

Gaming—continued from page 5

starvation, sterilization, and more recently DNA testing.

Self-sufficiency. Non-dependency. Self-Determination. What do you think we're trying to do by building a casino? Is it going to take business away from somebody? Our intentions are not greed or anything that would hurt other people. This is to say there have not been federal government people who understood the plight of the Indian, but these are few and far between. One of these was John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) administration from 1933 to 1945 (by the way, he was of Canadian origin). His efforts were instrumental in passage and implementation of the Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934, otherwise known as the Indian Reorganization Act. The reasoning behind the legislation was his strong dissatisfaction of the way the federal government was handling the administration of Indian affairs. He believed that Indians should be allowed to live as close as possible to their natural culture, that the government should be more culturally sensitive, and also to be self-governing and self-sufficient. Does someone have a problem with that? Warm Springs is an IRA tribe, made possible by a law written and made law by the U.S. government.

Now we're getting to the essence of this article. If the federal government (they are our trustee, we are their ward) wants us to become self-supporting, why do they not back us up in the area of economic development? Why do they not question the decision of the State of Oregon to deny us the Cascade Locks site? Why are we being singled out, when other states and tribes have had gambling for years? Maybe somebody is afraid we may become successful in our venture? We have many friends from Hood River and many other places, far and near, that come to the Indian Head Casino in Warm Springs to gamble. We appreciate their support and especially their friendship.

Here's something else for the opponents of our casino and those opponents located in Hood River. Do you think your elected mayor is actually making decisions and recommendations for your city? There are others with plans for land there, that wish to develop it and put businesses there; whether they will be scenic or just more commercial business, you may want to find out yourselves. They talk to the mayor and "influence" (by what means nobody knows) the recommendations he makes to the governor. Talk to the people who go to the employment office looking for work at Hood River. You will find that at least 80% or more want the casino built there because they need jobs. Who is looking out for the people in Hood River who really need jobs? Being jobless, it's getting pretty rough trying to support oneself because of welfare reform.

Jobs for tribal members has been brought up in the newspapers. Yes, if we decide to build at Hood River, we do have tribal members who are already trained, but not enough in number to fill all the positions that will be created. A remark was made in the paper to the effect that it would lay off most of our people. Who is to say whether or not these employees will or will not follow their jobs? Have you personally talked to them? The same article refers to an "anonymous news source". Come on, let's not pussy-foot around. Name your source, if in actuality there is one.

Scenic. The Gorge area used to be scenic when our people lived there before the treaty of 1855. Everything was in its natural state, unless you think Indians living along the river is unnatural. I drove through there a few days ago and noted some of the "scenic" structures: dams, above ground power lines, trains, railroad tracks, barges,

buoys, interstate highways, tunnels through the mountains, unattractive businesses, bridges galore, wracking yards, clear cuts, you name it, don't tell me that a casino would not add to the beauty of the area because I know it will. A building constructed to attract people must be appealing to the eye. We've already been through this stuff. It will bring badly need economy to the area. People who stop at the casino will patronize already established businesses in the area. All of the above named "scenic" uses point to only one target—commercialization.

How about taking a look at what the minority of Hood River people consider scenic. Wind surfers? We know Hood River is the wind surfing capital of the world. When the area allowed wind surfing, evidently did not take into account the environmental impacts. Wind surfers interrupt and interfere with the natural migration of fish up and down the river. Water fowl natural to the area are disturbed. How about erosion to the river shores? All in the name of, yes, the almighty dollar. Where do these dollars go? To the Private business owner, of course. Not to the poverty level people, or those lacking money for the basics of life. Not to create employment for the jobless, the needy. It goes into the pockets of the business owners.

When I read the governor's denial, (front page headline no less), what really jumped out at me was the expression of satisfaction of one of the other tribes. There is nothing that people like more than to see tribes and Indians fight against each other. In the 1970's Warm Springs tried to work with the other Oregon tribes on a good approach to work toward getting gaming for tribes in the state. But no, a few tribes were to eager, gluttonous, and impatient to work together as one voice, one people, which is one of the attributes of true Indians. I hope that tribes is now using its 20-20 hindsight and thinking, "maybe we should have all worked together."

The group in Hood River that wants our land, had they played their cards right (no pun intended) had an option. Requests the mayor to recommend in favor of the cascade Locks site. The "group" could have bought the Hood River land from the state. The governor could have approved Cascade Locks for us. And everyone concerned could have gotten what they wanted. What ever happened to common sense and good judgment? Is it being obscured by greed, by territorialism, by tribal comments of ignorant and narrow minded people?

Editorials have been written about drunken Indians. It sounds like Indians are the only people who drink alcohol. True, we have a few people at Warm Springs who drink excessively and we are willing to own up to that. You will never see them in our local casino, nor any that we build, wherever we decide to build it. Who will you see there? Go there yourself and observe who is imbibing and disturbing our patrons. This business of stereotyping Indians as drunkards needs to stop. Step forward and admit there are others who drink excessively, closet drinkers, even politicians who drink "firewater" excessively and call it "social" drinking. Give us some stats on non-Indian drinkers. Have studies been made on our races? I doubt it. The only reason stats are able to be collected on Indians is because the federal government has agencies such as the Indian Health Service who keep regular stats on school related accidents, deaths.

