

# Annual NCAI convention held in Tulsa

When things are not working out in the best interest for anyone, the best thing to do is to call upon your neighbor to discuss pressing issues and find the best solution to the problem.

That is what the Tribes did way back in 1944, in Denver, Colorado, where the National

Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was founded. From its modest beginning with some 100 people, NCAI has become the largest and most representative membership organization, now serving a diverse network of nations with a combined citizenry comprised of more than

one-half of the American Indian and Alaska Native national population.

The NCAI is organized as a congress. Indian and Alaska Native governments vote to become members of NCAI, selecting delegates and alternates to represent them at the NCAI convention and executive council. The delegates deliberate issues of pressing importance in accordance with their governments' policies, goals and needs.

The NCAI serves American Indian and Alaska native governments and people by developing and analyzing public policies through its elaborate committee system, disseminating information for Indian and Native empowerment and representing its membership before Congress, administrative bodies and the general public, as well as in amicus briefs before the courts.

Each year, the National Assembly of Indian Nations is called for by the National Congress of American Indians and this year the gathering was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where about 155 tribes were present. Like each gathering, issues of concern were discussed in the areas of treaty rights, public health, education, health and welfare, natural resources, water rights, mineral and timber. Resolutions were submitted to the resolutions committee for their review and then presented to the general audience for their approval.

On Monday, the opening day, a message from NCAI president, Joe DeLaCruz, was presented. Following are some excerpts of that message.

"I welcome the honorable Indian governmental delegations and people to the 42nd annual NCAI convention. Each year we come together to combine our diverse viewpoints and our collective wisdom to chart the course of our people and to share ideas and knowledge among ourselves. Though our people are different, we are bound together by our common commitment to the land that nurtures us and our status as the first people of this continent.

"We have achieved much and have improved the conditions under which our people must live. But, even all of this has not been enough. We must now look to the future, and plan a course of action for ourselves which depends more on our natural skills and talents than on the willingness of others to grant our wishes.

"We are faced with many political, economic and social obstacles; and we have a great deal of experience in dealing with these obstacles. We usually think of these things that block our path as coming from external forces only. But, it is clear that many obstacles are self-imposed. We can clear away many of the things that prevent our achievement of goals by setting out on a new course based on new plans and new strategies. The time has arrived that we develop a new strategy for the future, which will not only defeat our opponents, but ensure the future of our peoples. Through a new strategy we may remove many of those things that now hold us back, and we can create new opportunities and new paths for our peoples now and in the future. A new strategy must call upon us all to take new risks to change the world around us.

## Dress for Halloween

Halloween categories for this year's contest to be held October 31 at 4:00 in the administration building consist of: spookiest, gangster, bad guys, circus-circus, Roman empire, and most original.

Prizes will be awarded for first and second place in all categories. Those who wish to donate prizes please contact Winona Strong, 553-1161, ext. 270. Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes the entire day.

**Seeksequa District Meeting October 30 Agency Longhouse**



Bernice Mitchell, member of the Tribal Council and Dennis Karnopp, the Tribal attorney had a good visit with the Secretary of the Interior, Donald P. Hodel at the reception in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the NCAI annual convention just recently.

"Our organization is nearly the oldest international organization in the world. The United Nations is celebrating its 40th anniversary as we meet in our 42nd. As we stand on the threshold of the 21st Century, we must plan and act for ourselves and, thus, give, to the world a new vision and new standards by which human progress is measured. By taking things into our own hands, we can determine the course of human events for now and in the future."

The Warm Springs delegation along with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is usually well represented in the organization. Representatives from each tribe play a very important role at the annual convention. All leaders analyze, discuss issues with other leaders and offer advice or ask for guidance on certain matters all tribes face today.

The Secretary of the Interior, Donald P. Hodel, addressed the NCAI, on October 7, 1985. In his remarks he spoke on behalf of President Reagan, where in 1983, President Reagan issued the Administration's American Indian Policy Statement, he:

Reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship of Indian Tribes with the United States; Recognize the primary role of tribal governments in reservation affairs, and, Called for special efforts to develop reservation economies.

