

Wyatt recalls interesting career as musician, baker, advisor



Al and Leona Wyatt have been married since 1978.

Many "Springers" may remember Al Wyatt for the meals he prepared for students at the Warm Springs Boarding School, while others may remember him better for his work with the local Scouting program. Whatever the reason, it's sure to bring a smile.

Though nearing 80, Al's sense of humor remains quick and his recollection of years gone by is fairly sharp. Names may not be as clear but the dates and places of events remain as though it were yesterday.



Proficient at playing many instruments, Wyatt was a member of Dan Macy's dance band.



Wyatt, sixth from left in back row, was assistant Scout leader during the '60s. Recognize any of these Scouts?

Half Comanche Indian, Al was born August 30, 1911 in Anadarko, Oklahoma, the middle of three children. For about two years, he attended high school in Anadarko and then went to Haskell Indian School as a high school sophomore where he was enrolled in baking and music classes. After three years at Haskell, he graduated in 1931.

While at Haskell, Al was involved in sports and especially enjoyed football, baseball and boxing. In fact, he had a chance to become a professional boxer having won the 1934 Idaho State Championship Golden Gloves award in the lightweight division while employed at Ft. Hall near Pocatello, Idaho.

As a college freshman, Al's boxing and music careers at Haskell had a run-in following an out-of-town tournament his freshman year. The boxing team had traveled to Kansas City, Kansas for a tourney and, even though Al won his match, he sustained a fat lip in the process. His injury prevented him from playing his trombone. Unknown to Al at the time, the bandmaster did not allow band members to participate in athletics. Al was out of the orchestra for the rest of the year. A new music master was hired the next year and Al was able to participate in both and even learned band directing from his second band instructor.

In what would have been his junior year at Haskell, Al was recruited by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to work in Pocatello as a baker and music instructor. He then transferred to the Consolidated Ute School in Ignacio, Colorado, where he again taught baking and music for six years. Less than three months after World War II broke out, Al joined the Army.

Al first went to Camp Roberts, but due to an ankle injury, he became a "lost soldier" and was separated from his outfit that eventually ended up in Germany. After a two-week stay in the hospital, Al joined the 732nd Engineers and received further training in Atlanta, Georgia. "I ended up on Luzon in the Philippines." Another injury sent Al packing for home shortly after the war ended.

Stateside once again, Al went back to work at the Consolidated Ute School for a year. His transfer to Warm Springs in 1948 brought a new "home ec" teacher to the boarding school.

While here, Al made many friends, joined a baseball team that won the Central Oregon league championship title, was an official for local athletic teams and joined Dan Macy's dance band. Al even appeared in "Indian Fighter," a Kirk Douglas movie, as an Indian chief. In 1965, Al broke ethnic barriers and became a member of the Prineville Elks Lodge.

Somewhere along the line, Al took up golf and at one time sported a 9 handicap. Bad health in recent years has slowed Al a bit and he now plays nine holes once a week with friends at Nine Peaks in Madras. "Now my handicap

is up in the 20s. I can't hardly play 18 holes anymore."

In his early years here, Al fished, golfed and played cards with his cronies—Vern Jackson, Erving Shephard and Cliff Meachem. "Vern was always playing tricks on me," says Al. "Shep got his fishing line hung up in a tree and Vern told me to get it. I climbed up and got stuck and I couldn't go up or down. The guys went off and left me in the tree," he recalls.

Al retired from the Bureau in 1968. He had the option to go to Chemawa but decided against it. He worked as a greenskeeper at Kah-Nee-Ta for five years after his retirement.

Al now lives in Madras with his second wife Leona, who, at one time, was married to Al's brother Jake. Al's first wife, Rose, died in 1977 and Jake had died two years previously. "I spent a winter in Arizona and went to California to play in a golf tournament. I stopped by to visit with Leona and the kids. That's when I made my mistake." The two were married in 1978.

The years have taken their toll on Al and he doesn't get around too well these days. He suffered a slight stroke about three years ago and he has diabetes and poor eyesight. He doesn't drive anymore but his weekly rounds of golf and Thursday night card games get him out and about among his current cronies.

Al continues to be amazed that he has remained in the Central Oregon area for so many years. "I've never been in one place this long before," he says. "Forty-three years is a long time." If acquaintances make time go by more quickly, just think how long those 43 years would have seemed without Al.

