

Spilyay Tymoo

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

University of Oregon Library
Received on: 01-13-06
Spilyay tymoo.

1289 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1206

Coyote News, est. 1976

January 5, 2006 Vol. 31, No. 1

Warm Springs, OR 97761

50 cents

Tribes mourn passing of valued member

By Nat Shaw
Tribal Relations

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs lost a valued member of tribal government with the passing of Warren Rudy Clements.

Clements died Dec. 28 due to complications of diabetes at St. Charles Hospital in Bend.

Clements was born on the Warm Springs Reservation on June 10, 1936. He was the oldest son of Bart and Helen McCorkle Clements.

Clements' Indian name was Sta-xo-thali. The original Sta-xo-thali was a treaty signer and Chief of the Lower Deschutes Band, who was killed in 1864 by Paulina's band near the crossing of the Crooked River, about 12 miles Northeast of Camp Maury. Clements was a direct descendant of Sta-xo-thali.

Clements was one of the Confederated Tribes' earliest college graduates, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon College in La Grande in 1962.

While attending college he served on the student body council, lettered in baseball four years, and lettered two years in basketball. He was also a cheerleader in high school and college.

He was an outstanding high school athlete at Madras High School. As a youth he excelled as a boxer, jockey, and bowler. He later bowled in a semi-pro league and competed around the Northwest.

His first job after graduating from college was teaching at David Douglas High School in Portland. Clements also coached baseball and basketball.

Most of his career was spent working for Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. His understanding of the political and governmental workings of Indian Country made him a valuable asset to the tribes.

His knowledge of ancient Indian customs, traditions, dances and Indian lore, along with his entertaining speaking style, made him a much in demand speaker for a wide array of audiences.

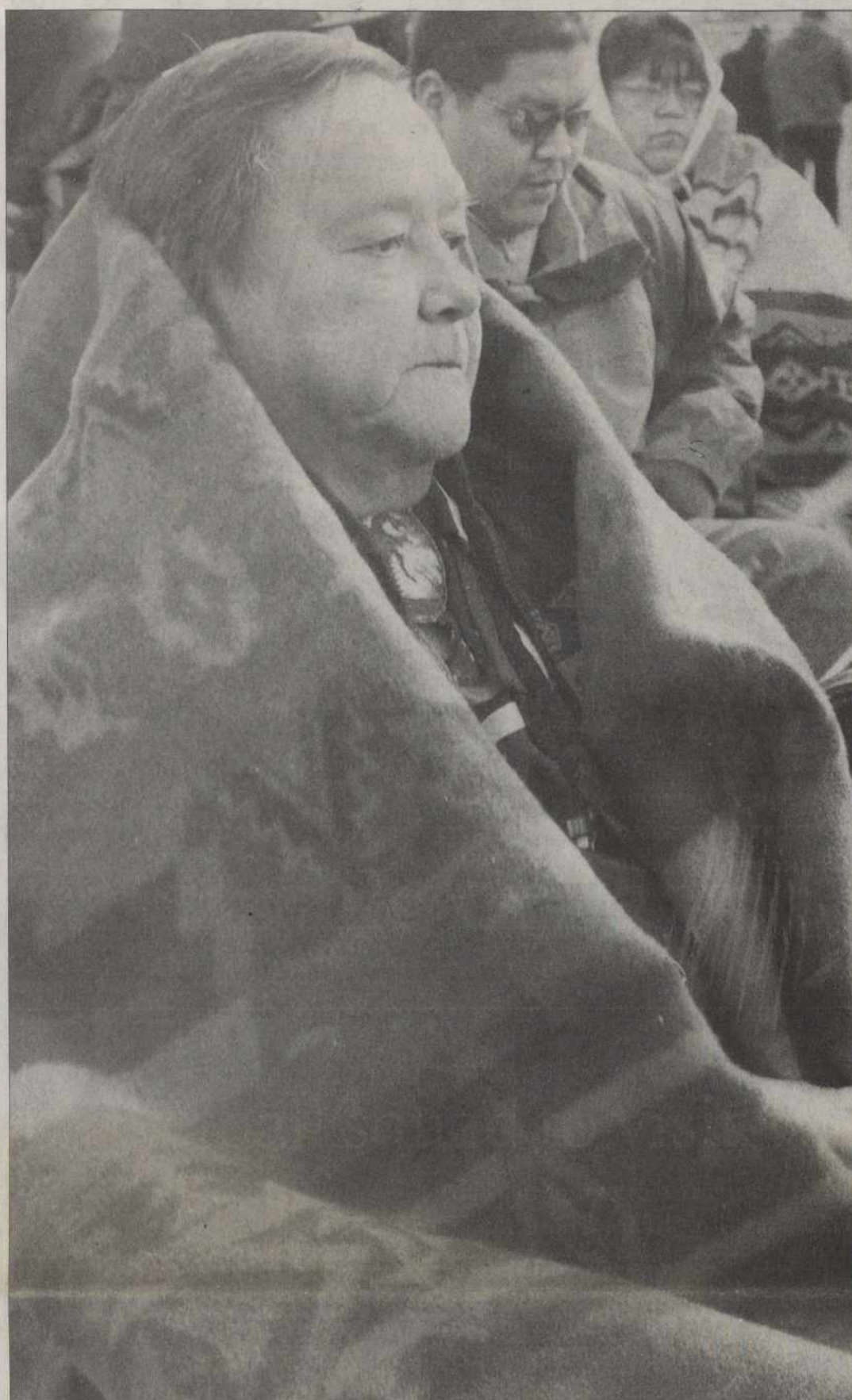
Over the years Clements had worked with various dance groups to raise funds for the Lincoln's Birthday Day Powwow, held in Simnasho every February.

