

At District Meeting

North End Takes A Look At Fishing, Livestock

Simnasho's first district meeting in over six months was not long enough to give expression to all the concerns of the community members, as fatigue sent people home at midnight and a follow-up meeting was tentatively scheduled for December.

Fishing problems on the Columbia proved to be the favored topic at the November 7 meeting although council representative Delbert Frank attempted several times to focus attention on water rights.

Councilman and horse ride boss Jacob Frank Sr., was faced with an interested but reduced audience when it came time for his report on the recent horse and cattle count. And by the time Tony Suppah made his off-the-agenda presentation of the Simnasho police petition, the remaining people were eyeing the door.

Not on the agenda but also of concern was the Simnasho community development plan approved October 3 which will bring more housing and community buildings to the rural area.

Simnasho representative Larry Calica said he was unsure whether district meetings could be more regular considering the difficulty of rounding up consultants, councilmen and community people. The next meeting will feature livestock and other concerns given short shrift at last week's meeting.

LAW AND ORDER ON THE COLUMBIA

Pointing to "critical misdoings" on the Columbia River this year, Delbert Frank warned that the four treaty tribes are in danger of losing their fishing rights if they don't devise and honor a comprehensive law and order system.

Fights over fishing sites, violations of state regulations and the destruction of property have been some of the ongoing problems on the river, enhanced this year by especially crowded conditions. "Our boys are doing whatever they please down there" said Frank, who pushed for the drafting of a law and order code agreeable to all four tribes (Warm Springs, Yakima, Nez Perce and Umatilla).

Frank also stressed the need to redefine the meaning of ceremonial fishing, which at one time was overseen by the religious leaders. "Now it's getting to the point where every Tom, Dick and Harry has his own idea of what a ceremony is," he said. We have to come back to earth and decide how to use ceremonial fish." Fish caught with ceremonial permits have been sold illegally from time to time.

Warm Springs Superintendent Jim Cornett advised those at the meeting that the Portland Area Office had allotted a substantial amount of money (later determined to be \$600,000) for law enforcement in off-reserva-

tion treaty areas. But he felt that a prerequisite for utilization of the funds would be the adoption of a code to be enforced in a "uniform and fair manner."

Presently the states of Washington and Oregon can regulate only for conservation ends, the federal sector has no jurisdiction, and tribal police, although cross-deputized in the counties bordering the river, cannot spare the personnel for patrolling. Each tribe is on its own with different fishing regulations, clearly pointing to the need for a central law & order system, said Cornett.

One resident who has been close to the river for years, read a newspaper article describing the stiff punishment of non-Indian fishing violators in southwestern Oregon and commented, "I'm wondering if we're just playing around with the state by promising to penalize our violators... It makes me disgusted to see our committee sitting on this for 8-10 years." It's time to get tough, she maintained.

She also suggested that an underlying cause of this year's troubles was the EDA loan program that made money too easily available to self-professed fishermen who are now "driving new cars and souped-up pickups" and not to be seen on the river. At the same time the loans encouraged the overfishing of the river, with fishermen fighting for sites, she said.

There was general agreement that the treaty right to fish off the reservation must be preserved, except for a challenge issued by one district member. He felt that local tribal fishing & water rights should be settled instead of hanging onto rights that only a few exercise on the Columbia.

Delbert Frank quickly countered by saying, "When you begin to give up a little piece of our treaty rights, we might as well give them all up."

A longtime member of both the law and order and fish and wildlife committees looked at the coin from the other side, saying that it's no use to fight for rights to a disappearing resource. We should, instead, "join hands" and work together to enhance the fishery.

LIVESTOCK IN THE NORTH END

Horse ride boss Jacob Frank, Sr. reported on his recent aerial count of wild horses in the North End which turned up a total figure of 1500 head. Of these horses, 628 or nearly half were termed "uncontrollable" or "outlaws".

"What we're looking for is control of these animals," said

Frank who noted that although a few dozen strays were brought back onto the reservation, that "eventually they'll drift back into white man's land." He then posed the question "What do you think the horse ride bosses should do?"

Unfortunately most of the stock owners had already left, so feedback was minimal.

Frank then offered the ride bosses' idea which included: 1) a fence along the Warm Springs River from HeHe Mill to Schoolie pasture, and 2) the leasing of the Heckler property, a tribal purchase on the McQuinn Strip, for assigned grazing.

