



HANGING TO DRY—Marella Sam hung filets of salmon in a breeze and out of the sun at the in-lieu fishing site at Cascade Locks, where the annual salmon bake took place last Sunday. While cooks ran out of fresh cooked salmon for guests, they had plenty of dried salmon and eel to offer and even cut up raw fish for families to take home with them.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Stowell

Salmon bake an old river tradition

Ten days of fishing produces only 51 salmon and steelhead, so Harold Greene and his crew made a last minute trip to the Willamette River for eels. It was a good thing, too, because nearly 500 people appeared at the in-lieu fishing site at Cascade Locks for the annual salmon bake July 22. Only 28 were too late for fresh fish or eel, having to satisfy themselves with dried fish and corn.

Head cook Neda Greene was quite pleased with the turn-out, noting that representatives of other tribes were more in evidence this year. It was a quiet time, with the rowdy folks kept outside the gates by Warm Springs tribal police.

Herb Stwyer led the crowd in pre-dinner worship, using a brand new bell given to him by his grandchildren. He and other elders no doubt reflected on the salmon bakes of old, which usually took place in the fall or spring to celebrate the coming of the chinook salmon.

Charley Jackson, who was raised along the Columbia

River, remembers salmon bakes as far back as 1912. People gathered in the Cascade Locks area, contributing fish and other foods for the celebration. It has always been open to the public—"that's what it's for," Jackson remarked. But it hasn't always been at the Indian reserve park, which did not come into being until the Army Corps of Engineers offered compensation to Indians for fishing grounds destroyed by Bonneville Dam.

Now Indians celebrate on their little square of land and must get special fishing permits to enter the river off-season. Tribal Council donates a few hundred dollars for the event and just a handful of people actually share in the elaborate preparations.

But hundreds of people delight in the fresh salmon, many of them taking pieces home with them. It is a time to express appreciation for the fish that has supported northwest Indians for years and faces an uncertain future.

Discontented fishermen dominated workshop

by Cynthia Stowell

A handful of vocal fishermen had little good to say at the two-day mini-workshop held by the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission in The Dalles July 20-21. Turning purely informational sessions into controversy, the fishermen repeatedly called down speakers, programs and suggestions that they felt challenged their rights.

Under particular attack was the five-year Columbia River management plan agreed on by the four treaty tribes, two states and federal agencies in 1977. "I'm 100% against the five year plan," said one fisherwoman, who felt that it gave control of the upriver fishery to the states and U.S. District Judge Belloni. She and others felt that their tribal representatives had "sold out" their treaty rights by signing the agreement.

Moderator Harris Teo, Yakima member of the Intertribal Fish Commission, cut some speakers short as they strayed from topics on the agenda, reminding participants that the purpose of the presentations was to convey facts and information, not arouse debate. But by the end of the workshop he too briefly panned the plan saying, "The five year plan proved that you can't negotiate anything with the state. Let's lay to rest that crazy plan."

The largely negative atmosphere did produce some positive action, however. Most of the fishermen in attendance signed a resolution calling for summer and fall fisheries above Bonneville Dam. The resolution, which Intertribal representatives promised to present to the harvest advisory committee meeting this week, recommended a late summer Indian fishery from July 23 to August 11 and a fall season beginning August 25 and continuing through November 30.

Fishermen whose livelihood depends on the size of their catches, were primarily concerned with getting their nets into the river. "We want to fish, that's what we want to do," said a fisherwoman. "We don't want to listen to what we've heard for...years." Fishermen criticized tribal officials, attorneys, biological experts and the commission for doing a lot of traveling and talking but failing to secure more fish for the Indians.

Defending tribal leaders, Quinalt fisheries expert Guy McMinds said, "Indian fishermen pick on tribal governments who can only regulate what's left." McMinds pointed to the huge ocean harvest as the Indians' greatest enemy "it makes treaty rights null and void." Indians have three courses of action, other than courts and politics, in combating the ravages of the ocean fishery, said McMinds: get into the lower river fishery, switch target fisheries, or get into hatchery production.

Teo also advocated hatchery efforts, saying, "We've got to get into the fish-raising business." He stressed that Indians had done nothing to damage the resource and with education and planning "we will one day manage the resource."

Dale Long of the Intertribal Fish Commission presented a slide show on his agency's efforts to train Indians in fishery technology. His was the only presentation that was not greeted with argument. The Native American Economic Stimulus Program, funded with a Department of Labor grant of \$180,000, offers hands-on and academic experience in fisheries management and aquaculture, placing students in hatcheries and college classrooms. Locals Ellen Heath, Colleen and Julie Seelatsee, and Nancy Sooksoit are currently training at Humboldt State University in California under this program.

