

Indian News Notes

by Vince Lovett

GERARD NOT PUSHING FOR PRESIDENTIAL POLICY ON INDIANS:

Speaking to members of the Nevada Inter-Tribal Council February 8, Interior Assistant Secretary Forrest Gerard agreed that the Carter Administration had not taken a formal stand on Indian rights through a presidential policy statement. He added, though: "There are mixed views on the desirability of pressing for a statement at this time. . . I share that view of not pressing for a policy at this time, but rather capitalize on policies we already have and the opportunities for innovation and creativity. The bottom line, as I see it . . . is a firm commitment from the United States that it will uphold its trustee responsibility and defend Indian treaties and other legal rights."

One observer of the Indian political scene interpreted this comment to mean that Gerard was at least reasonably satisfied with Attorney General Bell's forthcoming statement on the trust responsibility. A Justice Department official told the NCAI Executive Council in January that a draft of the Bell statement had been sent to Interior for review and comment. (The statement is scheduled to go next to the Indian community for review.)

AILING JUDGE BOLDT REQUESTS REMOVAL FROM FISH CASE:

United States District Judge George Boldt has asked to be relieved of further participation in the Indian fishing rights litigation in which he ruled that Indians were entitled to half the harvest of salmon and steelhead in their traditional fishing places. The ruling was reviewed by the Supreme Court February 28, with Washington Attorney General Slade Gorton arguing in opposition to the Boldt decision. Boldt underwent heart surgery a year ago.

In the February 11 New York Times Magazine Boldt is quoted on reactions to his 1974 decision: "I was burned in effigy and they still do that. The (non-Indian) fishermen have a champion and he maligns me continually and steadily, and he's spurred on by the Attorney General here. He's got to be with the fishermen, don't you see? You can't just be honest in this state and get anywhere because of the enormous amount of condemnation heaped on me since I wrote that decision that day. Sometimes I get bales and bales of mail, loathsome material . . . I took an oath of office. It's right up there on the wall, and I look at it every day, have for 25 years."

COURT WILL RULE ON STATE TAXATION OF INDIAN CIGARETTE SALES:

The United States Supreme Court agreed February 21 to decide whether state taxes may be imposed on items sold on Indian reservations to non-Indians when tribes also tax the items. The justices will review the ruling of a Spokane, Washington Federal court that such state taxation is forbidden. The court ruled last year that the tribal tax preempts a Washington State excise tax of 15 cents per pack of cigarettes. Assistant State Attorney General Richard Holmquist said that the state was losing \$15 million a year in taxes not collected on cigarettes sold on Indian reservations to non-Indians.

The State's appeal to the Supreme Court said: "This holding . . . results in a fundamental reallocation of powers among states, Indian tribes and the Federal Government." Holmquist said the Supreme Court's ruling would affect other states with substantial Indian populations.

SENATE SELECT INDIAN COMMITTEE IS ORGANIZED:

An organization meeting of the Senate Select Indian Committee was held February 9, with Montana Senator John Melcher named Chairman. On the Republican side, Maine's freshman Senator William Cohen replaced another freshman William Armstrong of Colorado on the committee. Cohen, as a member of the House of Representatives, did not line up with the Maine Indians, as an advocate, in their land claim case.

Spilyay Speaks

TOE NESS

THERE WAS THIS NOT-so-smart wife who told her husband, "You know that I rubbed some of this liquid on my legs and it made my legs smart." The husband said, "Well why didn't you rub some on your head." YIKES

SS SS SS

AFTER THE JURY RETURNED to the courtroom, the foreman tells the judge, "We the jury find the defendant not guilty." The Judge: "What caused you to come to this decision?" Foreman: "Insanity, your honor." Judge: "What! All twelve of you?" YIKES

SS SS SS

TEACHER IN THE CLASSROOM said to the students, "There is a wonderful example in the life of an ant. Each day the ant works from sunrise to sunset. Everyday he is busy and at the end, what happens?" A small voice from the back of the room: "Someone steps on him." YIKES

