

History of the Hippies of Takilma

By
Kindi Fahrnkopf
IVN Contributing Writer

Part 8-The Takilma People’s Clinic

Dr. Jim S. was sent down to Takilma from Portland in 1973 after a severe Hepatitis A outbreak which caused a few desperate hippies to seek help from the Josephine County Health Department. Robert H.said, “I was exposed to Hepatitis A and it was really bad so I went down to the Health Dept. and they looked at me with loathing, and wouldn’t give me a gamma globulin shot.” When the authorities up north got word of this outbreak they sent Dr. Jim down fresh from a medical degree at the University of Wisconsin. Robert added, “That Hepatitis A outbreak was huge in Takilma, really important, because after that was when things finally started to improve.”

Dr. Jim invited a newly released medic from the Green Berets, Michael G., to join him in healing the people. Michael said, “He asked me to come down with him and help set up a clinic.” After finding a community of like-minded people, Dr. Jim

fell in love with Heidi P. and found himself invited to live at the Magic Forest Farm. He was starting out on a career as a country doctor. Before long the community, led by Delbert donated their time and materials to build Dr. Jim and his young family a log cabin. Dr. Jim was very much appreciated because there was such a severe need for medical care and his simple and respectful ways as a country doctor endeared him to many. As Helen remarked, “I’ve always thought he was just a cut above the ordinary person because of the dedication he had for this community and the entire Illinois Valley. He was just amazing!” The small, rural clinic started in an old house on Takilma Rd. but soon moved to the Takilma Community Association building on the hill in 1975.

Sue D. from DooDah, who had some childbirth instruction from Nursing School, was one of the first people to sign on at the new Takilma People’s Clinic where the care was literally free. She helped come up with the idea of a “Birth mobile” so they could attend the many home births that were happening. She and Dr. Jim had gone up north for training at the Oregon Health

Sciences to handle deliveries and emergencies. A panel truck was outfitted for anything the attendants and the birthing parents would need, including emergency equipment. She and several more women, including Joya and Lisa K. received additional training as midwives. At countless home births, Dr. Jim would come to assist the midwives when needed, and provided the skills and services of having a trained doctor present. Sue recounts that, “Dr. Jim was dedicated to teaching everyone what he knew. In those days we were innocent and naïve because that was before people even heard of medical malpractice. It was such a needed service, in such a good community, that it was fun to go there.” Of the roughly 2,000 births that Sue attended, they had a perfect safety record, a remarkable accomplishment. She said, “We were able to screen out high-risk women and later we even served as an ambulance to take patients in.” Sue even admits to needing the services of the “Birthmobile” with the delivery of her second child. She remembered that, “It was a good thing because Teva was born in the middle of a cold winter night, and the Birthmobile was there in case

I needed to go to the hospital.” Randall remembers being rescued by the Birthmobile, when Dr. Jim, Suedah and Lisa came to his son’s birth. He said, “That’s another special thing about Takilma. I relied on them. I still don’t really trust anyone outside of Takilma.”

Joya, one of the apprentice midwives, came to Takilma after she completed Nursing School in Ashland to be part of the birthing team. She started out volunteering for six months then received a small stipend of \$50 per month until it slowly increased. The Takilma midwives helped establish protocols for safe midwifery practice for the Oregon Midwifery Council and facilitated educational opportunities for midwives around the state. The midwives also received training in family planning services. Of course she was doing much more than home births, she was a nurse for many of her patients and their families medical needs. Joya recalls, “I came here to be an apprentice midwife. Getting called to births was quite a trick for me where I live, because back in those early days we didn’t have a footbridge, and when the water was high I’d have to walk out through the back of the gulch. It was more than a mile to hike out to get to the road. Things were really primitive here for quite awhile. For me to be notified about a pending birth, either a call would come to a neighbor, someone would come to get me on horseback, or someone would yell across the river for me, and there were a few times when it was just pure intuition and I would wake up in the middle of the night and I could just sense that someone was in labor. I’d pack up my baby and my bag and hike out, and the few times that happened, I was

right.” Later a birth room was outfitted at the Clinic and babies were born there when possible. The last births at the Clinic were in 1987 right before the Longwood Fire.

