

Swimmer interviewed—(Continued from page 1)

proposal. What is the status of these demonstration projects?

A. Only a limited number of tribes—primarily those from the Northwest—were invited by the committee to participate in the hearings. We have chosen that group of tribes to solicit proposals to the BIA for a direct budget demonstration project. We have been given some latitude from the committee, which says it may support the idea. This is something we plan to try on a pilot basis. I believe we have 10-11 applications from tribes that are willing to try the direct funding concept.

The way I propose that it work is that we will come up with the total amount of money the BIA spends on or for a particular tribe and then offer that tribe the money for the tribe to budget however it wants. It may be 100 percent of the total money we spend on the tribe or 20 percent of the total. Once they receive their appropriation, they would be free to submit their own budget describing how they want the money spent. They would be constrained to spend it solely on those programs the BIA funded in the past, but rather on those programs the tribes see as priorities. The BIA also would be released from liability for having to provide services. This is different from the process we now use.

Q. Where is the BIA on its initiative to contract with an outside financial institution for the management of Indian trust funds?

A. We expect a "request for proposals" (RFP) to hit the street before the end of the year. We have gone through almost two years of consultation with tribes. In all likelihood, the RFP will be very similar to the proposal we made with Mellon Bank. The idea, again, is not to turn over \$1 billion to someone but to get a trust accounting system developed and clean up a lot of longstanding problems within our own trust management system.

Q. Can you give us a preview of what we can expect to see in the BIA's 1989 budget request, which will be forwarded to Congress in January?

A. I don't expect there to be any significant changes. If there are reductions because of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cutbacks, we would attempt to spread those reductions across the board. I don't anticipate any surprises in the 1989 budget. We will continue the process of transferring school operations to the tribal or local governments with tribal consent. We will also continue to advance the proposition of tribal direct funding and improving the BIA's trust services.

Q. You have appointed a new director of education for the BIA, Wilson Babby. What priorities, changes or improvements can we expect to see in Indian education?

A. The theme for Indian education, which the director brings with him, is effective schools. We will be concentrating on an effective school plan that compliments our other initiatives—local involvement, stronger parental involvement, stronger association of tribes with their schools and involving the public schools in the planning process.

Q. You have been quoted recently in newspaper articles proposing that the BIA be dismantled. Could you clarify your position on this?

A. What I am suggesting is that there be a orderly transition from BIA control to tribal government control. The role of the BIA during its days in the War department was to isolate Indians from the rest of society and to keep Indians on reservations. Our job was to regulate trade and supervise tribes. The role of the BIA continued similar to that up until self-determination was announced as a policy of the government. We were in this position because tribal government didn't really function. That is not the case today. Tribal government should

be recognized as a real government. It should be used. If that is the case, we can't have two organizations competing for the management of the same resources. One of us has to get out of the way. While we can't do it overnight, we should set a period of time so that the mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs can become well defined. That mission is to help tribal governments help themselves so they can handle the problems on their reservations. At the same time, we should provide for an orderly phase out of the BIA with a target of a few years.

So, what I am saying is that, yes, I view my role as one that must get the Bureau managed better and to address those problems the articles I mentioned earlier brought out. We've been working on those improvements for two years. But, I do not think we should be operating in the context that the BIA will live forever, even a well-managed organization still creates that dependent relationship out there. It just does it better. Until we can break that dependent relationship by phasing out the BIA, will not be able to allow tribes room to grow and do what's necessary to manage the quality of life on the reservation.

Send messages heart-to-heart

Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet... Do you have a sweetheart you want to remember with special words of love? Or, do you want to make fun of someone special?

The February 12 edition of Spilyay Tymoo will feature original words of adoration. To get your message printed, simply get it in to our office by Friday, February 5. Because space is limited, we encourage all "lovers" to get their entries in as early as possible!

Kalama begins 1988 reign

Bridget Kalama, 19, was selected to reign as 1988 Miss Warm Springs at the annual pageant held at the Agency Longhouse, December 29, 1987. Bridget is the daughter of Larsen and Pat Kalama of Yelm, Washington. She is the oldest of three children in her family. Her brother Carl, 17, attends Madras High School where he is a junior this year and her younger brother, Larsen, Jr., 10 is a fifth grader in Yelm. She is of Wasco and Walla Walla descent.