When the news media finds out negative things about Indians and/or reservations they don't hesitate to immediately report it. Why aren't good positive things written about us. We have tribal members who have degrees such as A.A., Bachelor of Science, M.A., M.S., Ph.D., J.D. We have people who work in upper management, middle management, profes-

sional fields, good vocational-technical jobs, but there aren't enough jobs here to accommodate every tribal member who wants to work.

Let's start really thinking this through. We want our people working in good paying jobs supporting their families. Hood River needs the economic growth. The fed's need to start looking out for their protegee. The state needs to be more optimistic, open minded, and think for themselves. Do you want to see our Indian people in welfare lines being paid by your tax dollars? But at the same time, let's not forget that Indians pay federal taxes just like any other citizen in this country. Help us to help ourselves. JFK, one of the outstanding leaders of our country, established the VISTA Corps. These were Volunteers in Service to America. Their main purpose was to help 3rd World countries get on their feet. VISTA helped these countries by showing them HOW to do simple tasks such as growing their own food. Instead of the United States giving them food, the US helped them by teaching them to grow their own food. Same principle applies to this situation. I do not want to see our tribe look toward tax payers to provided our daily needs. We want to earn our own living, stop concentrating on the negative and looking for loop holes to go out of helping us—remember we do want to help ourselves.

An example of recent legislation is the August 1998 Presidential Executive Order on Indian Education. Nowhere in this document will you find the words, *treaty, trust responsibility or sovereignty*. Why was not the executive order made a public law so it would carry more power and significance? Of course we are lucky to have at least an executive order instead of nothing at all, like in the past. Why does a ward have to fight its trustee for funds for important causes? Records show it has gone on for centuries, not only in the area of education. Revenue from the new casino would certainly help to provide educational opportunities for our people. The revenue would help us improve our economic well being. It would earn funds to support human needs programs on the reservation. The average annual income in Warm Springs is below the poverty level. As of 1998 employees are 16% below the cost of living.

I don't believe in telling others where to build. It is their decision as to where they want to build something. Dictatorship went out with communism. Would the Hood River group still oppose building of a casino if it were themselves building it? I doubt it.

To those who don't know what their ancestor promised, I would suggest you do some reading and see if you can make head or tails out of it. Ask yourselves whose interest and well being did they really have at heart. Read about the Indian Allotment Act (Dawes Act) and the Homestead Act. What was their real purposes? I'd really like to hear from people who understand the natives of this country and the injustice and persecution they have had to endure and are still withstanding. The only request I have is that you include your name and address so I can acknowledge you and have a place to send a reply. We are still fighting wars. The only difference is we are not using bows and arrows now to defend our people, land and resources. Our foes, weapon of choice seems to be the most unfair, so far. I'll leave that up to you to translate.

All I'm asking is that we get real here and start acting like adults. Let's be problem solvers, and not be a part of the problem. Stop the one-upmanship tactics. In the end, things will work out the way the Creator meant for it to be. As it is, nobody is getting what they want. Let's play a fair game so everyone comes out a winner.

Happy Birthday to our Sonny, Henry Andrews on December 23, 1999 Love Ya, "Ma", Grandma Edith & Uncle Ronnie

To our Little Man, Henry Andrews Have a Happy 4th Birthday We love you. Grandma Mouse & Grandpa Moose

Happy Birthday to my brother, Henry J. Andrews on Dec. 23rd!! Love you, Darreck Palmer

To my Little Brother, Henry Andrews Happy 4th Birthday on 12/23/99 Love you lots your sis, Tashayla Andrews

Happy 4th Birthday Sonny (Henry Andrews) Love ya, Auntie Al, Jappy & Margaret

Have a Happy Birthday Mr. Henry Andrews Love you with all my heart!! Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my Little Sidekick Henry Andrews Love you, Mom

To our Little Henry Andrews You have a Happy 4th Birthday!! Love ya lots, Uncle Clem & Auntie Kelli

Family and friends birthday wishes

We would like to wish these Family & Friends a Happy Birthday and hope they all have a very good day on their special day and may the Lord watch over you.

For the month of December 2nd-Melissa Bryant—we love you & miss you, you take care of yourself and keep in touch.

2nd-Delina Culpus—we love you 6th-Debbie Craig—we love you, miss you and you take care and keep in touch

8th-James RedFox Sr.—we love you

9th-Lecann Wolfe—we love you 10th-Eileen Dick—we love you very much niece & cuz.

17th-Angie BlackWolf—we love you cuz & Auntie

17th-Zack, welcome to the family, we love you. You take care of my cuz.

