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WSFPI annual meeting attended by few

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries annual general council meeting was held March 17 at the Agency Longhouse. Very few interested tribal members attended the meeting. Those who were at the meeting were given colorful and informative 16-page reports.

Five of the WSFPI board members were present along with Tribal Council members and WSFPI staff. Board chairman Paul Sanders explained that even though the mill went through extensive renovation last year, it continued to operate "when other companies might have shut down. We maintained employment." Total employment was down 16 percent.

Sanders further explained that in order for the mill to remain competitive in years to come, the mill had to improve its equipment and operations. Capital improvements made in 1979 were financed out of profits and a loan from the Confederated Tribes. The \$5.5 million investment is expected to pay out in less than two years. The renovation is aimed at a 20-year growth period. "Earnings in 1979 were \$1,137,124 on sales of \$27,403,201" states the colorful annual report. It continued by saying that "while earnings were 27.6 percent of 1978's record, sales were 86.6 percent. Stumpage payments amounted to \$11,500,165, an increase of \$1,257,778 over 1978."

WSFPI general manager Ralph DeMoisy stated that they are "into one of the toughest years we've ever been in to. We expect to make some money this year." The projected \$1,492,000 profit for 1980 is getting "tougher and tougher" to meet because the interest rates keep jumping. DeMoisy said the most immediate goal is to get out of

the Bank and Tribe before logging season opens. The mill has already paid \$500,000 on loans with the Tribe and has completely paid off First National Bank with a final payment of \$1.5 million. The loans were used to finance the renovation.

Former owner of Madras Plywood and present board member Sam Johnson praised the tribe for their success. "It is a memorable accomplishment. Utilization of the forest waste is being cut back considerably," he stated. "I'm delighted to see such an increase in employment of tribal members," he concluded. Ten of the 22 management positions are filled by tribal members, 30% of mill employees are tribal members and affiliates and 40% of the woods workers are tribal members and affiliates.

Board member Sal Sahme stated that his biggest concern was employment. "It was also important to generate benefits," he added. "We are looking toward diversification," he said, continuing to say that nearly all raw materials in the forest will be used in the future.

Questions concerning employment, advancement and reforestation were presented to the board and forestry personnel. Rosella Phillips questioned the \$4,834,249 decrease in capital. "What effect will this have in 1980? What about our bonus?" It was explained that the bonus is based on 25% of tribal net profit, not mill net profit.

Tribal members expressed concern about non-Indians taking wood from the mill area. Confrontations have arisen among tribal members, non-Indians and tribal police concerning the removal of unusable wood at the mill. As of March 19, the wood removal permit system was cancelled

and the wood will be used within the mill as chip material. No one will be allowed to take

wood home anymore, including tribal members. Tribal members and other

people on the tribal mailing list will soon be receiving copies of the annual report.

Minnie Yahtin chosen Miss Warm Springs

Over one hundred Warm Springs people gathered at the Agency Longhouse to see the crowning of 1980-81 Miss Warm Springs, 18 year old Minnie Yahtin. Minnie was one of four contestants vying for the title at the fifth annual Miss Warm Springs pageant. Runners-up were Martina Heath, Tammy Kalama and Jolene Estimo.

Spectators watched as the four girls performed traditional and modern talent and gave brief speeches about their families, tribe, customs and traditions. The girls also did traditional dancing.

Some of the girls were not completely familiar with tribal economics, and it was explained by the Miss Warm Springs nominating committee chairman, Sam Colwash, that the girls selected would be required to attend Council meetings and receive training and information concerning tribal affairs.

Minnie is the daughter of Chesley and Amelia Yahtin and is a senior at Madras High school. She has eight brothers and sisters. Minnie is planning to attend Brigham Young University to major in business or sociology.

Minnie received a shawl, beaded crown and a \$200 scholarship as well as other gifts. The runners-up also received gifts from the committee and VFW.

Minnie will be representing the Confederated Tribes at national events such as the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Cattlemen's

Association. In case Minnie is unable to attend such events, the first runner up, Martina Heath, will be required to attend.

People were invited to join in dancing and drumming throughout the evening. A light supper was served as well as a midnight snack.



Miss Warm Springs-Minnie Yahtin