

Ny-Mu-Mah:

by Roger Stwyer

An open house, salmon bake, arts and crafts display, and pow-wow climaxed the camp yesterday (Thursday) as camp Ny-Mu-Mah came to a halt today August 5, after twelve pleasant and recreative days of making new acquaintances and just plain having fun.

The camp, situated along the Warm Springs River at a place known as He-He, 18 miles north of Warm Springs, began Monday, July 25, with Pat Gordon, coordinator of this program, stressing the objectives of the camp, and what she expects from the campers.

While at the camp, the campers stayed in teepees. One youth said that this was "really neat," because he had never been inside a teepee before.

The horses, provided by Perry Greene, proved to be the most looked forward to event. Many of the campers never rode a horse before, and found it a little scary at first, but by the time they were back they all wanted to ride more. Daniel Greene, head horse wrangler and trail guide, said that the horses turned out to be a controversial issue, "Because," he said, "we have a limited number of horses up here (ten) and when you have like 13 riders someone is going to be mad."

Besides the horse back riding the camp offered other recreational activities. There was the campfire program, swimming, the sweat lodge, archery, tomball, and movies.

Tomball seemed to be enjoyed by all because said a player, "it's more fun than baseball, there isn't much rules."

Tomball is similiar to baseball: you choose teams, one team is up to bat, the other team is outfield. The ball you

use is a sponge ball and your bat is a stick. You have one batter, and when he hits the ball the whole team runs. To make an out, you are hit by the ball if you are not on base.

The campfire was another highlight and this could be attributed to the skits performed, songs sung, and legends told. Verbena Greene and Nathan Jim took turns offering legends of and about the Columbia River Indians.

Also at the campfire, Bill Walton center for NBA champions Portland Trailblazers had a great honor bestowed upon him. He received an Indian name, Yalpt. According to Verbena Greene, the nearest definition of this name is "generous or gifted friend." After he received his Indian name from Ada Sooksoot, Bernice Mitchell, Ellen Heath, and Wilson Wewa, a dance was performed in his honor.

Wilson Wewa, whip man of the Warm Springs, spoke of why the name Yalpt, Generous friend, was chosen for him. "This man, he is a good man. He comes out here and gives his time for the young ones."

Bill Walton was here for a two day basketball clinic, which he instructed, he went on an all day hike with the campers and he brought clips of the championship game to the camp which the kids enjoyed.

Approximately 60 children, eight to sixteen years old, coming from Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, Iowa, Arizona, and other states attended this camp.

Kenny Grant, a very talkative boy from Winnebago, Nebraska said, "I like it, it's okay." But when he realized he was talking to the press, he was pretty quiet.



With determination etched on his face Randall Harden of Winnebago, Nebraska fired his arrow at the target during recreation time at

Camp Ny-Mu-Mah. Solly Blackdeer also of Winnebago and Charles Marin of Oakland, California joined Randall. CDS Photo

A Gathering Of Friends

A shy nice girl from Sacaton, Arizona, Pam Young said "I like it, if I wasn't here, I wouldn't be doing anything." When asked why she wanted to come up, she replied, "I don't know, someone just gave me some papers and I filled them out."

Pat Gordon, director of Ny-Mu-Mah Indian Youth Camp said that plans are now underway to have a camp in New Mexico besides the one here in Warm Springs.

Funds for this camp are provided by the National Football League Charities the American Indian Lawyers Training Program and many local Indians donated their time to the camp.

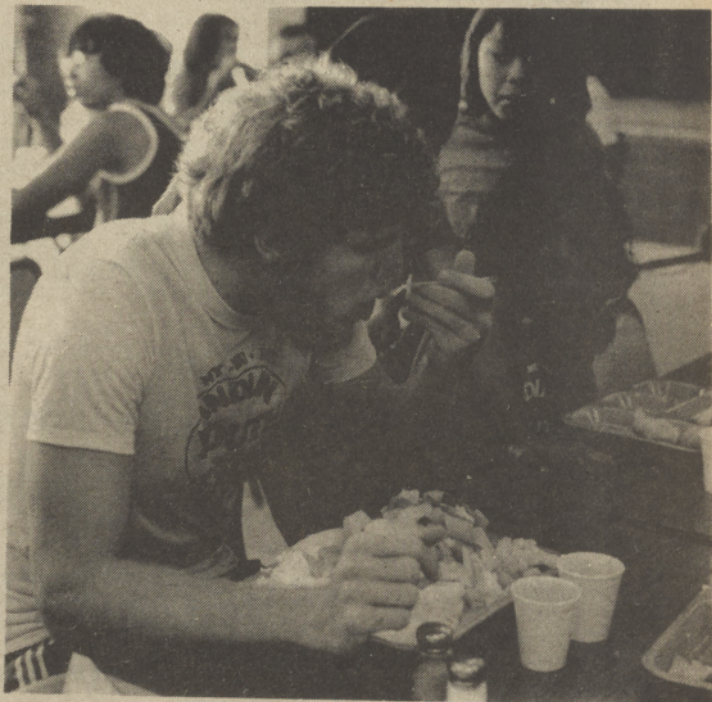


Roscoe Greene, a visitor to Ny-Mu-Mah's He He hideaway, spent a quiet moment caring for a lame horse. CDS Photo



A lively game of volleyball followed the craft session one afternoon at Camp Ny-Mu-Mah.

Tomball, a traditional form of baseball, was also a popular diversion. Jolene Estimo Photo



Setting a good example, Walton ate all his vegetables - all two pounds of them! The good-natured Trailblazer assured the amazed kids that he needs a lot of food 'cuz he's big.

(Sandy Rangila Photo)