

New Department Answer to reservation housing shortage

Building is at its best at new home construction sites around Warm Springs. This is due to the fact that Warm Springs is in control of this project.

No longer does construction depend upon an outside contractor who comes in, hires sub-contractors to do just enough to pass standards and then in a sense "flying by night" hoping his job has no repercussions.

The new construction department is taking the responsibility for the entire project under the direction of contracting officer, Les Yaws. The department was created after approval of a \$6.6 million housing referendum last November. The project calls for construction of 78 housing units and excavation of various homesites throughout the Warm Springs area.

Contracting officer Yaws is familiar with the Warm Springs area and the people. He's seen what has been done previously in housing and has a desire to greatly improve the housing structures to suit the residents.

Yaws has worked in construction for 12 years. He has worked for the Confederated tribes as supervisor of purchasing and for the last three years as contracting officer. He has been involved to some degree in the history of the construction project since he's been with the Confederated Tribes.

Yaws says, "I anticipate this housing project to be about the best housing project we've ever had here." Not only with the units be well constructed but "we will save a minimum of 20% by not having a general contractor, besides getting it done in half the time."

Construction manager for the housing project is Paul Moran. Moran has been in the construction business for 26 years. He was interested in putting together a construction department for the Tribe right from the beginning for two reasons, "so the Tribe could become its own contractor, and to have a better product." He says, "the homes we're putting up will surpass anything I've seen built on or outside the reservation. There will be no corners cut in materials."

Also working in the construction department is construction superintendent, Ray Elkins, a housing construction veteran of 42 years. Cost accountant for the project is Cliff Yarnell. Mary Histake is secretary for the department. Other employees include four yard operation people, and two survey aides. The department is still looking for two people interested in learning the trade from the bottom up.

The actual labor is performed by sub-contractors. Moran says "we've had no trouble getting labor because of the building industry slump." Sub-contractors were not recruited on the basis of low bid, "Quality of work and the product and our time schedule" were the factors considered in acceptance of a bid.

Besides allowing for close supervision over the work, having the construction department right at home enables individual preferences to be expanded upon. Each resident of the Simnasho homes have selected their wood burning heater from several that were put on display in the administration building. The

construction department has also been able to meet with the Simnasho senior citizens to get opinions concerning what they like and dislike about the plans for their homes. "When we finally went to design the house we incorporated what they liked into it," says Yaws.

The project calls for the construction of "78 units which will be ready for occupancy by this winter" claims Yaws. He says everything is on schedule, even though some construction was delayed a little because of mud. He says, "within a month to a month and a half all heck

will break loose; there will be wall to wall people."

The framing of some of the units is already being done in the Greeley Heights phase II subdivision. Twenty 3 and 4 bedroom homes on 2½ acre sites are being constructed.

By winter Tenino should have thirty 2 bedroom apartments, ten 2 bedroom duplexes and the excavation complete for ten more duplexes.

The Simnasho senior citizens housing will include eight homes, five units to be remodeled and ten additional homesites.

Twenty homesites are proposed for the Dry Creek subdivision.

By March of 1981 Warm Springs residents will be in their new homes. The landscaping may not be finished due to the time of the year but the building will have been completed.

As far as the operation of the construction department Paul Moran has this to say, "If this thing is run right, in the future Indian people could have a construction company of their own. There's no telling where it could go."



Part of the construction department crew works on getting the right lumber together for each housing unit. William Leonard moves these boards around for easy access.

Retirement dinner for past superintendent

A retirement dinner is being planned for Doyce "Speck" Waldrip, former Superintendent in Warm Springs. Waldrip worked in Warm Springs for six years before going to Portland as Assistant Area Director (Economic Development).

The dinner will be held at the

Cosmopolitan Hotel in Portland with attitude adjustment hour beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 per person.

Reservations can be made by contacting Wilford G. Bowker or Marie Perkins at 231-6702. Deadline for reservations is June 6, 1980.

Dancer performs for students

Boye Ladd opened his exhibition of Indian dancing at Warm Springs Elementary with an explanation to the children that to learn anything one must first learn respect. He emphasized that a person learns more by listening than by talking. That is how he learned his songs and how he learned to communicate with the birds. He listened.

The audience of children sat enthralled as Ladd prattled like a blue jay and they laughed at his imitation of a dog in his daily routine.

The most exciting event of the exhibition, however, was the hoop dance. Using fifteen hoops representing the many different people of the world Ladd showed them coming together to form a perfect design, each in its place.

Ladd often performs with a group of Aztec dancers led by Florencio Yescas who is a traditional Indian leader from Mexico. Ladd hopes to be able to bring these dancers to the Pi-Ume-Sha celebration in June. He claims their "costumes are magnificent, their dancing fantastic, and they would teach a lot of our young people."

These dancers have never been to a "real powwow" like we have out here Ladd stated. He tells the dancers that if they want to meet real Indians they have to be out on a reservation.

Ladd is also interested in the plight of some Indians. He said "there are children with huge stomachs in some places due

to malnutrition." He said, "This shouldn't be happening among our people. We need recognition from the Indians for the Indians, not from the governments." From his tours Ladd is setting aside money to help poor Pueblos. He is meeting with the leaders of

these people to try to help them.

Due to a tight schedule Ladd had to leave Warm Springs soon after the elementary school performance. He intends to contact someone in the near future who would help him get the Aztec dancers to Warm Springs for Pi-Ume-Sha.



Spilyay Tymoo

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