

Editorial

E Coosh EEWA:

(The way it is)

Letters to the Editor



"Spilyay Speaks"



Time for tribute

The time of the year is upon us once again when we take time to pay tribute to those who have passed on. There is no day set aside more meaningful than Memorial Day, a day we pay tribute to those who have fallen in battle, giving their lives for their country. To those who have been through the wars, come home and have since passed on, Memorial Day is dedicated to them.

We all have known someone who was full of life, yet willing to sacrifice his life for our country. To the mothers and fathers who suffered hardship, seeing their youngster facing death on

the battlefield, around the world, Memorial Day is also for them. No matter if it was in World War I, World War II, Korea or Vietnam, we can proudly say for them that their job is done and shall remain in our memory and we are thankful to them that our country is free.

Also for everyone who has loved ones that passed on, Memorial day is when we all pay tribute and remember the days of the past. There were great times and events that we will never forget.

Let us make this Memorial Day and those to come, a day of great significance as we pay our respect with pride that our home in one nation under God.

Whole reservation important

Who's to say what's right or what's wrong? You can only do whatever makes you feel right. We all talk about our civil rights, we talk about the traditional ways and what our forefathers have done...well let's talk about what we should do as the apportionment issue is coming up for vote. Some people are making a personal issue of the matter, taking it in a wrong vision. The issue is not to throw anyone out or is not against anyone. This is one step that is to strengthen our governing body for stronger representation. Who knows, the next step might be to eliminate the Simnasho and Agency Districts where we would have a more powerful governing body as one reservation.

I have said this before, take a bank for instance, when its stockholders select a board of directors they don't pick just anyone to be on the board. They select their very best, ones they have confidence in and feel comfortable in managing their affairs. So consider the issue and decide the way you feel regarding what should be done for or against the issue. It's your right to vote the way you feel and not being told which way to vote...but vote. Neigh.

Prayers answered for mother

To the family and friends of E. Switzer,

We, the children of Elvina would like to take this opportunity to

Happy 18th Birthday Craig



With lots of love from Patty, Cecil, Cheryl, Jr., Brandon and Adrian.

express our thanks for all the prayers that was brought forth for the healing of our mother and "Praise the Lord" our prayers were answered. It had to be the prayers what gave back our beloved mother and brought her out of the "Strongholds of the devil" who tried to destroy her mind. Our special thanks goes to evangelist Merle and Rose Williams from LaConner, Wn., who held a special prayer the night before we left Mt. Vernon, and for praying our mother through, over the phone, and to Easton and Tina for coming over to the hospital when our mother asked for them. This was a miracle that had happened with our mom. There has to be a reason for her to be able to stay with us longer. Something great is going to come out of this, concerning her children, for WE ALL witnessed a miracle, when the doctors had given up hope for her. The Lord pulled her through. So, I'm (Susan) just waiting for the outcome of this experience and we give all the praise and honor to our Lord, Jesus Christ. And a very special thanks to my husband, Lupe, for staying by my side and praying our mother through and seeing that she had

Continued on page 8

Ashamed of actions at meeting

To the People,

I attended the apportionment meeting hosted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Wednesday, May 3, 1989. I would like to tell those of you who did not attend about the sad, rude and disheartening conduct that took place there. And, maybe after, we will begin to understand why our people are falling, especially our children. Now I can understand why there are young adults and children who have hearts filled with hate, selfishness and greed.

I never, ever thought I would see a day when I would be shamed by my elders. My heart was very heavy and carried an overwhelming sadness when I left the meeting; even after praying, the shame did not leave me. I ached inside having witnessed the way you elders and adults conducted yourselves. You not only shamed yourselves, but you, yourselves, did not see or feel the shame; so I felt ashamed for you, all of you.

Everyone spoke about how the "Poor Paiutes" are discriminated against and how their rights have always been violated, and the continued prejudice against them. The real prejudice came out and was slapped in the faces of the Wasco people who were present at this public meeting. The hate and contempt was thick—but it was not against the "Poor Paiutes", it was against the Wasco people.

