

Editorial

E Coosh EEWA:

(The way it is)



Letters to the editor

Let's abide by Tribal customs

Tribal Members: The subject in which I'm focusing on is Tribal Customs. Tribal Customs are the laws that are handed down from generation to generation. We have to live by them to the fullest extent. The respect and honor of these customs are very important. If we don't abide by these unwritten laws that have been taught us, our ancestors would not have taken the time to teach us the customs. Just to mention a few, i.e., first deer kill, first salmon caught, girls digging of roots and picking berries, joining of the Longhouse. Let's address the salmon issue, because this is the way I was taught by my father and grandfather. Before I could even fish, I had to learn how to make a net. If there was fish to be caught, we had to have the equipment to do it with. This meant nets, hoops and poles. Just a net alone don't do the trick, therefore we had to put the whole outfit together. The sizes are important, too, because there are different sizes of twine, length of hoop and its diameter and length of pole and its diameter. Now we have the outfit all rigged up. What do you do with your outfit?

Naturally we have to have a fishing site. Here again, we don't run down to the river and set upon just in any site. There are all kinds of fishing sites located on the river, but non-Indians have spoiled the Indians' honor system on the

Columbia River by having them put their names on a map to identify their sites. What has happened to our unwritten law about site ownership? I would hate to have that happen in Sherar's Bridge. I've been in Sherar's Bridge since I could walk. There are people today that could tell us who fished in each given site. I remember most of these families and sites today, and I'm not that old. Let's back up and think about these things before we run and set up a scaffold. Let's try to honor the people that fished these sites year after year. I have built many scaffolds at Sherar's Bridge, so I know how much work is involved and how dangerous it is, not to mention the cost of lumber. Now that we have covered outfits and fishing sites, let's cover the fishing itself. I've fished, but when someone came down that couldn't fish, I gave them a fish to take home. Here again, there have been times when I did this, the person got picky because it wasn't a chinook or it was too small. When Christmas comes once a year, we never complain about the kind of presents we receive. I would rather give then receive because it makes me feel good inside. It lightens my heart and showing the respect of our fellow man.

There are sites at Sherar's Bridge that are called "Hobo Sites." If you have your pole and sack, all you have to do is get in line to fish, catch your

fish or give up your turn to the next man. All of these unwritten laws are important. My heart cried and my teachings went down the drain in the search of my Brother. Just the same, I'm still going to abide by these laws of the river.

From the time I was first called to the river, I observed fishing at Sherar's Bridge by Indians. Obviously these individuals don't have any respect for our laws. These laws are a carry-over from Celilo Days, which include Sherar's Bridge too. A fisherman is down there fishing for his food for his family. It's a dangerous occupation. A fisherman could drown. When this happens, all nets come out of the river until he has been found. NO fisherman is allowed to fish at all. If you do, you're showing disrespect for the individual and his family. Here again, I would hate to have Tribal Council pass a law to take care of this situation. Let's take care of our own at the river. Abide by these unwritten laws. Have more respect for our Ancestors' teachings. I can't say how much I appreciated all the help we had in the search for our Brother.

Thank you again. God Bless you all.

Phillip David

Over-loaded, speeding log trucks causing reservation road damage

Spilyay Tymoo
November 9, 1981

We must look beyond today, beyond the selfishness of self-pleasure and indulgences. Our future generations now depend on the present generation's insight to the future.

I know that a lot of us are concerned about our reservation and its future. I again submit this following request to the people. Please notice its original date.

January 8, 1971
To: Tribal Committee
Timber Committee
Law and Order Committee

I strongly believe that there should be some regulations set up for all the logging trucks used on this reservation.

There is too much overloading in weight on the trucks and there is too much height above the trucks from the roadway presenting safety hazards. Also the truck speed is 50-55 MPH set up by the state, and very few trucks travel at this speed; most travel about 60-75 miles per hour.

Excessive speeding and overloading puts too much stress and strain on the roadway. Some good examples of this are: 1) The road from HeHe Mill to Simnasho 2) Simnasho south to the Mutton Mountain Road 3) The new asphalt plant-mix surface on Tenino-Peters Pasture Road from Warm Springs to the Whitewater Junction.

When the surface is broken on either asphalt or oiled roads it cannot be replaced except by tearing out an entire section

and re-done. We need set rules as to the load capacity, roadway height and truck speed limits on different roads. No two roads are the same, thus different roads can handle legally-loaded trucks at different rates of speed.

These few limitations could benefit our reservation in the long run. Draft speed limits as to truck speeds, both loaded and unloaded; legalize the truck weights to fit all the roads.

Adopt some or all of the state's regulations. Draft up a code of our own. We need a code on this matter right now to protect the reservation road system. A code should be set up before the next logging season.

Thank You,

Terrance E. Courtney, Jr.

Issues aired at our community meetings

To the editor,

I just want to thank all the people that had the opportunity to attend our community meetings, it was good to see you. Also to hear that many of our elders have the same concerns about our Tribal Government as we do.

For the people that could not make it to the meetings I would like to clear up any misinterpretations that may have been directed to you from other sources.

We are not here to condemn or crucify anyone, we are merely concerned stockholders in this multi-million dollar Corporation!

What is happening to our dividends—is it being mismanaged, if so WHY?

There was a very good point brought out in one of our meetings. Why do we send a non-Tribal member out to secure a good pension plan for

people we do not hire? Are the enrolled members benefitting from this plan?

Our natural resources are declining at a very fast pace. So fast that we should be thinking of saving, not spending: Committees, mileage, meal tickets! I am not saying that I should be given a meal ticket and mileage but the non-Tribal employees that get 2-3 times more salary than us should have the great privilege of buying their own gas and meals.

I would like to urge all Tribal Membrs to make every effort to attend the General Council Budget Meeting. Ask your questions and get answers before approving your budget! For this is how the Tribal employment breaks down in our Tribal Enterprises.

4%—Hydro Plant
25%—WSFPI
18%—Kan-Nee-Ta

Vernon Henry

Kids saddened by vandals

To the editor,

Vandalism has hit the Day Care Playground. Parents and teachers worked hard and spent much time and energy to construct the new Goodwood Activity Center. Their efforts were well spent for the benefit of the Day Care and HS/DC children.

Recently, unknown individuals attempted to set fire to the Goodwood Activity Center. Because of this incident the playground has been, and will continue to be, padlocked after hours and will be patrolled by the Tribal Police. The children are very proud

to have the Goodwood Activity Center Playground. The children take care of it and were very sad when it was burned. The children were also curious as to why anyone would want to burn their playground. It is difficult for us to explain to the children that some individuals do not respect other people's property. Our children are learning respect for being lucky enough to have the playground.

Do you think some of you could learn to respect the happiness of our children?

Day Care Staff
HS/DC Staff

Tribal Council Agenda

- November 17 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Juvenile Section, L & O Code Revision—Howard Arnett
2. 2:00 p.m. Employee Pension Plan Revision—Dennis Karnopp/Doug McClelland
3. 4:00 p.m. Enrollments
District Meeting—Simnasho/Simnasho Longhouse
Agenda: Credit/Housing Referendum
- November 18/19 All Committee Workshop**
Agenda: Roberts Rules of Order/Kah-Nee-Ta
- November 19 District Meeting—Agency/Seeksequa-Agency Longhouse—Agenda: Credit/Housing Referendum**
- November 20 Tribal Council Tour**
9:00 Start from New Ad. Building, Home Development, Griffin and Abbott Properties
- November 23 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Coordinated Natural Resources Plan—Clint Jacks, Jody Calica
2. 2:00 p.m. Reservation Fire Plan Proposal—Jody Calica, Ed Manion
- November 24 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Justice Service Administrator Report—Dick Burton
2. 2:00 p.m. Tribal Court Report/Management Reports
- November 30 to December 11 Round Butte Dam Arbitration—Portland**