

More Letters.....

Forced Citizenship

By
Ray Blacketer

How many of us tribal members realize that our ancestors, and ourselves have been forced to become citizens of the U.S.A?

Why and how were we forced to become citizens of this government?

By simply taking away our permanent, treaty reserved land base, without our agreement or payment, and to continue to this day to withhold our lands.

Even when we did have the land, laws were passed saying we could not harvest our own timber, fish or other resources commercially. Thus making us totally dependent.

Schools and churches were then instituted, who told our ancestors that the Christian way was right and better and Indian ways were heathen and wrong.

They reduced the reservation by over 700,000 acres without paying a dime. Then, when our ancestors were totally dependent, they forced the allotment act on our tribe.

Prior to that, they took over 900,000 acres without paying a penny. These lands and resources have been deprived from our ancestors and ourselves for 120 years.

I don't like the fact that other people and business's have made billions of dollars off the resources of our lands, while our ancestors and ourselves have been reduced to begging for scraps and roadkill.

All the while thinking that if we are good enough *citizens* we will be accepted and treated legally right.

I don't like the fact that I have been forced to be a citizen of this country, due to

the simple fact that our reservation was improperly taken from us, and because of that we don't have a reservation large enough to support ourselves or our cultural heritage.

I don't like the fact that I nor my children haven't had the choice to either live on our lands as a citizen of our Indian Nation, or to choose to live within the confines of the United States. I have not had that choice and neither have you.

It is time we began the official planning process to get our lands back, no matter the cost.

Trying to lock me away, saying I'm not fit to live in society.

Judge listens to the D.A.'s scam that says I'm a deadly man, answers without questions, do with me as they done to so many like me before was the original plot.

Wait a moment, he said, "no" in the court room, that's not part of the script,

He wouldn't except the court's chosen public pretender, look he wrote a motion to lay down the law to thy. Baffling, baffling isn't it true the Indian is coming straight after you,

Never asked to be accepted in society of careless wanton ways, tread on me from conception to death they cut my flesh to violate my soul so I will never know rest, try and tell me I'm guilty, sentence him to death, if not, life with out parole.

Fear we do not, courts of injustice that have deprived so many, like the serpent of two heads, one body with two heads, one at each end, the one that most men fear for it is the greatest of beasts, if you can face it and stand before it and believe in yourself and don't give into inner fears, the two headed serpent will entangle you and when you are almost consumed the two headed beast will see itself and when it does, it will come to know the truth, for truth is the only thing that will stop the

beast and once it has seen it's own face, looked into it's own eyes, it will set you free, let you go and forever truth will be yours. Give me liberty or give me death, the words many Americans would choose.

Wonder how they would feel to be at hell's gate and told "you would never know the sound of children laughing or sweet smell of fresh rain in the forest of home, ever again".

The serpent is upon me, I feel its breath, I stand to face my fear and what do I see as they are trying to lock me away and say I'm not fit to live in society...

Robert Van Pelt
Brothers & Sisters
in Resistance

To the Editor:

Tell everyone I miss them and love them. They are in my prayers. I am doing good staying busy with the Indian Club here.

Jeremy Mason.

Get Well Wishes to our
Tribal Elders: Pauline Ricks,
William "Chief" Depoe, and
Alton Butler.

Letters to the Editor :

All letters received will be printed except those which are determined to be slanderous. Please type or write legible, **no profane language will be printed.** The Siletz News -letter and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the letters to the editor. The opinions expressed are solely those of individuals writing in. **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.

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"Missing Moccasin Mechanic"

Have you seen this young man? Most likely to be spotted prone beneath or hovering under the hood of disabled vehicles. Possible sighting, maneuvering wheelbarrow full of "extra parts" North East of Logsdon .

Needs to be told, "Mom loves him and misses him very much."

Happy 21st! Jason Simmons -- son, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin and best friend.

With love from your family,
Mom, Dad, Weston, Levi,
Snake-face, Hector,
Pecos and Aunt
Dianne