I sat and watched you elders and adults who were of mixed blood of Paiute, Wasco and Warm Springs descent make snide remarks and gestures while the Wasco people (also of mixed blood) and members of the Tribal Council got up to speak their peace. Some of you made ill-made remarks about a man's morals and how tribal money was spent on his personal effort on the apportionment petition.

Those of you who attacked this man's private life should remember yourselves and your own personal and public moral conduct before making snide and hurtful remarks. Those of you who brought up the Tribes money, remember the money you owe the Tribes before you hold it against another person. Some of you alone are into the tribe several hundred thousand dollars.

Your sharp tongues spoke of unity, God and tradition and used them to your benefit. That, in itself, was unforgivable, but you had to go further and make hypocritical statements about other people. How on earth could you bring yourselves to speak about spirituality, God, history and tradition when it was very obvious that you held negative feelings in your heart?

A job well done!

To the Editor,

We, the employees of the Warm Springs Police Department, would like to express a thank you to Raymond F. Calica, Sr. for fulfilling

Happy Birthday Tommy & Bill

TMD

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to Eva

TMD

If you want "us Wascos" to let the apportionment issue go forever, then stop the political games to benefit yourselves, family and friends. Until this stops, "us Wasco" people will continue to work to receive the fairness and equality for all the people and our tribe.

I want the Wascos who attended the meeting to know that I was proud of you and how you presented yourselves. You listened with respect and did not lash back; it is good to know that you remember what you were taught by our true

elders who are now gone; that you remember traditional respect that was embedded in our minds and our hearts by our mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. No matter how much we are attacked, hurt or made fun of, we remember those feelings are theirs and we go on.

I hope one day my shame for the elders and the adults of this community who attended that meeting will go away and leave my heart and my mind. But I know it will not go until I see some change their

attitudes and actions. I will need to see them treat other people with courtesy and respect; their use of tradition, history and God to be used correctly and honestly and not to their own benefit.

Apportionment, if it passes, will be the true beginning towards fairness for all our people and our tribe.

Leona A. Ike
Wasco Tribal Member

Will amendment be unjust?

To the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:

First of all, I would like to extend my thanks to all the people who showed up for the meeting on voting on the apportionment issue, which was held in May. A special heartfelt appreciation also to those people that voiced their disagreement on the issue. It was a time of sharing and learning, and the words our elders were used were words of wisdom and caution.

In the last letter I wrote to you, my dear people, I shared with you that I was doing a lot of studying on the impact apportionment can have on us. Since then, I have had to travel to the Lewis and Clark Law Library and do more research on the subject. At the apportionment meeting I shared the results of my research. What follows is some of what I learned.

Today, many things have changed on our reservation as we move toward progress and we have had to make moves to accommodate those changes around us. But, there are some things, I feel, that can never change, like the original meaning of our tribal constitution. I read an article on canon law and what it means when interpreting documents where two different cultures are involved. It is to my understanding that traditions, history and values all have to be interpreted according to its original form, in order for it to make any sense. This then has to be true when interpreting the original language and intentions of the constitution and by-laws of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Tribal history tells us that all three tribes were involved in formulating our constitution. This event did not take place overnight. The Wheeler-Howard (Indian Reorganization) Act was passed in 1934 and our tribal constitution was not adopted until December 18, 1937. This tells me that the

people took their time to come to an agreement and approve of the document that now governs us as tribal members. It gave us a political entity and other guaranteed rights as sovereigns. One of those rights is to be immune from racial discrimination as set forth in the 5th, 14th and 15th amendments to the constitution of the United States. Our tribal preamble reads "...Not inconsistent with existing federal and state laws." Isn't the constitution of the United States a federal document containing laws?

