

Indian Cattlemen Gather In Salt Lake

The third annual convention of the National American Indian Cattlemen's Association (NAICA) met in Salt Lake City November 3 - 5, 1976 and attracted participants from about 36 states. The NAICA also sponsored the first All-Indian National Finals Rodeo, and a pow-wow and a trade fair, all of which occurred the same week.

According to Darrell Miller, member of the Warm Springs Range Committee and the NAICA, the theme of the convention was the unification of Indian livestock owners nationwide, to better assist Indian people in the production of marketable livestock.

Representing Warm Springs at the NAICA convention and meetings were Amos Simtustus, Earl Squiemphen, and Darrell Miller of the Range Committee; Jacob Frank of the Extension Service and Ruth Johnson, secretary for the Range Committee and chaperone for her daughter Edith who was competing for the Miss NAICA title.

The following is a report of the highlights of the NAICA proceedings and other related activities, submitted by Darrell Miller.

Wednesday, November 3

Welcoming speeches were given by NAICA President John Fredericks, Salt Lake City Mayor Ted Wilson, and Utah Governor Calvin Rampton. Dan Old Elk gave an invocation in the Crow language.

Dr. Robert Coppersmith of the University of New Mexico

gave a very interesting talk on livestock public relations with regard to the market and the livestock owner.

Dan Green, Executive Director of the NAICA, then presented a slide program showing how the NAICA works and what it has done. Some of the goals outlined were bettering the cattle market for Indian cattlemen, working on setting up an export market for Indian-owned livestock, helping the Indian rancher-farmer to obtain credit to operate, and providing disaster assistance for stricken ranchers or farmers.

Regional Directors gave their reports covering all five regions. John Small, director of Region 1 in which Warm Springs is located, was ill and not able to attend. A new director, Leonard Black Chief, of Montana, was chosen at the convention.

Wendell Chino, President of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and President of the National Tribal Chairman's Association, gave a rousing talk on the Indian people's need to work together and quit inter-tribal fighting. If they don't make joint efforts, the Indian will never get anywhere in today's society. As long as Indians continue to bicker and dispute, the BIA will continue to look at termination as a way of settling these problems, said Chino.

Committees were set up Wednesday to address such topics as grazing, marketing, water, resolutions, BIA Policy, Tribal Policy, planning and conventions.



WEEDS CREEP IN as the abandoned pool at the mill lies waiting for its future to be decided. Filtered water from the pool might be used to spray the log decks in the background.

Photo by Cynthia Stowell

Mill Pool Awaits Third Life

A frog jumps into the green water from a clump of cat-tails. Milkweed plants broadcast their feathery seeds nearby.

This peaceful autumn scene is not all unusual except that it is being staged in a concrete hole in the ground that was once known as a swimming pool.

Idle since 1969, the old pool at the mill is rapidly returning to the natural state. But it apparently hasn't been forgot-

ten. Plans are sprouting almost as fast as the encroaching weeds.

The pool has had a varied history since it was built in 1950 for the employees of the Warm Springs Lumber Company. It is the only structure remaining of a whole complex of company homes. The once lively neighborhood began to decline after the 1964 flood, which exposed some hygienic problems: the water table was high, creating poor sewage conditions.

Shortly before the subsequent owners — Jefferson Plywood — sold to the Confederated Tribes in 1967, General Manager Vernon Jackson asked mill manager Persh Andrews to remove the houses. That marked the end of the pool's first life.

After a year or so of disuse, the pool was eyed by Community Center Director Rudy Clements as a site for swimming lessons. Improvements were made, such as a deck, a fence, and shower rooms, and the Community Center gave the pool a second life.

For two summers kids took lessons there and the public enjoyed the pool on a limited basis. The Community Center found that around-the-clock supervision was impossible and liability was a concern. There was still some question about health hazards, Kah-Nee-Ta became available to the Community Center, and the pool suffered another abandonment.

It's been seven years now and although the pool has provided a home for assorted flora and fauna, it may be called back into service by humans.

The swimming pool's third life — if it is granted — will be quite different. According to Persh Andrews, the mill is considering using the pool as a filtering system for the water used in sprinkling the adjacent log decks. Currently the water runs off into the creek, which could be a questionable procedure in environmentalists' eyes.

The pool would receive the run-off, the larger solids would settle to the bottom, and the remaining water would be filtered to be used again in sprinkling. Experimentation may begin next year.

As plans evolve for a swimming pool as part of an expanded Community Center, the possibility of the mill pool becoming "ye old swimming hole" again is fast fading.

So, for the time being, the frogs have a place to swim. And the pool lies waiting for humans to decide its fate.

Thursday, November 4

The morning program included speakers from the BIA, the Native American Natural Resources Development Federation (NANRDF) and the U. of New Mexico Extension Service.

During a luncheon sponsored by the American Hereford Association, President Byron Bayer gave a talk and the candidates for the Miss NAICA contest were introduced.

In the afternoon a joint program on implant growth methods on calves to increase weight yields for market was presented by Scott Chandler and Roland Lodge of the IMC Chemical Corporation. These methods were shown to help the stock physically in terms of strength and stamina.

Committee reports were presented and several resolutions were passed. Resolutions included forming a marketing advisory council, increasing expenditures for credit to Indians wanting to start a business, water development, and the formation of a National American Indian Horsemen Association. Darrell Miller was chosen to sit on the planning board for this new organization.

John Fredericks was re-elected as President of NAICA in a landslide victory.

That evening a cattlemen's banquet was held, after which the crowning of queen and princesses took place. Edith Johnson of Warm Springs was the second runner-up, Lenora Begay of New Mexico was first runner-up, and the queen was Dee Coulee of Busby, Montana. The girls were introduced at the rodeo later that evening.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 5 & 6
Impromptu meetings covering a broad range of topics were held Friday and Saturday. A dance was held Friday night and the pow-wow and rodeo moved into their final stages.

Rodeo results and photos will be available soon.



AT THE CATTLEMEN'S BANQUET during the NAICA convention in Salt Lake City, Edith Johnson was chosen second runner-up in the

contest for queen. First runner-up Lenora Begay (New Mexico) is on the left, and queen Dee Coulee (Montana) is on the right.

Photo by Darrell Miller