

Housing Report

From: Connie Hoffman, SIHA Director

Rose Bremner is completing a four-year term on the Housing Authority board this month. For three of those four years, she served as Chairman of the board.

Rose joined the board in June 1992, at a time when the board had just lost two of its most esteemed members--Manual Rilatos and Sharon Butler. Rose brought stability and leadership to the board and helped us through this difficult period.

She has guided the board in a thoughtful, supportive manner through these past few years of growth. She has worked to improve housing opportunities for all Tribal members. She treats those who come before the board with courtesy and respect, and is always willing to listen to all sides of a situation. She supports the housing staff when we have to take difficult actions, regardless of who those actions are directed against, as long as the rules are being applied fairly.

This is perhaps the most difficult thing for housing commissioners to have to deal with--to enforce rules and regulation even when it involves friends and family members. Rose showed courage and restraint in dealing with all disputes that came before the Housing Authority.

Personally, I appreciate the fact that Rose was always available for consultation, when needed, and she never interfered or used her influence inappropriately. I could always count on her support as long as we were doing the right thing, according to established policies.

The Housing Board has submitted applications to HUD's Office of Native American Programs for funds to develop more HUD housing here in Siletz.

The board realizes that there are many Tribal members who have housing needs that cannot be met with homes here in Siletz. So the board also agreed to join an effort with five other Indian Housing Authorities in the Northwest to apply to HUD for HOME grant funds which would provide down payment assistance to Tribal members for use throughout the 11-county service area.

Housing Authority staff prepared the applications for the traditional HUD housing. These are relatively simple applications to prepare and the process has not changed much over the past ten year.

The HOME grant application, however, required professional skills, particularly since it involves other housing authorities. So the board contracted with the Northwest Indian Development Association, a housing finance group in Bellevue, Washington, to prepare and submit the application on our behalf. The funds that it cost us for their services are coming from the equity funds that we have been collecting for the past seven years from our Mutual Help homebuyers. HUD regulations allow the use of these funds to develop new housing opportunities for Tribal members. This is our first venture in using these funds for this purpose. If successful, the HOME grant would provide down payment assistance of approximately \$15,000 per household for about ten Tribal member families. The Northwest Indian Development Association would provide the mortgage financing required by these families to successfully complete the purchase of the home, or the families could use a lending institution of their choice.

Anyone interested in obtaining financing to purchase a home may apply to the Northwest Indian Development Association for assistance. Application packets are available at the Housing Authority office, 555 Tolowa Court, phone 444-8310.

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ARTHUR BENSELL MEMORIAL FUND APPLICATION FORM

Arthur S. Bensell was a Tribal Council Member, Tribal Chairman, educator and civic leader. Art spent many years in service to his community and Tribe as Mayor of the City of Siletz and Tribal Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Art attended Ohio State University and graduated from Heidelberg College in 1934. He served as Teacher, Principal, and Reservation Principal in Minnesota, Alaska and North Dakota. Upon returning to the Siletz Area, Art became involved in tribal affairs and served many years on the Tribe's Education Committee always striving for better educational opportunities for tribal members.

In loving memory of Arthur S. Bensell, a Memorial fund has been established through the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The Memorial fund will be used to honor and award tribal members in college or vocational training programs.

Students must submit an application by June 28, 1996, to the Tribal Education Committee, c/o one of the following addresses:

Confederated Tribes of Siletz
PO Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

Confederated Tribes of Siletz
3789 River Road N., Suite D
Keizer, OR 97303

Confederated Tribes of Siletz
1718 NE 82nd
Portland, OR 97220

Confederated Tribes of Siletz
188 West B, Building P
Springfield, OR 97477

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Message # _____

Roll Number _____

College or University enrolled in: _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Essay Theme: "Determined to Succeed."

Write a short essay (minimum one-half page, maximum 1 page) to explain what people, events or personal reasons have inspired you to go to college.

Along with the application form and essay, students must submit the following:

Proof of acceptance for admission to an accredited vocational or higher education (2-year, 4-year, or graduate) institution.

The Education Committee will review applications at their July meeting and award the educational incentives in August (date and place to be announced).