

Simnasho Stages A Pageant Of People



Oliver Kirk - newly installed whip man. Evadna Bartlett Photo

While winter rages outside, the Simnasho Longhouse radiates warmth. The annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow is on and the Simnasho elders smile their approval as they survey the three-day pageant of people.

Now and then the throng of dancers, drummers and on-lookers offer up a particular face for recognition. And whether that person is living or passed on, the powwow pauses, the rhythm altered by the sudden focus of energy.

Look - - - Oliver Kirk installed as the official whip man at the powwow's outset.

Look - - - Reneva Keo honored for her title of Junior Miss of Southern Wasco County, reading a poem she wrote.

Now look - - - Fred Ike welcomed back to the reservation by his mother Daisy, for whom every visit is special.

And look - - - in Robert Suppah's memory a traditional dance contest, bringing his face back clearly to friends and relatives.

Look at the dancers in their triumphant moments, look at the drummers and feel their energy. Even look at the cooks, coaxed from the kitchen to be thanked with special gifts.

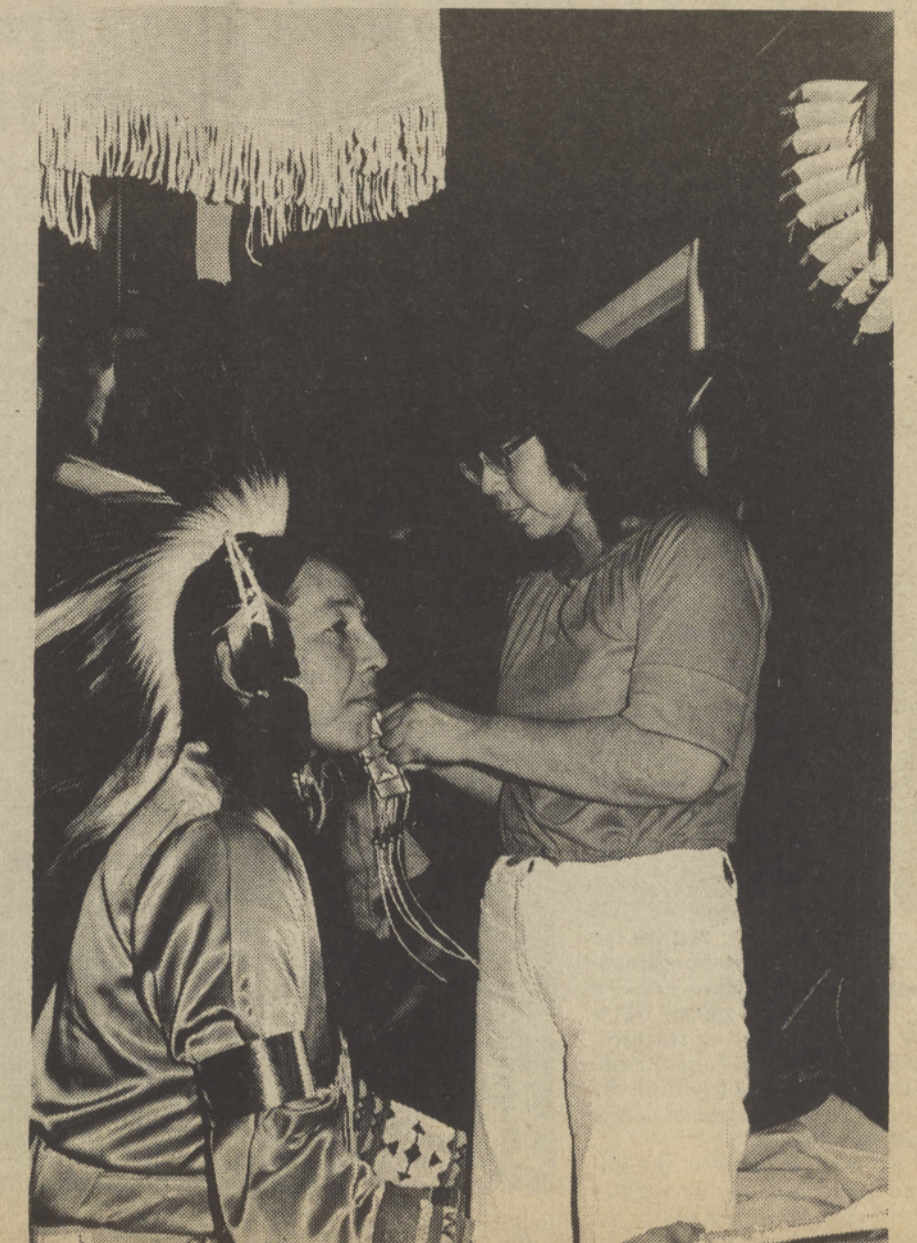
And always in view are the elders proudly seated at the head of the longhouse, part of the pageant but also - - - looking.

