

SILETZ

NEWS

Siletz, Oregon

April, 1983, Volume 1, Number 1

Nesika Illahee Pow Wow

By Kristi Martin

At the March 19th Tribal Council Meeting the Pow Wow Committee presented the 1983 Pow Wow Budget. The Tribal Council voted to accept the budget, and to name the Pow Wow "Nesika Illahee" which is Chinook jargon meaning "Our Land."

Sharon Butler and Judy John will be supervising the "Miss Siletz" and "Little Miss Siletz" pageant this year. The Committee is looking for young unmarried girls 13-21 enrolled Tribal Member to run for Miss Siletz, and 2-12 for Little Miss Siletz. The girls will be selling tickets and each contestant will be allowed 20% of their gross sales. May 31, 1983 is the deadline to sign up as a contestant.

Shirley Strickler and Kristi Martin attended a

community meeting at the Salem Area Office on April 5, to discuss the Pow Wow.

The Pow Wow Committee has set a date of May 6, at 7 p.m. to meet with Tribal Members from the Siletz Area. The meeting will be posted at the Siletz Area Office. A meeting date of May 10th at the Springfield Area Office, 7 p.m., to meet with Tribal Members from the Springfield area.

At the March 18 Pow Wow Committee meeting the Committee voted to ask Keith Taylor, a Tribal Member, to assist with the Pow Wow as an advisor to the committee.

Keith has volunteered a lot of his time and effort to teach the committee the traditional meanings of a Tribal Pow Wow. Due to Keith's contacts and public relation work done for this

Pow Wow, we have acquired a lot of outstanding groups and events.

At the April 14th committee meeting a decision was made to acquire the follow-

ing: Salem Inter-Tribal singing group, Headsinger Arlie Neshika, the Mitchell Singers, from Warm Spr-

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Keith Taylor

Photo by Robin Lutchansky

Cow Creek Receives Federal Recognition

On April 10, 1983 in Roseburg, Oregon, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians celebrated their federal recognition. The Siletz Tribal Council and many other Tribal members attended the celebration.

The Cow Creeks hosted a dinner and traditional program, drumming, dancing and singing.

A BRIEF HISTORY

By Stephen Dow Beckham

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians occupied the watershed of the South Fork of the Umpqua River. Their homeland included the great headwaters far to the southeast on the Rogue Umpqua Divide. The Cow Creek villages also extended where they used the great fishery at the South Umpqua Falls. To the North and West they lived on Myrtle Creek and on the upper reaches of Olalla and Lookingglass creeks.

In spite of repeated efforts to clarify their status and relationship as one of the Pacific Northwest's first treaty tribes, the Cow Creeks along with the other

Indian tribes in western Oregon were terminated by Act of Congress in 1956. By legislation they were declared to be no longer Indian or to have a relationship with the federal government as a tribe. The Cow Creeks were not parties to any discussion regarding this act.

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians has persisted as a Tribe. Traditions of a common history and culture have held the families together. Thus, in spite of many discouragements, they have retained their tribal identity and, on Dec. 29, 1982, secured an Act of Congress which extended to them federal recognition as an Indian Tribe.

Road Construction

The construction of the road on the Government Hill has not been started; the Bureau has sent out for bids on March 28, 1983 with completion in July, weather permitting.

Outstanding Tribal Foster Home Honored

By Doni White

The Indian Child Welfare Program would like to express its appreciation and admiration for tribal foster parents Vern and Donna (Strong) Kessinger. The Kessingers live in Salem and have been foster parents for the past 18 years. During that time they have had twenty-one foster children share their home. They currently have three tribal foster children living with them.

In addition to their foster children, Donna and Vern have raised five children of their own; Lodyne Mackaravitz, Vern Kessinger, Jr., Terry Lee Kessinger, Randy Kessinger, and Troy Kessinger, all of whom

live in Salem because Donna won't allow them to get any further away. Her long distance telephone budget would never take it.

The Kessingers also have five grandchildren to dote over. By the time you read this they may well have six as daughter, Lodyne, is expecting any day.

The willingness of the Kessingers to share their home, their family, and their love with children who for various reasons have not been able to stay in their own home is a very special gift and I can't express strongly enough my appreciation and admiration for their contribution to the welfare of children.

Memorial Day Services Planned

By Sharon Butler

The annual Memorial Day Services will be May 30, 1983, and will be hosted this year by the Siletz, Springfield and Salem Johnson O'Malley Parent Committees.

Services at Paul Washington Cemetery will begin at 11 a.m. We will honor the War Veterans and many loved ones who have passed on.

A dinner will be served at 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Siletz Grange Hall, hosted by

the JOM parent committees. Dessert and salad will be pot luck.

The past Memorial Day gatherings of Tribal members have always been a great success, and we are looking forward to another successful gathering.

If you have someone you want mentioned during the service at the cemetery contact Sharon Butler, Siletz Area Office, 444-2536, or write P.O. Box 670, Siletz, OR. 97380.

Coming Out to Dance

By: Keith Taylor

Within many Tribes from the Northwest area and throughout Indian Country when a child "comes out" to dance for the first time, it is traditional to have a special honoring song and the family, and friends of the family, to dance the honoring song.

After the honoring song and dance the family of the child honor Tribal leaders, Pow Wow dignitaries, relatives and friends. However, the giveaway can constitute compensation to

the singing group/drum that sang the honoring song and a gift to a person the family wishes to honor.

Anyone who has a child "coming out" to dance for the first time and wishes to request time for a special honoring song, dance and give-away should contact Kristi Martin, Pow Wow Chairperson, phone 444-2536 or write to P.O. Box 670, Siletz, Or. 97380 by July 1, 1983. Only a limited amount of time for special will be available.

Quarterly Meeting

General Tribal Council

May 7, 1983

Siletz Grange Hall

POT LUCK — 12 Noon

MEETING — 1 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order by Chairman
2. Invocation — Elouise Case
3. Flag Salute — Mary Alice Muncey
4. Special Presentation by Selene's Many Moccasins Dance Group (Sponsored by Title IV Indian Education's Parent Committee)
5. Reports:
 - 1) Tribal Chairman's Report, Mary Fisher
 - 2) General Manager's Report, Jim St. Martin
 - 3) BIA Report, Cal Hewitt, Acting Superintendent
 - 4) Forestry Report, Gary Varner
 - 5) Tribal Attorney's Report, LeRoy Wilder
 - 6) STOWW Report, Bill Townerkllk
 - 7) Health Report, May Alice Muncey
 - 8) Area Office Report, Jim St. Martin
 - 9) Pow Wow Committee Report
6. Concerns from the floor
7. Adjourn

Springfield Area Office is in Charge of poluck & Clean-up.