Called for special efforts to develop reservation economies. President Reagan also emphasized that it is the goal of his Administration to turn the ideals of self-government policy into reality and that movement toward self-determination would be accompanied by continued fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility for the physical and financial resources held in trust for the Tribes and their members. Economic self-sufficiency through self-determination is a fundamental tenet of this Administration, but it can only be achieved by Tribes taking the lead.

The President's policy recognized that while tribal governments have the primary respon-

sibility for meeting the basic needs of their communities, they cannot succeed without viable economies. To help Tribes develop these economies, the president is committed removing impediments to Indian economic development and to encouraging cooperative efforts among Tribes, federal, state and local governments, and the private sector.

The administration is also committed to the goal of negotiation and settlement of outstanding lawsuits and conflicts between Indian Tribes and other parties. Whether in the area of land, water or energy, Tribes that want to negotiate rather than litigate will find plenty of technical support to assist in their negotiations.

In his own behalf, Hodel went on to say, "I am absolutely delighted that Ross Swimmer has agreed to serve as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

"Ross' knowledge of tribal and Indian affairs and his understanding and skill in modern business management will be of tremendous value in achieving success in America's Indian programs.

"Most of you are well acquainted with Ross, so you know first hand he is dedicated to helping tribes achieve economic success.

"Ross will need strong and effective tribal governments to assist him in the fight to solve the economic, health, education, social and other problems of American Indians, just as the federal government works with States and local governments in meeting the needs of other citizens, so will the federal government work with tribal governments in promoting the well-being of American Indians.

"Second, our commitment to government-to-government relationship recognizes that many tribal governments can be considered on a footing equal to States and territories. If these Tribes are to have strong, effective governments they will eventually have to develop sound tribal economies and set their own priorities.

"We recognize that only the

Tribes can decide when they are ready to assume more independence and take on the responsibilities of self-determination.

"The president's policy statement pointed out that, "instead of fostering and encouraging self-government, federal policies have inhibited the political and economic development of the Tribes. Excessive regulation and self-perpetuating bureaucracy have stifled local decision making, thwarted Indian control of Indian resources and promoted dependency rather than self-sufficiency."

The need for continued financial assistance from the federal government is there and we will continue supporting appropriations that help Tribes develop their economies and allow Tribes to administer contracted programs. Tribes cannot count on automatic financial increases. Any new money—federal or local—will be available to Tribes that are willing to accept the challenge of economic, political and social development.

"Third, implementation of the appropriate recommendations of the President's Commission on Indian Reservation Economies is also important. We recognize that many of the recommendations are long overdue and that some are of great concern. We plan to move forward on appropriate recommendations, particularly additional procurement opportunities from the federal government, technical assistance for economic development and emphasis on Trust.

"What problems lie ahead, if we work together we can only succeed. We are trying and determined to do what is right to the best of our abilities for Indian country. . . We need your support. . . your understanding. your wisdom; and, your efforts to do so."

All these issues were discussed during the convention and several recommendations were made for the future.

With the new NCAI, president who is Ruben Snake, the next convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, September 22-26, 1986.



Lenora Kim Starr, the daughter of Dennis and Ramona Starr is giving her version of the legend of the Indian Stick game during the Miss NCAI beauty pageant in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## Starr competes at NCAI

Lenora Kim Starr, the daughter of Dennis and Ramona Starr did a marvelous job representing the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, during the NCAI convention running for the title of Miss NCAI, but fell just short on points in some stiff competition from girls from all parts of the country and Alaska.

Out of the 19 girls field Karmelita Plain Bull, from Billings, Montana, a member of the Crow Tribe, was the winner. Karmel-

ita said the competition was real tough and she can't believe she won, perhaps after she returns back to college the shock will hit her.

Karmelita will make her first appearance as Miss NCAI, when she travels to Washington, D.C., for the Miss Indian USA pageant this month. Plain Bull is very excited about winning the title and is looking forward to a very busy year as Miss NCAI as she will travel through out the country.

## Smith appointed to board

Warm Springs tribal consultant Ken Smith was among five new appointments to the State Banking Board by Governor Vic Atiyeh. His term begins October 11.

Serving the governor, "The State Banking Board advises

the state Banking Division how to best serve the state, the department, financial institutions and the public. Senate Bill 192 passed by the 1985 Legislative Assembly, increased the membership of the board from three to five members."

