

Jewelry Request

A request for a ruling to require foreign counterfeit Indian arts and crafts to be clearly and permanently labeled was delivered May 7, 1985 to the U.S. Customs.

The request, submitted by Indian artisans and dealers, was accompanied by a supporting letter from Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Representative Bill Richardson (D-NM) to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs urging prompt attention to the request.

Current U.S. Customs regulations do not require that imitation Indian art imported into the U.S. be marked legibly, indelibly and permanently. They require only that such articles carry an adhesive label or string tag, which are easily and regularly removed prior to sale.

Among the major sources of such imitation arts are Mexico, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Articles also enter the country from various unidentified countries. Allowing these imitation arts into this country also adds to our growing trade imbalance.

The ruling request, submitted with petitions bearing 205 names, listed half a dozen kinds of counterfeit Native American articles that flow into the country, are stripped of their labels, and sold as genuine Native American crafts. Among them: jewelry and beads, rugs and blankets, pottery, baskets, kachina dolls, and carvings.

Indian artisans say such imports hurt them in two ways. They discourage potential buyers from making any purchase of American Indian arts and crafts, and they undercut the demand for legitimate products made by American Indian craftspeople whose sole source of support is their art.

Indian tribes in New Mexico and Arizona are the most seriously affected — particularly the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, and Rio Grande Pueblos.

The ruling request was considered a "class action" initiative on behalf of both those who signed the petitions and many others who did not or could not. It stems from legislation proposed last year — and passed — by Bingaman and Richardson ordering a study of the import, export, and sale of counterfeit American Indian art.

In their letter accompanying the request ruling the two New Mexico lawmakers said, "we look forward to the recommendations that are to be made by the U.S. Customs Service, and we hope these recommendations will help blunt the invasion of counterfeit Indian jewelry into the U.S."

Water Settlement Reached

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel and Attorney General Edwin Meese III announced May 15 an agreement settling water claims for the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana — the third major settlement of Indian water claims in the past three years. "One of the most important things about the compact is that it is fair to all of the parties — the Indian tribes, state and federal governments, and the non-Indian water users," Attorney General Meese said. "It also demonstrates the federal government's willingness to work closely with state and local governments and the tribes to resolve complex problems and achieve common goals." "This compact is a singular achievement in reserved water rights negotiations," Hodel said. "It should well serve the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States. Moreover, the settlement occurred without a direct monetary contribution by the federal government."

The departments of Justice and Interior represented the federal government in negotiations and approved the settlement on May 13 following earlier approval by state and tribal negotiators. Governor Ted Schwinden of Montana was scheduled May 15 to sign the compact which was ratified April 23 by the State Legislature.

The compact provides that the tribes can consume up to 475,000 acre feet of surface water annually. While no projects will be needed to implement the settlement, a key feature of the compact is authority for the tribes to market water off reservation for beneficial use. This will enable the tribes to participate in the regional economy as water development occurs. The Tribes and the state have agreed to partnership arrangements for some water development plans. The state and tribes also agreed to a jurisdictional arrangement for resolution of disputes between reserved and appropriative water rights. The compact will be submitted to the Montana Water Court for further proceedings before it becomes effective. Fort Peck Reservation, established in 1873, covers more than 960,000 acres in northeastern Montana. Indian lands are checkerboarded by non-Indian lands throughout the reservation.

Navajo Woman Honored

WASHINGTON — Faith Roessel, a legislative assistant to Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), has been picked by a prominent national magazine as one of the nation's 100 Young Women of Promise.

Good Housekeeping has saluted Ms. Roessel as one of "the new leaders who are making their mark now and will change our world in the years to come."

A lawyer and a member of the Navajo Nation, Ms. Roessel has been Bingaman's leading advisor on Indian affairs, health and human services, and education since mid-1983. She was formerly an associate with a Phoenix firm that represented the Navajo Nation as its general counsel. She was the first member of the Tribe ever to practice law in that capacity.

Ms. Roessel is the daughter of Robert and Ruth Roessel of Round Rock, Arizona, both of them noted pioneers in Indian education. She was raised on the Navajo Reservation, and attended Chinle High School where she was the salutatorian of her graduating class in 1974 and a winner of several oratorical awards.

She took her B.A. in sociology at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in 1978, and her law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1981. She is a member of the New Mexico Bar and of the American and Navajo Nation Bar Associations. She is also admitted to practice before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Roessel was the banquet speaker at the annual conference of the National Organization of Native American Women on Thursday evening, April 25, in Albuquerque.

Honor Roll Student

Randy Fisher, a 6th grade student at Siletz Junior High School was named to the Honor Roll for obtaining a grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0 for the third quarter of the 1984-85 school year.

