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Spilyay Tymoo

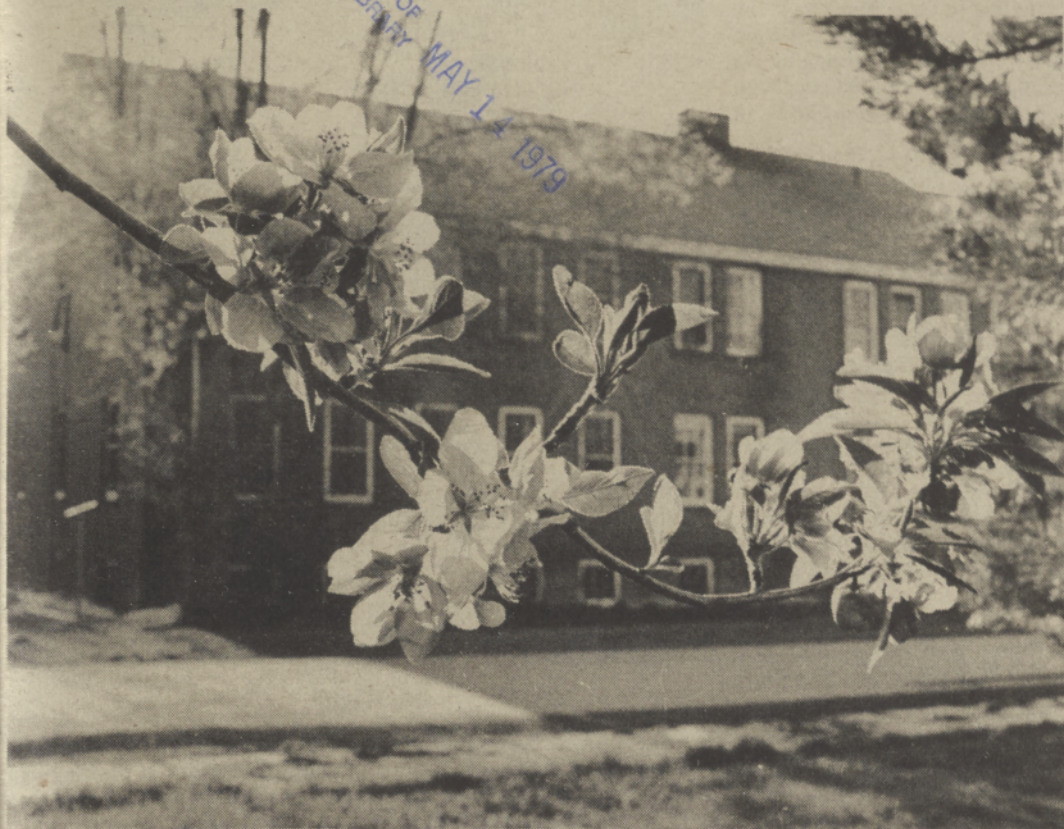
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Sun-soaked

Fruit tree blossoms behind the Alcohol Treatment Center soaked up the sunshine that for two days delivered warmth and the hope of spring to the reservation. Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS

Ebona not signing checks

Murdock Memo Signals Changes in NCAI

by Cynthia Stowell

Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians Andy Ebona no longer has the authority to sign checks for the organization, while travel and salary restrictions have been placed on the staff as the result of a memo from NCAI President Vernioica Murdock dated April 11.

The memo also reinstates staff people terminated by Ebona and calls for creation of an oversight committee to act as a grievance mechanism for employees. There may be further Executive Committee action with regard to Ebona, according to the memo.

"Allegations of serious problem areas of mismanagement and unresponsiveness to directions of the administrative board

by the executive director will be addressed to Mr. Ebona for response prior to the (next) executive committee meeting," states the memo.

NCAI's executive committee, composed of the four officers and eleven area representatives, will be meeting May 3-5 in Albuquerque, at which time the issue is due to come up.

Accounting Breakdown

In an interview with Spilyay Tymoo, Ms. Murdock declined to elaborate on the allegations made against Ebona, since the director of five months has not yet responded to them. It is known however that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians presented NCAI with a position paper approved at their spring conference April 5.

ATNI's position paper called for an investigation into charges made against Ebona by NCAI Vice President Mel Tonasket and Portland Area Vice President Calvin Peters. In the event the charges were substantiated, Ebona should be asked to resign, the paper stated. It was further recommended that if Ebona refused to resign, check signing authority be removed from him.

