

New Superintendent Has Demonstrated Concern For Warm Springs

While assistant and then acting superintendent for the Jefferson County 509-J School District, Darrell Wright has kept an ear open to Warm Springs. Now that he has been chosen as the new superintendent, taking the place of George Bowers who resigned in February, Wright intends to work with the Tribal Education Committee and parent advisory committees to address this community's concerns.

In recent years, Wright has been filling seats on both the Johnson-O'Malley and Title IV parent committees which monitor and evaluate the programs made possible by those funds.

Wright has also been the chief school district contact for the Title IV Part B Teacher Intern Program at the high school. He helped develop the project when the funds were first awarded to the Tribes.

In 1972 Wright worked with Deni Leonard on the feasibility study which led to the Northwest Reading and Language Program in the Warm Springs and Simnasho grade schools. Materials developed as a result of this are presently being field tested by the Northwest Regional Education Lab.

More recently Darrell Wright participated in the Oregon Indian Education Conference in Salem, April 27-29, where he presented 509-J's Title IV tutoring program.

He has also taken an active interest in the proposal now before the School Board for collaborative action planning between the Tribes and the School District. "I'm in favor of collaborative planning as a concept. The idea is really exciting and essential for getting the cooperation we

need," said Wright.

However he feels that the Tribal Council and School Board may want to make some modifications to cut down on cost and adapt the model which has been used elsewhere more specifically to Warm Springs and 509-J.

Wright commented on district support of special programs for Indians by saying, "The school district should include as much in its general budget as is necessary for the success of the students." Any special needs of Indian students are best met with the

federal funds that are available, he said. When Title IV Part A funds were threatened to be cut this year, however, Wright was in favor of the district budget absorbing the Title IV positions that had to be dropped.

Tribal Education Director Jody Calica remarked when asked about the choice of a Superintendent, "I am very encouraged at the thought." He went on to say, "The community has been able to develop a pretty close working relationship with Darrell."

Wright has been with the 509-J district for 20 years. He

started as a music teacher in the elementary school in 1957 and later became vice principal and then principal of Madras Grade School.

He then took the job of junior high principal and was hired as assistant superintendent in 1970.

After being appointed acting superintendent, Wright was considered for the superintendency along with 50 other applicants. The School Board made its decision after second interviews with the two finalists on May 4.

Indian Education Conference

Focuses on Title IV

For the second year in a row people from all over the state gathered in Salem to discuss the subject of Indian education. This time the common interests were crystalized in an organization—the Oregon Indian Education Association—and plans were made to hold the third annual conference at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The new association is headed up by former Warm Springs Tribal Education Director Morrie Jiminez. Jody Calica, who currently occupies that position in Warm Springs, has been recommended for a slot on the OIEA Board of Directors.

Several people from Warm Springs—school staff, committee members and even a student—attended all or part of the conference which focused on Title IV, or the Indian Education Act.

Participants received good news from the D.C. office. Lee Antell, director of Title IV nationwide, informed the group that Title IV funds which had been cut 30 percent have been restored for school year 1977-78. However, commented Calica, "the future of Title IV after 1978 is questionable."

In School District 509-J Title IV Part A provides for counselors and tutoring for In-

dian students at all levels and a community liaison at the high school.

Darrell Wright, newly selected superintendent of 509-J, sat on a panel which discussed tutoring programs. He commented later on the diversity of programs through the state, some of which employ students while others are intended as cultural enrichment. Tutoring in 509-J is done by both certified and non-certified teachers for the purpose of improving the basic skills of remedial students and challenging advanced students.

Pat Sanders, teacher aide at the Warm Springs grade school, also remarked on the variety of ways in which Title IV funds can be spent. She sees the need for greater familiarity with all parts of the Indian Education Act as well as other funds available to Indians so that they can be used to full advantage.

Other needs that Pat discovered as the result of the Salem conference were greater involvement of parents and students in the parent committees and the development of bicultural as well as bilingual curriculum.

Jody Calica found the conference to be quite beneficial in that "it gave us access to people who are more knowledgeable about programs, allowing us to do better planning and evaluating of programs we're involved with."

Calica also received assistance while he was there on a proposal he's writing for Title IV Part B funds "to meet the social and emotional needs of Indian students through a school social work program." An extension of the counseling and liaison programs, a social work staff would provide community-based, family-oriented assistance beyond the school-centered work with students and parents that exists now.

