

A Continuing Investigation . . .

Spilyay Uncovers "Truth" Behind Nicknames

Nicknames. Everyone has had one at one time or another. Most names are bestowed upon a person in their youth while some are given a nickname because they look like the name given them. Others are Indian names given by an older person years ago.

Most names stick for life and in fact, some people might have to stop and think what a person's "real" name is. Everyone knows everyone else's nickname. That name given them years ago is almost considered a legal name. But since these nicknames are so well known, why is it that a few people around here won't tell of the origin of their nickname?

Orthelia Miller, alias "eels",

was one who would not tell Spilyay Tymoo where she got her name. She giggled and asked, "Do you really have to know? It's a secret. Let me call you back." We're still waiting for her call.

"Eight-Ball", occasionally known as Nathan Jim, received his nickname many years ago when he first appeared on stage while attending boarding school here in Warm Springs. Every year the boys dorm would have a talent show, and one year three kids were intending to present an "Amos and Andy" radio show. "You do remember Amos and Andy, don't you?" he asked. We half-heartedly replied, "Yes, but Eight-Ball, you're dating yourself."

Apparently, Amos and Andy had a side-kick and his name was Eight-Ball. Nathan was not one of the original three kids in the Amos and Andy show, but the kid who was to be Eight-Ball was unable to perform, so Nathan gallantly rescued the show. He sang and tap-danced, thus becoming "Eight-Ball."

Wendall Jim, or "Watermelon" has a brief story behind his nickname. When asked how he got his name, he indicated a humongous stomach with his hands. "I was fat when I was a kid." Thus came "Watermelon."

"Bunski", sometimes known as Uren Leonard, received his name in grade school. His teacher's name was Branzinski. Uren received very good grades

while in this class, in fact he was at the top of the class. The other kids in his class thought he was buttering up the teacher and considered him teacher's pet. How "Bunski" ever came out of "Branzinski" we'll never know, but the "kids" probably know.

We contacted the Tribal judges "Barnman" and "Hambone". "Barnman" or Leonard Scott as we know him, got his name in 1931 during a forest fire. "Barnman" was responsible for the watering and feeding of 20 to 30 horses. These horses were kept in a barn-like structure.

When asked where his name came from, Greeley or "Hambone" wouldn't say. However, "Barnman" elaborated for us. But first, take a grain of salt. He

said there was a huckleberry patch near High Rock called Hambone. According to the story, Hamilton was born in that patch. Needless to say, those judges have very interesting and exciting beginnings.

Victor Smith, or "Chers" got his name from his mother, who was part Cherokee. To begin with "Chers" was Cherokee, but over the years it was shortened to what it is now. At first, we thought it was that he sat around a lot on chairs.

We are continuing our investigation of nicknames, so look for more of the inside story behind those nicknames in upcoming issues. If you have any different names and their origins just call us, Lois Lane and Clark Kent. We'll be more than happy to hear your story.

Space Creatures Invade Talent Show

Complete with futuristic lighting and a disco pulse, the community center gym was transformed into an elaborate "Star Wars" environment for the third annual Warm Springs Talent Show Thursday, February 16.

This year's show featured "Gong Show" type judging, and once the crowd of 200 warmed up to the idea they were quite vocal in letting the judges know what they thought.

Boo's and hisses as well as applause and cheers rang through the darkened gym as the audience expressed its opinion of the judges' decisions after each act.

Apparently the scores were met with general approval as none of the four judges got "un-benched". The judges were Ada Sooksoit, Madeline McInturff, Cynthia Stowell and Marie Calica.

Gate receipts totaled \$372.50 and, after expenses are paid, the proceeds will go the community Fourth of July celebration fund.

Following the Lord's Prayer by Aurolyn Stwyer (Miss Warm Springs of 1977), emcee Uren Leonard introduced special guest Darth Vader and his friend "Ella-Vader". The two stayed throughout the evening and were hassled occasionally by Groucho Marx-type characters.

The audience was generous with its applause for the serious contestants, and the judges gonged only one scheduled act, Spilyay and his Dancing Dog.

Taking first prize with 32 points was Jack L. Smith of Bend. His guitar picking and yodeling ability was greatly enjoyed by the foot-stomping, handclapping audience.

A whacky and clever production by the "Royal Space Aliens" in Ms. Crocker's 5th grade class at the Warm Springs Grade School kept the audience chuckling and won the kids 31 points and second place.

Third prize went to Lala Delude for her trick roping and rendition of "Daddy was a Cowboy". The judges awarded her 29 points.

A thoughtful and sensitive poetry reading by Billie Jo Clement won her 28 points and fourth place.

Fifth place was shared by the "West Hills Cosmos Mini-

creatures" and the "Year 2000 Disco Dancers" who tied with 27 points each.

The acts moved along with a bit less time-lag this year because there were two stages, something which will undoubtedly be kept in mind for future shows.

Door prizes, courtesy of Kah-Nee-Ta, were given out a bit differently this year. Instead of calling out a name, unsuspecting members of the audience were roped and hauled down from the bleachers to receive their prizes.

It was evident that people enjoyed this year's talent show and, as several in the crowd remarked, "It gets better every year."

Photos by

Sandy Rangila



With hair hanging all over her face and wailing a pitiful tune, poor Cow Bell Annie was gonged by the judges at the third annual Talent Show last Thursday, Feb. 16. "Star Wars" was the theme, and most enjoyed the "Gong Show" type judging — a new feature this year.



At the end of the final act, the curtain fell (literally!) Warm Springs fifth graders from Ms. Crocker's class won second place with their whacky performance of "The Fatal Quest". The Cast was: Queen -

Becky Rhoan; King - Ryan Smith; Me Too - Leffert Miller; Princess - Lena Mitts; Duke - Tyrone Ike; Curtains - Jason Smith and Anthony Davis; and Bell Ringer - Juanita Blodgett.