Tonasket and Peters had referred to the misuse of backslash monies contributed by several tribes at the end of 1977, claiming they have documentation to back up their charges. Murdock told Spilyay, however, "To my knowledge there have been no mis-expenditures."

Murdock did say that there had been a breakdown in NCAI's accounting system, and some incoming dollars had not been "vouchered out" appropriately. Bills cannot be paid until all monies are accounted for, said the president.

Trimmed Staff

Portions of the NCAI memo having to do with staffing were also explained by Murdock. Apparently Ebona had verbally dismissed a number of staff members based on the executive committee's indication that there would be a "crunch on funds." The committee viewed this as procedurally unsound, reinstating some staff and giving formal written notice and severance pay to those "with no existing programs."

The staff of 15 has been cut to 9, said Murdock. But the memo affirms the continuation of the core staff of executive director, executive secretary, grantsman and accountant.

Remaining staff are being discouraged from doing a lot of traveling beyond what is absolutely necessary while being encouraged to communicate more by telephone. In addition, staff

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Council sets two referendum dates Voters Will Decide on Hydroelectric Project May 15

The Tribal Council has called for a Tribal Referendum on May 15 to allow construction of the Pelton Reregulating Dam Hydroelectric Project. Project summaries are being mailed to Tribal members to help explain the purpose and significance of the project. Anyone having questions about the proposal should attend the General Council meeting on May 1 at the

Agency Longhouse. If you have questions and cannot attend the meeting contact the Warm Springs Planning Department.

The early referendum was determined necessary in order to allow a 1980 construction start. Each year construction is delayed; over \$2,000,000 would be lost because of inflation. Due to the complexity and economic significance of the project, other

items have been scheduled for a separate referendum.

The \$25,000,000+ Hydroelectric Project involves the installation of a turbine generator in the existing Pelton Reregulating Dam, with a transmission line connecting the powerhouse to the Warm Springs electrical substation.

According to Tribal spokesmen, the project is a sound investment because of the con-

tinuing increase in electricity costs and difficulties other utility companies are having in developing other powerplants.

Over twice the amount of construction cost is expected to return to the Confederated Tribes during the first twenty-five years of operation.

(Look for more information on the Hydroelectric Project in the May 11 Spilyay)

Hydro project looks favorable

In light of recent nuclear plant scares, particularly the Three Mile Island accident, the development of small hydroelectric power plants is becoming increasingly favorable looking.

Governmental agencies and

public officials are impressed with the proposed hydroelectric project at the Pelton Reregulating dam. In the words of Governor Atiyeh, "It sounds like you're doing this project of help out the government's program" (regarding energy and power policy).

The governor has sent a letter of support for the project and one is expected from Sterling Munro, head of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Key members of BPA and Richard McDonald, program manager of low-head hydro projects with the Department of Energy, have also indicated support for the project.

If this venture is approved by voters at the May 15 referendum election, the Tribes' project will be the first Indian power plant in the states.

"We've got to get our foot into the water with a project like this," said Councilman Delbert Frank, Sr. "I can't see any limits to the hydroelectric project," he concluded.

Water system, housing subjects of June 5 Referendum

June 5 has been designated by the Tribal Council as the referendum date for the proposed Deschutes Domestic Water System and several housing projects. A general council meeting is expected during the last half of May.

The \$8,000,000 water system involves pumping water from the Deschutes River near the Dry Creek Campground up to a new reservoir near Tewee's Butte. From the Tewee's Butte Reservoir transmission lines will carry the water by gravity flow to proposed new reservoirs at Warm Springs and Kah-Nee-Ta.

The proposed water system would develop a dependable source and provide emergency storage for fire protection and possible breakdowns. The existing Shitike Creek and Warm

Springs River water systems have been termed inadequate, primarily because of recurring breakdowns. The new water system would also make it possible to develop rural housing sites between Warm Springs and Kah-Nee-Ta.

Housing Projects

The proposed housing projects include thirty additional Tenino apartments; six Simnasho senior citizens homes; five Simnasho rental relocations and; a twenty-four bed dormitory at Kah-Nee-Ta. Estimated cost for the projects, including access roads, is \$2,457,375.

The housing projects would help relieve the housing shortage facing Tribal members and employees.

(The May 11 Spilyay will have more information on the June 5 referendum items)

Weather

April	HI	LO
12	64	42
13	61	42
14	62	34
15	65	40
16	55	44
17	56	40
18	55	33
19	60	31
20	66	33
21	67	42
22	57	45
23	52	45
24	65	44
25	72	37
26	79	41