He had recently worked with the Quartz Creek Singers and Drummers.

He and his wife Anna were involved in helping make the Lincoln's Birthday Day Powwow a great success and had just recently, in the last few years, stepped back to let younger people carry the burden.

Over the years his groups have performed for a multitude of foreign dignitaries, VIPs, corporations, and governmental agencies.

In 1964, Clements became the first director of the new Warm Springs Community Center. He coached baseball and boxing at that



Spilyay file photos



Rudy Clements often represented the tribes at events in the region such as Eagle Watch (photo above), and Lake Billy Chinook Day (left).

time.

In 1968, he accepted the newly created position of Education Coordinator. He also served as Community Action Program Director, responsible for Head Start, VISTA and Neighborhood Youth Corps services.

In 1969, the Northwest Lab in Portland hired Clements. Northwest Lab, under the Department of Labor, conceptualized an innovative new program. Clements was selected over 100 other

CETA program,

The Employee Development Department was created in 1981 to improve the career development and job training opportunities provided to tribal employees and managers.

Next, Clements was asked to start up a new branch that would dispense information to the tribal public as well as the off-reservation public. The Tribal Relations branch was comprised of KWSO radio, the Spilyay Tymoo, the Print Shop and Public Relations.

He served on numerous boards, commissions, service groups and various committees.

Six Oregon governors called on him, appointing him to state boards. Clements was particularly proud of his role in assisting the state Legislature in creating the Commission of Indian Services.

Working at the grass roots level with then-State Senator Vic Atiyeh, Clements was instrumental in helping lay the foundation for a body that has become a strong voice in the Oregon Legislature for Native Americans.

He also served on a number of Tribal Council committees including the land use committee. He also served as the first chairman of the board of The Museum at Warm Springs when the museum was in its planning stages.

His passion for the last 10 years was his involvement in gaming issues for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He was on the ground floor when the tribes entered the gaming business. He served as Chairman of the Indian Head Casino Board of Directors since its inception.

Later, when the Indian Head Casino merged with Kah-Nee-Ta, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

He has been working tirelessly to help the tribes expand its gaming operation to the Columbia River Gorge. Shortly before his death, Clements remarked that when the doors to the new casino at Cascade Locks were open, he would retire.

Rudy is survived by his wife of 47 years, Anna Queahpama Clements. Also surviving is a granddaughter Shayla Frank, and a great grandson Jake Frank. Brothers George Clements, Mike Clements and Grant Clements also survive him. Other survivors include numerous nieces and nephews. Clements' parents and daughter Trudee Ann Clements preceded him in death.

Clements practiced the Washat Indian religion, as he learned it from the Queahpama family. The three sisters, Nettie, Matilda, and Sylvia, were instrumental in his teaching.

