

Commission Works Toward Improved Indian Services

Created for the purpose of improving services to Indians in Oregon, the Commission on Indian Services has just been assured of continued funding for the next fiscal year. Oregon is unique in that it is the only state to create and fund such a commission.

Since its conception in 1975, the commission has been acting as a clearinghouse for information about the concerns and needs of Indian Communities in Oregon and as a catalyst for bringing those concerns and needs to the direct attention of state government.

"To really serve the legislature the commission has to be a good ear to Indian communities and be able to effectively communicate—not intimidate," says Commission Chairman Warren "Rudy" Clements. "We're trying not to use an uptight approach so we don't have staff who would manifest that kind of attitude," he stated.

The Commission on Indian Services is made up of ten members which includes one member from the Oregon Senate, one from the Oregon House of Representatives, and eight Indians from throughout the state. All are appointed jointly by the President of the Oregon Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The eight Indian members include representatives from each of the following tribal councils or non-reservation areas:

1. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.
2. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation.
3. Burns-Paiute Tribe.
4. Klamath Falls-Chiloquin.
5. Portland urban area.
6. North coastal area.
7. South coastal area.
8. Willamette Valley area.

Present commission members and staff include Warren "Rudy" Clements (Chairman) from Warm Springs; Arthur Bensell (Vice-Chairman) from Siletz; Senator Victor Atiyeh; Robert Bojorcias of Eugene; Patrick Borunda of Portland; William Brainard of Coos Bay; John Green from Klamath Falls; Rep. Sam Johnson; James St. Martin of Burns; and a newly appointed member representing the Umatilla Reservation, William Johnson. Members of the Commission staff based in Salem are Bruce A. Bishop (Executive Director) and Doris "Teeney" Miller, Administrative-executive secretary.

Both Bishop and Clements feel that the commission has had some impact on housing this past year. Bishop explained, for example, that the Veterans Housing program hasn't been traditionally available to those on reservations, but that due to commission efforts there is veterans housing currently under construction on the Burns Reservation.

The commission is also supporting a senate bill which authorizes the state to plow liquor tax monies back into the community for treatment of drinking problems. A lot of work has also been done by the commission in the field of education, especially in the area of the Indian Education Act.

Essentially, the Commission on Indian Services is an advisory body which can recommend methods for the State of Oregon to improve state services to Indians in Oregon. In order to effectively accomplish this task, the commission meets with Indian communities or groups to learn what problems they are facing and how those problems can be solved. Clements feels that the group has more political clout as a legislative commission than it would have otherwise.

The commission takes an active role in serving Oregon's Indian citizenry. It chooses not to just sit back and wait for people to come to it but goes out to actively seek input. Often, the commission invites representatives of state and federal agencies to meet with the commission to discuss their programs affecting Indians.

The commission monitors legislation affecting Indians, both while it is being considered by the legislature and after it has become law. It notifies individuals within the legislature who are involved in activities of interest to Indians, and assists in presenting information to the Legislature on issues of importance to Indians in Oregon.

Among the specific statutory responsibilities of the Commission are the following:

1. To compile information on services available to Indians in education, employment, housing, mental health, and welfare;
2. To inform Indians of these services;
3. To recommend improvements or new programs;
4. To report annually to the Legislature and the Governor.

"Indian people feel they can talk to this commission," said Clements. "They are encouraged to. People can be sure we will be responsive to their concerns."

Doris "Teeney" Miller New Job Challenging, Fun



scarey and that she had a lot to learn. "I'm still learning, and it's still a little scarey—but it's interesting and really not all that complicated," noted Doris.

Prior to applying for her present position with the commission, Doris graduated from the Cleveland Academy of Professional Secretaries then gained some experience in Washington, D.C. working on the national level with Public Health Service.

While working in criminal investigation for the BIA here at Warm Springs last summer she was encouraged to apply for the Salem position. "I never thought I'd even be considered for the job," she contends.

Rudy Clements said that though there were a lot of people who applied he wasn't very surprised that Doris got the job. "She has a pleasing personality, she's able to dispense information, and people aren't afraid to come back. She's the first person people see or talk to when they go to that office and since first impressions are made by the initial contact, she helps us a lot."

Living in an apartment in Salem is a lot different from living on the reservation, Doris says wistfully. "It gets lonely sometimes." But she claims enthusiastically that her job is a challenge she's glad she accepted.

"I didn't know what I was getting myself into," said Doris "Teeney" Miller, referring to the position she accepted last October with the Commission on Indian Services.

Doris was hired last October by the commission to fill the position of Administrative Assistant and secretary to the Executive Director, Bruce Bishop. This meant a move to Salem and taking a chance on something unknown and unfamiliar.

But now, seven months later, Doris says she's glad she overcame her fears about taking the job. "There's always something new to learn and it's interesting to work with the senators and representatives here at the capitol."

