

# Celebration commemorates self-government—Continued from page 3



Nathan Jim served as emcee for part of the anniversary celebration. Friday morning. Jefferson County 509-J students participated in activities for three hours

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

"They understood what it could do for us...I'm very proud of our people."

Longtime Warm Springs resident Dan Macy spoke in Chinook jargon, a dialect he said was common 50 years ago. "Half the people in the state could understand" the trade language. "No matter where you were, you could understand what was being said. He also remembered that "50 years ago we were dirt poor, everyone was. I made a \$10 a week for three years and we had two kids. We weren't any worse off than anyone else." He reflected that the Wheeler-Howard Act provided a new way of doing business. "It was the very best thing that could have happened."

Former assistant secretary of the Interior Ken Smith, who also served as tribal general manager, attributed tribal success to the Indian Reorganization Act and to "the attitude of the people, good strong leadership, good administrative managers and dedicated employees." Success, he said, comes from within, not from anyone else.



Shirley Smith created a confectioner's delight for the celebration at Sinnasho Longhouse.

## The act and what it did

The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), enacted in 1934, was based on the assumption that Indian tribes not only would be in existence for an indefinite period, but that Indian tribes should exist. The Act sought to protect the land base of the tribes and to permit the tribes to set up legal structures designed to aid tribal self-government.

An important and effective provision of the IRA was that which ended the practice of allotment and extended indefinitely the trust period for existing allotments still held in trust. The Act also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to restore to tribal ownership any "surplus" lands acquired from the tribes under the Allotment Act as well as acquire water rights for the tribes and to create new reservations.

To aid in self-government, the Act authorized tribes to organize and adopt constitutions and by-laws subject to ratification by a vote of tribal members. The Secretary was also authorized to issue charters of incorporation. The Act also fostered tribal economic enterprises.

The Act was successful in preventing further erosion of the tribal land base but tribal self-government enjoyed a more limited success. The constitutions adopted under the Act were suggested by federal authorities and followed the non-Indian pattern of divided executive, legislative and judicial authority. Some constitutions were unsuited to tribal needs and conditions and some tribes rejected coverage of the Act, fearing additional federal direction.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs the IRA, also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act, February 14, 1938. The anniversary celebration held February 12, 13 and 14, commemorated that adoption.



The VFW Elliott Palmer Post 4217 present an informational program Saturday. All veterans were asked to participate in an honor dance.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend



Delbert Frank Sr. stepped back in time while viewing photos in a display presented by MOIHS.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

## Waheneka receives recognition for service to country, Tribe

With the pride and dignity of a true warrior, Grant Waheneka, who retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1963 after 20 years of service, accepted an award that praised him for his "service to his country and Tribe." The special ceremony was included in part of the veterans' services at the 50th anniversary celebration at the Agency Longhouse Saturday, February 13. Receiving the award, said Grant, was a "complete surprise to me and was one of the proudest moments in my life." The letter was signed by Senator John Glenn, and presented to Grant by General Carson of the Air Force Reserves. The recognition was given to Grant for the "small part" he played in the U.S. space program, said Grant.

At the age of 31, Grant was among the first three men from Warm Springs to volunteer for the armed forces during the early months of World War II. He was sworn in March 7, 1942. He left a heavy equipment operator position with the BIA roads department that paid \$120 per month and entered the Air Force as a buck private, making only \$21 per month.

Because of his military training at the Warm Springs boarding school, Grant reported to the flight line after completing less than two days of basic training. Within nine months Grant was a staff sergeant.

From March until September 1942, Grant was stationed at LeMore Basic Training Air Force base. Later the same year, Grant was transferred to Douglas Air Force Base which was an advanced training base where cadets received Air Force commissions. When Grant became a staff sergeant, he also

assumed supervisor flight chief status and was responsible for the maintenance of several B-25-type aircrafts.

Grant maintained the B-25s and received mechanic training for the larger B-17s and B-24s as well. After completing this training, the B-29s came in and Grant attended

technicians school in Amarillo, Texas. After completing the necessary training, Grant was promoted from aerial engineer to flight engineer.

Grant served with the 93rd Bomb Wing and was stationed in Italy. Major oil fields were blasted out by the 93rd, said Grant, who served as

both ground maintenance supervisor and flight engineer. Grant was a member of an 11-man crew that sometimes made 16-hour flights carrying different kinds of bombs.

Grant's duties during peacetime were varied. At one time, he was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in Merced, California. During 1948

and 1949, Grant flew 13 weather reconnaissance flights around the North Pole. "I think I was the first Indian to fly around the North Pole."

When the Korean war broke out in 1951, the entire 93rd division was assigned to the "Hold Off Project" and transferred to England on

one day's notice. Grant remembers, with a chuckle, a "bunch of crying wives," on their departure. The division was in England for a year after which the division returned to Merced. Shortly after his return to the states, Grant was reassigned (Continued on page 4)



Grant Waheneka received a letter from Senator John Glenn recognizing him for his service to his country and Tribe. Grant is flanked by his wife Emily and numerous family members and friends.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

JOHN GLENN, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

February 8, 1988

Master Sergeant Grant Waheneka  
Warm Springs Indian Tribe  
c/o Jim Noteboom  
835 N.W. Bond Street  
Bend, Oregon 97701-2799

Dear Sergeant Waheneka:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your many years of service to this country and to your tribe. As a former Marine Pilot and Astronaut, I know and appreciate what you have done in the Air Force and for NASA. As a United States Senator, I admire your commitment to continued service in the Tribal Council above and beyond the call of duty. Any American would indeed be proud to have accomplished what you have in the course of a lifetime. You can be proud of your achievements not only as an ordinary citizen, but also as a member of the Warm Springs Tribe.

Best wishes to you and your family on this special day.

Sincerely,

John Glenn  
Chairman