

Support group shares news, photographs



Wayne Miller, currently in Saudi, shows an M-16 assault rifle.



Miller with a couple of his buddies in their makeshift barracks.

When Tuesday nights roll around in Warm Springs, one can almost hear a collective sigh of relief from members of the Desert Storm Support group. Members continue to meet weekly at the Community Counseling Center to discuss concerns, share letters from those still overseas and to make plans for upcoming events. The brief respite from their common everyday routines seems to ease the emotional tensions common among the members.

When the support group began in early January, members freely expressed their anger—tears of fear and frustration flowed freely. Now that the Gulf situation has calmed down a bit, meetings are less emotional—the tears are of relief rather than anger.

Early in February, the support group was made visually evident as "Gremlins I and II" tied yellow plastic ribbons around nearly every standing weed, tree and bush from the Agency area to the Deschutes Crossing. The Gremlins wish to remain anonymous, but want to thank Les Schwab Tires in Madras and The Dalles for donating the bright yellow bags for the bows and ribbons.

According to Gremlin I, the idea of using the yellow Schwab bags came when she was walking along and noticed a discarded bag on the ground. Since regular yellow ribbon was virtually impossible to find, Gremlin I took it upon herself to approach Schwabs and ask if she could buy some bags for the ribbon project. Schwabs refused to sell the bags, but instead, the two stores collectively donated 75 bags to Gremlin I. She solicited the help of Gremlin II, and the pair went out late at night to do their decorating.

One support group member is so loyal, that for a time, she was riding her daughter's horse to meetings. Marcia Macy's car broke down, leaving her afoot. Instead of bumming rides from neighbors and friends, Marcia opted to brush up on her riding abilities, dust off the horse, and ride to the meetings in "old-fashioned" style. Marcia put



Miller standing alongside the Gulf before the oil spill. Miller sent undeveloped film home to his family, and they were generous enough to share the photos with Spilyay.

the 23-year-old horse out to pasture again last month and now either hoofs herself to meetings or catches a ride from someone.

Support group members gave a unified startled gasp at their most recent meeting when Shauna Queahpama-Craig walked in with her mother Madeline. Shauna has been stationed in Germany and will return to her base in about three weeks.

Members inundated Shauna with questions and were obviously pleased and proud to have her home. The Patriot's Parade will be dedicated to Shauna Saturday (parade starts at 10 a.m. at Warm Springs Elementary) and the

Northwest Traditional Travelers Powwow will feature an honor dance for her Saturday evening in Simnasho.

Letters, notes and valentines sent to Shauna have pleased the young soldier. She told of receiving valentines from a class at WSE—she reciprocated by sending them a photo of herself in "full military regalia." A brief visit to the school this week by Shauna may have confused some students as they did not recognize her without her M-16 and other Army garb.

Some support group members continue to have their mental ups and downs. Those highs and lows are often coupled with tough financial situations. To help alleviate some of those problems, the support group is scheduling fund raising events in future. Watch for signs and announcements. Money raised will also be used for a welcome home dinner when all Warm Springs military personnel return stateside.

Some local soldiers have been

reassigned and have new addresses. Gary Smith, in Saudi for a time, is now in Germany, about an hour from where Shauna is stationed. His mailing address is:

Pvt. Gary M. M. Smith
C. Co. 312 INF. BAT.
APO N.Y., NY 09034

Wayne Miller, currently stationed in Saudi, also has a new address. It is:

E-2 Wayne R. Miller
544-80-2632
HHC 1st IDG 30PS
APO N.Y., NY 09310

Candidates wanted

The Yakima Indian Rodeo Association is seeking queen candidates for the 34th annual Treaty Day Celebration All Indian Rodeo to be held June 7, 8 and 9, 1991. Candidates must be of Indian descent, aged 16 to 24, single and have no dependents. Contact Devra Lewis at (509) 874-2782 or Janine Herrera at (509) 874-2184 for further information.

The old days—

First annual report from Agent John Smith on the condition of the Indian affairs at the Warm Springs Agency continues.

