

Parents Go Back To School For A Day

"It's been thirteen years since I was in this school," said Eraina Palmer over her shoulder as she scurried to keep up with the herds of junior high students stampeding through the halls.

She took the jostling and collisions good-naturedly, perhaps because she knew that in an hour she'd be back in the safety of her own home.

When Mrs. Palmer braved the halls thirteen years ago, the building was a high school. But that's not the only change that she and other parents noticed during their day of classes, peanut butter sandwiches and mad dashes between bells.

Joann Bryant, another mom, commented on the "rowdy" behavior of the students as compared with her school days.

Kate Jackson said at the end of the day, "I've learned how much I don't know." She was impressed with the teaching methods, which she felt were more challenging and effective than when she went to school.

The students were less vocal about the impact of their parents' visits, admitting only that

it was "O.K." having them around. At one point Raynele Palmer's patience was tried by her mother's classroom behavior and she wheeled around, hissing, "Shh! We're trying to work!"

Parents were invited to attend their children's classes October 18, have lunch with them and generally go through the routine of a normal school day. The intent of the invitation was to give parents an opportunity observe and experience the environment in which their children function day after day. Better understanding between parents and children as well as parents and the school was the goal of Parent Day.

About ten Warm Springs parents attended, making up 40 percent of all the parents in school that day.

The parents got involved in varying degrees in their children's classes. In many classrooms they sat in the back and observed, but Mrs. Palmer described a social studies class in which she played a key role. Raynele was on trial for chewing gum and Mrs. Palmer was

asked to testify as her mother. It is not known how the testimony affected the outcome of the case.

When it was time to go home, Mrs. Bryant remarked about the hall and classroom madness: "Now I can see what Sonja is up against — it's different now."

Mrs. Jackson commented on the value of the junior high as a transitional time for students. "When I entered high school from the eighth grade in Warm Springs it was like walking into a mine field." Now kids are better prepared, she felt.

Community Liaison Marie Calica confirmed this observation and said that increased understanding of that transition was one of the school's goals when it created Parent Day.

Marie and other staff hope that this special but average day will happen again next year. They see it as a great opportunity for parents to show their children and the school that they really are interested in what goes on between the time kids board the bus in the morning and come home in the afternoon.



It was business as usual for Sonja Bryant (front) and Raynele Palmer, but for their mothers, Joann (left) and Eraina it was a day out of the ordinary. They and other parents were able to observe their children in the normal school routine when they were invited to attend junior high classes on Parent Day, October 18. (CDS Photo)

Statewide Conference Nov. 5

Indian Women Joining National Group

At least ten Warm Springs women have joined a national organization that may become increasingly visible in this community. The North American Indian Women's Association (NAIWA) is gaining popularity among local women and there is talk of forming a Warm Springs as well as a state chapter.

A noon luncheon meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta October 18 found twenty women discussing common concerns such as truancy, senior citizens, and children's rights. As organizer Celeste Smith pointed out, those attending the meeting were already proving the need and value of a women's group.

"We have a powerful force," said Celeste. "A lot of smart women with lots of information."

Stressing that they are "not women's libbers," Celeste said that the interested women might contribute to the community in any number of ways. NAIWA has suggested that the problems of battered women, child abuse and handicapped children be the focus of nationwide efforts this year.

As a service group, a local NAIWA chapter would identify needs and problems in the community and address them by rounding up resources or providing information. Local ladies said they hoped they could work with the Tribal Council in an advisory capacity.

Several Warm Springs women, Marie Calica and Orthelia Miller among them, have been helping to plan a statewide conference of Indian women to be held at Kah-Nee-Ta Saturday November 5. The purpose of the gathering will be to launch an Oregon association and give women the chance to discuss the possibility of forming local chapters.

The agenda indicates that Tallulah Pinkham, past Washington state president, will be on hand in the morning to offer

hints on organization and planning.

The afternoon will be dedicated to local chapter workshops for such areas as Warm Springs, The Dalles, Eugene, and other centers of Indian population in Oregon.

So as not to be all work and no play, there will be door prizes, a day-long discount on Beeline mail-order sales, and a possible fashion show staged by local students.

