

Simnasho Longhouse Always Has Room For More

by Cynthia Stowell

Just when the Simnasho Longhouse seemed about to burst its seams, another van would pull up and unload a family. And somehow there would be room for a few more bodies.

Nobody was turned away from the Fourth Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow held last weekend in Simnasho. The Longhouse opened its arms and welcomed a record number of visitors from the Northwest, Canada and Montana, some of whom braved snowstorms for the chance to drum or dance at the popular powwow.

Coordinator Rudy Clements estimated that 2,000 people attended the powwow throughout the two days and three nights of festivities. The turn-out was about twice as large as last years, he said.

The influx of visitors did not seem to alter the warm, close-knit atmosphere that has characterized past Lincoln's Birthday Powwows. The tight quarters tended to dissolve tribal differences and kindle a pride in shared traditions.

But there was never any doubt about who was hosting the powwow. For all its universal appeal, it was a local affair shaped by local people and their interests.

Longhouse elders Matilda Mitchell and Sylvia Wallulatum seemed to be swallowed up by the crowd, but occasionally ventured out of their favorite corner to dance or speak softly into the microphone, their smiles never far below the surface.

The Clements and Suppah families honored their lost members with memorial dance contests. Others who had reason to be thankful staged giveaways for their friends.

As visitors began to arrive on Friday, they found locals engaged in a wedding and several first kill, first picking and name-giving ceremonies. In fact the wedding symbolized the fusion of local and distant tradition by bringing together last year's powwow hostess Lila Telakish and visiting drummer Ernie Comes At Night from Montana.

By Friday night nine drumming groups were squeezed into the front of the Longhouse with barely enough elbow room but somehow enough space for singers to slip over to the next drum to try out their voices with their neighbors.

Whipmen fought a constant battle against a shrinking dance floor as spectators and dancers filled the room. Onlookers had to duck the flying fringe and feathers of the fancy dancers but were able to observe at close range the

subtle steps and costume details of the traditional dancers.

The flexibility of the human body was demonstrated over and over as a bench designed for five people was suddenly inhabited by ten. But not a thought is being given to holding the powwow elsewhere next year. The pow-

wow's special identity would be lost in another location, said Rudy Clements, who attributed a degree of sacredness to the Simnasho site.

Besides, such a dramatization of the need for a larger Longhouse might hasten plans for expansion, Rudy noted. He

hopes that will happen before next February because the Fifth Annual Lincoln Birthday's Powwow is sure to be even bigger.

But if the Longhouse has not grown by then, its walls will somehow stretch to accommodate all who journey to its warmth.

Fourth Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Contest Results

Girls War Dance, 6-under

1. Wynema Wolfe
2. Angela Polk
3. Masami Danzuka

Boys War Dance, 6-under

1. Ike Johnson
2. Eldred Wishbone
3. Matthew Clements

Girls War Dance, 7-12

1. Fern Comes At Night
2. Carla Tewee
3. Charlotte John

Boys War Dance, 7-12

1. Anson Begay
2. Aaron Smith
3. Norman Wolfe

Girls War Dance, 13-18

1. Shari Macy
2. Tina Spino
3. Carol Johnson

Boys War Dance, 13-18

1. Elston Lightning
2. Rooney Totus
3. Steve George

Women's Fancy, 19-up

1. Liz George
2. Marlene George
3. Edith Walsey

Men's Fancy, 19-up

1. Wilson Totus
2. Austin Greene
3. Raymond Meanus

Girls Circle Dance, 6-under

1. Billie Jo Smith
2. Carol Heath
3. Masami Danzuka

Boys Straight Dance, 6-under

1. Tom Begay, Jr.
2. Joseph Boise
3. Ike Johnson

Girls Circle, 7-12

1. Saraphena Scott
2. Danielle Macy
3. Lisa Scott

Boys Straight, 7-12

1. Michael Allen
2. Curt Jim
3. Willie Jim

Girls Circle, 13-18

1. Judith Kalama
2. Donna Whitehat
3. Shari Sampson

Boys Straight, 13-18

1. Nathan Jim, Jr.
2. Gorky Mitchell
3. Max Jim

Women's Circle, 19-up

1. Millie Colwash
2. Mardelle Selam
3. Kathy Alexander

Men's Straight, 19-up

1. Arnie Patrick
2. George Meninick
3. Wilson Okeymaw

Senior Women's Circle, 60-up

1. Ada Sooksoit
2. Margaret LaMere
3. Maggie Jim

Senior Men's Straight, 60-up

1. Wilson LaMere
2. Ike Patrick
3. Dick Phare

Robert Suppah Memorial Straight Dance (Open)

Walter Lightning

George Clements, Jr. Memorial Fancy Dance (Open)

Charlie Tailfeathers

Special Fancy Dance for Matthew Clements

Gary Comes At Night

Judges

Elsie Pistolhead
Anna Halfmoon
Agnes Comes At Night
Carrie Sampson
Trudee Clements
Beatrice Marceau
Martin Lightning
Tommy Eli
Raymond Moodv
Gabriel "Tush" Selam
Franklin Comes At Night

Drummers

Muskwachee (Hobbema, Alberta)
Heart Butte (Montana)
Umatilla Studs
Slimjohn (Yakima)
Sweathouse Lodge (Salem)
Leroy Selam (Portland)
Percy Bullchild (Alberta)
Weekend Warriors (Intertribal)
Selam Family Drum
Portland Intertribal

Whipmen

Oliver Kirk Ron Pinkham
Benson Heath

Extension Notes



- Baking Soda - A Wonder Cleaner

When spring housecleaning time rolls around, don't overlook a popular household product that can do many cleaning jobs. Spring cleaning could be cheaper for homemakers who take advantage of the many uses of baking soda.