First runner-up to Bridget was Lavina Colwash, 19, daughter of Amelia Colwash and the late Sammy Colwash. Both girls are enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The two young ladies competed in what turned out to be a close competition with the final scores of the evening being within 20 points of each other. The girls were judged on poise, personality, talent, knowledge of the reservation, appearance, dancing ability, and interviews.

The evening event began with a dinner honoring outgoing 1987 Miss Warm Springs, Sara Scott, who completed her reign with the selection and crowning of Bridget. A special give-away by the Scott family was held during the evening for those people who had supported and assisted Sara during her year as Miss Warm Springs. Sara, her mother Brenda Scott, her sister Bridgette Scott, her aunt Merle Tewe and her grandmother Viola sang a Wasco song on the changing of the winter season to spring as a final act of her reign.

The new Miss Warm Springs, Bridget, grew up in the Yelm, Washington area. She attended schools in Washington and graduated from Yelm High School in 1986. She entered Central Oregon Community College last year. Bridget decided it was a good time to be near the reservation. She is majoring in accounting at college and her goal is to become a certified public accountant and work for the Tribes. She worked in the accounting office this summer and fall. She re-entred college at Bend for winter term where she will be a third-term freshman.



Miss Warm Springs 1988 Bridget Kalama

She lists as special interests and hobbies; photography, traveling, rodeos, horseback riding, basketball and softball. She looks at the year ahead as a chance to represent the Tribes, travel to faraway places and as an opportunity to meet new people.

When asked about the thoughts

going through her mind as she competed for the title of Miss Warm Springs, Bridget said that earlier in the day a co-worker and friend, Rosie Tom's son had been injured in a sledding accident and Bridget was silently saying prayers that all would be well for Rosie and her three-year-old son, Preston Smith.

Fuel assistance available

Central Oregon Community Action Network (COCAAN) began to assist low-income household with winter fuel bill January 4.

LIEAP funds are available to income eligible households to offset the rising cost of energy that is excessive in relation to household income, specifically winter heating costs. LIEAP payments are not intended to meet the entire energy burden of a household.

Because of the budget cuts, by the federal government, the program may be cut by 32 percent. This means that fewer households will be eligible for the program. It is strongly advised all households continue to pay their fuel bills and work with their utilities. A household can only receive assistance once per heating season under the regular program.

The LIEAP funds are available to families whose income is below

125 percent of the poverty guidelines. Elderly, disabled, handicapped and households with children under the age of six are the only applications being taken at this time. Eligibility will be based on household size and income, for example, one person may have a gross income of \$6,875 or less after medical deductions. For each additional person in the household the limits rise to \$2,375.

When applying for assistance, proof of income, proof of medical bills, current energy account numbers, one electric bill, social security numbers and birthdate of all household members must be brought in at time of appointment.

Please call 475-7103 in Madras or 553-1161, ext. 291 to make appointments.

