



Pictures on this page include scenes from Vernon Henry's 1987 swearing-in (below and immediately above), his namegiving, and times with his children, grandchildren and friends.

Bottom photo from Spilyay archives; others courtesy the family of Vernon Henry.

A chief's life ...

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He was not an avid stick game player, but he liked going to watch the games and participate.

"He enjoyed many things in life," his daughter Leah said, "but he was known more as a father and grandfather."

Her father, she said, was known to many for his work at collecting and cutting firewood, which he shared freely with friends and family members. Chief Henry spent much time in the forest looking for good wood, Leah said.

Also, Chief Henry thought highly of education, and strived to instill this ideal in his grandchildren. "His ideals, sense of humor, laughter and love will truly be missed, but most importantly they can never be forgotten," Leah said.

As tribal chief, Vernon Henry made a lifelong commitment to serve the Confederated Tribes. The position of chief is a privilege, "but there is another side to it," said Olney Patt, Jr., chairman of the Tribal Council.

The responsibilities of the chieftainship, Patt said, are not something that can be set aside.

The other members of the Council are elected to terms of three years, after which time they can, if they wish, decide not to run again.

The same is not true of the chiefs. "It's a commitment for life, and that can be a very large burden," Patt said.

The position of chief holds the respect of tribal and non-tribal people alike. For example, following the death of Chief Henry, former Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh visited the family members of Vernon Henry.

"I have a long and warm friend-

ship with the Confederated Tribes, and a great deal of respect for the chiefs," Atiyeh said. "Your family included a chief, and that will always be a part of history."

Tribal official Rudy Clements remembered Chief Henry, a long-time friend, as a soft-spoken man known to many for his sense of humor. Chief Henry's passing means that the coming year will be a challenging one for family members, as well as for the tribes as a whole, Clements said.

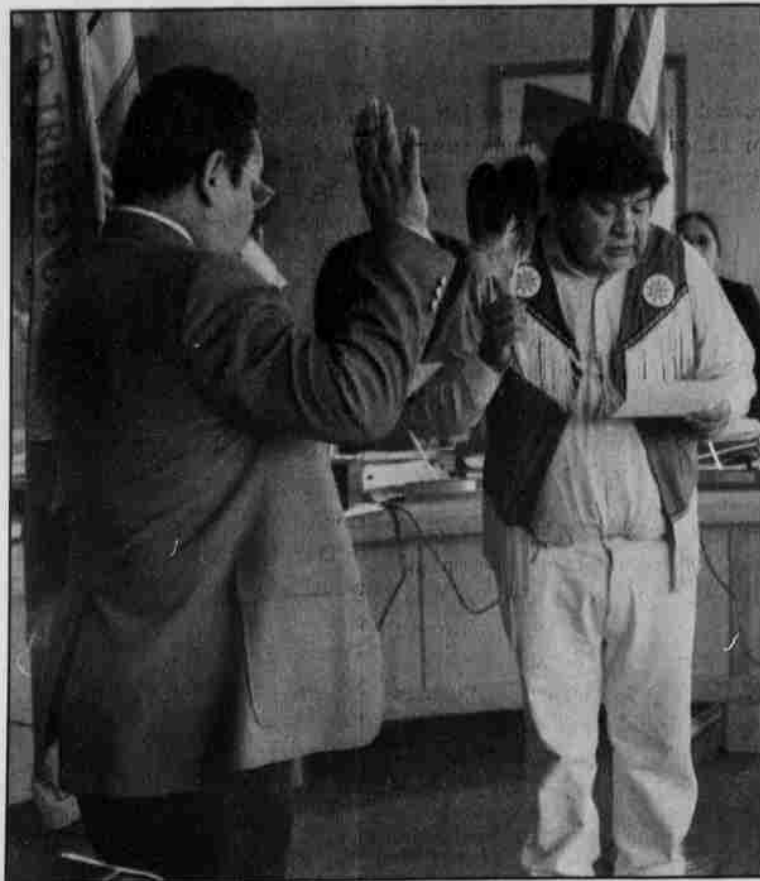
Sixteen grandchildren

Chief Henry is survived by four children: daughters Leah Henry, Martha Winishut and Alexandria Henry, and son Anthony Henry. Chief Vernon Henry's oldest son, Roderick, earlier passed away. All the surviving children live in Warm Springs.

Chief Henry has sixteen grandchildren. They are Tiffney Henry, Trevern Yazzie, Alexander Henry, Duane Henry, Heleana Henry, Donesha Winishut, Delvis George, Stephen Miller, Paul Miller, Jeremiah Miller, Charles Scott, Jerome Henry, Arianna Henry, Samantha Henry, Michele Henry and Rosalyn Henry.

He is also survived by great granddaughters, his pride and joy, Theyliah Henry and Trisahna Henry. Chief Henry is also survived by many nieces and nephews, and foster son Victor Gardee, with whom he stayed during visits to the Yakama Reservation, and daughter-in-law Rachael Henry of Wellpinit.

"To the Paiute Chief," reads a statement from the family, "We thank you for touching our lives and making it a better place for us, we wish you well, we love you, and bid you a fond farewell."



Rollover happened after district meeting

The motor vehicle accident that claimed the life of Paiute Chief Vernon Henry happened the evening of July 11, a Wednesday. The wreck happened a short while after a Tribal Council Seekseequa District meeting, at which Chief Henry had been present.

Chief Henry was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Ruby Bulloch, age 28, who is Indian though not a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Chief Henry died at the scene of the accident, on Highway 3 milepost 25, near Red Lake. During the wreck, the vehicle, an Isuzu pickup truck, rolled.

Warm Springs emergency rescue teams responded to the accident, following which Ms. Bulloch was transported by ambulance to Mountain View Hospital.

The next day she was reported to be in stable condition, and a short time later was released from hospital care. Ms. Bulloch is pregnant, and the pregnancy is expected to continue normally, without adverse consequences from the wreck, a hospital spokesperson said.

Warm Springs police have investigated the accident, and concluded that no charges are justified in the case.

Deadlines

The next issue publishes August 9, with an August 3 deadline for all letter, story and advertising submissions.

The August 23 issue has an August 17 deadline.

The September 6 issue has an August 31 deadline.

The September 20 issue has a September 14 deadline.

Announcements

The Spilyay encourages organizations and individuals to send notices of events of interest to the Warm Springs community.

The preferred method of delivery is via e-mail to spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org - this saves staff members from having to re-type something you've already printed up, thus allowing us additional time for reporting, photography and other tasks.

You also may drop announcements in printed and/or computer disk format at the Spilyay offices, 1100 Wasco St. on the Warm Springs campus, or send them to Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761. Our fax number is 553-3539.

Please feel free to call if you have story or photo ideas, questions or comments. Our phone number is 553-3274.

Finally, please heed our deadlines - Friday the week before publication for all submitted materials. Thank you.

Spilyay Tymoo (Coyote News)

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