



## COMMUNITY

### ARTHUR "ART" S. BENSELL APRIL 23, 1909 - MAY 11, 1988

Arthur "Art" Benseell, former chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz died May 11, 1988, at the age of 79, in Siletz.

Benseell was involved with the efforts to regain federal recognition for the Siletz Tribe after the Tribe was one of several terminated in the 1950's. In 1977, President Carter signed a bill which restored federal recognition to the Tribe.

The Siletz were the second tribe successful in regaining federal recognition, and the first in Western Oregon. Benseell also played a major role in gaining a 3,666 acre reservation for the Tribe, including the return of Government Hill where the Tribal offices and cemetery are located.



Benseell displays papers which establishes a 3,636 acre reservation for the Siletz Tribe in 1980



Art Benseell in Grand Entry procession during Grand Ronde's annual Pow Wow.

Through his efforts for his Tribe, Benseell became a respected community leader in the state of Oregon.

He was born and raised in Siletz. He was a college educator in Ohio, Minnesota, South Dakota and Alaska. He also owned and operated the Siletz Grocery Store from 1951 to 1974, when it was sold.

Benseell was an outstanding end for the Siletz High School football team and later played at Ohio State University and Heidelberg College in Ohio. His college football skills resulted in him being inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987.

He served as mayor of Siletz between 1960 and 1974. He served as tribal chairman from 1975 to 1980 and served on tribal council from 1975 until his death.

In 1978, Benseell received the University of Oregon's

Distinguished Service Award for his part in the tribal restoration.

As a chairman and councilman, Benseell continued his efforts to enhance Indian education and preserve the Siletz tribal and cultural identity.

"We want people to be proud of being Siletz," Benseell commented a few years ago. They can be - and all of Oregon can be proud of such dedicated leaders as Art Benseell," said an editorial in the Oregonian.

Benseell is survived by his wife, Ruth, daughter Joan F. Fisher of El Cerrito, Calif., stepdaughters Merrily Hall of Edmonds, Wash., and Judith Smith of Harlan; stepsons Marvin Waring of Chicago, Stephen Waring of Kent, Wash., and Theodore Waring of Vancouver, Wash.; and brother Edward Benseell of Prineville.

Benseell was buried at the Paul Washington Cemetery on Government Hill in Siletz.

#### TERMINATION REPEALED (Continued from page 1)

been soundly rejected by Congress through enactment of a number of statutes, and rejected by at least two Presidents, until now the Congress never officially rejected the resolution itself.

While a resolution does not have the effect of law, the failure of Congress to expressly repudiate it has been seen by many Indians as a lingering threat to the federal-tribal trust relationship. Most of the tribes "terminated" under the policy in the early 1950's have now been restored to their former status as federally recognized tribes by the Congress.

Chairman Inouye praised the work of the other members of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs

and Members of the House of Representatives, particularly Congressman Dale Kildee, a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, in making this very significant overture to the Nation's First Americans.

"The wholesale breach of the long-standing trust relationship between the Indian tribes of this Nation and the federal government must never again be considered without the consent of the tribes involved," said Senator Inouye.



#### FOOD HELPERS NEEDED

I have volunteered to coordinate luncheons when we have a death in a Tribal family. I must know as soon as possible so I can get everything together. If anyone wants to help or make food donations, please call and leave your name and number. Volunteers to help with the meals would greatly be appreciated, then all I would have to do when I receive a call is coordinate the meal for the family after the services.

The most important thing is that I be notified as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Val Grout  
842-2187