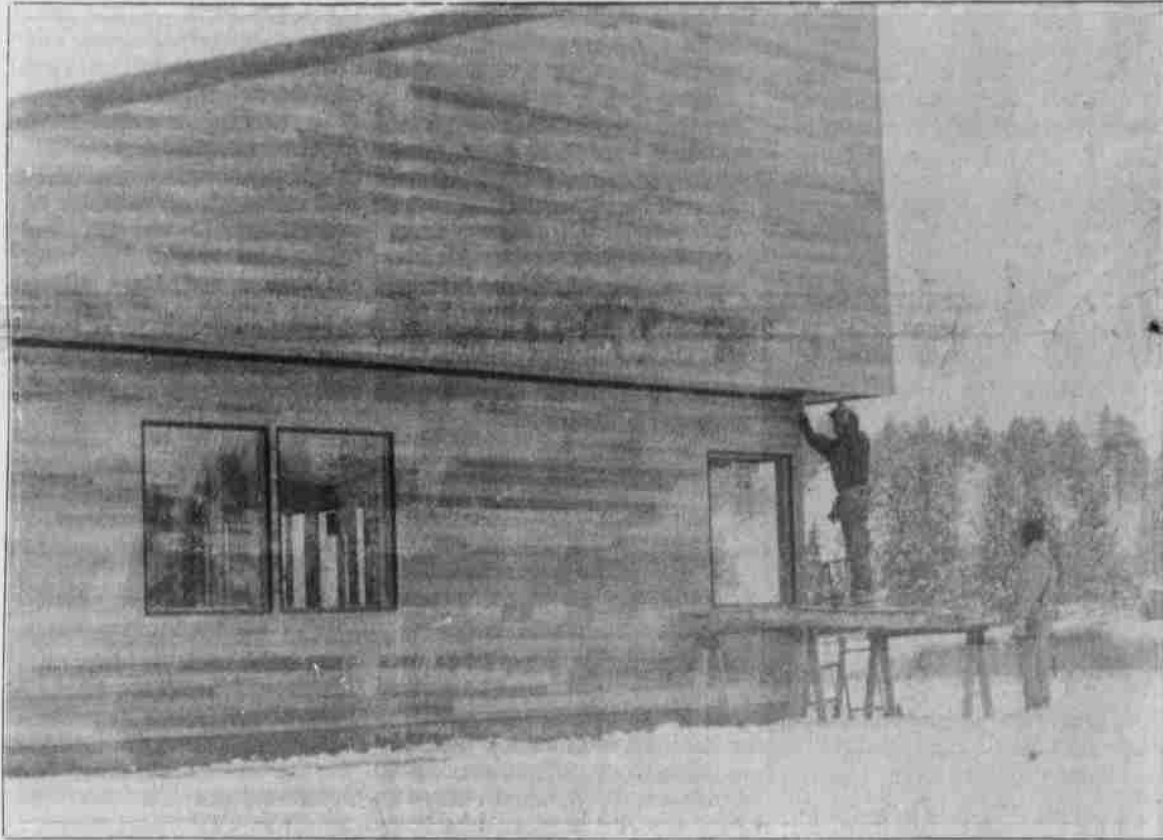
Prevention team to meet

The Warm Springs Prevention team will meet January 20 at the Community Counseling Center in Warm Springs. Three items will be discussed.

Included on the agenda for the monthly meeting are: 1. election of

officers; 2. Tribal action plan; and 3. Update from the prevention committee.

The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. is open to interested community members.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

New Housing Department headquarters, located near the Administration building, will be completed March 15.

Indians make significant contribution to America

In, this the first of a five year celebration of the U.S. Constitution, there acknowledged of the significance of the Constitution on every channel and in every magazine. But people would be hardpressed to hear or see anything about the contribution the Indian has made to this important document.

Much of the U.S. Constitution was actually, largely based on a written Indian Constitution which existed for centuries before Europeans migrated to the "New World." The Iroquois Confederacy of the Six Nations established the principles of freedom of speech and religion, the rights of women to participate in government, separation of

powers, checks and balances, initiative, recall and referendum. It established the phrase "...of people, by the people and for the people." In the 17th and 18th centuries, some 60 Indian nations had become part of this confederacy. The Iroquois compared the confederacy to a long house, with separate fires under a common roof.

Benjamin Franklin, one of several colonial statesmen who studied and learned from the confederacy's Great Law of Peace, urged colonial governors to follow the example it set in establishing a union. In 1754, Franklin's recommendation resulted in the Albany Plan of Union. It unified Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Con-

necticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North and South Carolina. It was a political twin of the Council of the Iroquois Confederacy. This plan served as the primary model for the Articles of Confederation, which led in 1787 to the U.S. Constitution. The Great Law of Peace and the traditional form of government of the Iroquois Confederacy still exists today.

How many Americans know that thousands of Indians fought on the American side in the Revolutionary War, or that the adoption of Indian war tactics led to the military victory? How many know that the Indian has fought for this land in virtually every American War? The fact is that far more American Indian soldiers have been killed in action per capita in U.S. war efforts than any other race.

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 was actually an effort to recognize the sacrifices made by the Indian people in foreign wars by making them U.S. citizens, entitled to the same benefits as all other veterans. But some treaty abrogationists today are even trying to twist around the intent of that act in an effort to deprive the Indian people of their traditional fishing rights. This, despite the fact that tribal involvement in cooperative fisheries management is leading to the resurgence of that resource.

No, don't expect to see any parades of fireworks on American Indian day. But don't expect the Indian to give up hope either that the truth will some day be acknowledged—that the Indian people have made and are making a significant contribution to America.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

A collection of books, artwork and prints on North American Indians valued at \$5,400, was donated to the Mid-Oregon Historical Society by Jonette Bright of Portland. The collection, called to the attention of MOHHS by a WSEFI employee, was assembled over the last several decades by Mrs. Bright.

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Spilyay Tymoo

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