Baking soda is a versatile product, but many people aren't aware of its uses as a cleaner.

For instance:

★ A solution of four tablespoons baking soda per quart warm water can be used to remove light soil and fingerprints from walls.

★ Baking soda is also an excellent deodorizer for wood

products such as cutting boards and salad bowls. Rub the sides and bottom of bowls with paste made of baking soda and water. Soak, rinse and wipe dry with a paper towel.

★ An open box of soda left in the refrigerator or closet will absorb unpleasant food and smoke smells.

★ Clothes brought out of storage can be freshened by adding one-third cup of baking soda to the wash cycle.

★ Anytime a non-abrasive cleaner is called for on counter or stove tops or for cookware, soda will do the job.

★ In a real emergency use soda and water as toothpaste.

Extension Events

- February 20 & 27 11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Presbyterian Church - "Help Yourself to the Good Life" Luncheons sponsored by the OSU Extension Service and the Warm Springs WIC Program. Programs will be on planning nutritious, delicious meals with cost in mind, and on using WIC and low-cal foods. **COME FOR LUNCH!!**
- February 19 & 26 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Community Center - 6th L.C. 4-H Grooming Club - Program on Hair and skin care, make-up and fragrance and clothing care.
- February 21 12:00 - 1:30 pm and 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Homemaker Club meetings at Pennie Albrandt's home, Clubhouse number 2. Program on using a slow cooker.
- February 21 4:00 pm - Extension Office - 4-H Beadwork Club
- February 24 9:00 am 4-H Outdoor Club

Help Yourself To The Good Life

Because of conflicting interests in the community, the first of the two luncheons sponsored by the OSU Extension and W.I.C. programs concerning good nutrition was postponed until February 20.

At the first luncheon on February 20th you can learn how

meal planning using the four food groups can be good to eat and good for you, too! The second luncheon on February 27th will feature dishes made from foods that can be bought under the W.I.C. Program.

Both luncheons will be from

11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church and will feature an educational program during lunch, displays on nutrition, handouts, and recipes.

Everyone is invited if interested in the "good life" through good food.

Cattlemen Optimistic About Price Outlook

Most homes on the range should be happy ones this year.

Cattle ranchers have reason to be optimistic for the first time in several years, according to Robert Raleigh, superintendent of Oregon State University's Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center near Burns.

"Cattle numbers are still down, because many ranchers had to sell animals to pay bills that had accumulated over the last few bad years," said Raleigh. "But the price is high and things are looking better for the cattle rancher for the first time in three or four years."

During the drought, many cattle ranchers had to sell parts of their herd because of lack of water and the high price of hay and feed. When the market was stuffed with more cattle than normal, the price dropped. But now, with cattle in short supply, the price has gone up.

"We'll be in a short cattle situation for three or four years," said Raleigh. "A bred heifer costs \$500 now. Last year in the drought and even before,

that bred heifer would have cost about \$150."

One of the reasons cattle ranchers expect prices to stay high for longer than might be expected is that the shortage of cattle is a national problem.

"Cattle numbers are down all over," said Raleigh, "so it's not a matter of going to California or Montana or Missouri for more animals. With the shortage of cattle and the high replacement price, those who can afford to buy cattle are doing so but much slower than ever before. As the cattle herds and the supply of beef begin to increase, the price will come down. But it is going to be slower than before."

Traditionally, the cattle business has been subject to a boom-and-bust cycle as the numbers of cattle and the price of beef seemed to be on opposite ends of a see-saw with the consumer in the middle. The situation this time will be a little different, Raleigh believes.

"I think we'll stay on the top of the boom for awhile this

time. Primarily because the ranchers have recognized this cyclical process much more than before," said Raleigh.

"I could be wrong, but I think that for the first time in a long time, it has been clearly demonstrated to the ranchers what a shortage of their product means price-wise. I don't think that will keep them from ultimately bringing their herds up to previous levels, but what I think it will do is slow down that rate of increase."

The Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center has pioneered on some alternative methods of animal agriculture under Raleigh's direction and he feels this is a good time to push for efficiency in range cattle management.

"With cattle numbers down like this I feel we should push for efficient operation instead of increased herd size," said Raleigh. "I believe we can bring production up to previous levels without necessarily bringing up the herd size. Intensive management and efficiency are the key."