

# Connecting Native People...

...one of the many reasons for the July encampment here in Eugene.

by Cherokee

Others include spiritual "Mending of the Sacred Hoop," to familiarize the cultural heritages, to teach the practice of potlatch, share skills, arts, news and gossip.

Today, in this paper world of ultra modern technology, very few people know much about the Indian people. They have been stereotyped, as have most other races outside of the white world, when actually Native people are, and have been, before the invasion of Columbus, extremely spiritual. Most native ceremonies, dances and other gatherings are to honor, or make peace with God. Even the Sun Dances are where participants seek sacred power, offer thanks to the Creator, and pray for their family members.

From the desert plateaus of Colorado, from the Badlands of South Dakota, from Long Island shores to Washington's Olympic Peninsula, from these places and beyond, they will come and share their knowledge, their wisdom, and their spirituality. Others will come in search of some, or all of these things. But all will come under the guise of becoming, "one voice, one heart, one mission; and that mission is to strengthen the Indian way of life." It is time to teach a sense of pride to our children, our youth. Pride in one's heritage, pride in being born Indian, and pride in being true to oneself.

Many Elders (Leaders of the people), will express themselves at this gathering. They will admonish us to "find the right direction," or learn the "healing power of the earth, our Mother." While others will share with us messages through their humor, their anger, their prophecies, their silences, and their prevailing concern for future generations.

Perhaps the central message of this "special gathering" is to teach us to explore our heritage, to walk new paths, to seek new experiences, to realize true commitment and vision, and to share the old and the new with all who come.



CHIEF GEORGE ALLEN CHARLEY  
SHALWATER BAY TRIBE



1864 - 1935

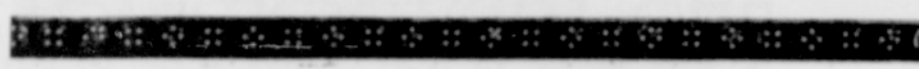
Treat all men alike, give them the same laws  
Give them all an even chance to live and grow  
Chief Joseph



PHOTO BY PIERCE CHRISTIE

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## RELEASE CLIFFORD DANN 50,000 LETTERS TO CLINTON AND BARBITT CAMPAIGN

**URGENT!!** The Western Shoshone National Council (WSNC) is asking all supporters to help bring a stop to the injustice brought to Clifford Dann by the U.S. government. Please write letters to President Clinton and Bruce Babbitt in support of Clifford during this week. Something simple or detailed like the sample below are encouraged. Organize others to do the same. These U.S. leaders must accept responsibility and can no longer ignore the sovereignty of the Western Shoshone Nation. ONCE THESE OFFICIALS RECEIVE 50,000 LETTERS WITHIN THIS PERIOD OF TIME (JULY 26-31), THEY WILL THEN LOOK INTO THIS ISSUE.

May 17, 1993 Western Shoshone elder Clifford Dann was sentenced to 9 months in prison, 2 year probation and a \$5,000 fine in a U.S. courthouse which has no jurisdiction over him. He was charged with obstructing or impeding the duty of an officer. During the November 1992 invasion by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Clifford tried to block the confiscation of Western Shoshone nationalized livestock by showing himself with gasoline and threatening to set himself on fire. After being sprayed with fire extinguishers and then knocked to the ground, he was arrested and later convicted following his trial March 2-3 1993, for assault of a federal officer. Although innocent, Clifford refused to participate in the trial, stating that to do so would acknowledge the claim of U.S. jurisdiction and deny the sovereignty of the Western Shoshone Nation.

Write to:  
President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
20500

Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior  
The White House  
U.S. Dept. of Interior  
18th & C St., NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20500

\*Handwritten letters held over might  
be typed or computer generated ones.

