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The Confederated Tribes hosted Associated Press Managing Editors at Timberline Lodge September 28, feeding them salmon, erecting a tepee and performing traditional dances. See page 3 for story.

Tribes Take Over HUD Housing Project

by Sandy Rangila

Having become totally fed up with delays and poor performance, the Confederated Tribes last week terminated the contract with Marshall N. Dana, the 50-unit HUD housing contractor.

The Confederated Tribes took over the project on September 27 and are completing it, with Les Yaw as contracting officer. Included in the project are thirty family homes in West Hills and a senior citizen complex above Elliot Heights.

The expiration date for completion of the project was to have been on June 15, then due to bad weather conditions the date was extended to June 25. But now that the contract is over 90 days past due, and the contractor has given non-specific reasons for more delays, the Tribes have put down their foot and have taken over the project.

According to Yaw, the Tribes will hire the subcontractors next week and within two weeks, the first people can begin moving in. "Organizing takes a while," said Yaw, "but once we line up our ducks and get over that hurdle, those homes should finish up

pretty quickly."

"The main concentration at first will be focused on getting the senior citizens homes above Elliot Heights completed," said Yaw. He explained that he and officials have gone through each of the houses, one at a time, and they compiled a list of needed corrections.

The senior citizen homes are essentially complete, according to Yaw. "Even the wood-burning stoves are in." The basic problem is with the water services to the houses, and that's what brought the conflict with the contractor to a head, said Yaw.

"We requested the contractor to change it (the hookups) to the way it would work, and they refused on a technicality," explained Yaw. The hookups for the sprinkler systems were apparently installed on the high pressure side of the valves.

The Tribes and Dana had been communicating through lawyers, having reached an impasse in direct negotiations about the problems.

Although the houses are basically complete, Yaw does not want anyone to move into them yet because the people

would be without water for about a week while the system is being hooked up properly.

Once the water services are corrected and restored, people can be moved in as each home is completed, said Yaw. Crews will also be tackling the 30 family homes near completion in West Hills.

The Tribes' terminating the services of the contractor follows a long history of problems which began shortly after the project was begun in April of 1977.

Initially, bids were too high, then construction had to be halted on the senior citizens homes that summer when it was discovered that the foundations were faulty.

Waves of vandalism hit some of the nearly completed West Hills units that summer and fall, and isolated incidences of vandalism and window-breaking have occurred throughout the project.

Yaw said that terminating the contract was a drastic step, but that people could have been in those homes for four months, already. He and the Tribes are just interested in getting the homes built, he said.

Gerard's Visit Focuses On Tribes' Model Finance System

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs was in friendly territory when he visited Warm Springs last week. Having accepted an invitation from general manager Ken Smith, who supported his nomination to the top post in the Bureau of Indian Affairs last year, Forrest Gerard received a warm welcome from both tribal and B.I.A. employees during his 24-hour visit September 28 and 29.

Fresh from a debate with longtime adversary Senator James Abourezk at the Associated Press Managing Editors' annual meeting in Portland and not long after a rather hostile interaction with angry fishermen and Hoopa tribal officials on the shut-down Klamath River in California, Gerard was no doubt relieved to be the guest of the Warm Springs Reservation. He believes that there exists here "one of the better working relationships between a tribal entity and our own Bureau staff, programs and efforts."

Based at Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge, which had not been built when he was here last, Gerard ventured forth to take an air tour, dine with tribal and B.I.A. officials, visit with the Tribal Council and take a look at the Tribes' budget and accounting system.

"I'm intrigued with the integrated financial system designed and used by the Tribes," the assistant secretary said. The Tribes have centralized their payroll, budgeting, and contract activities, and have adopted the management - by - objectives approach to program planning. Federal funds are coordinated under the same umbrella.

This, apparently, is one of

the most sophisticated tribal accounting systems in the country and Gerard had to see it for himself. He said he plans to assemble a small government

team and send them out to learn the finer points of the successful accounting, administrative, and management controls developed by the Tribes and examine the

potential for tailoring them to other reservations.

"We've got to help tribes strengthen their infra-structures

(Continued on Page 12)

Weather

| SEPTEMBER | HI | LO |
|-----------|----|----|
| 20 | 80 | 36 |
| 21 | 75 | 49 |
| 22 | 71 | 42 |
| 23 | 86 | 42 |
| 24 | 85 | 48 |
| 25 | 84 | 50 |
| 26 | 96 | 46 |
| 27 | 74 | 54 |
| 28 | 76 | 48 |
| 29 | 81 | 42 |
| 30 | 77 | 47 |
| OCTOBER | | |
| 1 | 74 | 38 |
| 1 | 76 | 36 |
| 3 | 84 | 37 |
| 4 | 77 | 44 |

The average high for the past two weeks is 80 degrees with no measureable precipitation.



GETTING INPUT - Forrest Gerard, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, (center) was introduced to the Tribes' computer during his visit here. The top B.I.A. man spent time with Data Processor Jan Wallan, General Manager Ken Smith and Superintendent Jim Cornett, learning about Warm Springs' internal controls. CDS Photo