She said that at first it was

Warm Springs Students Spelling Up a S-T-O-R-M

A lot of spelling has been going on in the schools lately.

During April, the sixth, eighth and eleventh grades held contests in the buildings throughout the county to select representatives for the state competition in September.

Roger Stwyer, son of Harold and Neda Greene, won the county "bee" on April 29, beating another junior from Culver High School. Roger has the opportunity to spell some more at the State Fair in Salem September 6.

Spelling bees apparently aren't quite what they used to be. Kids no longer stand self-consciously in a line waiting

for their turn to spell orally. The contest is done entirely on paper, which perhaps removes some of the element of fear, but also a bit of the drama.

Materials and instruction for the spelling contests come from the State Department of Education and are administered through the County Intermediate Education Districts (IED). Participation of schools and individual students is voluntary.

The Warm Springs Grade School sent sixth grader Joseph Winishut to the county competition. He went in the place of building winner Jereen Thomas who became ill and

couldn't go.

In other spelling news, the grade school in Warm Springs had its own schoolwide contest for all ages. The winners, who are listed here, will receive certificates at the awards assembly on the last day of school, June 8.

Super spellers in Warm Springs are:

First grade: Laurie Danzuka.

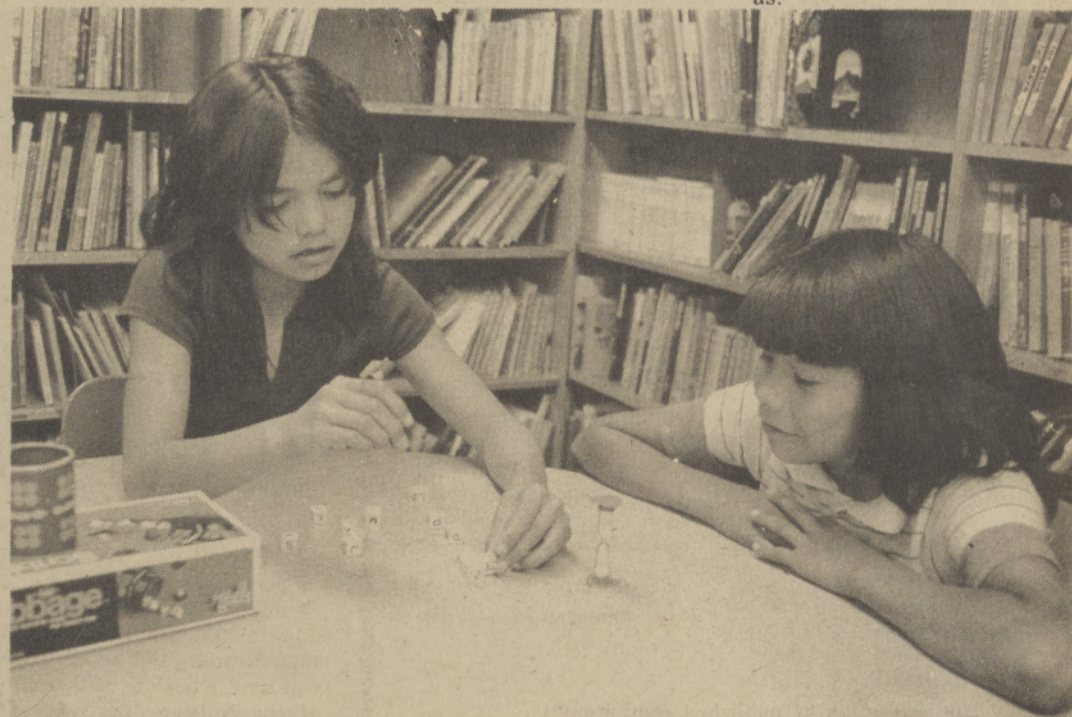
Second grade: June Smith and Minnie Kennedy.

Third grade: Robin Chinn.

Fourth grade: Becky Danzuka.

Fifth grade: Anita Bryant.

Sixth grade: Jereen Thomas.



Jereen Thomas and Joseph Winishut try to beat the hourglass while making words with lettered cubes. Jereen won the state-sponsored spelling contest at the grade school but Joseph represented Warm Springs at the county contest when she got sick.

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Stick Games and Crafts At Kalispel

An arts and crafts fair and stick game tournament has been planned by the Kalispel Activities Committee for May 21-22, 1977. The festivities will be held in Usk, Washington on the Kalispel Indian Reservation.

Top stick game teams and players will be competing for jack pot cash prizes. Only genuine Indian-made items will be offered for sale in the arts and crafts fair.

There will be a \$100 entry fee for each stick game team, which must consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of ten people.

Arts and crafts exhibitors will be charged \$30 for the use of a table for two days.

For registration information contact Francis Cullooyah between 8:00 and 4:00 weekdays at (509) 445-1147.