



New pow-wow grounds sign tied to the life of Pauline Ricks and her legacy

By Buddy Lane, Cultural Education Director

Atop Government Hill, watched over by our towering relatives fir, spruce and cedar trees, is the Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds. A sign bearing those words has stood since 1995, welcoming people as they approach our hallowed grounds.

The past two decades of Northwest elements have taken their toll on this sign. A new one has been constructed to take the place of the original one. So this seemed like an appropriate time to share with our membership a little about the person after whom our pow-wow grounds are named.

Pauline Nellie (Bell) Ricks was born Nov. 19, 1929, to Arthur "Jug" Bell and Angeline Louie Rippin in Logsdon, Ore. Pauline was one of 12 children.

Like many Siletz families, Pauline's family instilled in her a great sense of pride in being a Siletz Indian. Information was passed on to her as it had been for millennia among our people, via stories and oral accounts from her family, about family linages, traditional dances, regalia, culture, history, the old country down on the Rogue, her ancestors' experiences living through the Rogue River Wars,



Courtesy photo by Buddy Lane

The new sign at the pow-wow grounds in Siletz

removal and the early days here on the Siletz Reservation.

Growing up in the era Pauline did meant she endured racism, discrimination and derogatory stereotypes as did most Indigenous people of her day. She lived through the Termination era

and witnessed firsthand the devastating impacts it had on all facets of our Tribe and community.

She was one of many Siletz people who were forced to move away from Siletz in search of work. She was among a large number of Siletz people who made

the Eugene-Springfield area their home. Pauline worked as an Indian education coordinator, striving to get accurate Tribal history and culture into public schools and helping to build up and empower Tribal youth to be proud of who they are.

The 1970s were a transformative time for our Tribe. Disparities and injustice were on full display on an array of fronts. And change was happening. Attitudes were shifting.

In 1972, with the failed federal policy of Termination on display for all to see, self-determination and support for Tribes was being called for by the president of the United States. Siletz people began to organize.

Pauline was a vital part of the Restoration effort from the start. She was elected to the first post-termination Tribal Council in 1973. She along with other members of the Tribal Council, Tribal membership and community worked tirelessly, donating their time, evenings after work and week-ends away from their lives and families in the effort for Siletz Restoration.

Pauline was a member of the Tribal Council that made the trip back to Washington, D.C., to testify in front of the Sen-

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Expansion of the Legal Assistance Program Update

Ever use CTSI court or wonder how CTSI court works? Ever need help with a legal problem? Do you have opinions about what the Tribe can do to better support its members with legal concerns?

CTSI has begun the process of assessing current legal assistance options and looking at options for how the Tribe might potentially expand legal assistance for Tribal members and maybe others who appear in Siletz Tribal Court. We have partnered with The Whitener Group (TWG), a Tribal consulting firm owned by members of the Squaxin Island Tribe, to guide this process.

TWG is working with us to gather information through surveys, one-on-one meetings and strategic planning sessions. Through these efforts TWG will identify the Tribe's core values and basic legal assistance needs that it will

use as the foundation for the planning process. TWG, with key stakeholders, will then draft a program mission and an actionable implementation plan.

There will be repeated opportunities for review and adjustment. Once those basic components of the implementation plan are determined, TWG will meet with Tribal Council and facilitate a decision-making process to determine timelines, key staff actions and a program budget. TWG will then finalize the plan and begin to assist the Tribe with its implementation.

But as we get started, we would like to have YOUR input on this process. With that in mind, we have put together a short survey to gather input.

Please either go to URL below or scan this QR code to take the survey by Jan. 31, 2022! It is short, we promise.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/siletz>



SCAN ME



Courtesy photo by Teresa Simmons

Tribal elder Jane John (center) and her daughters Diana (left) and Glendora

STAHS records testimonials about the effects of Tribal termination

By Teresa Simmons, STAHS Vice Chair/Secretary

Early in 2021, the board of directors of the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage society held a special meeting to determine the top priorities of the exhibits to be displayed in A Place for the People, the much-anticipated Siletz museum. Assisted by Josh Eddings, Peter Hatch and Loraine Butler, the board decided the most pressing issue was to capture personal stories and memories of Tribal members covering many topics through video interviews in a virtual reality format.

Modern technology has made great strides in virtual reality presentations, which can be formatted in several ways and used in various settings. They can be easily

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