Efforts to include upriver salmon and steelhead in the federal Endangered Species Act were described by Dale Evans of the National Marine Fisheries Service. While classification as "threatened" would mean fewer restrictions on the fishery than an "endangered" classification, Evans said that the impact of either course of action on the Indian fishery is unknown at the present time.

Fishermen clearly did not want to continue as the sole conservationists, saying they should be the last to have their seasons closed, but in times of crisis everyone should be shut down. Evans said one key to rehabilitating the salmon runs is managing the water as a "fish habitat as well as a kilowatt and wheat producer."

Perhaps the most unpopular ideas presented to fishermen at the workshop were an appeal

from a tugboat operator for lights on Indian boats and the fish commission's draft of a uniform law enforcement code.

Tugboat operator Glenn Comstock told fishermen, "We're not concerned with whether you have rights or not. Our main concern is your safety and our licenses. We cannot see you at night; you have no lights." He also said that nets were getting close to the traffic lane and tangling in their propellers, costing Indians their nets and tugboat operators drydock time. He recommended lights on the ends of nets.

Fishermen argued that lights obscure their night vision and are an economic hardship. "We know we risk our lives every time we go out on the river," said one woman, adding that she was weary of "demands" on Indian fishermen. Some suggestions were offered to Comstock, including more visible lights and lighter colors on tugboats, and warning horns. They reached a tentative compromise—that Indian fishermen in particularly hazardous places voluntarily equip their boats with lights.

Umatilla tribal attorney Cathy Wilson held a public hearing on the proposed uniform law enforcement code for the Columbia River, which has been over a year in the making. The code spells out regulations for the commercial and ceremonial fisheries and provides for an intertribal court to hear cases of alleged violation.

"I wouldn't have this plan for anything in the world," said a fisherwoman. Some felt the code "supersede" their treaty rights and instead of encouraging tribal management of the fishery, it would make criminals of the Indian fishermen. "Indians don't want to be told what to do," said one fisherman. "They have old, unwritten laws they go by."

Tim Wapato, 20-year veteran of the L.A. Police Department and the commission's new law enforcement official, warned, "If Indian people don't regulate, then the state will step in." Two constructive suggestions from the fishermen were that procedures and regulations in the code should not depend so heavily on state and federal laws but should reflect original Indian law, and that cases be

tried in existing agency court systems.

The workshop ended abruptly before the last agenda item (tribal involvement in managing the resource) was introduced. A sharp blow from

Teacher housing on reservation questioned by 509-J school board

Should District 509-J continue to offer housing for teachers in Warm Springs and Simnasho or should they gradually phase out housing here and bus employees to and from their jobs?

This question was one of several which came out at Monday night's school board meeting when action to authorize the bid on a new mobile home to replace an existing one at Warm Springs, was postponed.

Appearing on the agenda as a routine item, board action came to an abrupt halt as member Evadna Bartlett asked, "If our basic business is education, what are we doing in housing?"

The district administration proposed to purchase a new mobile home for the school housing area in Warm Springs, to replace an aging unit already in use there. The district presently has seven houses and two mobile homes there, as well one house at Simnasho. The housing maintenance and replacement cost comes out of a housing fund established from rents charged for the units, and there is not direct district outlay of tax funds for the program.

Bartlett said that there was bus transportation already provided by the district for employees — to and from Madras — and explained that she was having second thoughts on the housing.

Don Aitken, board member, suggested that the district was not adding but only replacing a housing unit, but Bartlett countered that the district should be getting out of

housing, not replacing it.

Board member Larry Hyder said that he could see the need for housing at Simnasho, but not at Warm Springs.

Lloyd Smith, Warm Springs member of the school board, said that he disagreed with the idea of getting out of housing. "The program has paid for itself," he said. Smith went on to say that there would be some legal problems since the housing and the schools had been turned to the district by the Confederated Tribes.

"Housing would be a positive factor towards the Warm Springs Community," Smith said. "It would be better to increase housing. Too many are already far removed from their jobs. I would hate to see all teachers bussed in."

Mrs. Bartlett said that it "would be ideal for some teachers to live out there, but I don't believe that the school district should be in the housing business."

Smith stated that the board must consider the school land situation, and that the housing is on school property.

Hyder said that he was not in favor of the district maintaining the housing, but would encourage the Confederated Tribes to make room in their community for teachers.

Smith then said that the board would need some legal advice on the return of the land, and on how that land situation would affect the school.

After further discussion, the board decided to postpone action on the mobile home bid and to consider the matter at their August 13 meeting.

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