



*Ribbons Galore-Clydell Gilbert presents ribbons won at the year's track meets to John Ross at the Simnasho school awards presentation. Clydell will not be back as cook for the Simnasho school next year so she was particularly recognized at the ceremony.*

## Students presented awards



### Perfect Attendance

*Ten Warm Springs elementary school students who deserve special recognition for attendance at school every day are Rebecca Soliz, Veronica Smith, Shirelle Smith, June Smith, Brigitte Scott, Kristina Sampson, Carol Miller, Willis Miller, Alvis Smith III, and Anthony Wells (not pictured). Missing only one-half day of school the entire year were; Wayne Miller, Melva Tanewasha, Thurmas Tufti, and Michele Wells.*

# Senior Citizen Home repairs approved

Work will begin in July the homes of five rurally located Senior citizens who have applied to the housing department for home repairs. Commencement of the repair work has been delayed until this time in order to utilize funding sources other than that of the Tribe. Farmers Home Administration has finally approved renovation funds for these five homes.

Annie Smith's home is first on the list for work to be done. She will have new roofing put on, a wheel chair ramp installed, insulation installed and work done on her porch. Bessie Guerin, Roy Heath, Sr., Ellen Squiemphen and Isabell Keo will also benefit from state and tribal funds by having work done in their homes to bring them up to standard.

Leroy Parker from the FmHA office met with tenant manager, Neda Wesley, Herb Graybael from the utilities department and other interested persons including some senior citizens on May 30. Parker informed the housing committee that the state

through FmHA would provide \$20,000 for work on the five homes. He states that "there is \$3,000 to \$4,000 available through other sources that he will work on."

Several applications are pending due to incompleteness. Senior citizens were unable to be contacted by the housing department so they were not able to file the applications with FmHA. With additional applications Parker says, "we then have the leverage to ask for a special collection of funds."

Repair work for rural area Senior citizens is a new program. The proposal was approved by Tribal Council in 1979. Money was set aside to meet the needs of these rural residents. Each rural home has been allotted \$1,500 for emergencies, and in extreme necessity the housing committee can allow for more.

The Senior citizens who live in the Simnasho and Warm Springs housing developments are taken care of and given assistance with their bills. But Senior citizens who choose to

remain in their rural homes are given little by the Tribe. The allotted funds will enable the Tribe to help these rural residents.

Many homes, according to Uren Leonard, initiator of the program, were built before housing fire and safety codes existed on the reservation. With the appropriated funds these homes can be brought up to standard.

The program serves all enrolled tribal members 60 years and over, on or adjacent to the reservation who are in a low income bracket.

Unemployable Senior Citizens that live alone can receive as much as 100% payment for work done on their homes. Senior citizens who have an employable person living in the household, tribal or non-tribal member, can receive 50% payment.

Tribal funds are used only after all other funding sources have been exhausted. Senior citizens can receive as much as \$5,000 through FmHA. They are encouraged to apply for

these funds. There is also an FmHA loan available up to \$2,500 for home repair at 1% interest for Senior citizens with a low income.

Herb Graybael has examined the rural homes making suggestions for repair work needed. Everyone involved feels it is important that a home safe for its occupants. "A house is more than just shelter from the weather" states the proposal to Tribal Council.

Some difficulty has come about in cases where land that a house sits on is not privately owned. Senior citizens who need work done and who apply to FmHA must have some form of ownership interest or undivided allotment. The state through FmHA is prohibited by law from working with people who do not have some written right to occupy that property. The question of assigned or leased land is now being determined in Washington D.C. Whether or not that land will be applicable for FmHA funds will be

known, hopefully, within a month, according to Leonard.

Mobile Homes cannot be funded through FmHA at all. Assistance can be obtained through the tribal housing department.

It is of primary importance that Senior citizens be safe and sound. They want to remain in their homes because it is where they are most comfortable giving them the opportunity for a happy mental and physical life. Neda Wesley expressed her concern for them, "their happiness is my prime concern. It is important that there is someone to care for them."

Neda says it takes a long time to process paperwork for funds, but the Senior citizens shouldn't worry about it. They, however, must get their applications in. She says she sometimes meets with an angry person who feels nothing is being done. The housing department is as concerned as each Senior citizen. Those homes that need repair work, she says, "will have the work done before it gets cold."



### Play Day

*Play Day provided the chance for parents and children to spend a few hours together on the last day of school. Students of Warm Springs elementary participated in games and then had a hot dog lunch*

## Mendacino convicted for murder

A 12 person jury found Phyll Mendacino guilty of the November 3, 1977 stabbing death of 6 year old Larisa Wahneeta. The retrial took place in the state district court in Portland and lasted five days.

The sentence for the murder charge will be handed down on June 13 in the courtroom of Judge Clifford Olsen. Mendacino faces a possible life time sentence.

Attorney for the state John Bennett said, "there was a lot of evidence against him." And he was "caught in a lie."

Mendacino had put forward the story that a hitch hiker had raped and killed the child. His stories exposed contradictions.

State medical examiner, Dr. William Brady and Multnomah County examiner, Dr. Larry Luman gave strong

testimony to support the prosecution's case of Mendacino's doing harm to the child. These men, who are certified forensic pathologist, dealing in violent deaths, examined the girl and determined her death to have been caused by Mendacino. The wound which he claimed to have received from the hitchhiker was determined to be self-inflicted.

Another of the 21 witnesses called to testify was David Sterling, an inmate coming in contact with Mendacino in the Oregon State Penitentiary. He testified that Mendacino had admitted to him that he had killed the girl.

This is Mendacino's second trial. He was previously released because of a technicality. It was found that

his confession was improperly obtained.

Asked whether he thought Mendacino would appeal his case, attorney Bennett said "he has not heard that Mendacino will but in cases of murder the convicted usually do."

## Beauty Contest

Applications are still being taken for the Junior Beauty Contest to be held during the July 4 celebration. The girls participating must be between the ages of 9 and 14. During the parade they must be on horseback and in full regalia.

If any girl is interested in participating in the contest please contact Neda Wesley prior to the parade.