

Topash has diverse BIA experience



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

Bernard "Bernie" Topash

by Donna Behrend

After living in Warm Springs for over three months, Warm Springs' newest superintendent Bernard Topash says "it's nice to be dry." Topash's most previous assignment before coming to north central Oregon was in Siletz where the average annual rainfall is about 60 inches.

Topash, an enrolled Tulalip Indian, brings with him to Warm Springs years of Bureau of Indian Affairs experience and he is familiar with all aspects of bureau employment, ranging from payroll to administration. "I worked in different fields and I decided I preferred administration," said Topash.

Not only is his work experience varied, but the location of his jobs is varied

also. Topash began his BIA career in Billings, Montana, where he worked as a voucher examiner and in IIM. From there he went to Neah Bay, Washington to work as a supply clerk for the Job Corp. He was then employed in Lapwai, Idaho for two years as trainee for the administrative officer. Topash explained that when he was trainee, there was a shortage of highly trained administrative officers. A program was developed to train officers at the agency level and at the area office level. "I was the first to be trained on the agency level," said Topash.

From Lapwai, Topash went to Red Lake, Minnesota for five years as administrative officer and then to Fort Hall for five years as administrative manager. From Fort Hall, he transferred to Siletz initially as

field representative. But the tribe requested agency status and he remained in Siletz to serve as superintendent. "The tribe was very supportive, said Topash. After 30 years of termination, they were eager to get the bureau to do many things they were previously unable to do for themselves. Topash also said the Siletz are "progressive. They had their own management manual. I was really impressed right from the beginning."

There are currently 67 bureau employees on the Warm Springs reservation. Some positions are vacant. Three people left the administrative department in the first six weeks Topash was here. "I didn't think I was that mean," he stated with a chuckle.

Topash speaks highly of Warm Springs. "Government-wise, Warm Springs is much more professional than other tribes. Their agenda, for instance, I wish other tribes would follow" the same method. "Many tribes have no agenda to follow and they spend a lot of time in useless debate. Council members are knowledgeable of what's going on here. They've done their homework. Planning is the key to their success. They're always looking to the future."

Topash also said that the Warm Springs tribe "makes us (the BIA) accountable for the work we're here to do. I enjoy working with council because that's their objective—preserve what we have and make it better." He continued, stating his concern about Warm Springs youth. "I am concerned about the welfare of our young people—they're the leaders of tomorrow. If there is not a good example for them to follow, things will be tough for the next generation."

Big Wind powwow June 7-10

The season of powwows is here, the eighth annual Crowheart, Wyoming Big Wind Powwow will be held on June 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1984. Big Wind Powwow committee member, Vina Ingawanup extends a invitation for dancers, spectators, drummers and the public to attend the four day celebration.

The first day, June 7, of the powwow there will be a warm up dance night and registration time. Contestants must enter the grand entries and dance all three nights of June 8, 9 and 10. There will be contest divisions in Senior men's and women's; men's traditional and fancy wardance; women's traditional and fancy wardance; children's divisions; men's team dancing;

and women's team dancing. There will be open stickgames. On Sunday, June 10 a parade and buffalo barbeque will be held. The eighth annual Big Wind Powwow princess contest will be held and each contestant must be a in full regalia.

Camping space will be available and teepee poles will also be available on a "first come first serve" basis. No alcoholic beverages or drugs will be allowed at the powwow. The powwow committee will not be responsible for accidents or thefts.

For further information call (307) 486-2308 or (307) 332-3022, no collect calls will be accepted.

Red Mt. powwow June 15-17

The fourth annual Red Mountain Powwow will be held at Ft. McDermitt, Nevada June 15, 16 and 17, 1984.

Planned for the three day powwow will be a queen pageant, contest dances, social dances, raffles, hand games, card games, arts and crafts booths, concessions. For competition dancing, hand games, drums and concessions will be required.

Competition dances will

include, tiny tots, dances; girl's and boy's wardance; owl dances, men's traditional and fancy wardances; womens traditional wardance; womens fancy shawl dances; and speciality dances.

Herman Crutcher of the Red Mountain Inter-Tribal Organization extends an invitation for all to attend the powwow. For more information contact him at P.O. Box 362, McDermitt, Nevada 89421.

Memorial Dinner
Alex LaMere, Jr.
Shirley Frank
Saturday, May 26
10 a.m.
Agency Longhouse

Have a safe Memorial Weekend

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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Swim baby lessons to begin

Jackie Young's Swim baby lessons begin Monday, June 4, 1984 at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge Pool.

For children newborn to eight months the "mom and me aquarobics" will start at 4:30 to

5:15 p.m., every Monday for eight sessions. Cost is \$30 payable at first session.

Swim survival training for children from age eight months to three year's will begin at 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 6:30

p.m., with five students per session. Cost for eight lessons is \$64, payable at the first session.

Pre-registration forms may be picked up at Cathy Eagleheart's home at 2528 Looksh street.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

Delvis Heath, Sr. (center) attended his first council meeting as Chief of the Warm Springs May 14. Superintendent Bernie Topash (right) performed the swearing-in ceremony while fellow-council members looked on.