

24th Annual Lincoln's Powwow celebrates Sovereignty

The 24th Annual Lincoln's Powwow and Sovereignty Celebration was held February 9-11, 2001 at the Simnasho Longhouse. This gathering is a celebration of self-government, sovereignty, and an honoring of children, veterans, leaders, chiefs, councilmen, senior citizens, elders, sobriety, and the field of education.

Dance competition was judged on the point system. Results are as follows:

Women's Fancy

- 1st—Mildred Onepennee, Toppenish, WA
- 2nd—Suzie Walsey, Toppenish, WA
- 3rd—Kathy Eaglespeaker, White Swan, WA

Women's Jingle

- 1st—Henrietta McGurk, Sacramento, CA
- 2nd—Paula McCurtain, Roy, WA
- 3rd—Fallon Mount, Hays, MT

Men's Fancy

- 1st—Gary Smith, Granger, WA
- 2nd—William Clements, Warm Springs, OR

Men's Grass

- 1st—Merlin Kickingwoman, Browning, MT
- 2nd—Dave Madera, Roy, WA
- 3rd—William Wesley, Satus, WA

Men's Traditional

- 1st—Ardell Scalplock, Sacramento, CA
- 2nd—George Meninick, Toppenish, WA
- 3rd—Gary Greene, Seattle, WA

Jr. Girl's Fancy/Jingle

- 1st—Aja Maldonado, Wapato, WA
- 2nd—Farrellyn Bellinger, Warm Springs, OR
- 3rd—Larissa Bellinger, Warm Springs, OR

Jr. Girl's Traditional

- 1st—Jaycey Mount, Gresham, OR
- 2nd—Celeste McGurk, Sacramento, CA
- 3rd—Flora PawneeLeggins, Satus, WA

Jr. Boy's Fancy/Grass

- 1st—Dakota Maders, Roy, WA
- 2nd—Dillon Begay, The Dalles, OR
- 3rd—Manny Totus, Toppenish, WA

Jr. Boys Traditional

- 1st—Sparrowhawk Walsey, Toppenish, WA
- 2nd—Anthony Maldonado, Wapato, WA
- 3rd—Atcitty Begay, Simnasho, OR

Teen Girl's Fancy/Jingle

- 1st—Crystalene Pacheco, Sacramento, CA
- 2nd—JoVelle Pacheco, Sacramento, CA
- 3rd—Liya Davis, Warm Springs, OR

Teen Girl's Traditional

- 1st—Dolly Hempwah, Toppenish, WA
- 2nd—Laritta Greene, Warm Springs, OR
- 3rd—Candace Allen, Warm Springs, OR

Teen Boy's Fancy/Grass

- 1st—Nathan Nez, Sacramento, CA
- 2nd—Gary Villa, Warm Springs, OR
- 3rd—Aaron Joe, Phoenix, AZ

Teen Boys Traditional

- 1st—James Wesley, Toppenish, WA
- 2nd—Lester PawneeLeggins, Satus, WA
- 3rd—Victor Watlamet, White Swan, WA

Round Bustle Special

- 1st—Frank Eaglespeaker
- 2nd—Paris Leighton Greene
- 3rd—Gary E. Greene

3-Hand Drum Contest

- Blacklodge, White Swan, WA

Drum contest (16 drums)

- 1st—Southern Cree, Rocky Boy, MT
- 2nd—Wild Rose, Seattle, WA
- 3rd—Blacklodge, White Swan, WA
- 4th—Eagle Spirit, Satus, WA
- 5th—Indian Nation, Granger, WA



Traditional dancer



Fancy dancers perform



Fancy shawl dancers



Grass dancer



Three hand drum contest



Men's traditional dancer

A Rite of Passage

Those present at last week's Lincoln Powwow were able to witness a ceremony many had not experienced for years. The community and members of the family of Jake Warren Frank celebrated his passage from babyhood into the next stage of his life — early childhood.

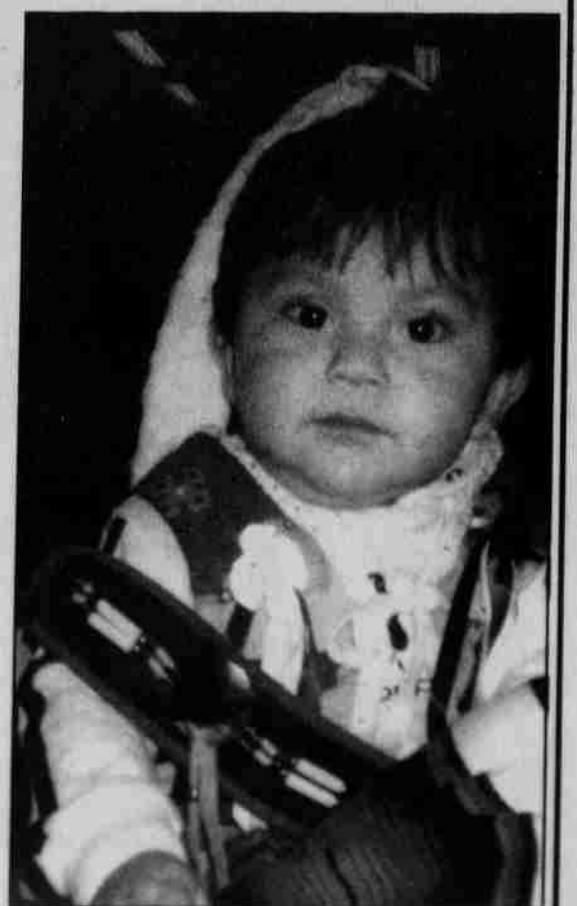
The idea of the observance was broached by Charlotte Herkshan to the boy's great-grandfathers, Rudy Clements and Jacob Frank Sr. Herkshan is concerned with preserving the traditional elements that seem to be getting lost in today's busy world and also considers Jake a part of her own family. The three agreed and decided that Lincoln's Powwow, a celebration of sovereignty, was an appropriate setting for the emergence of a sovereign person.

Herkshan explains that Jake, whose first birthday fell on February 10th, has left the time of babyhood, when, bundled in his baby board, soft voices spoke to him in baby talk. Now he will be expected to learn walking, language and other skills. The observance symbolizes not only his new responsibilities but the willingness of his family to help him in this next stage.

Additionally, the rite of passage speaks not only of the child's step forward but the forward movement of each preceding generation. A grand-aunt ascends to the matriarchal position left vacant by a grandmother who has passed on. And, more symbolically, the child's passage forces those who love him to also move on — to put aside illness or grief and move on to recovery.

To mark the moment, Jake and his mother, Shayla Frank, stood with previous generations fanned out behind them in a "V" shape. Jake's hair was tied with a buckskin strap and dressed with an ermine skin. The celebrants sang and danced as they passed Jake from hand to hand, symbolizing the willingness of the whole village to care for him.

After the ceremony, a man from Montana confided in Herkshan, "I haven't seen this for so long. It needs to happen in other communities." Herkshan agrees and encourages other families to reach into their memories and revive traditions important to past generations. She believes that such revivals will "bring back our identity and return our communities to mental, emotional and spiritual balance."



Jake Warren Frank