JoAnn,
541-444-2204

husband Bill of Columbia City, Becky Young and husband Dan of Bend; four grandsons, Luke Dickson and wife Michelle of Junction City, Brett Blundon and Nick Blundon, both of Corvallis and Garrett Stewart of Eugene; one granddaughter, Rindy (Dickson) Spicer and husband Cody of Veneta; and two great-grandchildren, William and Kate Dickson of Junction City.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Kenneth Murphey Scholarship Fund, c/o Walter Murphey, 1845 Greenwood Ave., Reedsport, OR 97467 and/or the Reedsport High School Athletic Department, 541-271-2141.

A memorial service was held May 3 at United Presbyterian Church in Reedsport. A reception followed at the church. A graveside service was held May 3 at Reedsport Masonic Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Dunes Memorial Chapel, 541-271-2822.