The Clinic and the Dome School were started by the more or less college educated hippies, to meet the needs of their growing community. Jake M. came as a guest of his girlfriend Judith Ann, who was working down in the Bay area at the Rivendell School. As he recalls, “I had heard all these things about the Farm. We knew that there were families up there at the Farm and DooDah that were wanting to have a community school and we were teaching at an alternative school. We came in the middle of February and I fell in love with the Farm.” Jake and Judith Ann finally moved in to the Farm in 1975 and found a refuge in nature. “The orchards and garden were planted in 1968 by the first residents and we could just plug in. Everyone was involved in the Clinic or the School. There were lots of potlucks.” Jake recalled that “The first night I set foot in Takilma, the store was still smoking, it had just burned down and there wasn’t much of a town.” So the small commune became a hard-working group of dedicated people who were creating the foundation of a town themselves. Jake recalled that “The birthmobile came to Molly’s birth,” in the old days. Soon he and Judith Ann started helping build the new Takilma Community Building, also the future home of the Dome School. It was a very busy time.

Other challenges back in the 70s were living without adequate services like flush toilets and showers. Keeping clean and washing clothes

was difficult, since trips to the laundromat were expensive. It was during the early 70’s that a bath house was built at the “Barn” which allowed residents to come to bathe for free and use a shower, sauna and hot tub. Robert, with a dedicated interest in public health recalls how his interest in plumbing started. It was due to his college degree in Archaeology that he felt an unusual enjoyment of digging up ditches for pipes. He realized how much people needed to get clean, so he and a group of hippies, designed a facility and started work. Looking back now Robert said, “I didn’t know I wanted to be a plumber until I started putting pipes together.” The entire project took 8 months to complete and cost \$600. Most of the fixtures were recycled from a house-wrecking job in Grants Pass. The Bath House finally opened right before Christmas, 1972.

Sheila started out volunteering at the new Takilma Clinic. She remembers that, “I really loved the sense of community, and I really believed in the mission, which was to serve people with health care.” Sheila worked as the Clinic’s receptionist and office manager for 33 years. Sheila said that, “Some people went on to other jobs, but for me it was ideal. I had two children and the Clinic had child care, so it worked for me. It was very educational for me.” When asked what it was like to work with Dr. Jim, she said, “It was wonderful, wonderful! He is a very kind and knowledgeable man, who was in a teaching role constantly. All the people who worked at the Clinic were really nice. The dedication was heart moving.”

See Hippies on A-10



The Birthmobile with Dr. Jim, Heidi, Nancy F., Joe P and Ann.
Photo courtesy of “Magic Forest Farm and Friends” by Jim Shames

FUNDED BY JOSEPHINE COUNTY SOLID WASTE AGENCY

IV Waste Tire Collection Event



- Event open to all Illinois Valley Residents (No Dealers)
- Limited to 10 tires per vehicle
- Tires must be CLEAN AND DRY
- No Commercial Tires
- Tires must be light truck or passenger vehicle tires less than 22 inches in Diameter

Saturday May 18th 2013
Pre-Registered participants only from 9:00 am to 10:00am
All Others 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

- Location: Intersection of Hwy 199 and Cave Hwy behind Oregon Caves Chevron Cave Junction.
- Pre-registration is recommended as capacity for the event is limited. To register stop by City of Cave Junction City Hall located on 222 Lister Street, Cave Junction OR (541) 592-2156

Thanks to the following sponsors:

- Solid Waste Agency of Josephine Count (SWA)
- City of Cave Junction
- Oregon Cave Chevron

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL! Because of the high disposal costs, tires are thrown in our woodlands, waterways, along roadways or in illegal stockpiles. Improper disposal can lead to significant environmental problems such as surface and groundwater contamination, fires which release toxic fumes, and the creation of habitats for pests such as rodents and mosquitoes. Proper disposal will reduce or eliminate these problems!

**FREE
EVENT**

ShopSmart. May Madness!

SALE GOOD MAY 10 - 12, 2013



**MINI SEEDLESS
WATERMELONS**

2⁸⁸
EA.



**COUNTRY HARVEST
SHREDDED
CHEESE**
SELECTED, 2 LB. **5⁸⁸**
FIRST 2, ADDITIONAL \$7.98



30 PK. NATURAL
SELECTED, 12 OZ. CANS **14⁹⁸**
+DEP OR CRV



DORITOS
SELECTED, 10-12 OZ. **1⁹⁸**
FIRST 1, ADDITIONAL 2 for \$5



**20 PK. COKE
PRODUCTS** **\$5**
SELECTED, 12 OZ. CANS +DEP OR CRV

ShopSmart.

SALE DATES: MAY 10-12, 2013

Only at participating
Shop Smart stores

www.shopsmartfoods.com