

Eloise Cobell 1945 - 2011

By Duran Bobb

As a young girl, Eloise Cobell remembered listening to the grown-ups talk. They wondered why Indians weren't being paid to let others use their land.

Eloise was a graduate of Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University. She was a rancher, helping her husband to raise cattle and crop.

In 1976, Cobell became the treasurer of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northwest Montana.

In 1987, she helped found the Blackfeet National Bank – the first bank established by an Indian tribe on a reservation.

Throughout the mid-80s, Eloise discovered irregularities in the management of certain funds. She unsuccessfully attempted to seek reform in how the government managed accounts held in trust for Indians.

She sought help from banking lawyer Dennis Gingold, Thaddeus Holt, John Echohawk and Keith Harper.

In 1996, *Cobell v. Salazar* was filed contending that US officials systematically stole and squandered royalties intended for Indians.

In 2010, the Obama administration offered a record settlement of \$3.4 billion.

Over the 14-year battle, an estimated 500,000 Indians became beneficiaries of the class-action lawsuit. Most will receive settlements of about \$1800.

"Perhaps one day we would know, down to the penny, how much individual Indians are owed," Eloise said. "But we are compelled to settle now by the sobering realization that our class grows smaller each year...as our elders die and are forever prevented from receiving their just compensation."

In 2011, Eloise Cobell received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Dartmouth College. She was also awarded the Montana Trial Lawyers Association's Citizen's Award. And the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid began co-sponsoring legislation to award Eloise the Congressional Gold Medal.

Ms. Cobell died Sunday, October 16, 2011, at a hospital in Great Falls, MT, after a brief battle with cancer. She was 65.

Former Senate Indian Affairs Chairman Byron Dorgan of North Dakota said, "It's a cruel irony that the woman who led the charge here all those years does not live to see the benefits. Despite that, I know she had to feel a great sense of accomplishment with what she did."

Letters to the Editor

Very proud

I'm very proud of my oldest son Floyd Frank Jr., who was in Texas putting out the very big fire there. He was also one of the fire fighters who volunteered to help put out the fire in Warm Springs this summer.

Floyd, you are a very smart young man. I'm so proud to be your mother!

Love, your mom, **Evette Patt**, 50 Kourt Dr., no. 3; Eugene, OR 97404; phone, 541-461-3375.

Culture Classes

Parole and Probation, and Culture and Heritage are hosting the evening Cultural Classes. Classes are held in the basement of the Education building from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Wasco language is the focus of the Monday classes; and the Paiute language is the focus on Tuesdays. No Warm Springs language teachers are available for this series of classes.

The classes are open to the community, to tribal employees, and to defendants with the Tribal Court. Defendants can use the classes as an alternative to sentencing. The classes are provided by tribal Parole and Probation, and the Culture and Heritage Department.

The first hour of the class is dedicated to the language lesson. The last half-hour covers tribal history, culture and traditional beliefs. The current series of classes is each week until Nov. 1.

Fire safety

Did you know: Decorations are the first thing to ignite in more than 1,000 reported home fires each year.

This Halloween, Warm Springs Fire and Safety is offering these safety tips:

When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so the child can see.

Provide children with flashlights or glow-sticks to carry for lighting.

Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candle in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real

candle, use extreme caution. Be sure to place pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.

Wishes...

I would like to wish a special Happy Birthday to **Pam Bonson and Aaron James Strong**. May you have many more! Love, your dad **Lau-Lau Louie N. Ike Sr., and Sylvia**.

Happy birthday, Mom (Myrna Frank)! Thank you for always being there for us, through thick and thin, and making sure that we all knew the value of love. **Jessie, Bobbi, Freddie, Ron, Oodis, Amy, Michael, Kendall, and babies**.

Happy birthday mom from **Phil and B**.

Happy birthday to my loving wife, **Pam Benson**. Love, **John**.

Happy birthday Grandma, from **Makayla and Jubalee**.