In the early history of our country, a court ruling was made on a case, Worcester vs. Georgia by Chief Justice Marshall: "Indian Tribes or nations had always been considered as distinct, independent, political communities retaining their original rights."

This was one of the federal government's first acknowledgements that we had powers of self government.

In addition to this ruling was applied the accepted rule of international law: The settled doctrine of the Law of Nations is that a weaker power does not surrender its independence—its right to self government—by associating with a stronger, and taking its protection.

Right now, I think we need to ask ourselves, is the proposed apportionment amendment to our tribal constitution in conflict with existing federal laws?

I still firmly believe, today, that the more we adopt a form of government that overlooks the diversity of one of its contributing tribes that we are setting ourselves up to lose a part or all of our sovereignty.

In reading Felix Cohen's *Handbook of Federal Indian Law* I came across an article concerning civil liberties. Civil liberties is defined as rights of thinking, speaking and acting as one likes without interference or restraint except in the interest of the public welfare. These civil liberties have been conferred

upon us by the tribal constitution and by-laws and its conformation with the constitution of the United States. It goes on to say, in the interaction between two groups with divergent (different) histories, traditions and ways of life, such differences of value standards are common and must be reckoned with in the field of Indian civil liberties. It is in reading these types of articles that I come to the conclusion that we really need to be cautious in decisions concerning the reservation.

When I was still in high school, I learned about our right to vote. We learned about the fifteenth amendment, section one, which says:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

It was in classroom discussion that I realized that we need to find out all the facts about issues that we are voting on. If I could not be sure beyond a reasonable doubt as to the soundness of an issue then I would have to vote against it, in order not to suffer the unforeseen consequences, later. We are all entitled to vote, if you registered, upon the apportionment referendum on May 31, 1989. I ask that you truly weigh all the facts on this very important amendment to our tribal constitution, before you vote. Please ask yourself:

Does this amendment violate any provision of the tribal constitution?

Does this amendment violate some federal law?

Will this amendment be unjust to a minority group within the Confederated Tribes?

These are the same kinds of questions that are involved in a secretarial review of tribal ordinances which involve judgments of policy as well as judgments of law and constitutionality.

Respectfully,
Wilson Wewa, Jr.

Mother has been inspiration

To a Dear Mother,

You have been a great inspiration to me and a very good example. All the hardships you had to endure in raising me I could only pray that I could have at least health the strength and faith you have. Thank you Mom for your support. I love you dearly. Happy Mother's Day.

From Suh-Wus-Nye

The Warm Springs Shaker Church Youth Group is now selling colorful felt tipped pens to raise money. The pens sell for \$1.25 each. Contact the following people to purchase a pen: Jaclyn Tulee, Wilona Poitra, Marvin Arquette, Eldred Heath, Peggy Poitra, Thomas O. Kalama or William C. Moses.

Tribal Council Agenda

- Monday, May 22—**
9 a.m.—Tribal Council Workshop
- Tuesday, May 23—**
9 a.m.—Committee Workshop
- Wednesday, May 24 to Friday, May 26—**
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference in Portland
- Monday, May 29—Holiday/Memorial Day**
- Tuesday, May 30—Tribal Council Meeting**
9 a.m.—Business
9:30 a.m.—Enrollments
1:30 p.m.—Conference Call with Mark Phillips
2 p.m.—Realty Items
- Wednesday, May 31—Tribal Council Meeting**
9 a.m.—Business
9:30 a.m.—Ocean In-River Management Agreement
10 a.m.—Tribal Code Issues: Juvenile Code, Family Abuse Law, Woodcutting Code
Secretarial Election—Apportionment

EDITOR'S NOTE

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes articles and letters from its readers. All letters, preferably 300 words or less, must include the author's signature and address. Thank you letters and poetry will be published at the editor's discretion.

All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of Spilyay Tymoo. Spilyay Tymoo reserves the right to edit all copy OR refuse publication of any material that may contain libelous statements.

From the staff of the WSPD