

Celilo Village In Stalemate

by Donna Behrend

"We should save this land for our future generations," stated Amos Simtustus at a recent Celilo WyAm Board meeting. "It was left to us by our elders. We should build up Celilo permanently and not on a temporary basis," he concluded.

Many Warm Springs, Yakima and Umatilla tribal members feel that same responsibility toward the Celilo residents. Because of those feelings, the Celilo WyAm board was established in November 1976 through the recommendation of Warm Springs Superintendent Jim Cornett. In January 1977, over 200 people gathered in The Dalles to identify the problems and needs the villagers faced, as well as suggestions for solving those problems.

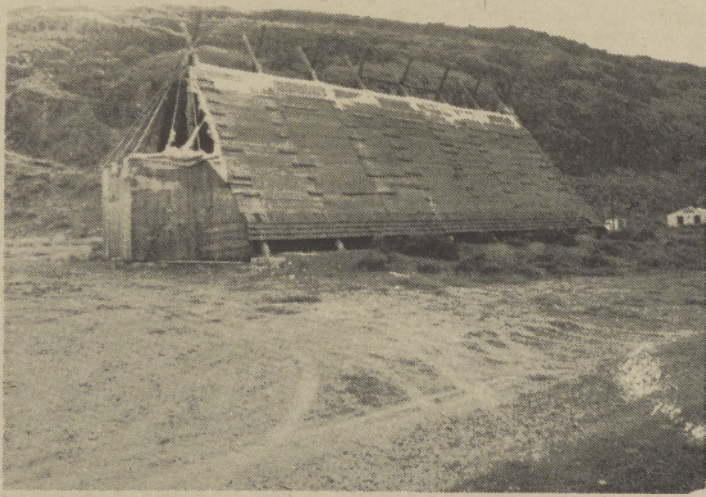
Items of priority listed at the meeting in 1977 were the repair of the longhouse, improvement of the living quarters and enhanced communication among the three tribes involved.

According to the 1979 Celilo WyAm contract proposal, \$15,755 has been budgeted to cover salaries, meetings, training, travel and per diem, rent utilities and other supplies for the Celilo board. The budgeted amount for travel, training and meetings, alone, is 42 per cent of the total budget.

Their goals and objects listed are 1) develop resource inventory, 2) develop data as basis for community planning process and 3) involve committees and community in the prioritizing of needs, goals and objectives.

LONGHOUSE NOT COMPLETE

To this date, the longhouse remains in nearly the same state of disrepair as it has been for several years. However, the Warm Springs tribe has contributed \$10,000 to repair the longhouse. In 1976, the three tribes



POOR SHAPE — Although some work has been done on the roof, the Celilo Longhouse remains in nearly the same state of disrepair as it was in 1976.

filed a joint application for a \$650,000 EDA grant, of which 20 per cent was to be funded by the board, to build a cultural activity center and to rebuild the longhouse. According to the tribal planning department, it was turned down because EDA changed its funding posture and the only way to acquire EDA funds for Celilo was for the tribes to give up all other EDA monies.

Later, Warm Springs applied for a HUD grant, only to be turned down again because, at that time, HUD was working with water and sewage projects and funding very few community facilities.

In addition the housing has been left virtually unimproved. Presently, HIP funds are being used to weatherize the eleven residences in the village. But, the weatherizing still does not bring the houses above their substandard conditions. Currently, there are 14 people per unit in the village, and all the homes have been termed "fire traps" by all three tribes.

Warm Springs agency has only one direct contract with the village, and that is through the facilities management department. That department travels to Celilo to repair street lights, broken windows, and the water and sewer lines. There are several other programs that also supply Celilo with necessary aid such as a \$26,000 Johnson-O-Malley contract through the Warm Springs tribe that is used for tutoring, counseling, parental help and provides the salary of a reading aide at the Maupin school. There is also a reimbursement agreement with The Dalles Fire Department for services in case of a fire in the village.

The lack of communication among the tribes is disturbing to all. The three tribes have not caucused since 1976, and often appear to be duplicating efforts.

Chairman of the board Roger Jim, a Yakima, was elected to his position when the board was first created. He feels that the "Warm Springs, Yakima and Umatilla tribes have shirked their responsibilities" toward Celilo and that the villagers have been ignored. "We have to decide who has jurisdiction over the village," he stated. The board consists of eight members, two from each tribal council and two from Celilo.

The fate of Celilo Village is uncertain. Umatilla tribal planner Dale Hile posed the question, "Do we want the village to be a residential area in 20, 30 or 40 years from now? This whole situation will be a political battle for years to come." Some think the area should be a place for Indians from all tribes to gather, some think it should remain a residential area. What it boils down to is that nobody really knows what it should be.

— Stalemate —

Indian News Notes

by Vince Lovett

ANDRUS TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIANS:

Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, testifying before a House Appropriations Subcommittee February 21, opposed any dilution or diminution of United States trust responsibilities to Indian tribes.

In an exchange with Congressman Norman Dicks of Washington State, Andrus said that following recommendations that the Justice Department should no longer represent Indian tribes "would be a violation of the trust and the treaties that we have." Andrus said that having Interior fund private counsel for the tribe was not an adequate alternative because such a system would be subject to political fluctuations. "If Congress doesn't like what is happening in the Federal courts they dry up the money and there goes the legal counsel," he said.