### SAMPLE LETTER

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to you on behalf of Clifford Dann, a Western Shoshone elder who has been wrongly imprisoned by the U.S. Court system, a system whose jurisdiction he is not under or accountable to. For nearly 20 years the Dann elders have struggled to defend the territories of the Western Shoshone Nation, territories recognized by the U.S. government in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. The treaty of "peace and friendship" has never been abrogated. Yet in November 1992 the situation changed when the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invaded the Western Shoshone Nation and proceeded to round up their wild and Western Shoshone nationalized horses. On the first day of the roundup Clifford tried to block confiscation of the horses. In desperation he showed himself with gasoline and threatened to ignite himself, declaring "By taking away our livelihood and our lands, you are taking away our lives!" He was subsequently beaten with fire extinguishers and knocked to the ground, then arrested and charged with assault of a federal officer. During his trial March 2-3, Clifford regardless of his innocence, refused to give in and participate in the trial. He felt that to do so would acknowledge the claim of U.S. jurisdiction and deny the sovereignty of the Western Shoshone Nation. On May 17, 1993, Clifford was sentenced to 9 months in prison, a year probation and a \$5,000 fine. A harsh and unjust sentence for a crime with insufficient evidence, since again it is an example of quieting leaders who defend themselves against the injustices of the U.S. government. As a U.S. leader who has already promised to work with the indigenous people, you must take responsibility for the person who has been so wrongly imprisoned. Please do not continue the genocide of your predecessors and respond to these three requests:

1. Honor the 1863 Treaty that was made between two nations.
2. Open up dialogue with the Western Shoshone Nation and begin meaningful negotiation.
3. Release Clifford Dann, not as a pardon, for no crime was committed on his part, but a realization that he was imprisoned by a court without jurisdiction.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

### WRITE TO CLIFFORD

At this time we are unaware of when and where Clifford will be moved to. Currently he remains at the Washoe County Detention Facility in Reno, Nevada. It is possible that he will be transferred to a work camp at the Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. We are asking supporters to write to Clifford c/o the Western Shoshone Defense Project.

Please send letters to:

Clifford Dann  
c/o Western Shoshone Defense Project  
General Delivery  
Crescent Valley, NV 89821

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1) Come out to Newe Sogobwa (near the Dann Ranch). Be self sufficient. Be committed. Join in peaceful direct action to stop the round up or come as a support person to help with organizing, outreach, and maintaining base camp. Please call first if you are interested in coming down, directions will be given to you at that time. NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL PERMITTED.
- 2) Standby Alert. If you can drop what you are doing and join the resistance on short notice, please let us know. We will put you on our Standby Alert List.
- 3) Network or Fund-raise in your community. Contact us for more information.
- 4) Give immediate support of financial contributions or donations of supplies/food (see needs list).

### URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED

- Local Contact: D. Osborne, 603 476-0420*
- **MONEY**
    - Make all checks and money orders payable to "Western Shoshone Defense Project". These funds will be used for gas, postage for mailings, phone bills and office rent.
  - **SUPPLIES**
    - Computer Paper
    - Video Cameras
    - Camouflage Tents, Tarps, Webbing
    - Camouflage Clothes & Rain Gear
    - Hi-Powered Binoculars
    - Walkie Talkies (GHP) & Ham Radios
    - Motor Oil (10W-40) & Antifreeze
    - Computer Labels
    - Toilet Paper
    - White Gas (Coleman Fuel)
    - 4 x 4 Vehicle
    - Chain Saws & Blades
    - 35mm Film & Cameras
    - Hiking Boots (sizes 8 - 12)
    - Tape Recorders
    - Dish and Laundry Soap
    - Building Materials (Plywood, 2x4s)
    - Motorcycles
    - Sporting Scopes
    - Sanitary Napkins & Tampons
    - Batteries (AA-rechargeable)
  - **FOOD**
    - Bread (anything but white)
    - Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
    - Canned Fruits & Vegetables
    - Oatmeal, Udon
    - Coffee & Hot Chocolate
    - Dehydrated Food & Spices
    - Eggs, Butter, Cheese
    - Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup

### INDIAN COUNTRY camp from my 1

recipient is deceased

As any Great White Father in Washington will tell you, when you're dealing with the treaty rights established in 1855, timing is everything.



Fishing Celilo Falls  
circa 1900's

When asked by an anthropologist what the Indians called America before the white men came, an Indian said simply, "Ours"  
Vine Deloria Jr.

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