No new improvements in the way of farming and cultivating lands, but considerable has been done towards repairing and rendering more secure old fences, rebuilding and renewing those on old neglected fields, and the acreage cultivated is thought to be larger than for some past seasons. The early spring gave promise of a favorable season but the months of April and May were very dry, and the few light showers that June brought were entirely insufficient to repair the damage. Crickets also destroyed several fields and gardens, reducing what was at best a light yield. Crops generally in eastern Oregon are reported at but from one third to one half of last year, and the reservation is no exception. One third of the Department crop was destroyed by crickets another third so injured by drouth as to be only fit for hay, and the balance only medium not aggregating more than one third of the amount realized last year. The Indian crops have not as yet been threshed, and can only, with the garden stuffs be estimated. Stock of all kinds has done well. The Winter being light there were no unusual losses except a very few cattle poisend (sic) by a weed in the early spring. The statistics are very difficult to obtain, the Indians either not knowing or not caring to tell the exact numbers owned by them, and the date for an estimate are so purely conjectural in their nature as to afford no assurance of being even approximately correct, but are the best that can be given at present. As has been already presented to the attention of the Department, both generally and specifically, the location of the saw mill is not such as to secure the best results. It was doubtless necessary when first built to be at the Agency but that necessity exists no longer. The timber is too far away, hauling logs being much more difficult and inconvenient than lumber, and many are thereby deterred from making improvements, still a fair years work has been done, and the material for a number of houses is on the ground, waiting till it can be worked up.

It has been my custom to personally superintend and assist the building of houses, but have not on account of my health been able to do so this season and therefore cannot report the amount accomplished that should be. There are probably not less than twenty five houses waiting to be built but the services of all the labor I can command is otherwise engaged, and various considerations have prevented my hiring help for this purpose to any great extent. The mills although kept running and having so far proved adequate to the actual requirements, are not in a condition to insure it for the future without extensive repairs, amounting in the case of the saw mill to almost entire reconstruction of the running parts, forebay &c, but as has been mentioned, it is desirable that it be removed and therefore nothing has been done except what was actually necessary to keep it running.

The Grist mill although not in such condition as individuals would deem it profitable to keep one, is more capable for the work it has to do, and can be got along with for some time with only the repairs required by the usual wear and tear of machinery, and expenditures for other things are more pressing it may perhaps be well not to incur any unnecessary expense upon it. The amount of roots, berries fish, game &c obtained by the Indians can scarcely even be approximately estimated, owing as before mentioned to the almost entire absence of reliable data. I am conscious that my statistics are not as full or reliable as they might or could be but there are always so many other things pressing which seem to more essentially demand attention that the time and pains have not been taken to gather them.

In regard to any suggestions of change in policies or methods of treatment I have to say that my experience goes to show that those at present pursued have been productive of important results and as long as improvement continues it is not best to change more than possible. The prime need is that Agents and employees be always men who are more devoted to the best interests of those placed under their charge than to schemes for personal aggrandisement (sic), men who are not ashamed to take an Indian by the hand and commend him for a good deed or too indifferent and time serving to reprove and punish a bad one, always bearing in mind that the end to be gained is not merely to stop bad practices but to bring about the adoption of good ones. A few years of such administration would produce wonderful results and give an effectual quietus to those who are so fond of disparaging all efforts for the improvement of the Indians, and put a stop to all further complaints of Indian depredations and failure on the part of the government to repress and control them.

Information for this column is researched and provided by Warm Springs tribal attorney Jim Noteboom.

CRITFE dispute settled

Captain John Johnson of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE) announced March 8 that disputes with two barge companies to cover damages done to tribal fishing equipment and property have been settled. The incidents occurred in the Zone 6 fishery (from Bonneville to McNary Dam) where tribal fishers from the Warm Springs, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Yakima tribes have the right to fish.

"This is what it is all about," said Capt. Johnson. "The responsible parties could be held criminally or civilly liable for damage done to tribal fisher's equipment or property. CRITFE, in the course of their investigation contacted the companies and provided them with the investigative reports. We went through the proper channels to prepare good cases on behalf of the tribal fisherman," said Capt. Johnson.

CRITFE investigations were instrumental in tribal fishers receiving settlements. Although the investigation took place late last year, the cases were settled recently. One tribal member witnessed a tour boat run over two nets belonging to him. The nets were valued at \$750.00 apiece and the tribal fisher received damages in the amount of \$2,250.00. The tour boat is registered out of Seattle, WA.

The other incident occurred last November when a park ranger observed a barge drifting upstream from where it should have been moored above Eagle Creek on the Oregon shore. The barge was unattended and being pushed upstream by strong West winds. "The barge drifted to just right under the Bridge of the Gods and then the wind pushed the barge towards the

Oregon shore and right into at least two Indian scaffolds located almost right under the bridge said Rebecca Miner, Park Ranger.

CRITFE's Corporal Adam Villavicencio went to the area to survey the damage. "The construction of the scaffold had a lot of detailing with large posts, thick wire cables and cement used in its construction," said Corp. Villavicencio.