Clements worshiped at the Simnasho Longhouse for many years.

applicants.

He directed the pilot program called "Northwest Area Manpower Institute for Development of Staff."

The program was a result-orientated module, teaching outstanding people from industry to become instructors. After two and a half years of traveling the United States, hiring the elite from around the country, and working extensively with the 25 states west of the Mississippi River, Clements returned to the Warm Springs reservation.

In the next 30-plus years Clements worked as the tribes' Municipal Manager, the manager of the Employee Development Department, and the Director of Tribal Relations.

As Municipal Manager, Rudy was in charge of education, law enforcement, legal aid, court and probate administration, community center, natural resources, extension, fire and safety, and employment training and administration.

Rudy planned and implemented the statewide Balance of State Indian

The top news stories of 2005

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The past 12 months saw dramatic developments – some positive, some disappointing – in regard to the Confederated Tribes' gaming enterprise.

The tribal government budget process during 2005, meanwhile, resulted in some substantial changes to the organization.

Gaming and the budget have been among the top news stories for the past few years, and the same was true in 2005. Many of the main headlines during the year had to do with the Gorge casino plan, or the need to cut millions of dollars from the tribal organization budget. This year the budget cuts resulted in some tribal member employees having to transfer to different positions within the organization.

The future of gaming, and the finances of the tribal organization, were big news items during 2005, but there were stories of great human interest that also happened on the reservation during the course of the year.

War hero

One of the most interesting stories of the year happened in August. It was at that time that Chesley Yahtin finally received war medals that he earned while serving in the military during the Korean War.

Yahtin, 74, received the Korean Campaign Ribbon with five battle stars and a Korean Defense Medal. He also received certificates honoring his two Purple Hearts, which he earned in two incidents occurring less than six months apart in 1950 and 1951.

"I guess you could say this is sort of a relief," he said. Yahtin was also given an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, reversing a discharge he received shortly after being sent back to the U.S. from Korea.

Yahtin began serving in the Korean War when he was 19 years old. More than 50 years later he finally received the just recognition from the country he served.

Compact with the state

The biggest event during the course of the year in regard to the tribes' gaming enterprise was the signing of the compact. This happened in April at Cascade Locks, and marked the end of years of negotiation between the Confederated Tribes and the state of Oregon. The compact – signed by Council Chairman Ron Suppah and Gov. Ted Kulongoski – provides the necessary state approval for development of a tribal casino at Cascade Locks on the Columbia River. However, the state compact moved the approval process to the federal level, where the situation grew more complicated.

A month after the tribes and the state endorsed the compact at Cascade Locks, the tribes learned that federal approval would have to wait until the casino site is in federal trust, a process that takes about 12 months. This was an unexpected and disappointing development, but many remained optimistic: In the end the goal of building a casino at Cascade Locks can still be accomplished, said Ken Smith, a gaming representative of the tribes. "It's a bump in the road and we'll move on," he said.

So those are the top three stories of the year in my opinion: the casino developments, the budget, and Chesley Yahtin receiving his war medals, not necessarily in that order.

All-star Indian basketball squad to visit Warm Springs

The Warm Springs Community Center this month will host a youth event that will include an appearance by the Native American Youth and Elders Foundation All-Star Basketball Team.

Chance Rush, a DJ, will also be at the event to provide music and act as master of ceremonies.

The gathering, on Monday, Jan. 16, is sponsored by the marketing campaign, Verb: It's What You Do, Native

Style.

The marketing campaign is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Verb motivates youth ages 9 to 13, called "tweens," to be active and have fun trying new activities, stressing the importance of physical activity.

The star attraction of the Jan. 16 event at the Community Center will be

the Native American Youth and Elders Foundation (NAYEF) All-Star Basketball Team, headed by Nelson Hernandez.

The NAYEF All-Stars are touring the country and holding basketball tournaments at Indian reservations throughout America.

The event is open to the public from 1 to 3 p.m.; and from 3 to 5 p.m. there will be an autograph session and youth

clinic demonstrations.

Kids in attendance will receive Verb t-shirt jerseys and mini basketballs.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/youthcampaign. The parent site can be found at www.VERBparents.com and for youth information visit www.VERBnow.com.

Also for more information call MaryAnn Gerst at (505) 822-1705.