

Trip to L.A. Will Begin With Marathon

by Cynthia Stowell

Students at the Simnasho School are putting their community on the map.

Much of their energy these days is focused on a springtime trip to Los Angeles, but before they go they are asking hundreds of people to pay their home a visit.

In the course of planning a 14.5 mile benefit marathon from their school to Kah-Nee-Ta, the students are developing a new appreciation for their rural home. They are hoping to convey their enthusiasm to a couple of thousand runners across the nation, whose \$10 entry fees will enable the sixteen students to make their trip.

As soon as Tribal Council gave its backing, two thousand letters hit the mail, notifying individuals, running associations, sport shops, newspapers, TV stations, other tribes, and schools of the upcoming event. Even some of the students' favorite celebrities are being invited to participate in the first annual benefit marathon, scheduled to take place March 3. (see story this page)

The marathon will climax the students' fund-raising efforts, which began last October, and may put them over the \$3500 mark, the sum needed for their trip to southern California. So far students and staff have earned about \$800 by selling beadwork and baked goods and collecting bottles.

"The kids aren't expecting this trip to be handed to them," said teacher Rich Little, who is the inspiration behind the trip. "They know they have to work for it themselves." No school district or federal program funds have been requested and donations will only be sought if absolutely necessary, said Little. However unexpected donations have been appearing in their mailbox from people throughout the state who have heard about the project and approved.

Support is not very far away. School cook Clydell Gilbert, who taught beadwork to the children as a source of income, said that parents have been supportive of the school's fund-raising efforts. Parents who never before took an interest in school activities have been baking and beadwork-



THERE'S DISNEYLAND! At the Simnasho School classroom activities are revolving around a dream trip to Southern California. Geography means locating Disneyland and the San Diego Zoo and computing the distances from Simnasho. Students have their biggest hurdle to jump before they go—they must pull off a benefit half-marathon from Simnasho to Kah-Nee-Ta on March 3 to bring in the needed travel money. Spilyay Tymoo photo by CDS

ing to help the kids reach their goal. They are also planning to have a fry bread, pie and pop concession at the marathon.

Kids and parents alike are looking forward to the marathon, which may bring more people to Simnasho than the community has ever hosted. Students are making posters and writing letters to publicize the event. And when the big day comes, they will help at the marathon stations where water and elapsed times will be provided.

Not only are students and parents more excited about school, but the community is becoming more visible as the marathon approaches. Little sees many benefits flowing from the event, including better public relations with surrounding communities. The marathon is expected to attract brisk business to Kah-Nee-Ta and encourage cooperation among various reservation interests.

But the biggest outcome of the marathon will be the opportunity for sixteen kids to leave the quiet security of their one-

room school and venture into the vastly different world of southern California.

A jam-packed four-day itinerary will take them up into the "friendly skies" and set them down 1000 miles away to visit Disneyland, a TV studio, the San

Diego Zoo, and the streets and beaches of Los Angeles.

While on the surface the trip would appear to be just a "big party," the Simnasho teacher intends for it to be a powerful learning experience. The jet flight will be more than a way to get from here to there — kids will

meet the captain and have a look at the cockpit. At Disneyland, tour guides will explain how the business is operated and at the TV studio students will get a behind-the-scenes view of a game show.

"The whole time we'll be comparing the Los Angeles area with home," said Little. "I want them to be aware of the differences in geography, climate, lifestyle, pollution, noise level, population density and social arrangements. The trip will point out how lucky we are to live where we do but also help the students cope with and enjoy a new environment."

Other benefits of the trip, such as enhancement of the "family feeling" of the school and a first-hand lesson in setting and achieving goals, are already measurable. Teacher aide Lorena Bill noted that classroom activities have become focused on the trip. Maps and geography lessons on new meaning as students compute the distance between Simnasho and each new place they read about. Films on airplanes make the trip seem a little closer. And the younger kids are suddenly more interested in telling time and using calendars as their departure time approaches.

The momentum is building, but all of the students in the isolated school realizes that between them and the outside world lies \$2700 and a lot of work.

For Runners: An Event Like No Other

Those planning the first annual Simnasho benefit half-marathon believe it will be a one-of-a-kind event. The location — the heart of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation — should draw the curious as well as the serious runners.

Set for March 3 at 1:00 p.m., the 14.5 mile marathon will start at the Simnasho School and wind up at Kah-Nee-Ta Village, a distance 1.5 miles longer than an official half-marathon. The rolling course will take runners from the timber line through the sagebrush and juniper of Schoolie Flat and down into Indian Head Canyon to the Warm Springs River.

