

Chief honors friend at Portland Meadows

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Dr. Glen "Doc Dickey" Vandervort of Ridgefield, Wash., was regarded as a kind and generous figure on the Oregon horse racing circuit.

But more importantly to Chief Delvis Heath, the veterinarian was a friend, and that is why Chief Heath is singing a Native song of prayer on Saturday during a three-day weekend of memorial for Dr. Vandervort at the Portland Meadows racetrack.

"They've planned a whole weekend for him, Friday, Saturday and Monday," Chief Heath said of the weekend called "Doc Dickey Days."

Dr. Vandervort, a former president of the Oregon Thoroughbred Breeders Association, died Aug. 24. He was 82.

The chief was originally asked to contribute \$100 for one of the blankets that is awarded to a winner of one of the more than 30 races during the weekend, but he was also interested in paying his respects in person, and in voice.

"I said, 'I'd like to come down and honor him with one of our songs,'" he said. "I told them I'd like to give him a prayer of thanks for the short time of knowing him."



Chief Delvis Heath

The chief, who has been Chief of the Warm Springs Tribe, one of three chiefs of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, since 1984, said he asked that the song not be recorded.

"We never tape the songs," he said, adding that the songs have been handed down over the centuries. "Nobody composes them, nobody writes them."

Chief Heath and Dr. Vandervort knew each other from their travels and experiences traveling around Oregon racing their horses.

The circuit used to take them to Grants Pass, where they would stay for most of May and June, to Prineville, to the State Fair in Salem, to Tillamook, to

Burns, and then to Portland Meadows.

"We knew each other quite a bit," Chief Heath said. "When he started getting into horse racing, he didn't believe I could breed (race) horses."

"He asked me, 'Where'd you get that horse.' I told him, 'I bred it.'"

"He said, 'You can't breed horses. Indians don't breed their own horses.' He came up here and I showed him the papers, and he just smiled."

Chief Davis said he isn't clear how long he had known Dr. Vandervort but that he had known him as long as he had been involved in horse racing in the 1950s. He describes the doctor as a man who would call anyone his friend.

"He'd always be with the Indians, always sit with the Indians," he said. "One year they were honoring him and they wanted to put him up on the stage, but he said, 'this is fine enough with my friends. I'm good enough with my friends.'"

One of the stories Dr. Vandervort used to tell was that he used to ride for a man from the Yakima Indian Reservation.

Dr. Vandervort was going to ride in the races at Burns, but his parents caught up with him and told him, "You're not going.

You're going to school." "He found out the horse he was supposed to ride that weekend got in a wreck," Chief Heath said. "A Burns Paiute kid rode him, and it killed him."

"He said, 'It probably could have been me if I'd went on if my parents didn't take me.'"

Chief Heath said the doctor was willing to help out people in racing who needed help.

"Some of the Indians like Franklin Suppah, he ran for years and I rode for him," he said. "He'd be having money problems. He wouldn't have all the money right away because his check had come in from the races, so he wouldn't be able to pay him."

"(Vandervort) goes, 'just bring me a deer once in a while. That's all right,' so we'd have to come home and make sure we got a deer, and he'd be smiling."

After he'd volunteered to sing at the memorial service, word had apparently gotten around, Chief Heath said.

"People down at the track, every time I'd see them, (they'd say), 'I've never heard one of your (memorial) songs.'"

"I've heard the pow-wows, but they told me it's a special song and I want to be there," he said.

"It's nothing special for us,

but it just gives thanks to people that pass on, people that pass on from the world."

"Indians always talk about the people that pass on, honor the people that pass on."

In the past, Chief Davis has sung for then-First Lady Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore at the Vice Presidential mansion in Washington, D.C., and for Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), the vice-chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

"Doc Dickey Days" is believed to be the first three-day weekend devoted to the memory of one person, Juanita Jones, a trainer at Portland Meadows, said.

Prior to the post parade each day, "Taps" will be played, the flag lowered to half-mast.

A caparisoned, or riderless, horse will be led in Dr. Vandervort's honor.

In addition to Chief Heath, a number of families involved in horse racing from the Warm Springs Reservation will be on hand during the weekend, including Jacob and Muriel Frank, Jay and Joyce Suppah, and Tom Estimo, Jones said.

Anyone interested in attending the Saturday evening spaghetti dinner are asked to call Jones at (425) 345-0145 to reserve a seat.

