

## Loomis leaves community after 19 years

After spending 18 years in Warm Springs, Indian health clinic service unit director Lee Loomis has headed north. He will be working at the Portland Area Office of the Indian Health Service as special assistant to the executive staff.

Loomis, his wife Sharon and daughter Kathy, arrived in Warm Springs in 1972. He signed on as health educator—a title he held until 1984. As health educator, Loomis was responsible for field health and he supervised the sanitation, public health nursing and nutrition programs. Loomis became service unit director (SUD) in 1984, following the retirement of Garrett Soules.

As SUD, Loomis required a long-term commitment from his staff, resulting in the lowest turnover rate of any clinic in the service area. "When we hire, we're very keen on a person's intentions of staying," said Loomis. Teamwork is essential among staff members. "We can't afford people who don't understand team play."

In the early days of his appointment in Warm Springs, Loomis, in addition to his regular duties, drove the ambulance when necessary. The ambulance was little more than a well-stocked van, equipped with a gurney, oxygen, band-aids, splints, IVs and rack medications. In 1974, the Tribe purchased their

first "real" ambulance, providing those services for the first time ever.

Loomis then became involved in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. All EMTs worked on a volunteer basis. The emergency services provided have grown substantially since the early 1970s. "We have here some of the finest equipment and services available," said Loomis of the tribal Fire and Safety department.

Many things have changed in the past 18 years, most importantly is the change in emphasis in health care. "The whole clinical approach is now directed toward health prevention, surveillance and maintenance rather than acute care," said Loomis. Many special clinics are provided regularly for local patients.

Acute care is still required and nearly \$200,000 is budgeted annually for the "catastrophic" care of eight to 10 people. "Cost of health care is out of control," said Loomis.

Demand on health care has increased dramatically since the early 70s. Approximately 10,000 patients were seen at the clinic on an outpatient basis in 1972. Between 27,000 and 29,000 patients were seen in 1990. There were 35 births in 1972 while about 135 births occurred in 1990.

To accommodate the growing need for health care, the Warm Springs clinic staff has grown from 16 in 1972 to 33 in 1990. There was one full-time physician in 1972; now there are three full-time doctors plus a physician's assistant. "While we doubled the size of the staff, the demand has about tripled."

Part of Loomis' success as SUD can be attributed to the cooperative working relationship between the IHS and the Confederated Tribes, said Loomis. "We have found ourselves to be partners and friends," said Loomis. "We are working together" toward a common goal—healthier lifestyles and overall improved health.



Lee Loomis

## Low returns—Continued from page 1

of its low population, may need the protection of a closed season. The Deschutes River fall chinook is a wild population. The estimated escapement of fall chinook salmon above Sherars Falls has fallen below the optimum escapement of 3,000 fish during the past three years. The 1990 jack returns indicate the 1991 run will be similar to the record low escapement of 1990. This estimate may be optimistic

since the projected escapement above Bonneville Dam is substantially lower than last year. (1990—127,000 adults; 1991—85,000 adults).

Necessary action to protect the fall chinook stock may require that salmon fishing be closed on the Deschutes River from June 16 to October 31, 1991 and the Deschutes River from Sherars Falls downstream to the upper trestle (about

two miles) be closed to all fishing from June 16 to October 31, 1991. The complete fishing closure in Sherars Falls area is necessary to prevent hooking of salmon under the pretense of steelhead or trout fishing. With the low run size that is expected for wild fall chinook any harvest mortality is unacceptable, the Natural Resources office maintains.

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