The cross-country run will be

open to all ages for an entry fee of \$10. Included in the fee will be T-shirts and refreshments along with the opportunity to win any of several grand and divisional prizes and trophies. Grand prizes for men and women will have a \$100 value.

A "Run for Fun" will be staged at the same time as the marathon and will proceed from the Culpus Bridge along the Warm Springs River to Kah-Nee-Ta Village. This run, which also has a \$10 entry fee, is for those who missed the registration deadline (noon on March 3rd) or who feel they can't handle the marathon.

Parking will be available at Kah-Nee-Ta Village and runners

will be shuttled to Simnasho, where they will register, receive their official numbers, and line up for the 1:00 start. Every 1.5 miles along the marathon route there will be four people stationed to supply water, medical assistance and elapsed time for the runners.

At the end of the run, T-shirts and juice will be provided and prizes will be awarded.

Registration packets may be obtained by calling the Warm Springs Community Center at (503) 553-1161, ext. 243 or the Simnasho School at (503) 553-1200. Entries should be mailed by February 22 to Marathon, Simnasho School, Warm Springs, Oregon, 97761.

Teaching Your Preschool Child, Part Six

(This eight-part series was prepared by Betsy Sullivan, Reading Specialist for the Redmond School District. It contains many practical ideas for working with your preschooler to prepare him for school.)

Toys tagged with the magic words "educational" are big business today. Yet every household is brimming with "toys" that are inexpensive, non-breakable, and with a little imagination educational.

This week I will discuss ways to convert everyday items found around the house into valuable skill and concept developing games.

The nuts and bolts lying idle in your tool chest can help your young child develop a long list of skills and concepts, as well as providing practice in listening to and following directions.

The following games should be fun. Keep them short and simple. Everyone in the family can participate by taking turns playing with your three or four year old.

Nuts and Bolts

All of these games require the handling or manipulating of small items - laying a foundation for the more advanced hand-eye coordination and control needed for cutting on a line, coloring within lines, forming shapes and letters, etc.

Toss bolts or buttons into a box. As skill increases, move the box farther away.

Young children often can count by rote without fully understanding what the numbers mean: that the numeral "3", for example, stands for three of something. Count bolts. On saucers place on bolt, two bolts, etc. up to five. Have your child count as she matches them.

Children often use words without fully understanding their meaning. Size relationships are not easy for the young mind to "see" and comprehend. Put the bolts on the table. Direct your

child to find the one that's longest. Shorter. Thinner. Thicker. Make a row from shortest to longest. Make a row from thickest to thinnest.

Line up several bolts, pencils or pieces of paper in order of length from shortest to tallest. Give your four year old a piece and ask her where it fits in.

Provide many nuts and one bolt. Have your preschooler find the one that fits. You could also do this with jars and lids.

Use egg carton compartments or jars. Have your child sort washers in one compartment, bolts in another, nuts in another. Seeing how the shape of things are alike or different provides practice for later seeing likenesses and differences in the shape of numbers, letters, etc.

Making a "pattern" of nuts, washers and bolts for your child to copy is a stepping stone to recognizing the patterns of letters in a word. When copying your pattern, be sure your child begins on the left and works from left to right as in reading or writing.

Sixth Graders

Look Good, Feel Good

A new club especially for sixth graders will be starting February 5. Calling themselves the Sixth Level Club, ten boys and ten girls will get together for six weeks to discover the world of grooming and etiquette.

Photos taken at the beginning and end of the course should show club members how much they have learned about looking and feeling better. Beneath the surface kids should experience a boost in self-confidence, according to organizer Orthelia Miller.

The climax of the club will be a mother-daughter, father-son dinner at Black Butte Ranch on March 16, where kids will have the opportunity to put their new skills to practice.

After the first session, boys and girls will be separated into simultaneous workshops. While girls are learning the fine points of applying make-up and fragrances, boys will be getting tips on "bachelor survival," or how to launder and iron clothes.

Other topics for both the

boys and the girls will be exercise and nutrition, hair and skin care, wardrobe, improving self-image, and good manners. All sessions will be led by local resource people.

Sixth LC will meet at the community center each Monday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning February 5. Sponsored by 4-H, the club is being organized by several local people. Call Pennie Albrandt at the Extension office (553-1161 ext. 238) for more information.

Pi-Ume-Sha Planners Welcome New Members

The Pi-Ume-Sha committee is holding weekly Monday night meetings at the Agency Longhouse. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (SHARP!) The committee welcomes everyone and encourages new members.

Sam Colwash,
Pi-Ume-Sha Committee
Co-chairman