

Judge Wells recognized for eleven years of service



Irene Wells

A dinner was held in recognition of the 11 years, Irene B. Wells served as Chief Judge of the Warm Springs Tribal Court on June 26. The dinner was held at the Agency Longhouse.

Wells resigned her position late last year and her present plans are to become a full-time mother and housewife. The evening was a time for family, friends, co-workers, associates, tribal members, tribal administration and Tribal Council to honor Wells for her years of service, devotion and knowledge in helping to form a Court system that has set an example in the state, the nation and in Indian country.

Zane Jackson, Tribal Council chairman, extended appreciation for the efforts of Wells in helping the Tribe to gain a Law and Order system so that things could run smoothly. He presented her with a gift from the people of the reservation.

"It took a special kind of person to put together a court system because she had to combine the modern with the traditional—it was a hard job," stated Delbert Frank, Sr., first vice-chairman of Tribal Council. Mike Clements, Tribal Council, said it was a

time to honor a person who had done a great deal for the Tribe who did it for the people and the tribe. He said the tribe does not have to go to other reservations or the state for a model for our court system—they came to us.

Tribal attorney Dennis Karnopp said that he was happy to have worked with Judge Wells during all the years. She did a hard job and did it well.

Prosanna Williams, Traditional/Spiritual Specialist of the Health branch, said, "I gave Irene some bad times but I also gave her some good times." She said a judge's life is very much like living in a fish bowl because the entire community watches just how the judge lives. Williams said she was there to honor Judge Wells.

Barbara Weist, former Health branch psychologist, traveled from Portland to wish Irene well as she leaves one career to begin another. Barbara said Irene showed a gift of being a leader through her work in the court but at the same time Irene showed care for those she worked with, she thanks Irene for the work she had done.

Wells began her career

with the Tribe as a student trainee while attending college. After she finished college she began working full-time for the Steno Pool, transferred to the court as the Chief Judge. She worked in vital statistic department as a clerk and enrollment officer. She was appointed to the Chief Judge position in 1973.

In her speech to the many people at the dinner, Irene said it was a hard thing for her to do, she had put a lot into the court but she felt she needed a change and that the court needed a change. She said she and her husband, Ray Wells, have one of the largest families on the reservation (11 children) and recently, following surgery, her family discovered they had a mother. She is looking forward to being a mother to her children. She wanted everyone to know that the decision to retire was totally her own. She thanked the Tribe for their help in obtaining her status, it was the Tribe that made possible her education. She thanked the people, the council and everyone for their help.

New wildernesses

New National Forest Wilderness and additions to existing wildernesses have been established on the National Forests in Oregon, according to Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Jeff M. Sirmon.

On June 26 President Reagan signed into law an act that establishes 22 new National Forest wilderness and eight wilderness additions covering more than 846,800 acres. The Oregon total now is 35 wilderness or 2,172,000 acres. In addition, the law has established a National Forest recreation area totaling 86,100 acres.

"We're pleased that the long period of uncertainty is over and look forward to the challenge and opportunity of managing these lands under their new designation," Sirmon said. "Wilderness is an important aspect of multiple-use and requires some very special management considerations."

The "Wilderness Act" of 1964, which directs the basic management for all wilderness, directs that "Wilderness" be "an area where the earth and its community life are untrammeled by man, where man

himself is a visitor who does not remain."

The 1964 "Wilderness Act" further directs that these areas, "shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." This means that there will be few, if any, physical improvements, rarely any motors or motorized equipment, and little evidence indicating that "man" has been there.

"We can only be successful with the full cooperation of the wilderness users," Sirmon said. "They must do everything they can to minimize their impact on the land and help by packing out what they bring into the wilderness."

The new legislation will result in a need for more volunteers and more wilderness management training. More than 100 Forest Service personnel are now scheduled to attend an intensive course in July on management of these new wilderness. "Our objective is to make our people more informed about the wilderness philosophy and the management needs of these new wilderness," Sirmon added.

*Continued from page 1—Hunting discussed

involved due to his expertise with weapons. Oliver Kirk also mentioned that he would like to be involved with the course, but that it would take more people from the community to support the course to ensure its success.

Hunter's safety is of the utmost importance and members felt that a course of this type should be offered to ensure safety and proper care of meat. Strict rules will be adhered to. If a person does not attend all the class sessions, he will not pass and will have to attend the course again.

Members questioned the use of the police firing range for the course. Kirk stated that the range was constructed on a volunteer basis and that the use of the range for the course

would be up to the police department.

Claude Smith, Jr., suggested that the shooting ability of each individual who attends the course be tested prior to issuing a hunting permit. He said that some countries require testing of this type before individuals are allowed to hunt. Others at the meeting felt that this type of testing may not be approved by the state, but because the Tribe is self-governing, state hunting laws do not apply.

Members felt that youngsters be at least 14 years of age in order to obtain a permit following the successful completion of the course. A youngster must be accompanied by an adult in order to hunt or to carry a firearm.

Some people felt that there is a lot of meat wasted because too small of a caliber of weapon is used and that some people lack adequate knowledge about butchering and meat preservation. One person suggested a cold storage area with running water so that a carcass could be properly cleaned. One person at the meeting stated that meat delivered to the longhouses is dirty and improperly cared for.

Others mentioned that hide-collection stations be established. These facilities would be used to keep hides until people picked them up for rendering.

Poaching was also mentioned. One found foot traps near game trails and evidence of salt blocks and spot-lighting.

Pitt off to Switzerland in August

Fame and fortune have become a part of Lillian Pitt's life as an artist. The 40-year-old enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes has become well known for her Raku fired ceramic masks throughout the nation and now she is traveling to Geneva, Switzerland where she will display her artwork with 32 Native American artists.

Lillian will participate in the "No Trinkets, No Beads," art exhibit at the United Nation's Palais Des Nation. The title of the showing is telling the people of the world that American Indians are making more than trinkets or beads and that they will no longer accept just trinkets or beads for their artworks. Lillian is the only Oregon Indian to participate in the show.

The show was put together through the efforts of Russel Barsh, attorney for the Mikmaq tribe and the Four Direction Council, a non-profit organization. The show will be held in conjunction with the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations



Lillian Pitt

"Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities" session. Lillian stated that people from throughout the world will attend the session and it will be giving Native American artists the opportu-

nity to show the world that the art being done in America is created with meaning.

Lillian recently finished a showing of her masks at Kah-Nee-Ta resort. She will spend the month of July preparing five masks to be presented to Portland, Oregon's sister city, Sapporo, Japan. She competed with 18 artists from the Portland area for the commission to present Sapporo with artwork to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the sisterhood shared by Portland and Sapporo. The five masks she will send to Sapporo will be: 1. the Drum, 2. Stick Indian, 3. Spilyay, 4. She Who Watches and 5. The Water Devil. "I feel really honored to have my pieces going to Japan and there is a real significance because I used the Japanese method of Raku firing in the creation of my masks," stated Lillian.

Lillian said that through her artwork and its success, young people can learn that they should continue to strive and if they find that one way doesn't work to try another because that is how she found her way into making masks.

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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