Randy's name was also submitted to the Academic All-American Program for recognition as a superior student excelling in academics.

Randy is the son of Ramona Fisher, both are tribal members.

Gila River Tribe Proceeds With Jai Alai

The Gila River Indian Tribe has broken ground on its proposed jai alai gambling complex despite warnings from federal and state officials. Arizona Attorney General Robert Corbin, who opposes the para-mutuel venture, said he had met with Attorney General Edwin Meese to urge that the complex not be opened. U.S. Attorney Stephen McNamee said, "If the developers choose to proceed with construction, they will be putting their operation in peril." Meanwhile, the same day of the ground-breaking, Corbin appeared on an afternoon talk show on KTAR Radio, the top-rated radio station in the Phoenix area. The talk show host conducted a "mini-poll" of those who called in, asking if they favored jai alai gambling at Gila River. At the end of the two hours, the callers were 10-1 in favor of the Indian development.

BIA Appoints Two

Lawrence Isaac, Jr. and James A. Barber have been appointed to key positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by Acting Assistant Secretary John Fritz.

Isaac, who has been the Director of Education at Rough Rock Demonstration School in Chinle, Arizona has been appointed as the education program administrator for the Eastern Area office in Arlington, Virginia. A member of the Navajo Tribe, Isaac has been with the government since 1962 after serving in the Marine Corps. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona where he received his masters and doctorate degrees in 1975 and 1980. Isaac's new assignment became effective April 28, 1985.

Barber, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana, has been appointed as the new superintendent at the Papago agency in Arizona. He has been with the government since 1965 after serving with the U.S. Army. He served the BIA as an administrative officer and a superintendent at various agencies in Arizona. A graduate of Western Montana College, Barber replaces Curtis Nordwall who retired.

Agreement Reached

On March 28, 1985, the parties in *United States v. Michigan* signed a 15-year agreement governing utilization of the fishery resource within the Treaty waters of the State of Michigan. Previously, the federal courts had held that three Indian Tribes, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, retained their aboriginal rights to fish free from State regulation. The present agreement reflects that earlier decision and establishes a plan for the cooperative management of the resource. Under the agreement, treaty fishermen will have exclusive access to the whitefish stocks in certain parts of the Treaty waters. The Tribes agreed to refrain from commercial fishing in certain portions of the Treaty waters, as well as in certain areas where concentrated sportfishing occurs. The plan also recognizes the need for special restrictions on commercial and sportfishing harvests in areas of importance to the rehabilitation of lake trout. The plan provides for the gradual implementation of its objectives.

In addition, the State and the United States agreed to contribute over 5 million dollars to assist in the further development of the tribal conservation programs and to help the Tribes increase the financial returns obtained from commercial fishing. The plan also establishes procedures for sharing biological and other conservation-related information between the Tribes and the State.

Representatives of the three Tribes, the State, the United States, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association, the Michigan Charter Boat Association, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association all signed the agreement which will be implemented through a consent decree to be entered in the near future in federal district court in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Bruce Greene, of the Native American Rights Fund, who represented the Bay Mills Indian Community throughout the matter stated: "While this agreement was long in coming and difficult to work out, we are pleased that it is fair and equitable. It eliminates many of the harmful fishery practices which treaty fishermen have opposed and will bring significant benefits to the Tribes and the treaty fishermen."

Chilocco Reunion

The Chilocco Indian Agricultural School National Alumni Association will be holding its Annual reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 7, 8, 9, 1985. We would like your newspaper to run the following reunion message:

The Chilocco National Alumni Association will hold its annual reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the Tulsa Marriott Hotel, June 7, 8, 9, 1985. The reunion officially begins Friday, June 7, with registration beginning at 9:00 am. This year's reunion will be dedicated to the men of Company C, 180th, 279th, and 179th Infantry Regiments, 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma Army National Guard. The classes of 1935 and 1965 will also be honored this year.

A Pow Wow Friday night starting at 6:00 pm will start the reunion festivities. On Saturday, June 8, activities will begin with a Company C Breakfast and General Meeting. All students, employees and veterans who served as a member of a Company C in World War II and Korea are invited. The Alumni Association will hold their General Meeting beginning at 10:30 am. Hall of Fame Ceremonies and Banquet will begin at 5:00 pm. Bill Chandler, Phillips Petroleum, Borger, Texas, Class of '42 will MC the program. The dance will begin at 9:00 pm with a live 20 piece dance band. There will be nine new inductees to the Hall of Fame.

For further information you may contact: Cedric Starr, 12355 E. 39th St. Tulsa, OK 74145, Telephone 918-622-5420; Emma Jean Osage Falling, 18517 E. 3rd St., Tulsa, OK 74108, Telephone 918-266-1626.

