

## Employees Picnic

# AN EVENING OF FEASTING AND FRIENDS



**FEAST** - Caroline Tohet dishes up salmon to hungry picnickers at the third annual employee picnic Thursday, July 20. An estimated 450 employees and their families enjoyed the pleasant evening of togetherness at the community park. **Rangila Photo**

By Sandy Rangila

The aroma of freshly baked salmon and the promise of a pleasant evening of togetherness lured close to 450 employees and their families to the community park for the third annual employee picnic Thursday, July 20.

Legs on the loaded serving tables nearly buckled under the weight of hot fried bread, and enough desserts to put pounds on everyone.

There was no doubt in the minds of most that this year's get-together was a great success, and definitely the best employee picnic yet. A special treat this year was the baked salmon donated by the Tribal council.

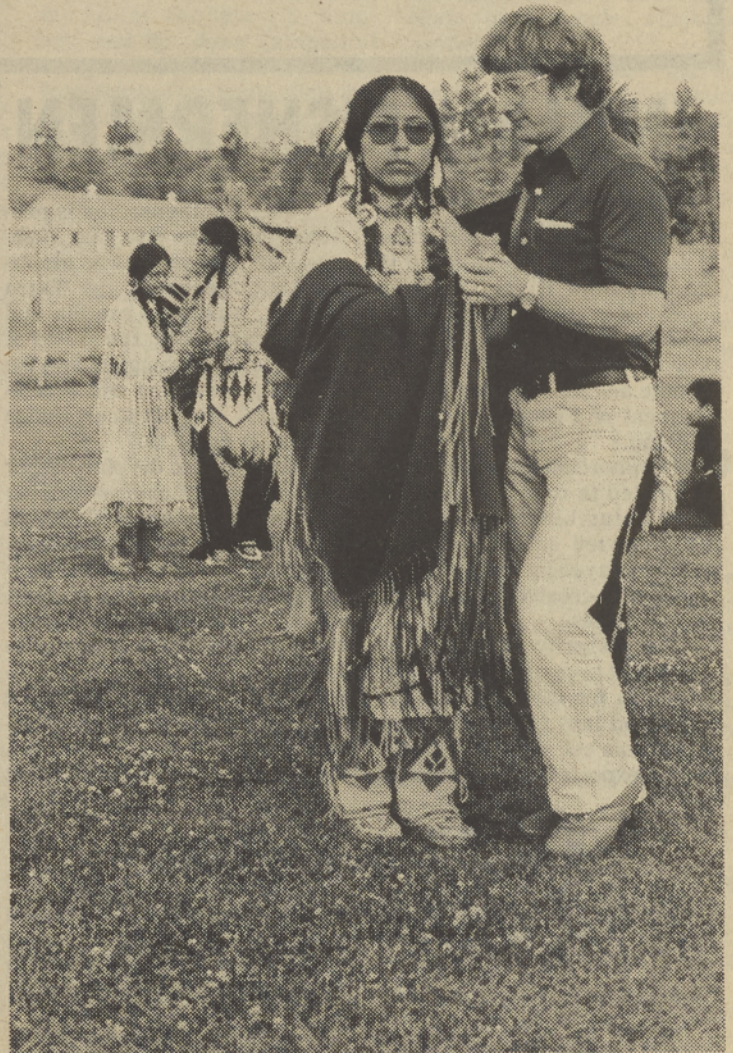
After a presentation of The Lord's Prayer by Aurolyn Stwyer and Andy Lucas, hungry folks formed a huge line which snaked across the grass, seemingly for miles. (At least that's what those in the back of the line probably thought.)

Fanciful fairytales presented by the Magic Frog Puppet Theater began the after-dinner festivities for the small fry, while energetic teenagers played volleyball in the 90-degree heat. Slower-moving adults, heavy from feasting, tried their skill at the more sedate game of horseshoes.