Happy birthday to my sister **Lillian Frank-Cuevas**. Happy 59th or 60th Birthday to you sis, from all the Frank family. Thanks for stopping by to check on me, bringing me huckleberries and sharing happy stories of our beloved late sister **Marlene**. Be strong and remember you're never alone. Love,

Myrna, Amy, Travis, Jessie, Bobbi, Duran, Michael, Kendall and two babies.

Deer Ridge

We would like to thank the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the community, religious volunteers, drummers, dancers and visitors for all your help, support and donations for our recent powwow.

Thank you also to the Willman and KWSO. To the Tribal Council for the salmon donation, we are grateful for your help.

You are all in our thoughts

Beware!



Travis Bobb wishes Warm Springs a Happy Halloween!

The Community Wellness Center and Recreation Department will present the Halloween Carnival on Monday, Oct. 31.

Booth set-up starts at 3:30 p.m. Fun and games begin at 7 p.m. There will be Bingo and door prizes; and costume contests for adults and children.

Judging begins at 7:30. Categories:

Most original, best homemade, scariest scarecrow, wickedest witch. For more information, call 541-553-3243.

Recreation and Community Wellness will also present the employee Halloween Costume Contest on Oct. 31, from noon

to 1 p.m. at the Community Center social hall.

There will be a light lunch. Costume categories are: Most original/best homemade costume; scariest witch character; spookiest Dracula character; and the strangest Halloween character.

More wishes...

Happy birthday to William "Yummy" Rhoan (10/20).

Happy birthday to Priscilla Blackwolf (10/21).

Happy birthday to Gary

Deyo (10/22).

Happy belated birthday to Simon. Love, Marge and the gang.

Happy belated birthday to Marcelina Arce Casimiro. Love, the entire Family!

Indian Business Talk

Portrait of a successful business person

By **Bruce Engle**
Loan officer
W.S. Credit Enterprise

This is about a man I often and respectfully refer to as "1 percent Louie."

Louie started working in a restaurant. He saved and eventually got the chance to buy a small restaurant that was having difficulties in downtown L.A.

One of the lessons Louie learned from that first restaurant was to not completely change the menu. It took him awhile to get most of the regulars back. Louie grew as a businessman and made that restaurant a success.

Louie went on to buy, fix-up, turn-around, and sell restaurants until he accumulated enough cash to build and keep the one he wanted—and then another—and so on.

Louie ended up with three strings of restaurants.

Louie had a basic ownership

and management philosophy that helped him to be successful. Also, he was willing to share his philosophy and his success with others.

Louie helped a number of friends to start their own restaurants. He mentored them and several of them became successful restaurant owners.

One of Louie's beliefs was that there are no menial jobs. Louie was the best example. He bused tables. He cooked. He cleaned. He greeted customers. He helped out when his employees needed help.

Louie wasn't afraid of losing respect if he got his hands dirty. Everybody knew he was the boss. Everybody knew he had done, could do, and would do their job if need be.

Louie was a detail man. He very carefully developed his recipes. He designed how every item was to be placed on the plate. A chef that refused to follow instructions would be sent home and Louie would put on

Louie didn't have a college degree and I don't know if he ever said, "I can and I will." I do know he willed and he did.

an apron and finish the shift.

Louie created a brand and the standards of performance that made that brand successful.

I remember Louie telling me that, if the President were to come to his restaurant, he would be willing to say, "Mr. President, I am proud to serve this plate of food to you." He was that confident as to the quality of the food, the preparation, and the presentation of every dish.

Louie knew that pennies make dollars. He knew that if he kept track of the pennies, the dollars would take care of themselves. He did that.

Louie would look for where

he could save 1 percent. Sometimes, he got lucky and saved more.

For example, he did some pricing and found that the Ortega chilies he was serving cost more than Old El Paso chilies. He switched brands. He was a businessman.

So, what's my point? Or, points?

This is a story of a minority guy who went into business and was successful.

Louie thrived in this land of opportunity. He found his opportunity and he went for it.

He worked hard. He learned. He became good at his profession. He kept on learning. He kept on working hard.

Louie did well and helped others to do well. Having a wife and eight kids may have been some motivation.

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