

Letters to the Editor

TO THE TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP:

I would like to request a hearing in the matter of Mark Pearson, Case #92-07 in regard to his house at 133 Chetco Ct.

In the past two years, we have had inspection after inspection. We feel that the housing board and other people dealing with this have been unfair.

We have put a lot of hours of work into this home. We've done all we were supposed to do. We've shampooed the carpets many times, painted the living room and dining room as well as replaced four doors. We've signed up for one can a month garbage service and now the board says one can a week is required. We feel that this is very discriminating because not everyone in the housing has garbage service.

The things we are supposed to do and have done are not against the law. We are represented by Oregon Legal Services and our lawyer has not been informed properly as to some of the new requirements of us, like the new requirement for once a week garbage service.

The Housing Authority has said they would repair the pocket door in our house. They have promised this for over a year, so they are not doing what they agreed to do and have never told us when this would be done.

We are supposed to be a tribe working with each other and for each other and not against each other.

We've put in hours and hours worth of work and we want to stay. Right now all we lack is once a week garbage service which we would sign up for immediately if we felt we would not be evicted.

I'm writing this letter in appeal to the seven day eviction notice which we received on the 5th of October. We feel we have done all that was asked of us, yet we still got this eviction notice. This is not fair and putting a family out on the street with no where to go is cruel.

Thank You for Your Time & Patience,
Ramona Luledjian

TO MY DEAR FRIENDS:

Cotta miga, niga tillicum. The last time I used that phrase was six years ago when I was running for re-election for Tribal Council. Now that I am in the stream of employment with the Tribe, I would like to take the time to thank all of you that supported and gave me your strength during the eight years that I served on the Tribal Council. It was and still is very important to me to watch our Tribe grow and to pursue new endeavors.

The fall winds are changing now and you can see a lonely crow sitting on a limb trying to balance himself with the cold brisk wind, wondering what is in store for him during the long dark winter. I wonder if our people are thinking the same thing? What is going to happen to us and our children and their children? We have three new Tribal Council Members now and it is getting time to campaign for three more for election or re-election. It is so important for you to remember which council person shouldered the responsibility for the Tribe as a whole and took their turn at bat when it became their turn at the plate. It is so easy to put off responsibilities and to put the blame on someone else, but where is the conscience factor? I guess that is common for some people not to be concerned unless it has something to do with their immediate family or making sure certain people are toeing the mark, or trying to get rid of them. We are a unique tribe and second to no other tribe, we don't have to copy other governments or people. Let's do our own thing. Let's do it the Siletz way.

Again, I want to thank all of you. However, I am not gone, I am still here working for my Tribe and serving on several committees and serving my tribe through my best public relations.

My Regards,
Frank D. Simmons

Dear Tribal Members:

When I was around 13, I worked for my uncle Robert with others out of this old A-frame. In those days Siletz was just a small town with Indians living in it.

But, with Uncle Rob's help, we planted community gardens, cleaned yards, and mended

fences for the Elders. I especially found my roots working with Uncle Edwin in the cemetery on Government Hill. I even staked out my grave site back then. At night we were taught bead work. Cousin Rollie taught me some dance steps. Edgar Simmons taught me how to peel chittum way up on Government Hill. When our sacks were full, he would always hurt himself and I would carry both sacks. Boy, he was smart. I guess what I'm, saying is, thanks to all of the Siletz Tribe for being on this earth and part of my history. I can think of nothing more valuable than being related to a part of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz.

Aloha and Mahalo From Hawaii,
Phil W. Rilatos, Jr.

DEAR FOLKS:

Thanks so very much for the Letters of Reggie Butler, Sr. and Joe Lane, Sr. in the September issue of the Siletz Newsletter regarding GED certificates. Having taught on the secondary level from 1950 to 1978 and then at Portland Community College for the past five years, I had occasion to work with students who were working toward their GED certificates. The most rewarding aspect has been on the college level wherein the students were self-motivated; and, although a few may have dropped out of high school, they all had one goal only - to succeed. I wouldn't return to secondary teaching for anything in the world; community-college tutoring in GED and ABE is too rewarding.

From 1965 to 1968, I taught at Waldport High School, working in the areas of Language Arts, Social Studies, and Business Law. During that time, I had occasion to visit Siletz High and enjoyed it very much. Seeing the eagerness there, I would give anything to return and tutor in ABE and GED; but in my present circumstance, that would be impossible.

May your students be enabled to avail themselves of every opportunity which presents itself.

All My Best Wishes,

Clifford F. Grecco

Happy Halloween and Birthday to
Chrystal Williams!!!!

Love,

Mom & Dad

DEAR EDITOR:

I just read my Tribal Newsletter and would like to commend Bensell Breon, Joe Lane and Gladys Bolton for their efforts to lower the blood degree on the Siletz roll. I have two children who are registered in school as American Indians and the school receives funding for them (we live in San Diego, CA). I get medical and dental care at the So. Indian Health Clinic in Alpine, CA. My children both have received care there, too. When I was asked for proof of Indian blood, I explained my Tribe didn't recognize them due to blood degree. They thought it was strange, but they did give care to my children. The trend (at least in California) is to accept all Indians despite blood degree. Our children are our future. If we don't get them on the Siletz roll, it won't be too long before the Siletz Nation ceases to exist. I'm so glad to have Bensell, Joe and Gladys there to fight for a cause many of us consider very important.

Sincerely,
Cindy Hill

GOING HOME:

Tribal Elder, Fremond F. Bean passed away September 10, 1992 at his home in Salem. The family would like to express our heart felt appreciation to everyone who helped us through our grief. To Father Jim, Gilbert Towner, Siletz Singing & Dancing Drum, Bill Wilson, Cemetery Committee, Butch LaBonte, Buddy Haskins and the grave crew, Wilmadene Butler and all of the kitchen staff, all of the people who brought food & flowers, and others whom we may not have mentioned. We do not intentionally forget you, from our hearts we would like to say, "Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much for whatever the part you played."

Sincerely,
The Bean Family

