

Sid Miller: newsman was once a rodeo rider, gifted athlete

Continued from page 1
 Miller established another Spilyay tradition with the hiring of Cynthia Stowell. Over the years his staff seemed to include mainly women, including Sandra Rangila, the late Marsha Shewczyk, the late Donna Behrand, Saphronia Katchia, the late Pat Leno-Baker, Priscilla Squiemphen-Yazzie, and presently Selena Boise, Tina Aguilar and Trudee Queahpama-Clements.

There are many stories about Miller and the early years of the Spilyay.

Sandra Rangila recounted some of these recently, during a Tribal Council dinner in honor of Miller. The stories sometimes have to do with darkroom duties, or the high-speed trips to Prineville, where the paper was and still is printed.

Busy times for Spilyay

After the Spilyay became an established part of reservation life, Miller and his staff were kept very busy.



There was always a lot going on, and everybody wanted news coverage of the many events.

"We put in long hours, sometimes working late at night," said Miller.

The Spilyay over the years won many newspaper awards

for writing, photography and page design.

Miller, meanwhile, became the first president of the Northwest News Association. He would also serve as president of the Native American Journalists Association.

At 72, he now feels it is time to slow down some.

Renowned rodeo rider

Sid Miller is known these days for his work at the Spilyay. But in his earlier years he was a well-known rodeo rider, and before that he was an outstanding high school football and basketball player.

There are many funny stories about his time on the rodeo circuit.

Chief Delvis Heath and Rudy Clements recounted some of these at the Council dinner last week.

At the dinner Miller received retirement gifts including a blanket, a Stetson hat, a vest, and a plaque from Tribal Council stating Miller's new title as Publisher Emeritus.

The title Emeritus is given to a person who has many years of experience in a certain field, and has gained invaluable knowledge, said Rudy Clements. The person is needed as an advisor to help through difficult situations.

At the Spilyay, Sid Miller has a gift for editorial writing, which he will continue in his retirement. He also has the great gift of working well with the readers. Newspapers at times will



Above, at the Council appreciation dinner for Miller, Rudy Clements presents the guest of honor with a Pendleton blanket, and at left, Miller shows off his new Stetson hat.

have a reader come to the office upset at something that had been printed in the publication.

No matter how mad the

person might be, Miller had a way of listening and making the person feel better. This is one of his many gifts that will be missed at the Spilyay.

A happy holiday

The days leading up to the Christmas holiday were a busy time around the reservation. The activities included a powwow for children

and seniors. Indian Santa was a special guest at this event.

The following day, a group of tribal members performed an Indian style

Christmas play. The play was followed by a holiday feast for the many guests. The events took place at the Agency Longhouse.



Tyra Devontre at the holiday powwow.



Youngsters from the Early Childhood Education Center were having a great time at the powwow.



Rosebud Whipple



Photos by Tina Aguilar and Dave McMechan



The photograph above and the one at right are of the Indian style Christmas play that was performed at the Agency Longhouse.



Indian Santa was a guest at the powwow.