

Pi-Ume-Sha Spirit Prevails

Extremes of heat and cold did not discourage visitors and locals from dancing, gambling and otherwise celebrating at the Seventh Annual Pi-Ume-Sha held in Warm Springs June 25-27. Tepees, concession stands and jewelry tables filled the grounds and people milled about in the friendly, easy atmosphere that marked the weekend.

Although dance competitions provided the focus for Pi-Ume-Sha, there were many other activities afoot including stick games, social dancing, give-aways, worship services, trading, raffles, and visiting among friends and relatives. MC Nathan "8-ball" Jim did a

fine job of keeping people's minds off the cold nights and hot days by amusing, informing and supervising the crowds. However, he did not do such a good job of monitoring the tepee-creeper that reportedly went on late at night.

Special guests of note were Mel Lambert who stopped by Sunday after the rodeo to entertain the crowd; Larry and Ellen Stanley, formerly of Warm Springs, who helped with programs, drumming and picture-taking; Milton Petrie and other members and friends of Bend's Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S. who operated the Pi-Ume-Sha concession; and of course the many visitors from other reservations who participated and enjoyed the pow-wow.

Some of the high points of the weekend were the crowning of the 1976 Pi-Ume-Sha Queen, Nancy Sooksoit; the Veteran's Dance and give-away; the men's fancy war dance contest, won by Jim Macy; and the all-night stick game in the wee hours of Sunday.

The dance competitions began Friday night after the Grand Entry of all participants and a welcoming speech by

Zane Jackson, Tribal Council Chairman. This was the night for the little kids and they danced like mad to keep warm. The stick games began by the river and were a spirited affair.

The program resumed Saturday afternoon with another Grand Entry and welcome by James Cornett, BIA Superintendent. The older kids got their turn to compete in the bright sunshine and the Kussas and Old Bucks also worked up a sweat. A special Veterans' Dance was held to honor all those who had served in the wars of the last two centuries. Henry Kalama participated proudly as the only living man on the Reservation who had served in World War I. Fifty-four veterans from all over the northwest were given Pendleton blankets thus launching a generous giveaway. The memories of such veterans as Oscar Moses, Harvey Tohet, Daniel Katchia, Laurence Brown, Ernest Spencer, Wilford Sooksoit, Bill Sam and Willis Miller were honored by friends and relatives. Gifts were given in their names by Susan Moses, Mary and Nancy Sam, Ada Sooksoit, Adeline Miller, Andrew and Edna David, Bernice

and Art Mitchell, Prunie Williams, Verbena Greene and Blanche Tohet. It was a sad and thoughtful moment for the many people who served in or were affected by foreign conflicts.

After the supper break, men's and women's team war dancing entertained the crowds. The program wound up with social dancing at around midnight. The stick



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a chain saw), nurses, and patients. The BIA's lively float of balloons bore the message "Happy Anniversary America" and took third prize. The Sagebrush Express stagecoach, entered by the Beymers, won fourth place.

In the Indians category, the Ike Family took first place. The Johnsons took 2nd place in their pick-up "The Old Timer." The Simnasho float driven by Olney Patt, Sr. came in third and the Queen Escort fourth.

In the Visitors' category the Jefferson County Queen and Court, all from Culver, won first prize for looking pretty on horseback. The Lions Club's antique car took 2nd place, and the Circle 5 Gun Shop came in third.

While the parade was going on, a crew of chefs including Delbert Frank and Wilbur Johnson, Sr. was at work at the Community Center cooking salmon and beef for the barbecue held later in the day. Juanita Bourland, unofficial treasurer for the Committee, reported that more than the expected 200 people were served. By the looks of it, everyone ate well.

Fun games aimed at the younger set followed the barbecue and provided laughs for everyone.

The social hall in the Community Center was filled with people playing Bingo in the evening. For those who somehow managed to leave some stomach room, barbecued beef sandwiches were served.

And of course as soon as dusk began to settle, people all over Warm Springs were aroused with warning "blams" and "kabooms" and they pulled up blankets and chairs to watch the traditional fireworks display. The hillside behind the Presbyterian Church had its own "display" as two separate fires started as a result of sparklers and firecrackers. Both fires were put out without the assistance of the fire department.

The festive 4th of July activities would not have been possible without the hard work of the 4th of July Committee. Special thanks go to the Chairman Elmer Quinn, who has been involved for the last 14 years; and to committee members Juanita Bourland, Amos Simtustus, Andy Lucas, Uren Leonard, Satch Miller, Clayton Earl, and Elton Greeley.



WIGGIE SOOKSOIT really poured it on during the war dance competition. His proud and fancy dancing turned at least one judge's head and won him a 4th place.



JUDGES SNARE LILLY HEATH for a 3rd place position in the Kussa's competition. It was tough deciding between her and Edna David, but Lilly giggled her way into the judges' hearts.

Photo by Cynthia Stowell



SINGERS FROM THE YAKIMA NATION provided an opportunity for spectators to stretch their legs and join in the owl dance.

Photo by Cynthia Stowell



MC NATHAN "8-BALL" JIM wields his drumstick as he presides over the Pi-Ume-Sha dance contests. In the foreground judge Ezra T.

Fields from Oklahoma and Art Mitchell, keeps 8-ball company.

Photo by Cynthia Stowell