



Council Chairman's Report

Delores Pigsley

FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Many of you may not know that our Vice-Chairman, Art Bensell, suffered a stroke on July 17, 1985. Art, LeRoy Wilder and myself were in Washington working on our land acquisition project and held a series of meetings with Department of Labor, Administration for Native American, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Oregon Congressmen. Art is hospitalized in George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. By the time you read this, he may have been released and on his way home as he is progressing well. Drop him a card, I'm sure he would like to hear from you. We all pray for his speedy recovery.

Pow Wow time draws near. August 16, 17, 18 is Nesika Illahee Pow Wow. This year should be one of the biggest and best pow wows ever. Our new comfort facility should be completed, we will have additional lighting, and a fine meal is planned. Your Pow Wow Committee has worked hard to make this year a success, and if you would like to help, please let the Pow Wow Committee know.

Tribal Employee

Ms. Doni White, a Siletz Tribal employee was selected to the Performance Standards Advisory Committee for the Indian and Native American (INA) program under the Job Training Partnership Act. This Advisory Committee provides a participatory framework through which the Employment and Training Administration can consult with grantee representatives on policy issues involved in the development and operation of the performance standards system covering the 193 INA grantees across the country.

Interested

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz formed a Housing Authority in order to receive funding for HUD housing. If you think you might be interested in renting or buying a home in the Siletz area through the Siletz Indian Housing Authority contact Jeff Williams, Housing Coordinator at P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380 or phone 444-2532 Ext. 33. Toll-free number is 1-800-922-1399. (In-State only)

SILETZ NEWS

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DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SILETZ NEWS IS AUGUST 20, 1985

Send all articles and photos (black & white only) to P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR. 97380.

Letters To The Editor

Just Reply!

Dear Editor:

In the Lincoln County Leader which came out July 24, 1985, a letter to the editor was published which reads:

To the Editor:

I am so angry!
My children struggle to make house payments or pay rent on homes that are too small for their needs. The Siletz Indians are given \$2.5 million to build homes. This money came from taxes taken from my children and yours.

I am tired of these give-away programs. Enough already. Write your congressman or representative.

Bette Selkregg
South Beach

This person doesn't think that Indians pay taxes, and we don't struggle to pay house payments or rent. She wasn't the least bit upset that the Newport Housing Authority also built new townhouse apartments in Newport last year. Where did she think all of that money came from? Heaven NO — TAXES mine and yours, Tribal members.

The Siletz Tribal Council is working very hard to provide a better life for tribal members. The goal of an enterprise is to provide employment for any tribal member who wants to work and a home to live in.

The Revenues from these homes will be returned to H.U.D. If only people — Indian and non-Indian — would stop being so jealous of one another and try to work together for a better sense of unity — all of us would benefit.

Kristi Martin
Siletz, Oregon

Concerned

Dear Editor:

I am a Siletz-Chetco, Tututni born in Crescent City, California July 15, 1957. At an early age I was removed from my parents and placed in various state institutions. This has been my

lifestyle, but this is not my purpose for writing this letter. There is a group that is granted by the Federal Government or the tribe to research our Culture. I wonder what this means. There are a few of us researching our history seeking Historical Documentation of fact concerning the status of the Siletz tribe. It has been my privilege and honor to know these people and their concerted efforts to understand the total impact of past and present Federal Policies and Procedures of the Siletz Tribes. On more than one occasion I have assumed erroneously a particular Indian issue to be clear and definite. Upon further investigation other valuable information was revealed and there led to yet other information, other investigations. I often wondered where did it start? What purpose did it serve? There was no revelations to my reasoning and analyzing. All basic educational study habits at random selection of one area of Federal Policies of one particular tribe would keep a dedicated person busy for an 8 hour day for the rest of his or her life. It has been my experience that the research has had an effect to the degree of discouragement. It has also appeared to be the design of the documents to mislead and hide the intent and scope of its contents with language that the tribes (that dealt with those issues at that time) had to deal with at that time. Another example to consider is the tribes immediate concerns which was survival with pressure from the weapons of the settlers and government military weapons. We could pursue this line of investigation indefinitely. It's that simple to get involved with one crisis that instigated other critical policies. I will direct your attention for the need for this through examination of the historical "Facts" documented. To clearly understand the impact of those facts today, I could not put a right or a wrong label on any of these policies and procedures that

were forced upon the Siletz tribes, nor acceptance of the different segments. But the facts are the truth, truth is assumed to be good. That's how we were taught to look at truth with honor and dignity. If we could look at it a different way with a different view, with our emotions, prejudices and opinions put on hold. Let's study the issues as they are, examine the language closely and be clear about the (inferences) implications that we make are often mistaken inferences and judgments. By a thorough investigation we have to take into account that the first glimpse of evidence is our signal to dig further into the issues. So often we arrive at the door but we never go in. The surface overwhelms and conceals to the point of complete knowledge. Perhaps this is part of our weakness as human-beings because we all want to be right whether it be for praise or just the need for recognition.

Whatever the case may be should not stop your efforts to cram for the examination, term papers or thesis of the lives that were sacrificed for our existence. There is a need to direct our energies toward the forces that are responsible for our/yours and mine present survival. The energies that we direct at each other for what ever reasons can be utilized for the united struggle for freedom.

I Pray for the People

Gary Butler
AKA P.O.W. 41965

P.S. The Tututni's were the most important tribes. They lived on the lower Rogue River and on the Coast north and south of its mouth. They were "moved" to the Siletz Reservation AKA concentration camp in 1856 as Prisoners of War, having taken part in protecting their traditional homelands from invaders. This camp served as a means to destroy our nations through extermination policies. This is not an assumption on my part this is recorded in Oregon History there has been a grave miscarriage of justice done to our people. If our nation is to survive we have to be what the Creator intended us to be and live in harmony with Grandmother Earth to preserve life not create weapons to destroy Her and life too. We have given up nothing our people never had a chance to vote on the land agreement or the Hunting and Fishing agreement those issues are not closed. We cannot afford to let these issues be closed. We cannot blame any tribal members for any wrongs. I believe in the beginning they believed they were doing the right thing and in the end manipulated by the U.S. Government with government funding to succeed in making sure we could not sue for 1,000,000 acres of land so we could not hunt or fish on 1,000,000 acres of land. These issues are still open we as people need to become aware of this. You are one person as I am one person. Let's start working together and begin building a nation our future generations can be proud of.

I Pray for the People

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"Opinions Questions, Concerns"

All letters received will be printed. Please type or write legible, no profane language will be printed. All letters must include your name and address. Send letters to: "Siletz News", P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR. 97380. Questions? Call 444-2536.