

COMMENTS from the COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

On Thursday, February 4, 1982, Elizabeth Furse of Oregon Legal Services, Portland, Oregon, and I met with Father Treadwell of the Episcopal Church in his office in McMinnville, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting was to inform him of our Tribe and, to gain his support for our efforts towards Restoration. Father Treadwell has spent a number of years working in Alaska among the Athabascans and is well-informed on their Culture.

The final outcome of this meeting was that Father Treadwell visited our Tribal Office on Friday afternoon, February 19, 1982. He, not only viewed our slide presentation, "Our Heart's Beat As One", at that time, but, looked at our Greenhouse and, was later, able to see how we, in the Enrollment Dept., strive to trace the ancestry of one person's Family Tree. I felt that he left us with a greater understanding of our efforts and he seemed to be in support of what we are trying to do.

Mr. Wilfred Bowkar and Mr. John Widdel of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office, Portland, Oregon, met with Atty. Don Wharton of Oregon Legal Services; Marvin Nimsey, Jackie Colton and I on February 5, 1982 at 10:00 A.M. After some discussion, it was agreed that they could assist us in locating data and records in the Archives in Seattle, Wa. pertaining to us. This would save us a trip and will enable us to spend more time in researching the data once it arrives at the Portland Area Office.

"Traditional Tribal Governments" was the theme of the Workshop I attended at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon on February 5 & 6, 1982 sponsored by the Native American Student Union and other Indian Programs from the Eugene-Springfield area. Arriving in the afternoon, after meeting with the B.I.A. that A.M., enabling me to hear the remaining Agenda. Speakers, were not only educational, but, colorful in their attire; each one told of their Tribe's traditions and concerns in dealing with their Tribal Government. Some of the tribal leaders speaking for their People were: Mrs. Lydia George of S.E. Alaska; Albert Smith, one of the famous Navajo Code-talkers during WWII, Crownpoint, Ariz.; Russell Jim, of the Yakima Nation; Amos Simtustus, of the Warm Springs tribe, and John Mohawk, of the Seneca's. The final day was conducted by Atty. Charles Wilkenson, Moderator, with time given to such a line-up of Attorneys (inc. Wilkenson), it was awesome! Wilkenson was instrumental in helping the Menominee's and the Siletz Tribes regaining their Federal recognition. Others attending were: Vine Deloria, Sam Deloria, his brother; Robert Barsch, and, each one as outstanding as the last in speaking about their particular subjects...it was the 2nd time a group of this caliber and magnitude had ever been brought together for a Symposium on Indian Law! An Honor Banquet for ALL speakers was given at 7 o'clock that evening with a menu of steak, potatoes & gravy, a vegetable, rolls & butter, apple pie and coffee. The evening ended with a pow-wow lasting until 11:30 P.M.

"Our Hearts Beat As One", the slide-presentation, was given at Willamette University at 11 o'clock on the morning of February 10, 1982 in Salem, Oregon at the invitation of the Intercultural Student Counselor, Ms. Carole Colley. This, as a part of "Expressions VIII", their annual ethnic cultural event sponsored by the Minority Student Union. After the presentation, a panel, consisting of Council members, Margaret & Jackie Provost, Merle Holmes, Tribal Chairman, and I, presented our views on Restoration and were available for a Ques. & Ans. segment; Merle did an outstanding job in answering all questions. Cheryl Carl attended to assist with the projector, and because she was in Salem to do some enrollment. The group was invited to lunch as guests of the Minority Student Union and, then for a Reception at 3:00 P.M. for all speakers. I felt that, all in all, we were well-received and that the Law Students had asked important questions; but, best of all--they agreed to support our efforts.

That evening on February 10, 1982, I travelled from Salem, Oregon to Western Oregon State College in Monmouth, Oregon to do the slide presentation at 7:00 P.M.--with assistance from Jackie Colton. Tina Jones of the Native American Student Association, was responsible for wanting the slide presentation there and for setting up and making all arrangements, including refreshments. The reaction to the presentation was positive and letters of support were vowed to be sent in our behalf.