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THERE WAS THIS GUY who said, "You know, I can remember when I had a fever of 105. I didn't know what I was doing. I even got out of bed and started looking for a job." YIKES

SS SS SS

THERE WAS THIS GUY who told his buddy, "It's terrible growing old alone." The other guy, "You have your wife." The lonely guy, "My wife hasn't celebrated a birthday in the past nine years." YIKES

SS SS SS

YOU KNOW A GOLFER has one advantage over a fisherman: He doesn't have to show anything to prove it." YIKES

SS SS SS

IF YOU THINK FISHERMEN are the biggest liars in the world, ask a jogger how far he runs every morning. YIKES

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Kah-Nee-Ta Employee of the Month Award came just before retirement from laundry

Retiring might be harder than ever for Velma Peters now that she has been handed the Kah-Nee-Ta Employee of the Month award.

The laundry room mainstay was already viewing her March 1 retirement with some misgivings. But receiving the award last week must have made the final day an especially bitter-sweet occasion.

Velma, who will be 63 this month, plans to ease out of the job. "It would be hard to get off all at once," she remarked, so she plans to be on call and fill in during vacations.

Having "always worked," even while raising six kids, Velma is not accustomed to staying at home and finds the prospect boring. "Housework doesn't fill up the whole day," she noted. Velma's husband Oliver, who received the Employee of the Month award in August of 1977, will continue to work as a groundskeeper.

Velma will not only miss her income but will also hanker for the physical activity on her job, which involves a lot of walking and lifting. "I can't stand to sit around," she said. But she feels it's time for retirement — "I'm getting old" — and her home, not far from Kah-Nee-Ta, is bound to become more familiar to her.

For three years Velma has spent her days loading sheets, towels and tablecloths into huge washers, flattening them between long, hot rollers, folding them into neat squares and stacking them by size. The only real hazards are the soap and bleach, which make her hands rough.

While at the laundry, Velma proved herself dependable and endeared herself to fellow workers. According to her supervisor Letha Sams, "She's a very hard-working lady, very dependable and has a personality that just won't quit."

Still, Velma was surprised to

Management course added to credit classes

College credits will be easier to earn than ever, with three courses being taught at the Warm Springs Adult Learning Center this spring.

Central Oregon Community College is offering continuations of the math & writing classes taught winter term and is adding a third course in business management.

"Principles of Management" will meet Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:40 for three credit hours. Instructor John



VELMA PETERS

hear of her award, expecting to retire without such formal acknowledgement. She attributes the honor to the fact that she "work(s) steady."

Velma, a tribal member who has lived on the reservation all her life, has worked steadily at a number of jobs, three of them at Kah-Nee-Ta. Before settling into the laundry, Velma saw the other end of housekeeping while she was a maid for two years. The River Room kitchen, where she

cooked for a year, gave her another view of the resort.

Between the kitchen and the laundry, Velma spent three years assembling electronic components at the sub-assembly plant, and before Kah-Nee-Ta she was a matron at the tribal laundromat.

Now she must be content to care for her grandchild and wait for the phone to ring — hoping it's a call from the laundry to rough up her hands a bit.

Trujillo plans to introduce students to the field of management with a view to the manager's role as a decision-maker.

"Writing 122," a three-credit course following 121, will meet Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:40. Instructor Mary Donahoe plans to focus on writing style.

The popular Math Lab is being offered for the third semester and will present all levels of math through algebra depending on the individual needs of students. Jack Gallagher will be teaching the four-credit lab on

Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Registration will begin Saturday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Learning Center, and continue on Monday, March 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For the rest of the week, registration will take place during the Center's regular hours, 9:00 - 4:00.

Classes start on March 28 and last for ten weeks. Tuition is \$13 per credit hour. Call the Adult Learning Center at 553-1428 for more information.

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Spilyay Tymoo is Published Bi-Weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.