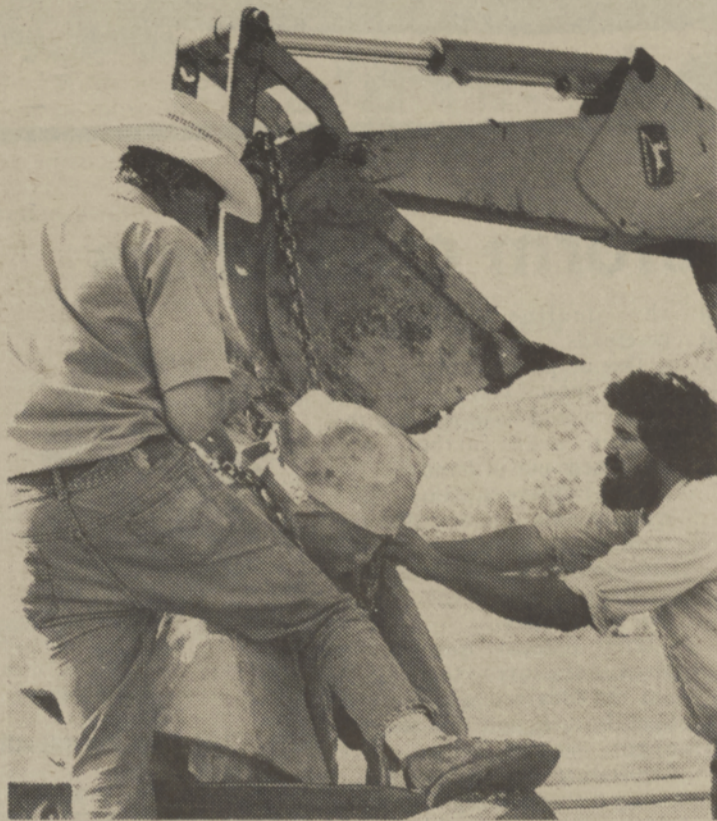


That's no way to treat a woman!



NCAI Albuquerque W.S. delegates meet with Interior's Andrus

They say that the action at national Indian meetings happens behind the scenes, away from the convention floor. It seemed to be happening in both places at the National Congress of American Indians annual convention in Albuquerque this week.

The Warm Springs delegation had a private audience with Secretary of the Interior Cecil B. Andrus Thursday night, securing his support for the Tribes' hydroelectric project. Asked to communicate his support to House Appropriations Subcommittee chairman Sidney Yates "at the earliest possible date," Andrus said he would bypass the "channels" and find a more direct way to assist. The Secretary said he was in "full support" of the project.

Tribal Council members and management representatives explained that funding to supplement the \$10 million in Tribal funds was being sought through Congressional appropriation since the Tribes cannot issue tax-free bonds as other governmental entities do. The Senate version of the 1980 appropriations bill includes the balance for the Tribes' \$25 million project, but the House does not.

Andrus and the Warm Springs group also talked informally about fishery problems in the northwest and Andrus reaffirmed his commitment to Indians and their right to a fair share of the fish.

Also in a resource frame of mind, President Carter sent an energy-related message to the convention. In a letter he told conventioners, "As we move forward in resolving our nation's energy crisis, I am committed to honoring the treaties, executive orders and statutes which constitute the basis for special relationships between the federal government and Indian tribes...I assure you that the federal

government will help protect your natural resources and assist tribes in prudent resource management."

Speaking in Carter's absence, Secretary of Labor Howard Marshall gave high points to the Carter administration for its job creation and economic development efforts. "One of the highlights of our national economic recovery efforts is the Native American Economic Stimulus Program," he said, indicating that it provided \$36 million in "new, flexible funding" for reservation developments. In addition, three new job corps centers have been committed to Indian tribal organizations in Alaska, Oklahoma and Minnesota.

Marshall further defended Carter's record in Indian affairs by comparing the \$162 million spent on Indian programs from 1974 to 1976 with \$567 million spent in 1977-78 while Carter has been in office.

The credibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs was challenged at the NCAI convention, with charges of dictating rather than servicing. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Forrest Gerard acknowledged the problems, saying, "The B.I.A. has been allowed to drift into probably the most serious public administration problems of any governmental agency." But he sees improvements "because we now have tougher reforms that are strengthening." Gerard then explained management improvement efforts in the Bureau and Project Integrity, which he described as "the heart of a B.I.A. effort to clarify how funds are used."

At least one tribal representative attacked the Self-Determination Act for "working in the opposite direction." Instead of having more contracting funds available, tribes seem to be 24 losing money and programs, said Alta Guzman of the Nez Perce Tribe. "That dissatisfaction is hard to cure," she said. A



Yankton Sioux representative said it was more Congress' fault than the Bureau's, since they hold the purse strings.

In other NCAI convention news, Warm Springs' Sally Rhoan apparently impressed onlookers at the Miss NCAI competition with her traditional talent. But the judges gave their votes to another of the 19 young women competing for the title, Judy Ann Neaman of Yakima was selected this year's Miss NCAI on the basis of her beauty, talent and poise. When her music failed to work for the talent segment, Judy delivered an impromptu speech. A first year student at Brigham Young University, Judy plans to earn a degree in secondary education with time out to travel for and represent the National Congress of American Indians in the coming year.

It was probably the toughest day of rootdigging that she had ever encountered, and certainly the first time she had to be carried to her digging plot by the neck. But she is securely in place now and should be left to years of peaceful digging.

The rootdigger sculpture arrived at the Tribal Administration Center on Monday morning September 24 to claim a permanent spot in the traffic circle outside the front door. Commissioned as part of the building construction and decoration, she was two years late for the building opening but welcome nonetheless.

People generally like and appreciate the oversized cast aluminum likeness of a rootdigger. Some comment on the odd way in which she holds her cup'n (digging tool) and the fact that she must be left-handed because of the position of her wapas (root bag). And aren't her braids supposed to be behind her shoulders when she's digging? But the details are less important than the overall effect, which is commanding and dignified.

Sculptor Richard Byer of Seattle created the piece in about five months. Byer is known locally for having carved the wood bas-reliefs at Kah-Nee-Ia Lodge. No one has to guess who Byer's model was. The sculpture bears a striking resemblance to Bernice Mitchell, who posed in the Kah-Nee-Ia hills over a year ago.

The rootdigger was meekly dangled by the neck from a backhoe and lowered into place, metal rods in the bottom of her feet fitting into supports. She was then leveled with a wood beam and cemented into place. Byer commented on the "very sensitive job" backhoe operator Kamin Smith did in handling the sculpture.

As the first piece of publicly displayed art in Warm Springs, the rootdigger already enjoys a privileged status in the community.

Community Calendar

- October 10 First session of the Weight-Loss Program. Will be held at the Community Center beginning at 7 p.m.
- October 12 No school.
- October 25 Pumpkin painting contest - call the Community Center for information.
- October 27 Fall Harvest Rummage Sale - Call the Center for information.
- October 27 Workshop on unusual ways to use your fall harvest vegetables. Sponsored by OSU Extension office.
- October 28 It's fall. Set your clocks BACK one hour.
- October 31 Halloween Carnival and movie following trick treating.