

Chairman's Report

From Delores Pigsley

I'd like to start this report with a few comments about the **Restoration Celebration which is scheduled to be held on November 19, 1994.**

The Siletz Tribe has much to celebrate - not only that we were Restored in 1977 but the fact that we have accomplished a great deal since Restoration.

I believe that each year, as we celebrate Restoration, and face new challenges, we should be inspired by the vision and the courage with which our tribal leaders fought to be restored.

As we reflect on our accomplishments of the past year, we have much to be proud of and to be grateful for.

I look forward to seeing you on November 19th! You will find the agenda for Restoration elsewhere in this newsletter.



Siletz Gaming Project

The Siletz Tribe's gaming efforts took a giant step towards reality with the recent passage of a bill by the U.S. Congress that enables us to establish a gaming center in Lincoln County.

We have been successful because of the hard work and persistence of the Tribal Council in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles and the patience and confidence placed in us by our tribal membership. We still have some hard work ahead of us but if we continue to work together as we have, we will achieve our goal of establishing a gaming center which will lead to a better life for our people.

Please refer to Jessie Davis' report elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter for the status of our Gaming efforts.

IHS and BIA Self-Governance

Last month, after intensive negotiations, the Siletz Tribe signed Self-Governance compacts with both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Although we receive additional funding under self governance, of more importance is the flexibility we have as a Self-Governance Tribe in prioritizing our needs and reprogramming funds to better meet our needs.

The Tribe was capably represented by Nelsen Witt, Brenda Bremner and Sharon Edenfield in BIA self-governance negotiations and by Judy Muschamp and those already named in negotiations with the IHS. I also participated as a member of the negotiating team. Rosemary Landis, council member, attended a number of these sessions as well.

Of Major importance was the enactment last month by Congress of the Tribal Self-Governance Act which makes self-governance a permanent program. This new law replaces the Self-Governance Demonstration Act under which the Siletz Tribe and other tribes have had compacts with the BIA and IHS.

This new legislation provides, among other things, increased participation in the program of up to 20 tribes annually; a mechanism to compact for other departmental programs; relief from the Federal Procurement and Policy Act; and advance payments to self-governance tribes.

It is a major achievement and is a logical extension of the Indian Self-Determination Act which will facilitate further the exercise of tribal sovereignty.

The Tribal Administration Building

Construction of our administration facility began last month which will house under one roof almost all of our administrative and program staff, greatly enhancing the coordination of services.

The staff did a great job of putting together the financing of this facility which includes a planning grant from the Administration for Native Americans, a Community Development Block Grant from HUD and a low interest loan from the Farmers Home Administration.

The Siletz Tribal Forest Products Lumber Mill

As Chairman of the STEDCO Board of Commissioners, I participated in a grant presentation at the Siletz Tribal Forest Products (STFP) lumber mill in Toledo on October 3, 1994.

On behalf of the Siletz Tribe, I accepted three grants: from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, an award of \$762,500 for the purchase of the 70 acre mill site; from the Farmers Home Administration, a grant of \$384,920 for the acquisition and construction of a STFP Dry Kiln facility; and from the U.S. Forest Service, a \$250,000 grant to help fund the dry kiln facility.

Mike Dowsett, Executive Director of STEDCO served as MC. The Honorable Don Lindly, Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners spoke on behalf of the County and The Honorable Floyd Ferguson, Mayor of the City of Toledo, spoke on behalf of the City.

We are optimistic that with Phil Rilatos serving as chairman of the Board of the enterprise, working with Mike Dowsett, the mill will be successful.

(See related photos elsewhere in this Newsletter)

The Native American Policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On June 28, 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopted the Native American Policy which is an important step in recognizing and fulfilling the Service's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes. The Siletz Tribe, along with other tribes, participated in the review process of that policy which was under development for the past three years.

It is of importance to the Siletz Tribe as we grapple with our own tribal fish and wildlife issues. In it's government-to-government relations, the Service policy is to "work directly with (tribes) and observe legislative mandates, trust responsibilities, and respect Native American cultural values when planning and implementing programs." The Service "recognizes the authority that (tribes) have for making fish and wildlife management policy and managing fish and wildlife resources on trust lands within their reservations....and supports the rights of Native Americans to utilize fish and wildlife resources on non-reservation lands where there is a legal basis for such use."

The Service is also committed to entering into contracts or grants with tribes at their request for the administration of fish and wildlife conservation programs.

As the Director of the Service stated in his letter to the Tribe dated October 6, 1994, I too believe "the implementation of the Policy will result in vastly improved working relationships" between the Tribe and the Service.