

Tribal Films Depict Different Reservation Worlds

New faces and cameras are nothing out of the ordinary around Warm Springs. The reservation's cultural and material wealth are attractive to filmmakers, journalists and researchers.

What is notable about the young men currently engaged in recording the local scene on film is that they are creating products that will be owned and distributed by the Tribes.

Two films are in the making, one for public relations purposes and the other strictly for the educational use of the tribes. Filmmaker Rick Johnson has been working closely with Cultural Heritage Director Nathan Jim and Municipal Manager Rudy Clements since June of 1976 producing most of the footage needed for one of the films. Just this week he and his assistant Mike McLeod were involved in the filming of one of the last scenes — a traditional hunt.

Johnson was joined recently by freelancer Peter Maroney who is writing the scripts for the two films. Maroney has based himself in the community to be closer to the people and traditions about which he is writing.

The two films grew out of a proposal submitted to the American Bicentennial Commission by the Tribes in 1975 suggesting a half-hour color documentary about the reservation. In early 1976 Johnson was selected for the project, which had obtained funding from the Commission, the Tribes and the BIA to the tune of \$35,000. As soon as filming began at the Simnasho Root Feast that spring, the need for two films became apparent.

As Project Director Rudy Clements explained, the original film is designed "to convey the positive direction the Tribes are taking in the utilization of non-reservation resources as well as our own." It will encompass the history, the present and the future direction of the reservation. There will be only glimpses into the religious world of the people. This documentary is

intended for the education of the non-Indian community and will be made available at the Tribes' discretion.

The outgrowth of this was a

traditional film that has actually been given higher priority by the Tribal Council. According to Clements, this film will focus on the spiritual life of the com-

munity, particularly the Washut religion, and will be used only on the reservation as an educational tool "to carry on the tradition and heritage of the Tribes." Writer Maroney pointed out that the original narration may be in the Sahaptin language.

One film completed by April

The pace of filmmaking has been slower than expected in order to "make sure the films are authentic," said Clements. Johnson noted, "Rather than move the project at a pace that accommodates me, I've been waiting for things to happen in the normal course." This, he feels, will result in films that more accurately reflect the mood of the reservation, rather than an outsider's viewpoint.

At this point, the visual portion of the traditional film is being edited and is awaiting a verbal and musical soundtrack. The music, according to the crew, will be a balance of traditional and modernized Indian song.

A rough cut of the film was shown to a group of locals at Kah-Nee-Ta last month and a refined product will be ready to view by the first of April. The final cost of both films will be \$47,000, according to Clements. Extra funding is being requested from the Oregon State Department of Education.

Already the Tribes are benefitting from the project. Hours of videotaped interviews with tribal members have been collected and are to be included in the tribal archives. Johnson and Maroney expect there to be many such by-products of the films — from transcripts of verbal history to recordings of traditional songs — to serve as reference materials for the Tribes.

Films with "feeling"

Clements and the filmmakers seem to agree that the "feeling" created by the films can be a stronger statement about the people of the Warm Springs Reservation than the actual facts and words.

The traditional film flows with scenics and is oriented toward the seasons, in keeping with the strong spiritual base in the natural world. There will be no "talking heads," said Johnson, meaning that stilted speeches will be avoided in favor of a natural rendering of people and events. Feasts, sweats, and ceremonies have been recorded as they happened.

The original documentary will be filmed more conventionally, but Johnson still acknowledges the importance of letting circumstances and people suggest the style of presentation. It will not be "a vase of roses," noted Johnson, who expects a realistic balance of progress and problems on the reservation.

Both Johnson and Maroney are relative newcomers to Indian country. In 1976 Johnson produced "Time of the First Moon," an award-winning film about Indian fishing rights on the Columbia, but admits to having had a "grade school textbook understanding of Indians" prior to that. The closest Maroney had come to experiencing Indians was to work on a Trailblazers film with a fellow who had produced "The People Are Dancing Again" about the Siletz Restoration.

But both men have profited from their close alliance with Nathan Jim. As the official liaison between the filmmakers and tribal members, Jim has spent many hours providing guidance, interpretation, an escort service, and access to materials and individuals.