The Education Department is also considering application for funds under Part C of Title IV which provides for adult education.

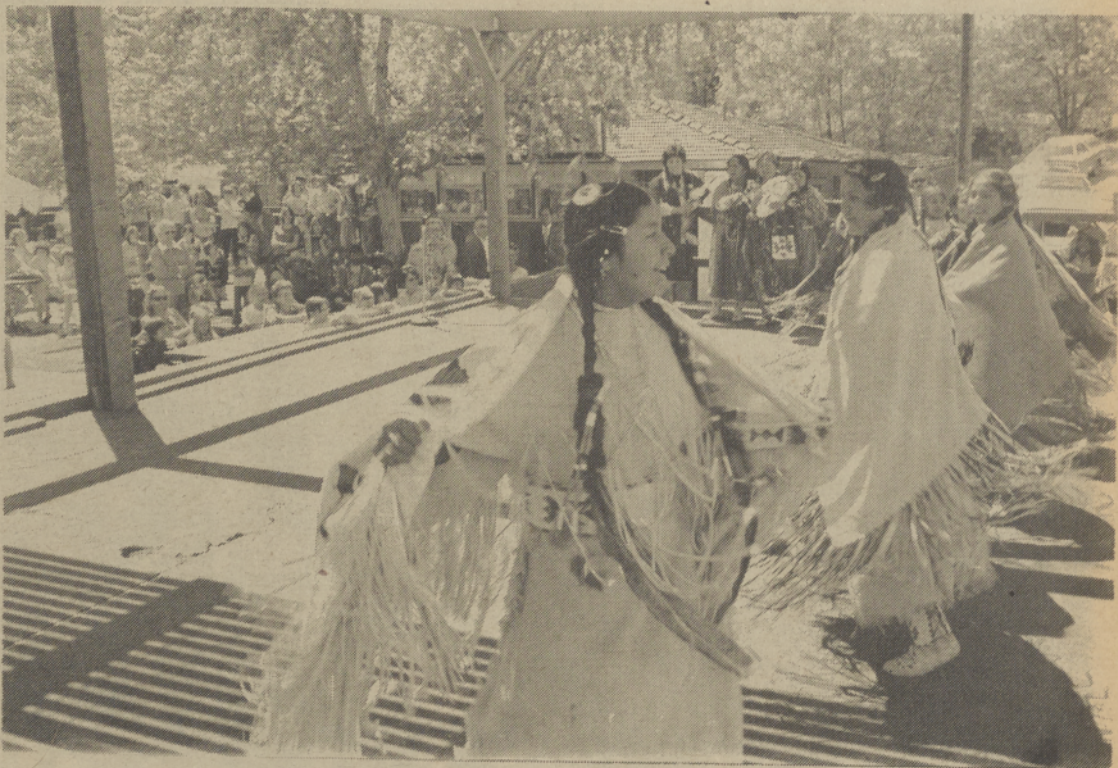
Also contributing to the Salem conference were Municipal Manager Rudy Clements, who gave a rousing keynote address, and Dakotah Soules, director of early childhood education in Warm Springs, who discussed the Head Start and Day Care programs on the reservation.

Meetings

*For long time
there have been meetings
of many men
for many days.
At the meetings there is talking
talking
talking.
Some this way
Some that way.
In the morning
when my father
leaves for meeting
he says to us
"When I come here again
then I will know
if it is best
to have many sheep
or few sheep,
to use the land
or let it sleep."
But
when my father
comes home from meeting
he does not know
which talking-way to follow.
Tonight
when my father
came home from meeting
he just sat, looking
and looking
My mother gave him coffee
and bread and mutton
but my father just sat,
looking.
Then my mother spoke to me
She said,
"A meeting is like rain.
When there is little talk,
now and then
here and there
it is good.
It makes thoughts grow
as little rains make corn
grow.
But big talk, too much,
is like flood
taking things of longstanding
before it."
My mother
said this to me,
but I think
she wanted my father to hear it.*

(From *LITTLE HERDER IN THE SPRING*,

by Ann Clark)



Lillie Heath's group entertained the Sunday afternoon crowd at Kah-Nee-Ta village on May 8. Tina Spino, Celia Berry and Kathy Danzuka performed the Butterfly dance to the accompaniment of Lillie and Ellen Squiemphen. The money they earned from Kah-Nee-Ta will go toward funding the HeHe huckleberry feast in August. ("So we can buy huckleberries," Ellen joked.) CDS Photo