From the mass of moods, senses and sounds, individuals emerge and fade, and the pageant of people plays itself out.

Look - - - the powwow is over.



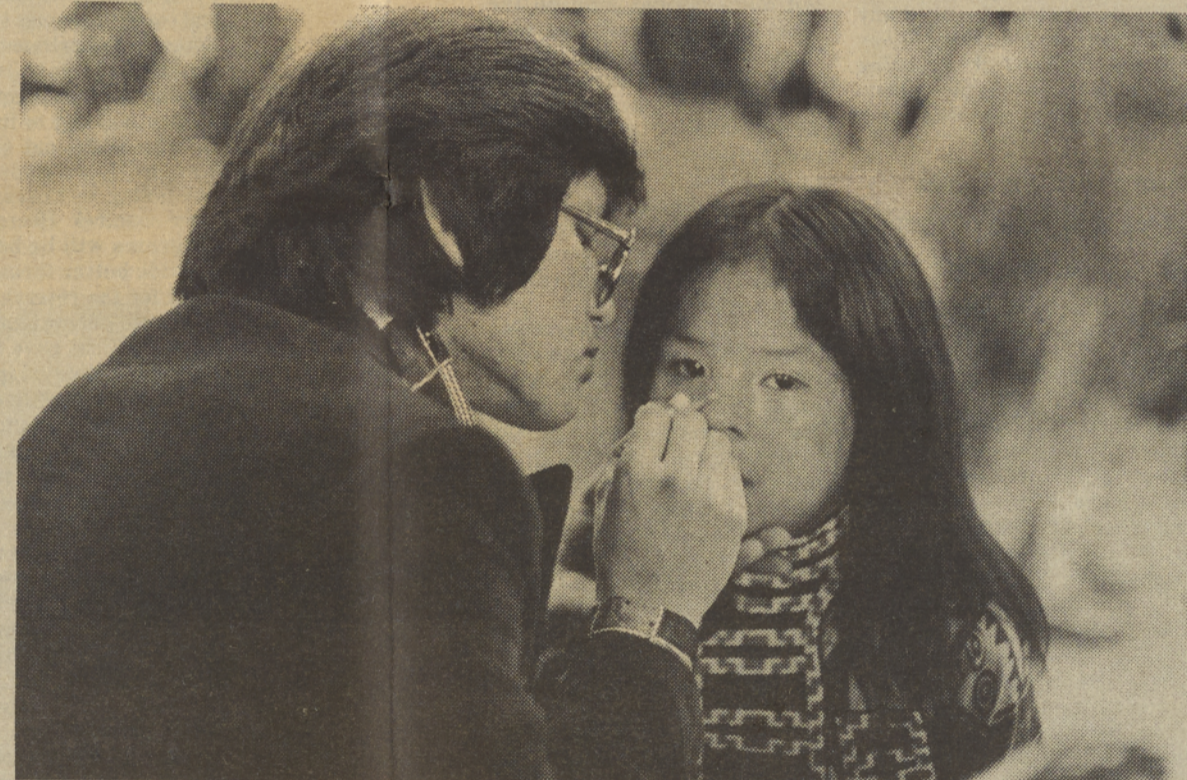
Warm Springs Chief Amos Simtustus proudly looked over his procession during the grand entry Sunday afternoon. Flagbearers Charlie Tailfeathers and Benson Heath were followed by four of the powwow hostesses.



Nancy Tailfeathers helped her husband Charlie prepare his braided ties for Sunday's traditional dance contest. Tailfeathers won the men's traditional event.



Simnasho elder Sylvia Wallulatam happily received a shawl for her part in sewing the five hostesses' shawls which featured emblems of the Lincoln's Birthday powwow. Annabelle Clements (left) was the other responsible seamstress.



Fred Ike carefully readied brother Tyrone for dancing by painting a blue and white mask on his face.