Support Group Meetings-Warm Springs

- MONDAY**
7:00-8:30 pm N/A Meeting
Community Counseling Center
- TUESDAY**
5:00-6:30 pm Open AA Meeting
Group/Lecture Room
- 7:00-8:00 pm Women's AA Support Group
Community Counseling Center
- WEDNESDAY**
12:00-1:00 pm Open AA Meeting
Group/Lecture Room
- 6:00-7:30 pm Women's Support Group
Community Counseling Center
- 7:00-8:30 pm Wednesday Night Candlelight
AA Meeting
Community Counseling Center
- THURSDAY**
7:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting
Community Counseling Center
- FRIDAY**
6:30-8:00 pm AA Meeting
Old Pro-Shop at Kah-Nee-Ta
(near the tennis courts)
- 4:30-6:00 pm Youth AA
Community Counseling Center
- SATURDAY**
7:00-8:30 pm AA Meeting
Community Counseling Center

Support Group Meetings-Madras

- SUNDAY**
7:00-8:30 pm AA Group
Jefferson County Recovery Center,
639 D Street
- TUESDAY**
7:00-8:30 pm Tuesday Night AA Group
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
5th & F Street
- MARTES**
8:00-9:30 pm AA Meetings in Spanish Juntas de Alcoholicos Anonimos en Espanol.
Jefferson County Recovery Center,
639 D Street
- THURSDAY**
8:00 pm Thursday Night AA Group
(non-smoking)
Lutheran Church, 1225 C Street

Sohappy new supervisor of Parole and Probation



Corinna Sohappy is new Parole and Probation supervisor.

Filling the vacant parole and probation supervisor position is 31-year-old tribal member Corinna Sohappy.

Sohappy has worked in the parole and probation department for nearly four years as a probation officer and community service work coordinator.

As department head, Sohappy supervises employees, takes action on court reports and assigns cases

to fellow employees. She is responsible for the department's annual budget. Her department is directly supervised by Tribal Chief Judge Don Costello.

There are currently 119 probation clients being served by the two probation officers, Sohappy and Martie Markgraf. There are also 75 community service clients and 12 juveniles that come under the supervision of the department. Sohappy also supervises all sex offender clients, making sure that court orders and judges' decisions are enforced.

Sohappy worked at the Warm Springs Police Department for over two years as a dispatcher and was certified as a communications officer in the mid-1980s. She was certified again in 1989 as a parole and probation officer through the Oregon State Police Academy in Monmouth.

Sohappy explained that she was "hesitant" about submitting her application for the position that had been vacant since Papo Cruz left nearly a year and a half ago. "I wasn't sure I wanted to be supervisor. I felt confident that I could do the job because I had been practicing doing it for over a year."

Future plans may include intense training sessions that will be conducted by probation officers from other enforcement agencies. "I hope to modernize our office, get new ideas and direction...and implement the different ideas to help our clients."

The Old Days

Warm Springs Agency, Oregon.
Report of Horace G. Wilson, Supervisor
March 24, 1913.

Section 5.

Employment for Indians:

These Indian work for ranchers near the reservation during the Spring, Summer and Fall months. Some of them worked for the railroad company when the railroad was building up the Deschutes River. I believe that an effort should be made to obtain employment for some of the Indians with the railroad company as section hands.

A few of the Indians are employed occasionally as laborers at the school and agency. There are four Indians employed at the school.

Very respectfully,

HGWIP.

Section 6.

Supervisor

Sale of Liquor:

The Superintendent states that there has not been very much liquor sold to the Indians of this reservation the last few months. I saw no indications of any sales when I was at the agency.

Very respectfully,

HGWIP.

Section 7.

Supervisor

Forestry:

The west half of the Warm Springs reservation is mainly covered with timber. 7 forest guards have been authorized for four months. There was too much snow for me to make a trip through the timber but the Superintendent informs me that some roads and trails have been built and that cabins have been furnished for the guards. There have been no timber sales at this agency.

There is one saw mill located about 20 miles northwest of the agency. This saw mill is in very poor condition and should be removed to a point about one mile west of the Warm Springs agency on Shitike Creek. The lumberman, Mr. Salzman, now on special detail there, informs me that this would be a good location for the saw mill and states that logs can be driven down Shitike Creek to the mill. I also recommend that two portable saw mills be purchased, one for the northern part and one for the southern part of the reservation. The Indians do not have very good homes or barns and if this arrangement of saw mills could be made the Indians could be better supplied with lumber. These Indians do not have any tribal funds to their credit. It would, therefore, probably be necessary to ask for a reimbursable appropriation. The Government could be reimbursed from the sale of timber.

Very respectfully,

HGWIP.

Supervisor.