

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Chairman and all those involved in the Pow Wow:

Thank you for sharing your Pow Wow August 11-13, 1989. We enjoyed the parade Saturday. The grand entry was very impressive, as were the dances both days. The Friendship Dance was a nice way for everyone who wanted to participate. The craft booths were interesting with a nice selection of merchandise. The food vendors were also welcome.

It was a thrill to see all the beautiful outfits and then realize the hours and hours of work that go into them, also the time learning and practicing the dances and songs.

We found it well organized and a wholesome, clean atmosphere, family oriented.

Our interest in your history dates back to records of my husbands' Great, Great Uncle, Ben Simpson, who was an Indian Agent at Siletz during the Civil War years. There are some interesting books and accounts written about the Siletz Reservation.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz can be proud of their accomplishments, as all the other tribes who participated.

We hope your Pow Wow will continue to grow and be successful.

Sincerely,

Mel & Barbara Bliven

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Denise Wilson, and Sharon Hulegaard for helping me at the dance registration table at the 1989 Nesika Illahee Pow Wow. I would also like to thank the Siletz Royalty and everyone else who helped run refreshments to the drums. I don't know what I would have done without you all. Thank you.

Karen Bell

Siletz Indian Council:

We attended your Pow Wow this August and enjoyed ourselves. We especially liked the cleanliness of the grounds and eating places. We agree with your ban on alcohol too. We take a drink occasionally but it has no place in a celebration of Indian Culture.

We enjoyed the Indian people in their costumes and the dancing. I wish more visitors had joined your circle of friendship. I really enjoyed touching hands and saying "hello".

I showed my pictures of the Pow Wow to our local high school history teacher. He wants to show them to his classes. We both think several of the older male dancers look more authentic than pictures in textbooks.

Sincerely,

Don & Edie Davis

A Special Thankyou to the Ben Family:

My name is Carlene Easter of Springfield. I would like to take this time to thank Ed Ben and his Mother, Vic Ben and the rest of the Ben family and their children when I was honored with a hand drum made by Ed Ben of Salem Oregon from the Memorial Dinner of the late Archie Ben. He was a great man and a good leader to many as well as a husband, father and grandfather. In my book he is chief Archie Ben and will always be that great leader.

Archie took time to teach our Indian Culture to his grandchildren, relatives and anyone who was willing to learn our dances. They were always welcome to join the group in performing the Siletz dances when we took part in parades and different functions, we didn't stand back until we had a reservation or until our bill was passed in house, we were proud to be a part of the Indian Culture. He would always call out to Springfield and let us know where he'd be performing and we would get together and dance. But every year

when I would attend camp Easter Seal, Archie would volunteer to bring the group to dance for the other handicapped kids and workers. Archie would come a long way to do this for me and other handicapped kids with no pay or anything. He was that kind of man and he gave from the heart. He made my friends feel a part of the group and let them take part in some of our tribal dances, like the round dance. The other handicapped kids thought that Archie was a great man and they learned more about the lives and traditions of real Indians than what they saw on T.V. I was taught when we lose a loved one everyone chips in and makes food for the family to show that you share in the loss of their loved one. So I do what I like to do, which is bake cakes and bread for the family.

Carlene Easter

"Thank You"

Ronald and I would like to thank everyone who attended the surprise anniversary party held at Bud and Cheryl Lane's residence in Siletz.

The three tier cake with lavender roses and silver leaves was made by Rose Seminary. The party was hosted by Frank, Nancy, Allison and Kelly Simmons, Brett, Bud and Cheryl Lane. The three tables of food were prepared by Cheryl, Nancy and Elouise (macaroni & potato salad, barbequed and fried chicken, turkey, ham, baked beans, green salads and much more).

The party was complete, with cake cutting, champagne toasting (and more champagne toasting, and even video taping).

We would like to thank everyone for the gifts, the money tree, all the money in the cards and for their attendance. You made this twenty-fifth anniversary a special time in our lives. "Special thanks to Bud Lane and his family from California for all their love and thoughtfulness; To

Cheryl, Kelly and Allison for being children that I never had; and Frank and Nancy for a life-time of always being there with love and kindness.

Again, Thanks

Ronald & Sharon Butler

Dear Editor:

Newsletter Editor Fired! That's not a headline you saw in last month's Siletz News. It probably won't make this issue either. Very likely, you won't even read about it under the Tribal Council Minutes scheduled for publication in Jan.1990. But it happened all the same.

I was fired from my job as newsletter editor on August 25, 1989-right after a tribal official read an article about the 1989-1990 timber revenue budget. "Pull that article or I'll fire you," the tribal official said.

Even though I worked only a little over two months for the Tribe, I often heard that same, unsweet song: "Don't write about that. Don't ask that. Can't write that. Better not, too controversial. So-and-so won't like it".

But my job was to write a newsletter for tribal members--not just for so-and-so. After all, so-and-so already knows what's going on. The trick is to get the information out to tribal members so that we all know what's going on.

Did I do a good job? Well, I got fired. And with a government that practices censorship, getting fired is a high and valuable honor.

But what do tribal newsletter editors do when they get fired? They write their own newsletter. I'm calling mine the Siletz News II. First issue came out August 31, 1989. For your free copy, write to Siletz News II, P.O. Box 152, Alcadore, OR 97409.

One thing I'm up against is not having mailing addresses for tribal members. So-and-so has got that. And I don't think so-and-so wants me to have it,