Frank was promised prime time at the next meeting to insure input from owners.

NOT ON THE AGENDA

A hurried explanation of the petition for police protection of the Wasco County portion of the reservation was made by Tony Suppah, a Simnasho native who is on call with the Warm Springs Police Department (see separate story this page).

The only other topic raised was the "blessing or curse" of the bonus, the programming of which was felt "to drive parents to drink because they feel worthless."

Petition For Simnasho Police Gathering Signatures

by Cynthia Stowell

A grass roots effort to obtain police protection for the northern sector of the reservation is so far being waged largely by one man. Armed with a petition and a penchant for politicking, Tony Suppah has been making appearances at local meetings to plug his \$250,000 idea.

But most of his energies have gone into door-to-door visiting, making "the people" aware that they have the power to effect change.

So far Suppah has gathered signatures from all parts of the reservation for the November 21 budget meeting where he plans to present his proposal.

The petition's cover statement asserts that full-time coverage of the Simanasho district is overdue. Suppah proposes the installation of a supervisor and two patrolmen at "premium pay," support staff, two fully-equipped 4-wheel drive vehicles and a temporary base-station until such time as a permanent fire and police station are built.

The territory to be covered by the Simnasho division lies within Wasco County and includes residences at Sidwalter, Simnasho, Schoolie, Indian Head Canyon and the lower Warm Springs River, as well as all the highway joining those areas.

Suppah feels that the growing population of this area warrants full-time patrolling which it does not presently receive. Currently a patrolman resides at Simnasho and is on call, but his beat is the Warm Springs area where the manpower demand is, according to Police Chief Jeff Sanders.

Suppah envisions the patrolmen as also fulfilling a social work function for the elderly, some of whom speak little English and need help with transportation.

With full-time personnel assigned to the North End, officers now called to Simnasho would be freed up to give better protection to the South End, suggested Suppah.

While Suppah says he has "100 percent support" for his proposal from Chief Sanders, the chief has indicated otherwise in communication with Spilyay Tymoo.

"Economically it isn't feasible," he said. "We're trying to maintain the status quo in the face of the Council's 22 percent cut and tony wants a 33 percent increase."

Suppah maintains that funds can be had through grants, although he hasn't pinpointed the sources yet. Municipal branch manager Rudy Clements indicated that the BIA was a possible source as it currently supplements the Warm Springs police budget.

Sanders cited arrest figures that he says would not justify three full-timers on site. Of 2200 arrests in 1977, only 14 were in the northern boundary area. When asked if the low rate was due to the fact that coverage has not been available, Sanders said that Warm Springs already responds to all Simnasho calls and makes the arrests. The only change in figures with a full-time patrol might be an increase in traffic citations, he said.

Sanders felt that a one-man patrol might be justified at the present time.

Bolton, Apgar Commended For Forest Management



SHOP TALK- Bob Bolton and Bill Apgar talked over what they planned to do with the \$300 awards they received for superior performance. Spilyay Photo by CDS

Two men who assumed the duties of Acting Forest Manager while the B.I.A. Forestry Department was without permanent direction have been selected to receive Special Achievement Awards and checks for \$300.

Presentations to Bob Bolton and Bill Apgar were made by Superintendent Jim Cornett November 8 at the Tribal Administration Building with General Manager Ken Smith in attendance. "It was a well-kept secret," smiled Bolton afterward.

For five months after the resignation of manager Gunther Heeren and the hiring of Ken

Engelbretson, the two foresters alternated as forest manager, dividing their attention between the time consuming "administrative and people problems" and their regular jobs. Bolton heads up Timber Sales Administration and Apgar directs Timber Management.

They were cited by Area Director Vincent Little for maintaining "a high quality of output" with a shortage of employees during the forestry programs peak period of operations.

Specifically, they tackled the problem of cleaning up 33 million board feet of blowdown, built the 1980 budget, and helped to plan

and develop a \$600,000 forest management contract with the Confederated Tribes using forestry add-on funds.

In his letters to Bolton and Apgar, Superintendent Cornett said, "You are congratulated on your contributions which were effected in a cheerful, constructive and efficient manner."

It was Bolton's second award from the BIA. He also received a superior performance award in 1961 while on the Umatilla Reservation, just before coming to Warm Springs. It was the first such award for Apgar, who has worked at the Warm Springs Agency since 1964.