

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

With your permission, I would like to relate my evaluation of the Pow Wow held August 7, 8, 9 as it impressed me. The cooperation of the City of Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz was commendable. The attendance surpassed previous records. The Tribes school bus transported people from down town to Government Hill. This was a new feature this year. You had to see the Parade on Saturday to see how people here became aware of the Tribe. When I asked some Tribal member, "where did you stay . . . the reply was, "in Newport." This meant home that the county also benefited by the Tribe having a Pow Wow. With a Bank, Post Office, Grocery Store, a Fishing Tackle shop, one grade school, four churches and one tavern, one wonders how there would be anything going on in Siletz. Siletz is a work known in the 50 states and some Foreign countries. The beautiful Siletz River furnishes the sportsman with the steelhead as well as water for the Siletz, Camp 12, Toledo, Seal Rock and fish plants in Newport. The Siletz water is a back up for the fish plants. From termination to Restoration the Siletz didn't know what it meant to be a Tribal member. Since restoration, the young folks are hoping to get an education so they, in time perhaps, can lower the 40. unemployment rate. Since more are going to get an education. I feel that they will achieve the educational goal. Bob Tom, of Salem, is in charge of the Education program. Mrs. Charles Orton of Toledo, Gladys Bolton of Makai and other members of the Cultural Committee have been busy teaching the young folks the Siletz dances. Cynthia Viles, Tribal Historian and members of the Culture committee have been busy teaching culture interests and activities such as basket making, others were involved with learning a language.

Radio station KTDO did a commendable job advertising the Pow Wow. What would interest many were the places to eat and the beautiful arts and crafts which were for sale. I want to thank our General Manager, Phil Rilatos, for arranging the Council Parking. I especially appreciated this gesture.

Bob Tom, who is a Siletz Tribal member, and Frank Petersen, who is from the Quinalt Nation, were the Emcees. My interests at the Pow Wow will vary from that of others I do wish to say what some of mine were.

On Saturday, I was happy when a member of the Roth family came to my brother and I. He and his family sold groceries to us when we were in the store. At that time they owned the Willamette Grocery Company. Later the Roths sold to another company. It was nice to see him after all these years. We are happy he came to the Pow Wow. Members of the Roth family still live in Salem.

Whipman, Gilbert Towner, told us his new name and the name the whipwoman, Pauline Ricks would have from this day forward. Both Gilbert and Pauline were voted to be the Whipman and Whipwoman for the Tribe by the Council. During this activity Gilbert honored my brother, Arthur Bensell by giving him a beautiful beaded belt. He said my brother was responsible for getting the Tribe restored 10 years ago. I was surprised when Gilbert gave me a beautiful scarf. Several "Give-Aways" were held. One was given by Vivian Harrison of the Yakima Nation. On Saturday, an outstanding event was when Don Coats and his family from Alaska gave the tribe land in the Logsdan area. Don is son of Betty and the late Don Coats of Logsdan. Betty and Don had the Logsdan store for years. After our Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley, gave Don a beaded belt buckle and Mary Alice Muncey gave Mrs. Coats pretty pink beaded earrings from the Tribe an Honor song and dance was held. Don and his family returned to their Alaskan home after the Pow Wow. On Saturday, an honor song and dance was held honoring the late Robert Rilatos. Robert was a compassionate person who was always helping tribal members, he started the Encampment for the young folks who wanted to learn how to hunt and fish. He is greatly missed by his family. They are proud of what he did for the tribe when he was with us. With all the activities that took place, time was taken to have Competition Dancing, Softball games, and a Teen Dance. Awards for the competition dancing were given to the winners late Saturday. On Sunday, a bus load of Senior citizens came from Portland. This is their first; we appreciated their presence. We hope they return next year.

The Pow Wow Committee, the Kitchen crew and volunteers were recognized with a dance and honor song. They are to be complimented for the efficiency which was displayed in feeding so many people.

I want to thank the Pow Wow Committee for the kindnesses and courtesies extended to me. I had a happy and joyous time.

Sincerely,  
Mary Alice Muncey

Dear Tribal Council Members;

The annual Pow-Wow this year far exceeded expectations. I think the grounds were spotless - the people were all friendly. I especially appreciate the fact that you invited the "Treaty of 1855" drum group.

There was a mix-up between the Security and the people that camped there. I know that security was only following orders - and they did a great job of that. I think next year the members of security should pass out camping passes at the camping site. They should be able to distinguish the people that just want to cruise around. Just a suggestion.

I see that our grounds are being extended into the timber. Perhaps, next year a level place up there could be used for gambling? Stick games are definitely part of each pow-wow.

There are a number of traditions that our people should observe, such as taking a name - being initiated into the dance society - observing time to spend in mourning - and coming out of mourning. I'd like to explain these things in detail to the council, sometime.

Sometime in the future I would like to build a sweat-house that would be permanent, and there for the use of our people. During the pow-wow I would be glad to make sweat for our visitors.

I would build this in our way, and not the Souix way - which is alright but we are not Sioux. The men folks sweat first, and the women sweat after the men are finished. We are long overdue for this. It would peak our hospitality.

