

From Clerk-Typist to Superintendent



New Superintendent, Meritt Youngdeer

by Donna Behrend

Who would ever think that a young man, just out of school, who was hired as a temporary clerk/typist in Washington, D.C. would, in 18 years, end up a Superintendent on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation?

That's exactly what Meritt Youngdeer, an Eastern Cherokee from North Carolina, Warm Springs's newest Superintendent, did. When Youngdeer took that summer job in the nation's capitol years ago, he must have had bigger things in mind. Following his short-term

employment in D.C. and graduation from Haskell Institute where he took a commercial business course, he went to Rosebud, South Dakota as a store-keeper clerk for the Public Health Service Hospital. It was his first full-time job and it lasted two and half years.

After his stay in South Dakota, Youngdeer went to Fort Washakie, Wyoming as a supply clerk and later to Tuba City, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation as a general supply specialist. It was while in Tuba City that Youngdeer learned of a six-month field management training program, in which he elected to enroll.

Following that course, another training program was offered in 1970. This six-month departmental Management training program was held in Washington, D.C. He was later appointed administrative manager of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Albuquerque, New Mexico,

which at that time was located in Santa Fe. He was there for over two years.

He was then transferred to the Anadarko, Oklahoma area office where he was the Reservation Programs Officer. He then went to the Yakima reservation as Assistant Superintendent for over two years. About half of that time he was acting superintendent because the appointed superintendent was in Washington, D.C. for training.

Youngdeer then went to the Albuquerque, New Mexico area office as Director of Administration for four and a half years.

Youngdeer prefers working on the reservation level. "I've worked in two different area offices. My heart is here, working at the agency level. I plan to stay put for a while."

Because Youngdeer worked at nearby Yakima, he believes he is familiar with this reservation and the situations

with which Warm Springs is faced. "I plan to work very closely with the Tribal Council. There are many federal responsibilities that must be maintained." He continued, saying, "I must learn what the tribes expect from the federal government and I'll provide any assistance that is necessary to help them."

As one of the youngest to be chosen superintendent by the Tribal Council, at age 36, Youngdeer feels honored to be selected. "It makes me proud to be the federal government's representative at Warm Springs. I appreciate the confidence they have expressed in selecting me and I will do the best I can to make the tribe feel it was a wise decision."

Youngdeer, his wife and four children are happy to be in Warm Springs. "We're looking forward to meeting the community and to feeling a part of it."

509-J budget cuts

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purchases and bus runs had to be reduced. The sports program had to be reduced another \$23,285. Several teacher's aide positions were reduced along with delation of three coaching positions.

New carpet in the high school library and repairs on the tennis court had to be postponed. One new bus instead of two would be purchased.

Community Liaisons at the Jr. high school and Warm Springs elementary as well as counselors at both schools were deleted. Sal Sahme, speaking on behalf of the tribal education committee, felt certain that Johnson O'Malley funds would pick these positions up as long as the

funds were available.

School administration also made reductions totalling 10%. Darrell Wright said. These included elimination of a federally-funded Federal Programs Officer. The remaining twelve staff members would absorb that workload.

With these cuts in mind, board members voted 3 to 1 to accept this budget proposal. The budget reduction facilitated by these cuts would be \$426,714.

The school board will meet again on August 4 to set the levy amount for the September 15 ballot. They expect to present only an A ballot. The meeting will be held in the Support Services Building at 7:30 p.m.

Brings experience to new job

by Pat Leno

Hired earlier this spring to head up the newly formed Justice Branch for the Confederated Tribes is Dick Burton. The new branch was formed following the completion of a task force study conducted in 1979 entitled "A Need For Reform" which recommended change in the law enforcement services on the reservation, according to Burton.

This newly formed branch, stemming from the existing Municipal Branch, consists of the patrol division, correctional support services, security at Kah-Nee-Ta and WSFPI, fish and wildlife, legal aide, prosecutor and the administration support services.

Burton is new to this area, but he is not new to the field of law enforcement services, or to the field of Indian law enforcement. He had worked for 25 years in law enforcement starting from patrolman going to the position of Chief of Police and from State Trooper to Commissioner of Public Safety in Alaska.

As Commissioner, he assumed the same responsibilities as the Oregon State Superintendent. He was in charge of the state troopers, fire prevention, fish and wildlife, and the division of motor vehicles. He was instrumental in setting up law enforcement programs in native villages, also. Burton was well acquainted with Alaskan Tribal, State and Federal



Richard Burton

jurisdiction laws which are very similar to laws found in this area.

He most recently worked as a police specialist and planner for the Criminal Justice Planning agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the northern Mariana Island at Saipan on a one-year contract before coming to Warm Springs.

Burton said he has been very busy learning the Warm Springs Tribal organization, setting up a program for the officers which will offer them a chance to build a professional career here, plus getting into

the swing of the community. He expressed that he would welcome going into the community to speak before any local groups interested in the law.

Burton is married and the father of four, two sons and two daughters. Only the youngest son is living at home. The Burtons are living in Madras and are looking for home to buy. Being the a home to buy. Being the outdoor-types, the Burtons feel they have found an area which offers a variety, ranging from the rivers, to the high desert, to timberland and mountains.

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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Auto kills man in mobile home

Larry Stephen Blasingame, 33, was killed when a car crashed into his mobile home at the Deschutes Trailer Court where he was sleeping early Sunday morning, July 26.

The 1978 two-door Chevrolet, registered to Diane Miller of Warm Springs, was apparently westbound on Highway 26 about 1:40 a.m. when the driver lost control on the curve above the trailer court.

According the Corporal Atkins of the Oregon State Police, the auto spun out on the gravel at the shoulder of the road, went over the embankment backwards, sailed down into the Trailer Court and rammed into the trailer where Blasingame was sleeping.

Blasingame was taken by ambulance to Mt. View Hospital where he died of injuries at 2:47 a.m.

Occupants of the auto fled the scene following the crash, according to police. Three of the occupants named were Rhonda K. Miller, 17, Duane Gene Miller, Jr., 19, and Curtis Lee Thompson, 19, all of Warm Springs. The passengers were contacted by State Police at about 3 a.m.

Further details were withheld since the incident is still under investigation.