

For the people, Lincoln's Birthday Powwow at Simnasho Longhouse

How fitting for the Simnasho Longhouse matriarchs and patriarchs to dedicate the powwow to the Great White Father, perhaps the greatest President, the 16th President Abraham Lincoln.

He represented the slaves who were being held against their will and slaves who got their freedom. Our Elders made the wise decision to keep the story of Abraham Lincoln alive and relevant to future generations.

This is of interest because my *puusha* (grandfather), *Lallimosh*, Herbert Stwyer Sr. was one of the charter members of the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, and he served as treasurer for his lifetime.

Our beloved *kutblas'* (*atwai*) Matilda Mitchell, Nettie Shawaway, and Sylvia Wallulatum, charter members, and many others of their generation who also worked tirelessly for the successful Lincoln's Birthday Powwow.

The Elders created the legacy for authentic hospitality for our visitors, including the provision of meals and midnight lunch.

Grandpa Herb had a picture of the Warm Springs Boys Scouts who visited Washington, D.C. He told me that the boys were particularly fascinated with the Lincoln Memorial and the insightful words by this President, which encouraged the Elders to dedicate the pow-wow to President Lincoln.

What was it like back in those times of the Civil War when President Lincoln challenged slavery? Power gives consideration to authority, control, influence, supremacy, rule, command, dominance, strength, force, energy, might, and ability. In the U.S.A., the Power appears to be disguised until you review the history of our ancestors who endured the loss of our ceded territory, and had little choice but to sign the Treaty of 1855.

Power had taken black people and yanked them into slavery and persecuted them when they attempted to run away, letting them know that his/her life

wasn't his own, virtually denying their humanity. Note that there were about four million slaves! Native Americans, Japanese and the Black people have been left to repair our magnificent cultures once it was torn by the Powers that be.

As Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States, President Abraham Lincoln bore ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the Civil War. Insisting that the conflict was a war of rebellion, Lincoln nonetheless had to mobilize the loyal segment of the American nation for a major war effort.

During the war Lincoln had to deal with difficult generals, congressmen, senators, cabinet members, newspaper editors, and office seekers who did not agree with his views to bring an end to slavery. Army leaders proved more frustrating. Lincoln resembled nothing so much as the owner of a big-league baseball team trying to find the right manager through the war's early years, and the documents show Lincoln's early frustrations, his prodding nature, and eventually, a growing confidence when he had finally found the men best suited for the work.

One of the most fascinating discoveries by the Lincoln Association was a speech Frederick Douglass gave in New York City on June 1, 1865, the last day of mourning for Lincoln. It took place in Cooper Union, the premier site for public speeches.

In it he said that Abraham Lincoln was emphatically the black man's president, the first to recognize his rights as a man and a citizen.

Another speech in the Douglass papers from December 1865 in which he says that when Lincoln called for black voting rights in his April 11, 1865 speech, many of us were skeptical because of the limited nature: voting rights were to go only to soldiers who served in the army and the "very intelligent," by which we assume he meant the literate, but we should have recognized that Abraham learned his statesmanship in the

school of railsplitting.

To split a rail you take a wedge and insert the thin edge into the log. Then you drive home the thick edge with a maul, and we should have known that once Abraham Lincoln inserted the thin edge of the wedge, he would be sure to drive home the thick edge.

Douglass appreciated more fully what that limited black voting right speech actually meant. Also note that the Native Americans did not attain the right to vote until 1923!

For the dark side of President Lincoln, it is important to remember the treatment of approximately 300 Dakota Sioux who were held by the federal government for their involvement in the Indian Wars against the settlers in Minnesota.

President Lincoln ultimately approved the death by hanging of 30 of the Dakota men who were presumed to be guilty of the most heinous of crimes. It is extremely sad that this was the largest mass-hanging in the history of America.

This year brought forth the inauguration of the first black President Barack Obama in the midst of the War in Iraq and a bleak recession of the economy. What is the future for America as a multi-racial nation? Is it possible for the red, white, yellow and black people to live together in equality and harmony in America?

Lincoln's documents show a spiritual man, who held deep, founded faith in the Creator. Likewise, our people believed in the instructions, *tamanuit*, in which all things are equal: the mountains, the four-legged, the plants, the sky, and all living beings.

There are multiple lessons in the story of the Simnasho powwow that is dedicated to President Abraham Lincoln such as leadership in the midst of war, anti-racism, Warm Springs tribes' cultural way of life and our good old fashioned hospitality. *Nai!*

Na-k-ishayat, Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham.

Oregon Tribal Nations Honor Day proclamation

(Note: The state of Oregon on Feb. 14 will mark its 150th year of statehood. The nine federally recognized tribes of the state hosted the Gathering of Oregon's First Nations on Jan. 31 at the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center in Salem. Gov. Ted Kulongoski made the following proclamation in regard to the tribes and their relation to the state.)

