

New teachers, counselor join grade school staff

Photos and Text by Roger Stwyer

Small Fire Hawk—Counselor

Just settling into his eighth position since 1976, Small Fire Hawk, 33, feels he's in a better spot now than he's ever been.

Hawk is the new counselor at Warm Springs Elementary replacing William Bailey, who is counseling at West Linn Junior High School.

Coming to Central Oregon as a history teacher and coach at Madras High School in the school year 1976-77, Small Fire quit to become the high school Title IV-A counselor in January 1978. He resigned from the counseling position to join the tribal police force after one month. He also held short terms as juvenile officer, juvenile director, and drug investigator last year.

On August 1, 1978, while

working for the police department, Hawk broke his ankle. "That injury basically forced me out of law enforcement," said Hawk. "If I hadn't got hurt, I'd probably still be working for the Tribes. When you're working for police you have to be sound and fit," he added.

In April of this year, he took on the job of supervisor of parole and probation because it was a desk job and he didn't want to leave Warm Springs.

A counseling position at the grade school looked interesting to Small Fire, who spent four years as a counselor at Hoopa and Bishop, California.

"I found the right place for me at the elementary level with the Warm Springs youth," he said.

When asked why he changed to so many jobs, Small Fire's reply was, "I came here to work for the people and I still am, no matter where I'm working. My work is always pointing towards what we could do for the kids."

"I've always been tied in with kids from Warm Springs," he said. "My working commitment is right here with these people and these kids. I like it. I have fun. There's no reason for me to leave and I don't want to."

Parents can reach Small Fire Hawk at 553-1612.

"He (Hawk) gets along really well with the kids and staff," said school principal Mike Darcy. "I think he's a real top notch counselor," he added.



Diane Brewer—5th grade

After teaching social studies to high school students at Tacoma for two years Diane Brewer, a member of the Lummi tribe, decided she wanted to teach at a school with a high Indian student population. Warm Springs had more than 95 percent Native American population last year so Brewer is content to work here.

"So far I like it really well," said Brewer. She also said she would like to become better acquainted with the Warm Springs community in general.

One of Brewer's ideas is to intergrate Indian culture and history into the social studies curriculum in her classroom. Miss Brewer earned B.A.s at the University of Washington at Seattle in American Indian studies and social studies at the secondary level.

Brewer said she would like to see all of her students brought up at least one grade level in all subjects.

She came to Madras with her two daughters by way of Sumner, Washington. She worked in Auburn as a counselor at the Employment Security Office. Prior to that she was an adult education for one and a half years at Camp Lejeune military base in North Carolina.

She was also the director of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) for a while. Then after taking extra courses at the University of Washington in the Indian teacher education program she wanted to put that to use.

She said her biggest problem was finding a place to live which was "really difficult." Diane is living in Madras and rides the bus to work.



Gloria Keene—3rd grade

Gloria Keene said she and her family have been thinking of coming over to live for several years because they didn't like the valley.

"It was kind of depressing to always be rained on," said the new third grade teacher.

Mrs. Keene worked at Sidwalter Butte lookout during the summer and said she liked the area and enjoyed staying up there. She was born and raised

in the Madras area and says it's "always nice to come back."

Keene came from Creswell, Oregon where she was a substitute teacher at the primary level off and on for the last ten years. Before that she taught second and third grade at Cottage Grove and Kindergarten at Cottage Grove and Creswell.

The first few weeks of school Gloria described as "pretty hectic. It's been hard for me

since I've been out (of teaching) for ten years. Since I was substituting that's made it easier," she said. "I'm just now finding out about third graders," she added.

Keene said she has no set goals and says her idea is to "pick up on a group and take them far as you can because that's the name of the education game."

When asked about discipline, Keene replied that with 24 students "you have to have a hand otherwise it gets more chaotic."

Finding a house is keeping her family busy. They are now staying temporarily in a trailer, which they don't find adequate.

Mrs. Keene has two daughters who attend Madras High School.

Stefanie Bargas—4th grade

Filling in temporarily for Laura Fuentes at the fourth grade level, who is on leave of absence until January, is Stefanie Bargas, 22, who is originally from Phoenix, Arizona.

Kah-Nee-Ta teaching tennis and learned about the job through friends. "I always wanted to be a teacher," says Bargas, who is taking her first try at teaching.



Stefanie earned her elementary education and special education certificates at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona in December 1978 and would like to work on her Masters in education.

If she is unable to secure her own teaching position, Stefanie says she will probably be a substitute teacher for awhile or maybe go back to school.

Bargas has 25 students in her classroom which she says are all great. "I really emphasize discipline," she says, adding, "I haven't found it really difficult or hard at all."

"The staff has been really nice and been really helpful to me. So it's made it a lot easier."

She likes all sports, enjoys hiking, reading, and being around people.

