

Letters to the Editor

Remember that special someone with a Valentine Greeting! Your message of 50 words or less will be printed in the February issue of the Siletz News Letter. Deadline for submission is January 15. Please sign your submission (for our records) and include your address.

The following is the second half of Gary Butler's letter which was printed in the December issue of the Newsletter and edited for length.

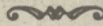
We become alcoholics, drug addicted, violent, and unacceptable by societies standards. The pain and misery cannot continue to destroy my life. The dreams I have had are real and forthcoming. There was a time in my life not long ago when people would wonder why I was the way I was, why I felt no pain, why I married my cousin in Siletz at Illahee Park and invited everyone. I did this because there was so much pain beyond understanding. Even to me to this day it is very hard to accept. I still go to counseling. I see a person who is a proud native of this land. I can't stress enough the importance of our children to be counseled by our own. ICW needs to structure a system that will encourage our children, not discourage them. I can't stress enough how education is very vital. Today I feel better, almost like a might have made one of our sons, nephews, or brothers feel that there is some one out here that does care. That is a feeling that I never got a chance to feel when I was a child, but now I am a grown man of 36,

who will no doubt help and not be molded and created by a society that wanted our nations gone off the face of the Earth and what today we know was an act of genocide. Whatever way I can to keep our children in our societies to keep our nations strong to get along and not always argue and fight amongst ourselves. Now there is no dream but there are many visions of change that can create what so many of us thought the impossible.

Excuses are unacceptable when our children are treated in this manner. Today, I contacted many people. Today, I went back to hell for a split second. Today, I feel like a proud, indigenous human being who can hold his head up and not look at the ground.

Today, I pray for my peoples understanding and open minds.

Gary L. Butler



Good Day!

My name is Shelley Upchurch, daughter of, Rosemary Lawson and Herman Ricketts, granddaughter of Irene Dowd and Bish Lawson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of my family members for their help during the Restoration Pow-Wow.

First of all, if any of you consumed the "Fry Bread", it was I, the "Dough Lady" who made it. Any comments or suggestions should be directed to myself or Rik Leaton (who gave me the recipe).

I would like to thank my dear Aunt Lilly (Lillian Bayya/Lawson) for letting us use her water for coffee, batter, hotdogs, and clean-up, as well as her stove and pans for heating up chili and hotdogs. Without her help in the process, it would not have been possible to supply the Pow-Wow with the food we prepared. Again-Thank You, Auntie!

Thank you goes out to Sheila Bayya for the use of her electric skillet, can opener, and encouragement (essential basics).

Thank you to Lou Moceikis and her daughter Misty (daughter and granddaughter of "Harry Lawson") for their very

hard work, sense of humor, and loyalty to help-out another family during an almost crisis.

Thank you so much to Heidi Jo and Rick Bayya for coming to my aide. They are such neat-(cool)-good young individuals, and I am proud to have them as family members.

Thank you to Bristo Bayya and his wife Kristi Martin-Bayya for being so gracious to let me "crash" at their home for the night.

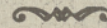
Thank you to Laurie Brown-Godfrey and husband Chuck for their help. They express with actions and labor what it means to be part of this Tribe and help-out when the going gets tough.

Thank you out there to anyone that I may have forgotten to mention.

The day and night of the Restoration Pow-Wow was one of being hectic. But, together the "Lawson" family descendants stuck together and pulled together to make it all possible. How very proud I am to be a part of it, and feel in my heart and spirit our loved ones now in the Great After-Life must have been smiling down upon us. They live on in us, guiding us with their spirits, and encourage us to stick together as a family, as the "Lawson" family of descendants.

Therefore, my main thanks at Thanksgiving is to thank the Lord for my friends and family.

Sincerely,
Shelley Mae Upchurch/
Lawson/Dowd



TO THE EDITOR:

My name is Rene' Lane (maiden name Burden) my mother is Arlene Steggell, my Grandfather is Lloyd "Tiny" Baker.

There was an error made in the December Newsletter because it said Bobby Simmons had only 2 sons and 1 daughter. I am Bobby's daughter and I know there are others who were also not mentioned.

I am aware, as I'm sure many people are, that this is not the editor's fault.

Also, I've always wanted to meet my brothers and sisters but I didn't think it was possible. If Bobby Simmons is your biological father, I would love to hear from you.

Rene' Lane
c/o Arlene Steggell
P.O. Box 572
Tillamook, Or. 97141

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I want to take time and say Thank You to a few people that have really helped me the last few months.

Last June I was a single mom, still living at home with my mother, and not really knowing what I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to get my life going in a better direction. Thanks to Bob Tom, I'm doing that. I am now a student at Delta College of Business and will get my degree in Computerized Office Management in a few months. Bob helped encourage me, and helped with all the necessary paperwork that needed to be completed.

I also want to Thank Connie Hoffman. I now have my own home, and with the Tribes help can afford to live on my own. My son and I love our new place, and it's all "OURS." Connie put up with all my nagging phone calls, and even came all the way to Springfield on a Saturday to do my inspection. I really appreciate all her help.

Thanks again both of you! It's not only an honor to be a tribal member, it's a privilege!

Misty Fisher

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mail articles and photos to:
Siletz News, P.O. Box 549,
Siletz, Oregon 97380

Letters to the Editor :

All letters received will be printed. Please type or write legible, no profane language will be printed. The opinions expressed are solely those of individuals writing in. The Siletz Newsletter and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the letters to the editor. LETTERS THAT EXCEED 350 WORDS IN LENGTH WILL BE EDITED as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #91-04. All letters must include your name, address and signature. Send letters to : Siletz News, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, Oregon 97380. Attn: Teresa Miller, Managing Editor.

PLEASE NOTE: The Chief Executive Officer of the Siletz Tribe is the Chief Editor of the Siletz Newsletter.