



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

Photo by Behrend

VOL 6 NO. 7

WARM SPRINGS, OREGON 97761

MAY 1, 1981

## Smith sails through Senate Confirmation Hearing

by Sandy Rangila

In what was termed a most positive atmosphere, Kenneth L. Smith of Warm Springs told members of the Senate Select Indian Affairs Committee his "beliefs and philosophy" on Indian matters at his confirmation hearing Tuesday, April 28.

Smith, who has been General Manager here since 1971, was nominated earlier this year by President Reagan to be the Department of Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

"It was a piece of cake," said Vince Lovett, of the BIA Office of Information, in a phone

interview that afternoon. "There was no opposition, no negative comments at all." He said that is a bit unusual.

With Warm Springs Tribal Council members there in full regalia, Smith expressed his belief "in the strengths of Indian people which have enabled them to endure and survive as a people through adversities and oppressions unparalleled in history."

He told members of the committee, Senator Mark Hatfield (Ore.), Senator Cohen (Maine), Senator Slade Gordon (Wash.), and Arizona's Senator Goldwater that he believes "Indian people

have the will and the ability to self-govern and exercise wisely their remaining sovereign powers..."

Besides the committee, witnesses present at the hearing included Delbert Frank, Sr., Tribal Council chairman, and other members of the Warm Springs Council. Other witnesses were: Frank Lawrence, NCAI vice-president and chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Silas Whitman of the Nez Perce Tribal Council; and Louis R. Bruce of Native American Consultants in Washington, D.C.

Senator Hatfield who introduced him to the committee said, "As General Manager for the past ten years, Mr. Smith has utilized his managerial and organization skills to make the reservation a model of economic success with more than 1,000 persons employed and an annual payroll of more than \$10 million."

Silas Whitman said that Warm Springs has been a model for the Northwest tribes "as we prepare to go on a path of independence and self-determination." He said that Smith had provided valuable aid to neighboring tribes, especially helping the Nez Perce in the area of timber development.

Delbert Frank, Sr. said, "While we are sorry to have Ken leave our organization, we believe that he is the best possible person to serve this country and the Indian people in this important position. Ken has built a strong management team at Warm Springs which will allow our tribes to continue to progress during the time for which we 'loan' him to you."

"During the time that Ken has worked for us, we have seen him grow into what we believe to be the finest manager in Indian Country today. He has been instrumental in the progress and development of our reservation," Frank continued.

"We know that Ken will bring these same management skills and judgement to the Bureau of Indian Affairs so that it may more effectively carry out the United States' trust responsibility to Indian people. Ken understands and has practiced Indian 'self-determination' at Warm Springs and is uniquely well-qualified to assist all Indian tribes in this direction.

"Ken Smith has our whole-hearted support and confi-

dence as Assistant Secretary Of Interior," he concluded.

Frank Lawrence, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, North Dakota, spoke for the National Congress of American Indians and the 16 tribes of the Aberdeen, South Dakota area. He said, "We like his background. He is especially strong in economic development. This is greatly needed."

"It gives me great pleasure to be part of the confirmation hearing for my good friend, Ken Smith, as Assistant Interior Secretary," Senator Packwood's statement said. He said his acquaintance with Ken has developed into a relationship of trust and great

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## Indian burial site discovered

by Sandy Rangila

When a farmer near the Prineville area was plowing up his field earlier this month he uncovered a human skull. After investigating, he discovered several burial sites and immediately contacted anthropologist Suzanne Crowley. She then notified the Warm Springs Tribal Council of the finding and they authorized her to begin work at the site.

So far, two undisturbed grave sites have been discovered and the remains of four individuals have already been uncovered. Crowley said all appear to be young males and she estimates their time of death to have been in the early 1800's.

Nelson Wallulatum, who went out to the site with Viola Kalama and Felix Wallulatum, said there are some confusing aspects about this burial site and the circumstances surrounding the deaths of those

there. The individuals may have been Paiutes who were root digging in the area, but Wallulatum said some of the personal items appear to have come from around The Dalles. Also, for some reason, the remains have stayed unusually well-preserved, said Wallulatum.

Some of the bones have been sent to the University of Oregon to be carbon dated (to see how old they really are). Crowley said the scientific work will take about a month. When the job is finished, Wallulatum said the remains will probably be brought here to the reservation for re-burial.

The exact location of the burial site is being kept confidential to avoid curiosity-seekers from disturbing the site or tromping around on the farmer's private property. When the work is completed and the findings are released, Spilyay Tymoo will publish the whole story.



Kenneth L. Smith, General Manager of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, sailed through his senate confirmation hearing Tuesday, April 28. The swearing in ceremony is anticipated in about 10 days. Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend