

Youngdeer attends symposium—

Countries share native concerns in New Zealand



VISITING A MARAI—Warm Springs superintendent Merritt Youngdeer (on right) traveled to New Zealand to attend an International Symposium. He and two others, Barry Welch and John Artichoker (left to right), represented the BIA at the 11-day meeting.

by Donna Behrend

Most of us have not been fortunate enough to visit a foreign country thousands of miles away, but during the latter part of October and early November, Warm Springs superintendent Merritt Youngdeer was invited to attend an International Symposium in New Zealand. He said the trip at times "almost seems unreal and possibly only a dream."

He discovered that the native Maori's value their culture and traditions and that, as strange as their ways are to us, there are also similarities.

The BIA selected one employee from the three different levels of the Bureau (the central office, the area office and the agency levels) to represent the BIA and the Department of the Interior. Youngdeer was selected out of 82 superintendents to attend. Director of OTAT John Artichoker and Chief of Resources Development and Protection Barry Welch also made the trip.

The symposium, which was hosted by the Department of Maori Affairs, was attended by representatives from Australia, Canada, the continental United States, Hawaii and New Zealand. (Maoris are the aboriginal, native people of Australia and New Zealand.)

The purpose of the symposium, said Youngdeer, was to invite senior "public

officials of English-speaking countries who have a common client (native people) and who are involved in setting or carrying out policy as it relates to those people, to reflect on the state of their respective administrations and to generate an exchange of ideas about policies, programs and administrative designs as it relates to native people.

Youngdeer commented that "there are many similarities among the client peoples of these countries as well as differences. However, there were enough similarities to warrant such a meeting." He compared this symposium to NCAI, saying that resolutions were presented to the full group and that each country, including native Hawaiians, spoke of self-determination.

The first day of the 11-day trip was dedicated to exchanging ideas and information on subjects such as political origins and development of administrative services, cultural identity and relationships with indigenous communities and the rest of society.

Following were two days of various workshops dealing with Maori Affairs and financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. Once the workshops were completed, said Youngdeer, their findings were presented to the Secretary of Maori Affairs who, in turn, will present the items to the

next parliament.

After the workshops, the delegates traveled back to the leaders' districts. They attended various district land meetings, corporation meetings and toured many of the economic development types of activities the districts were involved in.

Visiting the different districts was quite an experience, according to Youngdeer. Before entering their "Marai", which is similar to our longhouses, visitors must go through over an hour of introductions, welcomes, songs and prayers. Then, before actually going in the marai, each visitor presses noses and shakes hands with each of the natives welcoming them. "This means you both breathe the same air, making you one person." He noted that the Maori's are rich in tradition and culture. "They love to sing and dance."

Youngdeer feels other symposiums of this type should be continued in the future, stating that a tribal member "who has made significant contributions to his or her people through strong leadership (might) attend."

He concluded, saying, "If ever the United States could host such an occasion and return the hospitality, it would certainly continue the warm feelings that we were able to share in our short visit to New Zealand."

Phone cable being added

Pacific Northwest Bell began work this week on a telephone cable construction project to meet growth in Warm Springs and eliminate about one mile of aerial cable.

PNB Manager Glenn Kennedy says the company will bury nearly one and one-half miles of cable from the downtown area to a suburban area south of the town where the Tribal Council has slated a five-year housing program.

Additional telephone service will be made available to the Tenino Townhouse and Duplex Housing project, the Warm Springs Mobile Home

Park, Greeley Heights Subdivision, West Hills Subdivision and the Warm Springs Senior Citizen Housing project.

The tribal administration building and other tribal departmental buildings also are served by the route.

The aerial cable to be replaced by the buried cable is attached to an existing power role line through the downtown area of Warm Springs.

Cost of the telephone company project is \$82,300. The new cable will be in service in January, according to Kennedy.



Mountains in New Zealand

TOE NESS

"I wouldn't worry too much if your son makes mud pies," advised the doctor, "or even if he eats them. Sometimes that's quite normal." "Well, I don't think so," replied the woman, "and neither does his wife." YIKES

SS SS SS

CONFUCIUS SAY: "Beautiful but dumb chorus girl often much smarter than 'wise guy!'" YIKES

SS SS SS

What would you most like to have along with you to read if you were shipwrecked on a desert island?" The coed was asked in her English-lit class. "My first choice," smiled the girl "would be an intricately tattooed sailor." YIKES

SS SS SS

Wife "My husband won't be able to attend your garden party Saturday because he says he will be studying the survival capabilities of feathered airfowls in an environment of extreme hostility." Friend: "Going duck hunting, huh?" YIKES

SS SS SS

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