

# Incidents at Sherars bridge should be handled by police

by Pat Leno

In recent months incidents have occurred at the Sherars Falls and Bridge site which was purchased by the Tribes in September of 1979. It is these incidents that are alleged to have occurred between Indians and non-Indians which bring out questions. It will take a while to resolve some of the questions. But there are answers for others.

The Indians' fishing rights

are not an issue here. It is the rights of non-Indians that is being questioned. It is a question which the Tribes took into consideration at the time of purchase. The warranty deed is accompanied by a document, Exhibit B, which covers certain easements and accesses for certain companies and the public.

Item 17 on Exhibit B states, "The rights of fishing, navigation and commerce in the State of Oregon, the

Federal government, and the public in and to that portion thereof lying below the ordinary high water mark of the Deschutes River." This allows the public the use of the site as long as they follow the laws of the State and Federal Government.

At the time of purchase the question was raised by non-Indians as to whether or not they would be allowed continued access to fish and

camp at the site. The Tribes stated that the fishermen could continue to fish at the site as long as they obeyed the laws.

It was not the intention of the Tribe to post no trespassing signs. It was an opportunity for the tribe to gain the title to an aboriginal fishing site of great traditional and historical value to the people of the Tribes.

If problems do occur for members of the Tribes the best way to handle them is to call

the Warm Springs Police according to police officials from the reservation. "If there arises an incident of scaffolds or property being damaged an investigation by the police is the best answer rather than taking things into an individual's own hands," summarized Chief of Police Jeffery Sanders.

## Coordination of programs urged at workshop

Improvement of Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead fisheries will require much greater cooperation among the numerous groups influencing the region's fishery management programs, according to tribal representatives attending the Pacific Northwest Tribal Fish and Wildlife workshop.

More than 20 tribes from eight states attended the meeting, which was held July 21-24, at Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge. The conference was co-hosted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Purpose of the workshop was to discuss Indian Fish and Wildlife issues and exchange technical information.

Joe Warner, natural resources specialist with the Portland BIA office, said the conference helped provide technical aid to all tribes and also offered information to the public concerning fish and wildlife management accomplishments of Northwest Indians.

Warm Springs council chairman Delbert Frank opened the conference July 21, by urging tribes to provide the public more information about Indian fish management efforts. "If we tell the public what we're doing, and do it in a way that won't cause more complications, then we can manage our resources together. Sometimes, it seems the only time we talk to non-

Indians is when we go to court, but that's not the only way or the best way to resolve our differences."

Jim Heckman, executive director of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NIFC), an association of 19 Washington tribes, said protection of salmon habitat and resolution of jurisdictional issues in fish management are key problems to resolve.

Heckman cited 14 federal, state, Indian and Canadian agencies concerned with influencing regional fisheries planning decisions. "Indians need to gain a voting position on as many planning organizations as is possible," Heckman stated.

Bill Frank, Jr., Fisheries Manager for the Nisqually tribe and chairman of the NIFC, said Indians must also participate in energy planning under the Northwest Power Act. "With the new power bill, it will be easier to put in new low-head hydro projects, and these projects will directly affect the quality of Indian salmon fisheries," Frank said. "We have to be part of the planning if we want to protect the life of the salmon."

During the four-day conference, tribes from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Alaska and Canada made presentations. Panel discussions were also conducted by the B.I.A. and U.S. Fish & Wildlife service officials.

## Cascade Locks commemorates religious feasts



**SALMON AT ITS BEST**—Opening religious ceremonies and speeches were followed by a delicious salmon dinner with all the trimmings at the 14th Annual Cascade Locks Salmon Bake. Herbert Stwyer leads the dinner procession. *Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk*

On a site bordering the river that has provided food for many centuries, approximately 75 people gathered July 12 to give thanks for the abundance of salmon provided by the creator. "As far back as I can remember," says elder, Herbert Stwyer, "this was a religious day."

To many of the elders the day of the salmon feast is still a religious day. The annual Cascade Locks Salmon Bake opened with prayers and songs.

But the diminishing number of returning Salmon up the Columbia River is showing its toll even in the number of participants at the salmon bake which was much lower this year than last. The salmon bake was not announced in Portland papers and police patrolled the area in case of trouble.

Those who did gather at Cascade Locks enjoyed a fine meal sponsored by the fishermen who have long-

fished at the site. Other sponsors included the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes and Brunoe Logging and Construction Company in Warm Springs, Oregon.

Religious ceremonies preceding the actual meal provided an opportunity for the few visitors who did attend to become a little more familiar with Indian traditions.

With the river wind blowing in the background, Herbert Stwyer spoke to the people about the ceremony honoring the salmon years ago. "Elders back years ago," he began, "never forgot that this was a religious day. There was a table on the floor with many different kinds of fish, wild food, roots and berries. And the people returned thanks for the salmon by singing Indian religious songs handed down through generations."

Stwyer went on to say, "The elders are able to sing because they remember everything. I

didn't know how it was done until I lived that spirit."

In reviewing one of the songs that was sung on that day Stwyer reminded everyone present that "we will not take anything along with us when we go." He also wanted those present to keep in mind that "we are under one creator" and "we live under the rule of the Indian people because we were here first."

Another speaker recalling days gone by when his family lived along the Columbia River was Tribal Council chairman Delbert Frank, Sr. Salmon was put in the river for the Indian people's food, he said. But the people will have to remain strong in their religion because "it will be cut in half."

He encouraged the people to "manage what you have and you will be happy." Frank concluded the opening ceremonies by saying, "This is a wonderful day to remember these things."

## TOE NESS

As General Custer was leaving for his last battle he told all B.I.A. personnel, "Now don't do anything until I return." YIKES

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There was this dummy who was flying to Hawaii. After flying for some time the pilot announced, "We will be a half-hour late. I just lost engine number one." They continued their journey when the pilot said, "We will be one hour late. I just lost engine number two."

After a little more time passed the pilot, "We will be two hours late. I just lost engine number three." At this point the dummy went to the stewardess and said "Go up there and tell the pilot not to lose engine number four. We'll be up here all afternoon." YIKES!!!!

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There was this company feeling the discomfort of this mild recession to which many American businesses had fallen. The general manager said, "This recession caused me to make this decision so I gathered you all here together to discuss some additional employment cuts that we must make to ensure the survival of our great organization." in the meeting room was a ten-seat table with the general manager and only one seat occupied. YIKES!!!!

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