

After 42 years of service

Upon retirement, Edith Danzuka still has "lots to do"



Edith Danzuka was honored at a Kah-Nee-Ta luncheon July 31, her last day of work after 42 years with the Confederated Tribes. Beaming with her customary smile, she holds up an exceptional silver bracelet presented to her by the Tribes. She and her husband, Norman, were also offered an all-expense paid vacation of their choice, to be taken whenever they choose.



Edith Switzler — 1938

Photo from 1938 Chemawa yearbook
courtesy Taylor Arthur

Monday was spent drying corn and making kool-aid for visitors and grandchildren. Another day will be spent cleaning out the basement which has slowly accumulated treasures since 1951 when Edith and Norm moved into their new home.

Edith (Switzler) Danzuka is not wanting for activity upon her retirement after 42 years working for the Confederated Tribes. It's not going to take much adjustment, she says, "I've got lots to do."

Even before she officially started working full-time in 1938, Edith held numerous summer jobs here. Since 1934, Edith has worked in three administration buildings. In the first, where the police station now stands, she served food to the Civilian Conservation Corp for one dollar a day and meals. This was one of her summer jobs. During the school year she was enrolled at Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

Edith has seen many people come and go in both the tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs offices. She has seen four superintendents serve terms of office and she has worked

under three secretary-treasurers, often acting as second-in-command in the absence of the General Manager.

In 1938, following her graduation from Chemawa, Edith was a telephone operator for the Tribes and then a nurse's aide. From 1945 to 1948 she served as tribal clerk and from 1948 to 1952 as land clerk. From 1953 until now she has worked in the vital statistics department as Vital Statistics supervisor.

At a retirement luncheon held for Edith at Kah-Nee-Ta the last day of July, the respect everyone has for her was related by a variety of anecdotes. Zane Jackson recalled her ability to "slug it out" during childhood days. Garland Brunoe remembers when Edith kept him honest by catching a \$9,000 check going through to his father which should have been for ninety dollars.

"Young people always have someone to look to in Edith. Thank you for all you have given us," Mike Clements told her at the luncheon.

Ken Smith said he would especially miss Edith. "I've

always respected Edith. If a hard decision was to be made it was always back to Edith. In a gently and persuasive way she was able to talk about a problem. She always made good recommendations. I'm not sure who we're going to get advice from now."

Agreeing with Ken Smith, Jacob Frank said, "I don't think Tribal Council can get along without her. How are we ever going to replace anyone like Edith?"

In appreciation for 42 years of service, Tribal Council in a formal session authorized Edith and her husband Norman "to enjoy an all-expense paid weekend vacation of their choice as a gesture of sincere appreciation and recognition of the outstanding work performance of Edith Danzuka."

Asked where they might be spending those days Edith said they haven't had time to think about it yet. Norman remarked, "Every place you go always has so many people. I think the best place to take a vacation is right here on the reservation." Edith agreed, adding, "There's so many places here I haven't seen yet."



Girl Scouts — 1937

Can you pick Edith out of this group of Chemawa Girl Scouts? In case you don't recognize her smile she is in the third row, right side, under the window. This photo was taken for the 1937 Chemawa annual, the year the scout organization was formed. Pictured are: Minnie Menard, Mildred Lorenz, Harriet Beach, Arlene Bingham, Jessie Moses, Elsie Zack, Theda Aguilar, Venus Ingawanup, Doris Ingawanup, Caroline Davis, Carol Severson, Edith Switzler, (Top row, far right) Lena Bell, Vivian Paul, Bernice Paul, Jenny Nelson and Aletha Whizz.

Chemawa photo provided courtesy of Taylor Arthur

Kah-Nee-Ta board looking at future of resort

The Kah-Nee-Ta Board of Directors, whose sole responsibility is to look out for the overall operation of the resort, is in the process of taking a good, hard look at where Kah-Nee-Ta is, what it is, and where it should be headed.

"The basic issue the board is looking at is the future of Kah-Nee-Ta as a resort and business enterprise for the Tribe," said board member Larry Calica. Others serving on the board are: Zane Jackson (Chairman), Levi Bobb, John Ritchie, Mike Hollern, Mike Clements, and Robert Hull, general manager of the Village Green in Eugene.

New member Mike Clements explained that the board for the first time is working toward the development of a long-range plan which will establish definite growth boundaries for Kah-Nee-Ta. He said they are

trying to identify what they have to work with, the general intent of Kah-Nee-Ta, what they want to do with the resort, and the type of clientele they want the resort to draw.

"We need to decide where we're going before we bring in anyone to do a study," Clements reasoned. Levi Bobb said that a new study will be done by somebody, but the board hasn't yet decided who. "It's the board's responsibility to first come up with what the study should focus on," he said.

"Past studies have been incomplete. We want to make sure we come out with a good one—get it done right this time," Bobb stressed. "We are concerned with protecting the investment the Tribe has made in the resort," Calica remarked. "We want to get that loss column down."

Clements explained that the

board is questioning how to perceive the resort. "The plan of operation says the enterprise is to obtain optimum profit, provide employment for enrolled members, represent good public relations for the Tribe and, as an enterprise owned and operated by the Tribes, it should be something the Tribes can be proud of."

He said the board is questioning which takes priority. "We're looking at which way we should go, the purpose, and what Kah-Nee-Ta really is," Clements said.

The board has been in existence since October 1978, but "we were in the feeling-out stage for quite a while," Bobb said. He thinks the biggest improvement they have made so far is the hiring of Garland Brunoe as general manager. "He's a tribal member, already knowledgeable about the

operation, and he is putting together a better structure."

Bobb noted that since Brunoe has taken charge, the operation is improving in lots of places. Garland has cut positions that weren't necessary and he's using supervisors a lot better. "There is now more structure regarding check-in and check-out policies, and reservations and sales are being handled better," Bobb added. "We are giving Garland the most support we can."

The Kah-Nee-Ta Board of Directors used to meet only four times a year, but because there is a need for closer attention by the board, they are now meeting on a monthly basis.

The board looks at and evaluates monthly financial statements and questions

Brunoe about why there was a loss in one department and not another, for example. They also look at details which may affect tourism such as gas prices and the volcano.

"We've got to know where the dollars are going" as well as tackling responsibilities such as setting room prices, Bobb said.

Calica concluded, "I think we're trying to find some acceptable standard on the way the place is managed. Management should be aware of the board's expectations, too. This should help with the management problems that have always plagued Kah-Nee-Ta."

All Brunoe had to say about the Board of Directors was, "They're working on long-range and short-range plans and they're doing a very good job."