Drummers were almost lost in the crowds but their energy was hardly unnoticed. When George Umtuch, Donny Sampson, Wilfred Yallup and Ed Spino stopped singing, not only did the dancers freeze but a flurry of clicks signalled the shutting-off of tape recorders.

- Girls War Dance (6 and under)**
 1st - Serina Winishut, W.S.
 2nd - Masami Danzuka, W.S.
 3rd - Louelle Heath, W.S.
- Boys War Dance (6 and under)**
 1st - Ike Wolfe, W.S. 2nd - Eric George, Yakima. 3rd - William Wesley, Celilo
- Girls War Dance (7-12)**
 1st - Lisa Scott, W.S. 2nd - Lois Squiempfen, W.S. 3rd - Dannelle Macy, W.S.
- Boys War Dance (7-12)**
 1st - Eddie George, Yakima 2nd - Dorian Soliz, W.S. 3rd - Willie Jim, W.S.
- Girls War Dance (13-18)**
 1st - Selena Johnson, Satus, WA. 2nd - Annette Sampson, Wapato, WA. 3rd - Butch George, Yakima.
- Boys War Dance (13-18)**
 1st - Todd George, Yakima. 2nd - Anthony Johnson, Yakima. 3rd - Leon Thompson, Satus, WA.

- Women's War Dance**
 1st - Marlene George, Yakima. 2nd - Edith Johnson, W.S. 3rd - Cindy Yallup, Satus.
- Men's Fancy War Dance**
 1st - Austin Greene, W.S. 2nd - Johnson Meninick, Yakima. 3rd - John Telakish, Satus.
- Girls Circle Dance (6 and under)**
 1st - Dempsena Polk, W.S. 2nd - Christina Sampson, W.S. 3rd - Shawna Craig, W.S.
- Boys Straight Dance (6 and under)**
 1st - Jackson Heath, W.S. 2nd - Sean Child, Heart Butte, MT. 3rd - Tom Begay, Jr., W.S.
- Girls Circle Dance (7-12)**
 1st - Marisa Wolfe, W.S. 2nd - Connie Johnson, W.S. 3rd - Charlotte John, Celilo.
- Boys Straight Dance (7-12)**
 1st - Norman Wolfe, W.S. 2nd - Curt Jim, W.S. 3rd - Bobby Begay, W.S.

- Girls Circle Dance (13-18)**
 1st - Sally Rhoan, W.S. 2nd - Rosalie Polk, W.S. 3rd - Babette Cowapoo, Pendleton.
- Boys Straight Dance (13-18)**
 1st - Nathan Jim, Jr., W.S.
- Women's Circle Dance**
 2nd - Catherine Heath, W.S. 3rd - Helene Weeks, W.S.
- Men's Straight Dance**
 1st - Charlie Tailfeathers, Heart Butte, Montana. 2nd - George Meninick, Yakima. 3rd - Austin Greene, W.S.
- Women's Circle Dance (Senior Citizens)**
 1st - Elsie Pistolhead, Toppenish. 2nd - Carrie Sampson, Pendleton. 3rd - Liz Rhoan, W.S.
- Men's Blanket Dance (Senior Citizens)**
 1st - Donny Sampson, Satus. 2nd - Tom Albert, White Swan. 3rd - Wilson LaMere, Wapato.

- Robert Suppah Memorial Straight Dance**
 1st (Men's) George Meninick, Yakima. (Boy's) Nathan Jim, Jr.
- Judges:** Charlie Tailfeathers, Heart Butte, Montana; Tom Albert, White Swan, WA.; Gabriel Selam, Umatilla; Donny Sampson, Satus; Fred Marceau, Heart Butte MT.; William John, W.S.; Jimmy Selam, Yakima; Daisy Ike, W.S.; Ada Sooksoit, W.S.; Beatrice Marceau, Heart Butte, MT.; Brenda Scott, W.S.; Lillie Heath, W.S.; Lillie Heath, W.S.; Maggie Jim, Yakima; Hazel Suppah, W.S.
- Hostesses:** Trudee Clements; Lorraine Suppah; Colleen Seelatsee; Lila Telakish; Carmel Squiempfen.



Traditional dancing took on an especially dignified air when performed in honor of Robert Suppah, an enthusiast of straight dance. Austin Greene didn't win but George Clements, Janice Clements and Lila Suppah looked on with appreciation during the first dance contest in Suppah's memory.

Story and photos by Cynthia Stowell