"Ranger Miner said she saw the entire incident and watched the barge actually run into the scaffold and bridge," said Capt. Johnson. "I could actually hear the wood on the platform cracking upon impact," said Ranger Miner. Damages done to the fishing scaffold amounted to \$5,790.00.

"We want to educate the public to be ever mindful of the presence of fishing gear and related equipment such as scaffolds," said Capt. Johnson. Incident of damaged or stolen tribal fishing property will be investigated thoroughly by CRITFE. "Our efforts will be concentrated on pursuing investigations to a point of settlement." Such efforts by CRITFE have proven to be effective.

Capt. Johnson's enforcement group has testified in civil matters on behalf of tribal fishers and given court testimony in other cases as they arise. "We're here to protect the tribal fishers." CRITFE investigations also netted restitution for tribal fishers from some of the sports fishers who have damaged tribal fishing equipment. Last year there were 39 reports of damaged tribal fishing property and 50 reports of lost or stolen property. "Because of the high numbers of damaged and stolen property last year, we are making the investigations a priority for our department."

NIPC developing research, analysis institution

The planning office of the National Indian Policy Center (NIPC), located in Washington, DC, has named seven Task Forces to facilitate consultation with Indian affairs experts and selected two co-chairs for the Planning Committee. The George Washington University-based Center, established by Congressional initiative during the 101st Congress (Public Law 101-301), has undertaken a year-long feasibility study and consultation process with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and members, and associated national organizations to develop a permanent national policy analysis and research institution.

Serving as co-chairs of the Center's Planning Committee are The Honorable W. Ron Allen, chairman of the Jamestown Klamath Tribe, and Roderick S. French, GW vice president for academic affairs. Allen and French were selected on December 17, 1990, by

the Planning Committee comprised of tribal officials and representatives of national American Indian and Alaska Native organizations.

The presiding chairs of the seven Task Forces and their tribal affiliations are: Education, co-chairs Donna Rhodes (Muscogee) and Lois Risling (Hoopa); Economic Development, chair David Lester (Creek); Health and Human Services, co-chairs Nora Garcia (Moja) and Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee); Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection, co-chairs Ron Trosper (Salish-Kootenai) and LaDonna Harris (Comanche); Law and the Administration of Justice, chair Susan Williams (Sisseton Lakota); Tribal Governance - International and External, chair W. Ron Allen (Jamestown Klamath); and Cultural Rights and Resources, chair Regis Pecos (Cochiti Pueblo).

According to the Center Director Alan Parker (Chippewa-Cree),

Planning Committee and Task Force meetings will be open to the public. To facilitate participation by tribal representatives, meetings have been arranged, whenever possible, to coincide with previously scheduled regional and national Indian meetings and conferences.

The Task Force meetings scheduled to date are: Natural Resources, February 25, NIPC office at GW, Washington, DC, to coincide with the United South and Eastern Tribes Impact Week, and April 3, Spokane Sheraton Hotel, Spokane, Washington, Intertribal Timber Council Meeting; Governance, March 5, Crown Plaza Holiday Inn, Arlington, Va., National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Meeting; Economic Development, March 6, Crown Plaza Holiday Inn, Arlington, Va., National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Meeting, and May 7, Seattle, Washington, RES '91 Indian Economic Summit; Cultural Rights and Resources, April 9, Santa Fe Indian School Campus, Santa Fe, NM; Law and Administration of Justice, April 5, Albuquerque Marriott Hotel, Albuquerque, NM, Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference; Health and Human Resources, April 22-24, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Com-

munity Health Representative Conference; and Education, early June, Albuquerque, NM, National Indian Education Association Board meeting.

The December Planning Committee meeting also addressed the distribution of several options for the structure of the Center. These options will be presented to tribal leaders for consideration. It has been suggested, for example, that the Center may function not only as a public policy research institute devoted to American Indian and Alaska Native affairs, but also as an information clearinghouse, a continuing education center and a resource for the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges.

The GW-based planning office for the Center will continue to keep Indian country informed of the Center's feasibility study progress and future meetings. The office also encourages individual participation in the process through regional meeting attendance and by writing the National Indian Policy Center.

Those individuals interested in contributing to this effort should contact the National Indian Policy Center, The George Washington University, 606 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052, for more information. The telephone number is (202) 994-5462, FAX is (202) 994-5465.

U of O Powwow scheduled

The University of Oregon's Native American Student Union is sponsoring their 23rd annual Spring Powwow May 18 and 19 at MacArthur Court. Host drums will be

Southern Medicine of Window Rock, Arizona and Indian Nation of Satus, Washington. There will be contest dancing, arts and crafts, along with a raffle.