A lot of people approached me and told me how much they appreciated our beautiful grounds, and the way that the pow-wow was ran. All of the Pow-Wow Committee deserves a Well Done!! One man in particular said that he has been to many pow-wows, all over the country, and ours was the best he had seen - bar none! And I feel great about finally getting my name ENSAL-SUN. I would like that name to be entered into the rolls, along with my given name.

One last item. On our tribal I.D. cards, there is a space for "VOID AFTER". Since this spot has no significance, I wish to propose the "DEGREE OF BLOOD" be put there. There are certain programs, and different ceremonials that require your blood quantum to appear on your tribal I.D. To lug around a tribal roll would be impractical. This is why we carry a tribal I.D. card. and the "DEGREE OF BLOOD" should replace "VOID AFTER".

I guess I've bent your ear enough for this time. Oh, yes - I think the people really enjoyed our welcome dance. Those young people did great! If my legs were well - I would've joined them. Maybe next year.

Thank you again, for a wonderful time.

Sincerely,  
Gilbert Towner, Sr.

The Pow Wow Committee would like to "THANK YOU ENSAL-SUN" for your really nice letter.

To the Editor:

The Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, the 10th celebration of our Restoration, was enjoyed by us all. It was very well attended and we had a chance to visit with many relatives and friends, some friends we haven't seen in 30 years.

Many thoughts came through our minds during this time, thinking back 10 years we have come a long way. Those that sat on the Restoration Committee must be or should be standing proud today to see the outcome and success of our people. Many of those who sat on this committee are not with us today - but their spirits long may it linger with us.

The spirit of this years Pow-Wow was a sweet spirit. We would like to give many thanks Bob Tom, for doing a very good job as emcee and for his words of kind-

ness and gratitude during the honor song for my father, grandfather and husband, Robert Paul Rilatos, Sr. A special thanks to Arlie Neskahi and his drum group for a very beautiful honor song and to all the mens traditional dancers who joined in with our family and friends. Also to Bonnie and Frank Peterson for all their dedication to this tribe and to the Pow-Wow Committee for keeping up the tradition of celebration of our people.

Let us all be as one. May God Bless all of those who attended this celebration and all those who helped make it come together.

The Robert Rilatos Sr. Family

The Pow-Wow Committee would like to "Thank the Robert P. Rilatos" family for their very nice letter! Bonnie Peterson, Shirley Strickler, Kristi Martin, Jesse Davis, Frank Rilatos, Bill Towner, Karen Bell (Staff) Alta Courville, Tribal Council rep. We appreciate hearing kind words for the efforts we have all put into this years Pow-Wow, to help celebrate our 10th celebration of Restoration.

Siletz Pow Wow committee;

We want to thank everyone connected with the Tribal Pow Wow. It was the finest and most wonderful place we have ever worked. We wish to thank those in charge for the wonderful spot, the absolutely GREAT HOSPITALITY and the inspired time and environment. We felt so up lifted the entire time we were at the Pow Wow we wish it to last a lifetime and feel it shall. When we were hungry you feed us, when we were dirty and tired you lent us your showers and facilities. When we were tired or felt down your loving spirit and kindness lifted our spirits. Who could ask more of friends and people then you gave us. My husband and I thank you and shall think of you all often, until we meet again. The young girl who lost her feather I feel was so brave and also I feel she will be strengthened throughout her entire life by the love, understanding and strength shown to her by her tribe.

Thank you,  
Mary & Kevin Enright  
Portland, Oregon

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 444-2532.

(Note: The Pow Wow Committee invited the "Treaty of 1855" drum group.)

Dear Editor Siletz News:

PRIVATIZATION looms on the horizon. Tribal Council and Legal Council feel privatization of OUR timber resources is the means to a successful economic end. If the concept is implemented, I fear that the majority of tribal members will be cut off from their inheritance.

The seeming safeguards written into the Privatization Concept, such as stock ownership for future generations, tribal ownership of the land and voting rights to stockholders, guarantee very little. Wording of the concept paper will have to be much stronger and inclusive to truly protect the rights of all.

Privatization seems geared toward maximum revenues over the short run to benefit corporate employees first and a small group of preferred stockholders second. Common stock doesn't receive a dividend until after all business expenses and preferred stocks are paid. The real power in stock is buying and selling; my concern is who will be financially able to buy and to whom will others sell?

The Tribe can buy stock for future generations, but at WHAT COST? The private company would manage the timber efficiently, but again, at WHAT COST? And when the private company merges or sells, WHAT COST TO OUR FUTURE NEEDS? Privatization means that Tribal Council gives and tribal members lose control of OUR resources to a private company whose major concern is money not the health, education and welfare of the people.

I don't believe Privatization protects the interests of ALL tribal members and I don't support it as the best answer to our economic future. However, I haven't closed my mind completely and will be looking for answers to my concerns. If Tribal Council feels Privatization is a sound plan, they should encourage questions and research on the concept as well as hold public hearings in all four service areas. Public hearings are a forum to share information and allow the general membership participation in long-range planning and decision making.

PRIVATIZATION, the means to an end. Is it truly an honorable means? And does it consider the rights of ALL tribal members?

Sincerely yours,  
Denise A. Wilson

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