

NAPA CONFERENCE

BY: Teresa M. Miller

March 21st through the 23rd Shirley Strickler, Enrollment Manager and myself, Teresa Miller were able to attend the Native American Press Association Conference in Tacoma, Washington.

April 20th Shirley and I left....myself sniffing and sneezing with the flu and Shirley moaning and groaning with her bad back as we set off together on our trek. I get lost going around the block so its a good thing that Shirley was there to keep me from ending up in San Diego instead of Tacoma!

Our main objective was to gather enough information at this conference to ensure that the quality of the Siletz Newsletter, which we both compile, is up to standard with other Tribal Newsletters in this nation. The exciting part was that we found we are doing a number of things correctly and we also learned ways to improve the Newsletter.

Each day the conference ran from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Three different

classes were offered concurrently throughout the day and each class lasted one hour and 45 minutes. None of the classes were repeated, so there really was a wide range of subject matter. Shirley and I split up and each took different courses during the day only seeing each other at breaks and meal time. A person would attend three or four classes each day all pertaining to journalism. Most, if not all, of these courses were taught by professionals in the journalism field: investigative reporters, newspaper editors, professional news photographers, etc.

During the luncheons, panel discussions were held pertaining to issues which affect Native Americans throughout the United States. We learned a great deal about the difficulties being experienced by the Tribes in the State of Wisconsin concerning Native Fishing Rights.

Also during this conference the Native American Press Association (NAPA) was officially renamed the Native American Journalism Association (NAJA).

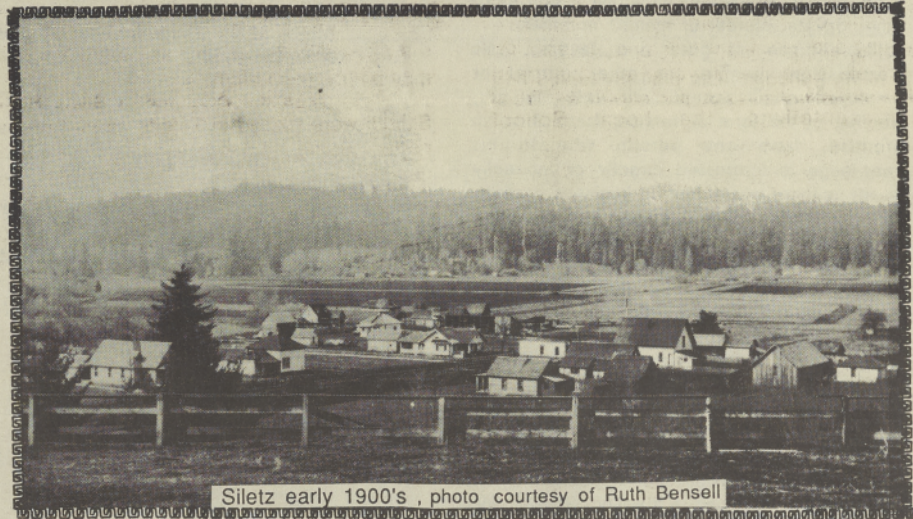
Friday evening the NAJA awards banquet was held featuring Senator Inouye of Hawaii, the Lieutenant Governor of Idaho

and Tim Wapato as guest speakers. All three were excellent speakers. However, Senator Inouye has a commanding stage presence that almost puts a person in awe. He has a steady, deep, resounding voice and a way of speaking that held us all entranced. His appearance ended with a standing ovation and continuing applause from the crowd of what appeared to be around 700 people. We were entertained by Native American Drummers and Dancers. An auction was held as a NAPA fundraiser and the evening came to its conclusion around 11:00 p.m. after the NAJA awards were given out.

Shirley and I met a number of interesting people from Tribes all across the United States and Canada. In addition, we both learned a great deal and look forward to putting what we have learned to use in the future editions of the Siletz Newsletter. A special "Thank You" to Tribal Council for allowing us to take part in this rewarding event which I hope will be of benefit to Tribal Members through the Siletz Newsletter.



Gladys (Lane) Bolton, Indian
Princess Siletz Rodeo, 1938



Siletz early 1900's, photo courtesy of Ruth Bensell



Government Hill early 1900's, photo courtesy of Ruth Bensell