As the shadows grew long, the raffle drum was rolled into

place and hopeful employees pulled out fistfuls of raffle tickets. Emcee Andy Lucas announced the seven lucky winners. The blender went to Mike Clements, the digital clock to Dorothy Cassaway, the cooler to Sean Bartlett, the hibachi to Angie Boise, the rocking lawn chair to Sandy Rangila, the vacuum cleaner to Wilkins Helton, and the shawl was worn by Nathan (Eight-ball) Jim.

The sound of drum and song brought the evening to a close with a traditional note. People sprawled on the grass to watch the dancers perform such favorites as the Circle Dance, the Rabbit Dance, the Chicken Dance, the Butterfly Dance, and boys and girls war dances. Josie Wolfe surprised Dr. Tom Creelman when she chose him as her



**DANCE** - Josie Wolfe honored Public Health Service employee Dr. Tom Creelman by selecting him as her partner in the Rabbit Dance. The sound of song and drums filled the air as the evening drew to an end. **Rangila Photo**

partner in the Rabbit Dance, an honor she paid him as an employee.

As the light grew dim and folks began to head for home, Verbena Greene remarked that it had been a good picnic and

that "you don't have to look for your identity, it's right here in your back yard." Although the third annual employee picnic had ended, the good feelings lingered and perhaps the co-workers felt just a bit closer.



**SPACES** - The year-old administration building, which accommodates over 100 tribal and BIA employees, is divided by five-foot high partitions to form cubicles such as those found in the planning department. Contemporary designs adorn banners which are suspended from the ceiling. They help cut down on noise and provide visual relief for some. **CDS Photo**

## EMPLOYEES USED TO BUILDING, BUT . . .

By Donna Behrend

With its open-office concept, bright colors and modern furnishings, the year-old Warm Springs administration building has been called beautiful by some and jungle-like by others.

Over a year has passed since the dedication of the \$1.5 million, 26,000 square-foot structure which accommodates over one hundred Tribal and BIA full-time employees.

A year's time has shown that many offices are already cramped for space and that the open-office concept may not be as workable as originally thought.

Until December, Maxine Clements, secretary to the tribe's general manager received many complaints about the building in general. But so many visitors to the building complimented and admired the new structure that employees soon stopped complaining. Perhaps the office workers were also growing accustomed to their surroundings.

Some people griped about the green, purple and orange walls, carpets and five-foot high partitions and the furniture which made some people feel like they were sitting on the floor. But, a year's time has either faded the colors or dulled the employee's sense of color. One employee stated that the

colors don't make any difference to him, he is color blind.

The two greatest concerns of many department heads, secretaries, and office workers are noise and the lack of privacy.

Because of its central location, the eight-foot printing machine can be heard throughout the entire building. The racket disturbs conversations, hinders concentration and often interrupts work. For these reasons, the printing and micro-film machines will be moved to the warehouse on the Kah-Nee-Ta road.

The credit and vital statistics department find lack of privacy a big problem when trying to obtain confidential and personal information from clients. Edith Danzuka, vital statistics department head, said it's sometimes hard to get new mothers to divulge important information, such as the father's name, because they fear their conversation will be overheard. And Bob Finch, credit manager, feels like his office is "in the middle of a hallway" with no quiet at anytime. People aren't as willing or reasonable when they think they can be overheard.

The conference rooms have proved to be an essential and valuable asset to the new building. But they are too few and not always available when needed.

A signup system has been in use for some time, but some departments don't always use the system, leaving those who have signed up stranded and without a private place in which to meet.

Even with increased floor space for all departments, some employees would like to return to their old offices because people "walk right in" and interrupt work and conversations.

Personnel manager Lloyd Smith Sr. disapproves of the relaxed dress code which has been established over the years. A stricter dress code should be enforced to "present the young people a good image and set a good example". Common sense dressing is the rule but some departments have written dress codes which state no cowboys boots for women, blue jeans or T-shirts.

The initial shock and newness of the building has worn off during the past year. Many people have always liked the building for its simple beauty and open office concept. Others like it for the efficient air conditioning which was lacking in the old office. Payroll clerk Eloise Thornton likes it for its spaciousness and stated that "the larger the space to work in, the smaller the amount of work seems."