Congressman Dicks then asked Andrus if the "Federal Government should have the same trust responsibility today that it may have had in the 1850's," in the treaty-making period. He explained that then the Indians needed a guardian to protect them and their resources but "today have citizenship," and are as competent "as anyone else in this society." Andrus replied, "To do that could be likened to my having paid 19 years on a 25-year mortgage on my house and deciding that since I have paid that long I can tear the contract up. You can't do that."

Andrus continued: "Let me tell you why the Indian nations of America are different. People say, 'Well, what is the difference between that minority and the black minority or the Hispanic minority or whatever?' You are ignoring the fact that they were here first. This was their land."

"We came over here and we got off the boats, our forefathers did, and we went to these people who had this property and said to them, 'If you will let us have a part of your property we will agree to do this and this and this. We will protect you. We will guarantee so much water. We will guarantee this and this.' We put it on parchment or paper or whatever you want and we signed it and it was ratified by the Congress of the United States."

"That is a contract that is every bit as legitimate as the one that I referred to on the payments on the houses. So they are different in that regard. Then we turned around, Mr. Dicks, and abused them for 100 years. We put them off on some scab patches of land and said 'That is where you will make your living,' and then we did not keep our commitment to them, in my opinion, for many years."

"Then when energy in one form or another was found upon that land we went to them and tried to cheat them out of that. I am saying that the United States of America has to live up to a contract with them just like you have to live up to the one with your banker. Now, you brought it up, and I feel very strongly, as you can tell, about this."

Dicks, conceding that contractual rights had to be respected, said that people in his state and in the Nation thought that the extent of the trust responsibility should be reconsidered and that there seemed to be an attitude in Interior and BIA that the Government, should do "everything that the Indian people want" in matters of litigation and legal claims. Andrus said that this was not Interior's attitude, that the Department did not always judge rights to be the same as Indian claims. He added, however, "But if I am going to err, I am going to err on the side of the Indian."

Andrus said he favored negotiated settlements of claims over litigation but added that he differed radically with those persons who argue "we are all Americans" and therefore Indians should have no special rights. He said, "You can't ignore a contract that not only was signed, it was ratified by the Congress in most instances."

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs Martin Seneca pointed out, in his comments, that Andrus is frequently caught between opposing forces. "On the one hand we have Congressman Dicks indicating that he doesn't understand why we go to the extent that we do with regard to the trust responsibility. On the other hand we have the Indian community coming to this man as Secretary of the Interior indicating that he isn't living up to his responsibility. So we are caught betwixt and between . . ."

Andrus subsequently said: "Mr. Chairman, may I give another example of where I am on this issue . . . many of the tribes do not want to quantify the water rights as of this given time. They might want to wait and see what will be needed in the future. I take a little different view of that because allocations are going on every day and many basins were already over allocated. I am up against it there, as Mr. Seneca pointed out. This happens to us down there constantly. Maybe we err sometimes, Mr. Dicks. It is an honest error I assure you if we do, but it is an awful position to be in when we have been walking over them for years . . ."

Spilyay Speaks

TOE NESS

ONE DAY BILL AND AL were talking when Bill said, "You know that it was real wet the other day." Al; "How wet was it?" Bill; "It was so wet I saw a robin blow drying his worm." YIKES

SS SS SS

THERE WAS A FIRE IN this apartment house and a lady and her baby were trapped on the fourth floor. The firemen had a net and asked her to gently toss her baby. "The baby will be safe, then you can jump." The lady refused when out of the crowd a large black man came and said to the lady. "I'm a professional football player. Throw the child down and I'll catch him gently." The lady decides to take the chance and throws her baby down and he makes a spectacular catch. The crowd cheered, and at that moment the man raised the child high in the air and spiked him on the sidewalk and yelled, "Touchdown!" YIKES

SS SS SS

THERE WAS THIS GUY who went into a empty bar and ordered a drink and asks the bartender, "Do you like to eat Italian foods?" "Heck no, replied the bartender," So the guy said, "Well, do you like to eat Chinese food?" "Heck no!" "Do you like Spanish food?" "No!" "Well, shall we talk about garbage?" "Yeah! That sounds a lot better." "Well, you can go and eat all the garbage you want!" YIKES

SS SS SS

CONFUCIUS SAY: "Loud friend sometime whispering enemy!"

SS SS SS

"IF YOU THINK YOU are in trouble, just wait until the IRS demands a recount of your blessings." YIKES

SS SS SS

ONE DAY THE COOK at the local elementary school couldn't decide what to prepare for the kids, so he decided to prepare some deer meat. When the kids got their helping and were seated at the table, the cook said, "Children, when you taste the meat can you guess what it is? I'll give you a hint, first. It's what your mother calls your dad at times." At that time one of the boys jumped up and said, "Don't touch it, it's Jackass!" YIKES

SS SS SS

THERE WAS THIS GUY camping in the woods when this big monstrous, mad bear came charging out at him. He went to his knees and said, "Please Lord, save me." Nothing happened and the bear kept attacking him. Once again the guy said, "Please Lord, save me." Still nothing happened. In desperation, the guy said, "Well Lord, if you won't help me, please don't help the bear!" YIKES

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