Holiday bazaar on Dec. 11

The 29th Annual Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar will be held from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Warm Springs Community Center, sponsored by the Recreation Department. On hand for the event will be Native American crafters of the U.S. and Canada, and non-Native crafters of Oregon and beyond. There will be over 70 craft stands and a variety of holiday treats and concessions. Anyone interested in setting up a vendor's booth at the bazaar should contact the Recreation Department, (541) 553-3243.

Raffle for giant stocking

This holiday season, a Christmas stocking raffle will benefit the Thurman Squiemphen Wild Horse Race Memorial in June, 2005. The raffle drawing will be held Dec. 24. You need not be present to win. The prize is a giant stocking valued at \$400. See the following people for raffle tickets: Rita Squiemphen, Gladys Squiemphen, Monica Leonard, Val Squiemphen.

Tribe approves 42 words to replace 'squaw' places

(AP) - The word "squaw" has long been considered an offensive term for women by American Indians. Yet that is the name of Squaw Creek, which traverses the ancestral land of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Now, after years of internal debate, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes has finally approved a list of 42 words that could be used to rename the creek and other nearby squaw place names.

The Tribal Council passed a resolution accepting the translation of 15 of the 42 words into the three distinct languages of their people.

Although the tribes have long wanted to change the creek's name, this is the first time the tribal council has approved a list of possible replacements, said

Bobby Bruno, the tribes' director of natural resources.

The names were decided by a group of tribal elders, Bruno said. They include the words for animals, plants and physical features that can be found near the creek.

To balance the formerly offensive name, the tribes also made sure to include positive references to women, said Sally Bird, an archaeologist for the tribes.

The word laughing was included to signify "happy women working together."

Translated, it appears as *akayaulal* in Wasco, *ti-yat* in Sahaptin, the language of the Warm Springs tribe, and *soowi'ena* in Paiute.

Although the creek doesn't flow through the reservation, it does run through the ceded

lands of the tribes. That means the tribes may get preference when the Oregon Geographic Names Board chooses the name, said Champ Vaughan, president of the names board.

The board will also listen to input from the U.S. Forest Service and city of Sisters, Vaughan said.

But Sisters City Manager Eileen Stein said some of the names the tribes submitted may be too difficult to pronounce.

Several of the Wasco names use unconventional symbols, such as an "l" with a diagonal line through it, that aren't included in most word processing programs.

Bird, the tribe's archaeologist, counters that even spellings that seem difficult can be pronounced by non-Indians.

"What I don't want them to do is to discount Wasco words because they think they're unpronounceable," Bird said, noting that "wixat," the Wasco word for road, is pronounced "wicut."

Once the Oregon board makes its decision, the U.S. Geo-

graphic Names board will take six to 12 months to give final approval, Vaughan said.

Because of that lag time, it's unlikely the tribes will meet an Oregon deadline for changing

the squaw names.

The Oregon Legislature passed a law in 2001 banning cities and other public bodies from using the term "squaw" in organization or property names.

The law set a deadline of Jan. 2, 2005, for changing the name.

In the Deschutes National Forest, there are 26 squaw place names, with eight of those in the Sisters Ranger District.

Vet's Day powwow in Washington

A Veteran's Day celebration and powwow is scheduled for November 11-13 at the White Swan Pavilion, White Swan, Wash.

A special Crown Dance will take place this year to honor Betty J.M. Moses. This will be women's traditional, ages 25 and over. All women must be in regalia, including traditional cloth, shell dress, ribbon dress, plain buckskin or full beaded buckskin.

The main emphasis is for headwear, or crowns (royalty crown, metal crown, southern crown, northern crown.) No hats or headbands.

The special will pay out to six places. First place is \$600 and a jacket sponsored by Carl, Esther

and Clifford Moses Sr.

Second place is \$500 and a jacket sponsored by John and Susie Moses, Minetta and Alan. Third place is \$400 and a jacket sponsored by Clifford, Kat Moses, and William Moses. Fourth place is \$300 and a jacket sponsored by Cheryl Moses, and boys and girls. Fifth place is \$200 and a jacket sponsored by Roland Jack Spencer and Darwin Moses. Sixth place is \$100 and a jacket sponsored by April and Eya Moses and families.

For more information about this special contact: Carl Moses (509) 941-3654, John Moses at (509) 865-5322 ext 5179 after 8 p.m., or Eya Moses (509) 945-1185.

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