

# New doctor in town

A year ago Dr. Jim McMillan spent a month working at the Indian Health Service in Warm Springs. That's all the time it took for him to decide that Warm Springs was the place he would like to practice medicine.

Dr. McMillan grew up in Georgia and has just recently arrived in Warm Springs from North Carolina where he completed his medical training. In 1977 he graduated from Medical College of Georgia. He continued his training, specializing in family practice. "Growing up in the Southeast which is rich in Indian history has given me the opportunity of being exposed to Indian culture," Dr. McMillan says. "My goal was to work with Indians in some way. The Public Health Service has provided an easy method to do this." During his training Dr. McMillan has worked on the Rosebud and Crow reservations. He has also had contacts with the Cherokee reservation.

Even though Dr. McMillan has been in Warm Springs only a short time, he had a little to say about Warm Springs as a place to work. Warm Springs "is a rich, cultural area with a lot of beauty surrounding it to make it pleasant. The people are very strong and proud. I get a lot of satisfaction working with them."

For the first time the clinic has three doctors who have been trained as family physicians at the disposal of patients. This makes it possible



Dr. Jim McMillan

to provide comprehensive care for the Warm Springs community, Dr. McMillan says.

Asked about problems that he might foresee as a member of the clinic staff, Dr. McMillan felt that communicating the fact that doctors need their own personal time may be difficult. He says, "a doctor's time should be as valued as another's personal

time."

Dr. McMillan spends his free time on mechanical and outdoor pursuits. He works on his old classic English sports car. He rides a bicycle and recommends that anyone who does so should wear a helmet. He also backpacks and hikes. But Dr. McMillan says, "I never have fished. There's always been other things I would rather do."

# Irrigation study neglects Indian Water Rights

A recent study by the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission admits that it has not considered Indian reserved water rights in making predictions about the future demands for irrigation water from the Columbia River Basin.

The study also predicts that in a very short time (20 years) the demands on the river for water will exceed its capacity to meet them and the "tradeoffs" among users will have to begin.

The President's Water Resources Council estimates a water demand in the year 2000 to irrigate 1.8 million acres more than was irrigated in 1970. This would require a consumptive use of 4.7 million acre feet of water and a diversion of 7.6 million acre feet of water.

The PNWRBC forecasts a demand in the year 2000 of 12.4 million acre feet of water for new irrigation. This would result in a net consumptive use of 7.7 million acre feet of water.

However, these forecasts do not include what the PNWRBC calls the "imponderables" of Indian water rights. The study "Water Today and Tomorrow" predicts that if all the irrigable land in the basin is irrigated, the river will not be able to supply enough water to do the job. It also points out that irrigation accounts for 90 percent of the

consumptive use of water in the Pacific Northwest.

Therefore it competes directly with instream uses of water generally and especially the minimum instream flows necessary for maintaining a fish habitat.

A look at statistics for the year 1970 shows that 34.3 million acre feet of surface and ground water were diverted from the Columbia to irrigate approximately 7.5 million acres of crop land in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Of that 34.3 million acre feet of water, 15.4 million acre feet, or nearly half of it, were consumed. The return flow often was polluted and saline.

That amount of water would cover the three states to a depth of one inch.

In 1977 applications were on file in the State of Idaho to irrigate 800,000 more acres of land. In Oregon in 1977 there were applications for water rights to 500,000 acre feet of water from the Columbia. In 1978 the State of Washington's Department of Ecology reserved 1.3 million acre feet of water from the Columbia for future irrigation use in the McNary and John Day areas.

None of these applications takes into consideration Indian water rights on the river. All are for irrigation and would seriously deplete the instream flows on the river.

## For Siletz Tribe

# Reservation bill gains House approval

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill Monday, August 18 to create a 3,666-acre reservation for the Siletz Indians of the Oregon coast.

Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) had earlier gained passage of a companion bill in the Senate, however, the House version contains a provision dealing with hunting and fishing rights which will have to be approved by the Senate. If the amended bill fails to pass in the Senate it will be referred to a joint House/Senate conference committee where a final version will be drafted.

Bill sponsor Rep. Les AuCoin (D-Ore.) had held up introduction of the bill, H.R. 7267, pending agreement between the State of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz on whether or not hunting and fishing rights had been abrogated at the time of the Siletz' termination in 1954. Agreement was reached - allowing the tribe 200 salmon, up to 375 deer and 25 elk a year - and a consent decree was approved by Federal District Court Judge Gus Solomon on May 2 in Portland. Rep. AuCoin introduced the bill on May 6.

Barring a presidential veto, approval of the bill marks the end of a three-year quest by the Siletz - beginning with the passage of the Siletz Restoration Act of 1977 - to re-establish a landbase. Language of the restoration bill instructed the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Siletz Tribe to present to Congress a reservation plan in the form of draft legislation within two years of restoration.

The draft legislation hit a snag earlier this year when a

B.I.A. deputy assistant secretary mistakenly forwarded the document straight to the House of Representatives without first routing it through Interior Counsel and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). One official in the BIA Washington office said this held up consideration of the bill by at least a month.

The Siletz Reservation will encompass 3,666 acres of timberland in several parcels formerly administered by the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and a part of the City of Siletz known as Government Hill. Government Hill was the site of federal offices and installations prior to the tribes' termination and is the planned site of future tribal facilities.

The Siletz Tribe projects that timber sales from the land will generate revenues of up to \$600,000 a year, five percent of which will be paid to Lincoln County - under the same agreement used by BLM - for a period of 25 years.

## Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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The senior citizens are treated to lunch two times a week at the senior citizen center. Some of the elders will soon be making a trip to Albuquerque, N.M. for a national conference on senior citizen programs. Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk