

# Chinook being reared to protect resource

by Marsha Shewczyk

Sixty-thousand fall Chinook fries (young chinook) have recently been released into ten tanks situated adjacent to the Deschutes River in a prevention program initiated by the Warm Springs Natural Resources Department.

This preventive action was planned to assure an adequate number of emerging chinook for this year in case there was a problem in the number of fall Chinook hatching due to silt deposits caused by the recent removal of one of two coffer dams at the Warm Springs hydroelectric project.

With construction of the Warm Springs hydroelectric dam on the Deschutes River a coffer dam had to be constructed in order to hold water back allowing the pouring of concrete. There was fear by many that the removal of the coffer dam would create enough mud and silt to cause suffocation of fall chinook eggs deposited on the river bed amidst the rocks. The silt would prevent oxygen from reaching the eggs.

The area near Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River is used by numerous returning chinook as spawning grounds. They deposit eggs in the gravel where there remains space enough to allow sediment to collect.

Normally, according to wildlife biologist Terry Luther, an annual flushing takes place

in the river with high water removing much of the sediment accumulated during the year.

But with the dam regulating water the sediment tends to collect more easily. Luther

stressed that even minor sediment could suffocate the eggs.

was difficult to measure, according to Luther, but he said, "It looked good, but we may never know for sure, how many, if any, of the Chinook were destroyed. There may be indications four years from now but then there may be factors that occur else where to change the number" of returning Chinook.

Because the effect of removal of the coffer dam is still unknown the ten fish-rearing tanks were set up and sixty thousand fall Chinook fries were deposited in them. The juveniles will be released in the re-regulating reservoir when the number reach one hundred per pound or on April 15.

Caretakers feed the fries every 45 minutes, keep the tanks clean and are responsible for their rearing.

With concern of so many and with this preventive action, the fall Chinook run four years from now should remain stable. What could have been a disastrous move for the Chinook and the Warm Springs environment, has turned out to be a lesson environmental concern due to the many people who became involved and concerned for the naturally occurring Chinook run threatened by technology. This is something that should be of concern now and in the future.

Concern in this matter was expressed by representatives of various agencies at an environmental task force meeting held on August 11, 1981. Attending were representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, ASC Construction Company and Portland General Electric.

There was discussion concerning the best time to remove the coffer dam causing the least damage to the fall Chinook eggs and fries which were expected to emerge about the same time as the scheduled dam removal operation. The lives of thousands of Chinook which would return in four years as full-grown spawning fish were at stake.

Luther along with Al Lichens of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife emphasized mid-April as being the best time to remove the dam. Even an earlier time than the scheduled January date was suggested to prevent damage.

The coffer dam was removed in late December. The silt level



Round Butte Fish Hatchery manager Ray Hill deposits some of 60 thousand Chinook fries into tanks where they will be reared until old enough to be released into the Deschutes River. Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

## Queen Sheilah Wahnetah

### Local girl to reign as Hobbema princess

Thirteen year old Danell Macy was selected last fall to reign as the Hobbema princess for the four band tribes of Hobbema, Alberta, Canada.

The four bands are composed of the Cree tribes of Sampson band, Ermineskin band, Bull band and Montana band. Danell is a member of the

Wasco/Paiute tribe and is from Warm Springs.

She is the great, great, great grand-daughter to Chief Frank Queahpama of the Warm Springs tribe. She is an adopted grand-daughter to Joe Rhoan who gave her the Indian name "Sky Woman."

Nine months out of the year Danell attends Madras Junior High school and helps at home. The summer months are set aside for traveling throughout Canada and the United States to many different powwows. She says she enjoys meeting different people from all over and seeing many of her old friends.

Her hobbies include horseback riding, bicycle riding and dancing. She enjoys school as well and has been named student of the month. She has been named to the honor roll three times.

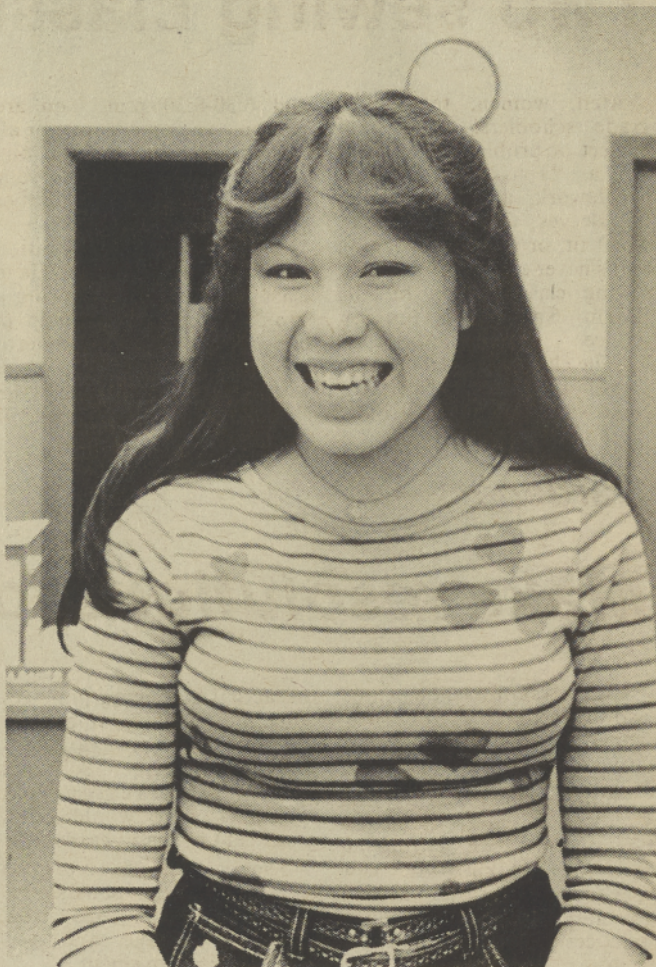
Danell's parents are Charles and Nancy Tailfeathers. She has one sister, Shari and a brother who is now married, Craig Tailfeathers.

To help Danell with expenses during her reign her parents are raising money with a raffle and selling T-shirts. Raffle tickets for a large stuffed animal are selling for 50 cents a piece or 3/\$1.00. They may be purchased from Charles or Nancy Tailfeathers and from various community members.

The T-shirts imprinted with Lincoln's Birthday Powwow will be on sale beginning February 1.



Princess Danelle Macy



Queen Sheilah Wahnetah reigned over the 23rd Annual Holiday Tournament held in Warm Springs December 31 through January 2, 1982.

Seventeen year old Sheilah is a senior at Madras High School. Her favorite pastime is being with her friends and doing things together with them.

She is Warm Springs/ Cherokee and Yakima/ Umatilla. Her mother is Kate Jackson and her grandmother is Isabelle Keo.

First runner-up at the tournament was Lucinda Heath. Other contestants included Sandra Shike, Lorraine Suppah and Kathy Danzuka.