The North American Indian Women's Association was incorporated in 1970 after 64 women attended a Country Women's Council convention and were inspired to start their own

group.

NAIWA has chapters in a dozen states from the east to west coasts. Officers for the organization hail from Alaska, South Dakota, Virginia, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

The NAIWA does not only benefit Indian women. In the preamble to its constitution and by-laws it is stated, "We North American Indian Women with quiet dignity and pride inherent with our racial heritage unite with the determination to promote through unity of purpose the general well-being of Indian people."

Among its expressed purposes are:

1. Betterment of Home, Family Life, and Community
2. Betterment of Health and Education
3. Inter-tribal Communications
4. Awareness of Indian Culture
5. Fellowship among all peoples.

The national organization as well as its local chapters rely on dues, donations and special fund-raising efforts for their financing. National dues are \$2.00 per year.

In Warm Springs most of the interest expressed in the NAIWA has come from working women, although the group is intended for all women whether at home or on the job, married or single.

As Marie Calica said, "A women's group would not be

interested in just professional efforts, but also family outings and the sharing of hobbies." Marie compared a NAIWA chapter with a Lion's Club or other service group.

"It should be both learning and fun," she said, a chance to socialize and contribute to the community.

Marie urged women in Warm Springs to "put aside their personal, tribal and family differences and work together" for the betterment of their people.

Women interested in attending the statewide conference at Kah-Nee-Ta November 5 are advised to register at 9:00 a.m. in the Wasco-Paiute Room. The registration fee will be \$5.00 which includes the cost of lunch.

Survey of Working Women Shows Need For Training

An outgrowth of the first meeting of local women last summer was a survey of the female work force on the reservation. The idea of a survey indicated women's interest in identifying each other, and the results show that there's a lot of them around.

Celeste Smith and Theresa Katchia, both CETA employees, engineered the survey which included the tribal organization, Macy's, the school, Warm Springs Forest Products, and the Indian Health Service. Kah-Nee-Ta was surveyed separately.

The ambitious young women located 203 female employees, 142 of whom were tribal members. At survey time (August) there were 12 employees who were married into the Tribes, 28 other Indians and 21 non-Indians.

The happy statistic is that 70 percent of the work force are tribal members. However, when Celeste and Theresa looked into job status they came up with a less favorable figure.

Only nine of those 203 wo-

men held supervisor-type positions (a term defined somewhat loosely by the surveyors). "There are a lot of secretaries," commented Celeste.

Of the nine women in the upper echelons, five were tribal members.

Celeste said there was reason to be proud of the high number of female employees who play crucial roles in tribal and community operations. "They are a major force," she said. "There's not one department that doesn't have a woman helping out."

But she and many other women feel there is a definite need for training for female employees who would like the opportunity to better themselves and the quality of their contributions.

"They can do more," said Celeste about the working women. She pointed to the need for increased self-confidence and encouraged women to rally and help themselves to the many training opportunities that are available to them.

School News

The ex officio members have been appointed to the Education Committee to represent Warm Springs high school students. They are Roger Stwyer and Sally Rhoan. Chairman Mike Clements explained that as non-voting members it will be the students' responsibility to get information about scholarships and higher education to fellow students and keep up on education issues. Roger and Sally will be sworn in at the Committee's next meeting November 4.

Julie Mitchell has been tentatively named to the Education Committee as the secondary education representative. Julie, who is attending Mt. Hood Community College, will be a full-time voting member.

Twenty-five high school students gathered at the Community Center October 25 for the first Indian Club meeting of the year and made some pretty important decisions about the future of their club.

They have chosen to stay affiliated with the high school rather than become a community club, and have selected the name "Madras High School Native American Club." Based at the high school, the club will meet during activity periods.

The Indian students also decided to elect a 7-person council instead of officers. The new council, which does not yet have a chairman, includes: Austin Greene, George Clements, Jr., Emil Johnson, Valerie Lawrence, Beth Nicodemus, Winona Spino and Martina Heath.

Upcoming activities of the Native American Club will be a booth at the Halloween Carnival October 31 at the Community Center, and the Fall Concert November 7 at the Community Center, for which they will handle programs and ushering.

Today the club is featuring a float in the Homecoming Parade in Madras.