## CHR transportation limited

The Community Health Representatives Program for F.Y. 1985 will have approximately one third the amount of funding available to provide transportation to medical and dental appointments as was available in 1984. Consequently, CHR's will be able to provide transportation on a very restricted basis. Please do not be offended if the Tribal CHR's question you regarding your reasons for needing transportation if you call for services. They are meeting their responsibilities in seeing that the funds that are available serve the neediest of tribal members. The CHR's must also try to stretch the available funding over the whole contract year to meet any

emergencies that may occur. Following are some considerations that will be applied in determining whether the CHR program can provide transportation services:

- 1) The tribal member has absolutely no access to a car.
- 2) The tribal member doesn't drive and has no family/friend available to drive them.
- 3) The tribal member will be heavily medicated following appointment and has no family/friend to drive them home.
- 4) The tribal member and family have no income to pay for gas.
- 5) The medical and/or dental services are not available locally or will not be paid for locally.

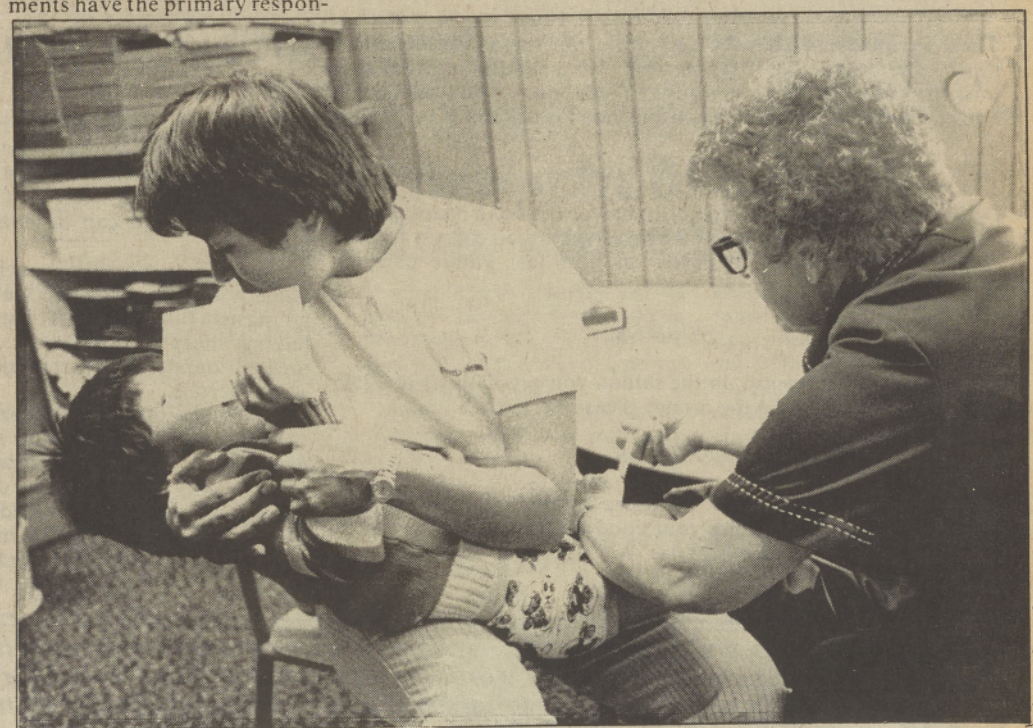
We sincerely hope that we will not have to deny anyone who truly needs transportation service. Please consider all other transportation options first—but, do not miss or cancel a needed appointment without checking with the program. If the CHR program can't provide the service, we will try to find other assistance.

Our schedule will be as follows:  
Bend—Once a week on Tuesday; Portland—Once a week on Friday; and Madras—Trips for therapy will be twice a week. Should a client have three appointments in one week, he/she will have to arrange their own transportation one day.

Please, no last minute calls for transport will be accepted. We must have at least one week advance notice.



Remember to set your clock back an hour starting at 2 a.m. Sunday, October 27th. That's when standard time comes into effect. The best time to do this is when you retire for the night on Saturday.



Due to a recent increase in reported hepatitis cases throughout the state, many people, including Head Start children, have received gamma globulin vaccinations. Early Childhood Parent Health and Handicapped Coordinator Julie Mitchell and IHS Community Health Nurse Virginia Forseth work together to administer shots.