Maroney, who has been attending as many traditional functions as possible, reading up on history, and taking Ada Sooksoit's Indian language class, feels that he and Johnson are "facilitators" for the Tribes, providing their technical skills to carry out an idea originated by the Tribes.

The result of this cooperation may well be film documents that the Tribes are proud to own and use.



Filmmaker Rick Johnson explained operations to Bicentennial Committee Chairman Amos Simtustus during filming of the 1977 Pi-Ume-Sha celebration. Two films have grown out of the Bicentennial Committee's proposal for a half-hour color documentary about the reservation.

CDS Photo

Community Calendar

- January**
- 31 - JOM meeting, Community Center, 7 p.m.
- February**
- 2 - Public Education Meeting, Agency Longhouse, Snacks at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.
- 3 - Employee's Banquet, Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge, No-host cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.
- 9 - Miss Warm Springs Pageant, Community Center, 7 p.m. Applications must be in by Feb. 6
- 16 - Talent Show, Community Center, 7 p.m.

Indian Group Sets Goals For White House Library Program

An American Indian planning committee has set three goals for a White House Pre-conference dealing with library services on reservations, Dr. William Demmert, Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Education announced today.

Goals for the session to be held next October in Denver are

to raise awareness among Indian people of the value of libraries, to develop a consensus on a long-range plan to improve library services on reservations and to provide an organized Indian contribution to the subsequent White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

The planning committee is

composed of thirteen American Indians who have demonstrated concern for Indian library and information services and who represent a cross section of Indian people.

Staff support for the groups is provided through the BIA's Office of Indian Education and the Interior Department's Office of Library and Information Services.

COCC Adult Ed News

Two Classes Offered Second Time

Two COCC Adult Education classes for which people showed a great deal of interest have been postponed, to be offered at more convenient times.

"I Can't Draw" will begin Saturday February 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the Adult Learning Center. Teacher Nancy Chinn, an accomplished local artist, has explained that she will present drawing as a "fun" activity that anyone can participate in. She

will start with such basics as how to hold a pencil comfortably and how to loosen up, and will advance to perspective and proportion.

After the five-week beginning drawing class, a more advanced class entitled "I Can Sorta Draw" will be offered.

The Welding class, to be taught by Tribal Garage supervisor Leon Maxwell, will begin Thursday February 2 at 7:00

p.m. at the Garage. Maxwell plans to give students a basic working knowledge of the techniques and equipment, stressing safety.

Interested students are encouraged to register in advance for both courses. Stop by the Adult Learning Center in the Community Center between 10 and 4 daily or Monday and Thursday nights 7-10.

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There was this guy that went into this huge hotel and registered signing his name "Tex". The desk clerk looks at the name. Finally said to this guy, "What part of Texas are you from?" The guy looks up and said, "I'm not from Texas, I'm from Minnesota." The clerk asked again, "How come you call yourself Tex?" "Because I sure wouldn't want to sign my name "Minnie." "YIKES"

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There was this guy who had dinner in a Chinese restaurant. When he finished his meal he asked for his fortune cookie which said: Hard work will bring you success. The guy wasn't satisfied with that answer, so he asked the waitress for another cookie. He opened the next cookie and it had the same answer. The guy very disgusted said, "Something I just hate is a nagging cookie." "YIKES"

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There was this guy playing golf who had quite a slice on one of his drives. It curved real hard and broke Jim's windshield. "Hey!" Jim comes running over to this golfer and said, "You broke my windshield, what are you going to do about it?" The guy said, "I think I'll take your advice and move my thumb a little farther up the club." "YIKES"

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There were these two hillbillies that traveled out west to California and when they arrived they only had \$1 between them. One of the guys said, "What can we do with a dollar?" The second answered, "Give me the money and I'll go see what I can get." He leaves and was gone for some time and he finally returned with a box of tampons. The other said, "What can we do with this?" looking at the box, the other guy said, "Look here, it says we can do a lot of things like waterskiing, swimming, horseback riding..." "YIKES"

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There was this guy that had a hard time meeting people. One day he was talking to his friend and was telling him his problem. His friend said, "If you want to meet people the best way is to pick up the wrong ball on the Golf Course."

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