19th-GuGu BlackWolf—we love you, you take care

19th-Sharon Kaichia—we love you,

you take care

19th-Tashenna George—we love you niece & cuz

20th-Tilda Walsey—we love you niece & cuz, you take care and we miss you

20th-Evelyn Sam—we love you Grandma & Ulla

21st Zelma BlackWolf—we love you very much

23rd-Julia Begay-MOM & DAD LOVE YOU VERY MUCH

26th-Corbett Tom—we love you very much Bro & uncle

27th-Flood Johnson—we love you Bro & Uncle

28th-Michele Gonzales—you take care of yourself

29th-Lola Dick (Bunny)—we love you always love Auntie, Uncle & Cuz

29th-Josie RedFox—we love you auntie & Kuthla

Love you all very much The Begay Family Lester, Nancy & Julia

The Indian Warrior-The Veterans Corner-Information/Tips For Vets

The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, because of the soldier, so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right, "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

This poem was written by a Marine stationed on Okinawa Japan to make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

This copy was taken from the Oregon Legionnaire news paper, with permission.

The Veteran and Medicaid



Department of Veterans Affairs

THE VETERAN AND MEDICAID

Are Veterans eligible for Medicaid? Will my family suffer if I use Medicaid? How do I apply?

VETERANS are eligible for Medicaid whenever their medical expenses exceed their ability to pay...just as any other citizen who meets State criteria. This following will explain some of the situations where Medicaid can help.

Veterans at the Portland VA Medical Center often find themselves needing nursing home care. The VA can often help with this expense for the first two months, but after that time the responsibility for payment is the Veteran's. If the veteran cannot pay the \$2000 or more that nursing home care can cost, she or he may be eligible for money from Medicaid to pay what the patient cannot.

Many veterans in recent past have been in the unfortunate position to need hospitalization when the Portland

VAMC has been full. With the shortage of funding in the VA, some veterans have been forced to use a private hospital that they cannot afford. Medicare and private insurance plans help the veterans in such circumstances, but when the cost is still too high, application for Medicaid is certainly appropriate.

Some veterans who have no wartime service are not eligible for veterans' pensions. If the veteran is making less than \$375.00 a month, they may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Federal Government. People receiving this financial aid are also eligible for Medicaid and food stamps.

MUST MY FAMILY BE IMPOVERISHED FOR ME TO RECEIVE MEDICAID?

Happily, the Congress has recently passed a bill to relieve families of the necessity to be impoverished in order to receive financial help while a member is in a nursing home.

In Washington State, a spouse remaining at home can receive up to \$1000 of both partners' income, as well as keep up to \$60,000 in savings, trusts, assets, etc.. One house, one car personal belongings, jewelry, etc., are not counted in the \$60,000. An allowance for housing expenses (taxes, utilities, and other expenses to stay in our current home) is also allowed.

In Oregon State, the law is similar, but the amount a spouse can keep is up to \$15.00 a month of both partners' income.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR MEDICAID?

There are several ways to apply for

Medicaid: In Washington State, go to the Department of Social and Health Services to pick up an application. There is a face sheet: fill it out at the office and give it to the receptionist. An appointment will be made for you to see a worker to help you fill out the application. If eligible, your benefits will begin the day you filled out the face sheet.

When you meet with the Medicaid worker, be sure to have information proving amount of family income and medical expenses.

In Oregon, you can apply for Medicaid at your local Aging Services office if you are over 65 or disabled. Visit the Adult and Family Service office in your area if you are younger than 65, or if you are not rated as disabled by Social Security.

Medicaid Can Help Any Person Who Is Threatened Financially, Without Improvising Their Families!

For more information Contact: Vancouver, Washington (206) 696-6721

Portland, Oregon (503) 248-5480



Howlak Tichum Daniel W. Buckland

from Reno, Nevada. He was employed as a heavy equipment operator for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He was a Veteran for the military services.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Buckland of Warm Springs; children, Susie Blanchard of Great Falls, Montana, Sheryl Courtney of Warm Springs, and Carla "Punkin" Buckland of Great

Truman Lumpmouth, Sr.

Products prior to his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Agnes of Warm Springs; children, Colleen Reed, Laurel Wheeler, Kim LeClaire, Francelia Wheeler, Michelle Alvarez, Trudy Bennett and Truman Lumpmouth, Jr. all of Warm Springs and Desmond Wheeler of Tucson, Arizona; 23 grandchildren; brother Marshall Lumpmouth of Phoenix, Arizona; sisters, Bertha Lamebold of El Reno, Oklahoma, Ruby Tiger of

Falls, Montana; six grandchildren; brothers, Walter Buckland of Washington and Irving Buckland of Browning, Montana. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister.

A prayer service was held December 3, at Bel-Air Colonial Chapel and a funeral service was held in Browning, Montana where he made his final resting place.

Oklahoma and Delores Shafer of Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. A prayer service was held December 3 with the funeral service on December 4, at Warm Springs Full Gospel Church and funeral service. Burial was at the Tenino Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Bel-Air Colonial Funeral Home of Madras.

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