Whereas the celebration of the State of Oregon's 150th year of statehood acknowledges Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, the first people and their rich heritage, traditions and stewardship of cultural and natural resources, residents on these lands from time immemorial; and

Whereas Oregon tribes maintain treaties with the federal government as sovereigns; and

Whereas tribal governments existed here before there was a State of Oregon and stand side by side with the state as continuing and viable governments in Oregon today; and

Whereas this year's commemoration of the State's 150th birthday is a good opportunity to reflect on the shared value of all governments—to serve the people; and

Whereas the theme of Tribal 150 is to highlight the "Gathering of Oregon's First Nations" celebration on January 31, 2009 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds; and

Whereas all Oregonians,

tribal and non-tribal, can benefit from learning more about their governments; and

Whereas all Oregonians, tribal and non-tribal, can honor the rich culture and traditions of this land we today call Oregon by learning about the history of Oregon for the past 150 years and the history of these lands and tribal people from thousands of years.

Now therefore I hereby proclaim January 31, 2009 to be Oregon Tribal Nations Honor Day in Oregon, and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor.

Museum seeks volunteers to serve as tour guides

The Museum at Warm Springs group tours program is seeking tribal members to serve as volunteer tour guides.

The museum will be planning to use the volunteer guide team for group tours during the tourist season, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The number one request from museum guests and visitors is for tribal members to guide museum tours, according to the Museum at Warm Springs public survey, conducted last year.

The museum welcomes tribal members to serve as a host or

hostess to museum guests and for the many diverse groups that visit the reservation.

Visiting groups include adult groups, school groups and universities. Please contact the museum if you are interested. 553-3331, ext. 407. Or come to the museum.

Happy Valentines Day and other wishes...

For my sweetheart Willie Danzuka. Feb. 14 marks our first wonderful year in our marriage. You are the love of my life and I plan on keeping it that way. I love the way you meet me half way in this relationship no matter what we do. Thank you for being such a good husband and father.

Happy Valentines Day to our other boys, DreVaughn Danzuka and Henry Andrews. We love you boys very much and are anxiously waiting for you to come and spend some time with us. You have a baby sister that wants to meet you. Love always, Willie and Romelle Danzuka.

Happy Valentines Day to the Thurby's, from Romelle, Willie and kids.

Happy Valentines Day to my best friend in the world, Angie B., I can still remember the first time we met in grade school. From Romelle Danzuka.

We wish you a very lovely Valentines Day, Ante Pamerien. Thanks for everything that you have done for us. We love you very much. Willie and Romelle Danzuka.

Happy Valentines Day Auntie/Grandma Bernie and Uncle/Grandpa Jaime, from

Willie, Romelle, Keyshawn, Patty and Saumi.

Happy Valentines Day, Celia Berry from Willie, Romelle and kids.

Happy Valentines Day to my other best friend (Madeline Jim). You're a good friend and don't forget that. I will always be here for you. Romelle Danzuka.

Happy Valentines Day, Davida. Thanks for being a good friend. When you come back to Springs, come and visit us. Romelle Danzuka.

Happy Valentines Day to my cousin/sister Robyn Ike in New Mexico. We love and miss you. Romelle and family.

Happy Valentines Day to my baby and son-in-law, LaVonne and Wayne. Love Dad, Nena TB Boise.

Happy first Valentines Day grandson! Tommy G.T. Eaglespeaker. Love, grandpa, Nena T.B. Boise.

Happy Valentines Day to my ma, Laura W. Love you, ma. Your son, Nena T.B. Boise.

Happy Valentines Day to all my brothers and sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces and all the grandkids. Especially to my

friends far and wide. Nena B.

Happy Valentines Day to my four babies lil Gary, lil Eva and Mahkiyah and Tommy. I love you babies. Love, Mommie.

Happy Valentines Day to my boys Felix Ray, Wayne P. Jr., Tommy Gemini Thomas. I love you, my Eaglespeaker boys.

Happy Valentines Day, my baby Bro's. D. Stwyer Jr., Nicholas, Midjet (Harley), Kelly and my baby sisters, B.J. and Tik. I love you guys. Love, your big sis LaVonne, Wayne and kids.

Happy Valentines Day, Pops Al and M.A. Love, LaVonne and Wayne.

Happy Valentines Day, Dad and Grandma. Love, LaVonne, Wayne and grandkids.

Happy Valentines Day to my baby nephew Jessie Dean Stwyer-Bobb. Love, your aunt LaVonne, Wayne and your cousins.

Happy Valentines Day to Grampa Nena, great grandma Laura W. Love, your grandkids, lil Gary, lil Eva, Mahkiyah and Tommy. We love you.

Happy Valentines Day, Mom and Lydelle. Love, Wayne, Lavonne, and your grandsons Felix, Wayne Jr., Tommy.

(More Wishes on page 10)



Happy Valentines Day! From Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb.

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