



Chairman's Report on Gaming

By: Delores Pigsley

In the May issue of the News Letter, I reported that both the Salem City Council and the Governor had opposed our plan to establish a gaming center in Salem. I also said that the Governor had gone even further by stating that she "will oppose any proposal by any tribe to acquire new land for off-reservation gambling."

I pointed out that the governor's opposition will not stop us from pursuing our objective of establishing a gaming facility.

Since the May issue of the News Letter, Secretary Lujan issued a memorandum to President Bush's Chief of Staff in which he suggests certain "clarifying amendments" to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. These amendments, if adopted, would adversely affect Indian Tribes' gaming rights. Our consultants, Ducheneau, Gerard and Associates have warned that "this memorandum should be viewed by Indian Tribes with the greatest concern".

On the heels of the Lujan memo came another memo, this time by Assistant Secretary Ed Brown dated May 5, 1992, in response to a letter by Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid and Congressmen James Bilbray and Barbara Vucanovich. Brown said that IGRA "requires the concurrence of the Governor of a state when the land sought to be placed in trust status is acquired for gaming purposes." His

memo was widely publicized and on the surface, at least, seemed to support the states' contention that the governors have veto power.

The Siletz Tribe's response was made by Craig Dorsay, Tribal Attorney, on May 21, 1992 to the press as follows:

Frankly, there is nothing new in this memo, and it does not change the Siletz Tribe's plan for locating a gaming facility in North Salem. It's important to remember that the issue of governor's veto power is a legal question, not a political one. It remains our legal opinion that governors do not have veto power; granting of such power would violate the U.S. Constitution. More specifically, in Oregon's case, Governor Roberts' actions to date have no effect on the Tribe's proposal to take land in trust. The governor has not demonstrated detriment to local tribes and the take land in trust. The governor has not demonstrated detriment to local tribes and the surrounding community. As a result, the Tribe is continuing through the fee-to-trust process to acquire land for a gaming facility in North Salem.

Relative to the fee-to-trust process, we are required to respond to specific issues raised by the city, county and state governments. We are preparing a comprehensive report and all materials for the package should be ready to be sent to the Department of the Interior within the next two

weeks. It is on the basis of our submittal that the Secretary will make his decision.

We understand that Secretary Lujan is still generally supportive of Indian gaming as a means of enhancing tribal economic development. But we also understand that intense political pressure is being brought to bear on the Secretary to suppress Indian gaming.

As Forrest Gerard has stated, however, the actions of the opposition "do not impair the Tribe's fundamental sovereign/legal right to engage in gaming; nor do they preclude the Tribe from pursuing the fee-to-trust in Salem, pursuant to Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act."

It is helpful, I think, to remember our past. It should give us courage for the present and the future. Our tribes struggled - and suffered - ever since before the Coast Reservation was established in 1855: the repeated removal of our people and erosion of our land base. Restoration didn't come easy for us either. It was also a long and bitter struggle.

We're faced once again with what seems like unsurmountable obstacles. But the Tribal Council is committed to pursue a gaming enterprise whose revenues will be used for the benefit of our people. We are moving forward with determination in pursuit of that objective.

We need your support and encouragement.

If You Wish to Receive Tribal Council Minutes...

Please fill in the following information and return to:

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380
Attn: Glendora Osborn,
Council Secretary

Name _____

Address _____

Roll # _____

All the staff
wishes Nancy
Simmons a quick
and full recovery!

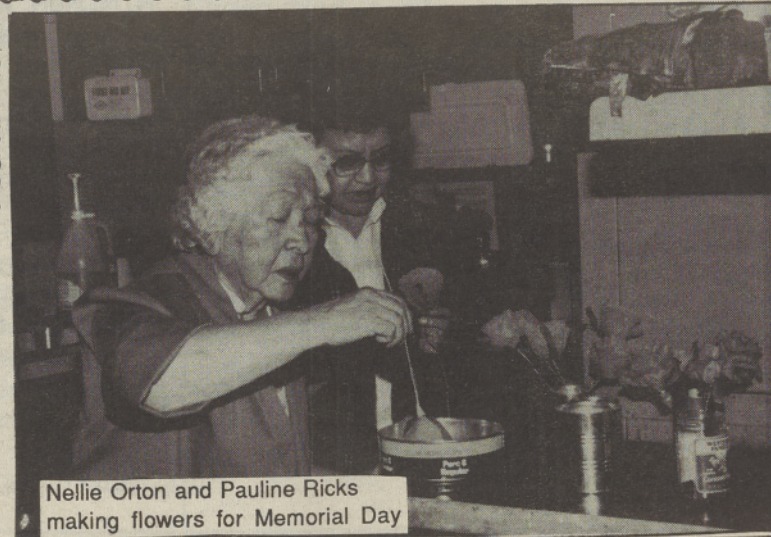
Bob & Kids:

I love you all very much, you all mean a lot to me and grandpa, too. We love him a lot, too. He is a very special man to us forever and always.

Happy Birthday Gramps!

Love, Sylvia, Bob, J.R., Jacob & Sarah

A reminder from the Tribal Library to return overdue books!



Nellie Orton and Pauline Ricks making flowers for Memorial Day