

JOHN PETITE (1906-1988)



John Petite and daughter Sister Kateri Petite.

Tribal member John Petite died on Saturday, November 5, 1988 at the age of 82.

Petite was born in 1906 to Henry Petite, Clackamas, and Jane Leno, Rogue River and was one of fourteen children. He attended the Cloverleaf School, just west of Grand Ronde, until the sixth grade.

John's first job was as a waterboy for the railroad builders in the Valley Junction area. By age 17, he was involved in the timber industry, which would become his lifelong career.

He began by splitting wood for the donkeys, and then moved on to become a "whistle punk" - the person who blew the steam whistle signals to the loggers. He moved on to become a hole digger for the chokers for a short time and eventually became a choker setter. He later became a "hook tender", a crew boss, while working for Murphy's Lumber Company.

The timber business had Petite working in locations along the Columbia River and around Tillamook and the Grand Ronde area.

John married Eula Hudson in 1937. The two celebrated their 51 years of marriage in 1988.

John is survived by his wife, Eula Petite; daughter, Sister Kateri Petite; brother, Pete Petite and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial was at the Green Crest Memorial Park in Sheridan. Eulogy for John Petite

Eulogy for John

Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier and Council Secretary, Kathryn Harrison gave eulogies in remembrance of John Petite. Below is the eulogy given by Kathryn:

One of our tribal elders has completed his Circle of Life on this earth.

It is traditional that we learn from our Elders and we are richer because of what he has taught us. There are many lessons to be learned from the life of John Petite.

Because he had to go to work at an early age, perhaps he would tell today's youth, "Hold on to your youth". Too many young people today insist in speeding up the growing process then, in a few years, they will be trying to reverse that process. Be what you are when you are. It is joyous to be young and to have dreams of what you will accomplish as an adult.

As a young man, he married Eula Hudson, and they became life-long companions. It is hard, even now, to speak of John without including her, Eula and John, John and Eula. Together, they led an interesting and exciting life. Later especially, upon retirement, they travelled whenever possible. No matter how busy, they always held onto their faith and were devout Catholics.

During his early life, he, also, became a father; taking care of a little girl; LaVone, loving and caring for her. Then, when he grew older, and became ill, she, in turn, was able to return all that he gave her by taking care of him, too.

Every logger around, young and old, knew, or knew of, him as the best in his chosen occupation, a logger. He could match stories and wit with any of them, also, with his keen sense of humor.

He knew his journey on his revolving sphere, this Earth, was a one time deal and he made the most of it mentally, physically and spiritually. The lessons for success or being a success, then, is: to live your life in such a manner so as to earn the love of your family, to have the friendship of your contemporaries, and, the respect of your community. "Do not despise thy youth", but hold onto your dreams and your faith and live a life that is joyous when you are young; exciting when you mature, and rewarding as you look back on it in old age.

Yes, as sure as he'd climbed Spirit Mountain, he had his "Tomanowas", his spirit power, his Medicine to live by.

I like to think that, as he reached those "Gates of Splendor", that maybe he called out, "I made it alright, Eula, the pain is all gone now,". Perhaps, too, with a choir made up of angels of color, all singing in Chinook Jargon, especially for him, that among all those who stepped forward, behind our Lord, to welcome him was Father Croquet saying, "This is one of My People".

I proud to have known him.
He'll be missed.

THANK YOU

Eula Petite and Sister Kateri Petite would like to thank the many family and friends for their prayers, gifts, flowers and support during this time.



FINANCIAL AID FOR GRADUATES

American Indian Scholarships, Inc. (AIS) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, announces the availability of graduate fellowship funds for 1989-90 for American Indian and Alaska Native students from federally-recognized tribes.

To be considered for an AIS fellowship, an applicant must be: An enrolled member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group; enrolled full time at an accredited graduate school in the United States; and in need of financial aid.

The BIA has identified six areas of study which AIS must give preference to in the review and award process. These are: health, business, law, education, natural resources and engineering. Applicants in other areas are definitely eligible for AIS fellowships and are encouraged to apply. Clinical psychology and other psychology areas dealing with family counseling and child and substance abuse are considered health related areas.

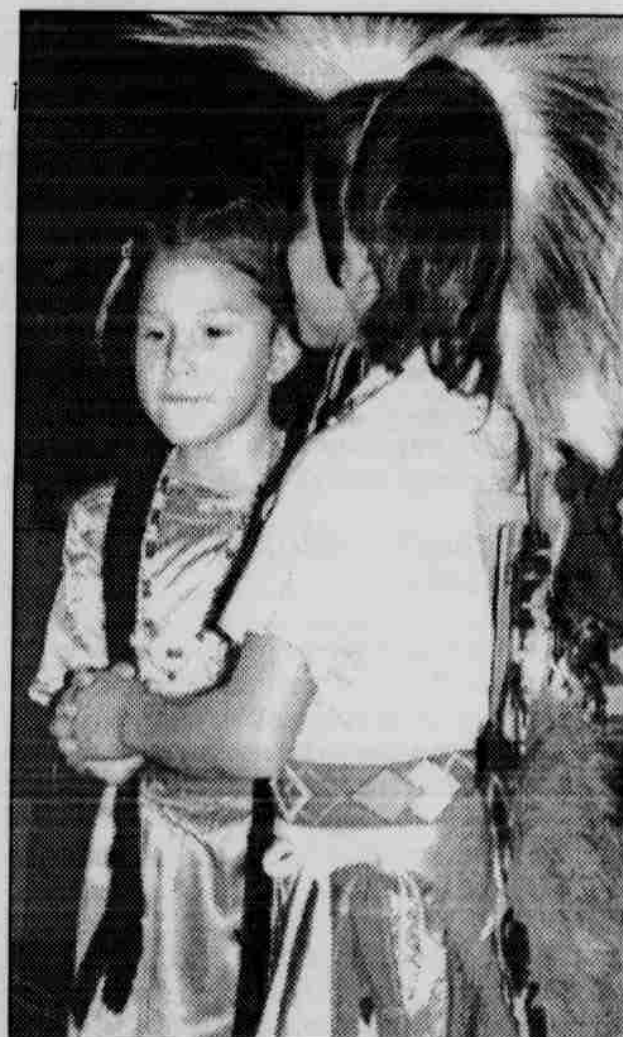
Individuals who are eligible should contact:

American Indian Scholarships Inc.
4520 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Ste. 1-B
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

or phone (505) 881-4584 (no collect calls)

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

For 1989 Summer Session: April 15, 1989
For 1989-90 Academic Year: June 1, 1989.



Young dancers enjoy Owl Dance at Chemawa Pow wow