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THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE

GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON • November 1989

## "TRIBAL GOVERNMENT"

### HOW IT WORKS FOR YOU

Part two of this series will focus on the significant happenings to the people of Grand Ronde prior to termination and immediately following the Termination Act of 1954.

Following the termination of many Indian Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, in 1954 Native Americans across the nation were simply expected to assimilate themselves into white society. By withdrawing all federal support and refusing to recognize Tribal governments, the U.S. government opened a new and embarrassing chapter in this country's history.

Termination and earlier federal policies cost the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which is made up of 23 different Tribes, their 69,000 acres of reservation lands that were deeded to them when they were forcibly resettled in the area by the U.S. Calvary in 1856. The land was originally reduced in 1887 by Congress when they approved the Dawes Act. This Act reduced Tribal reservation lands to just 33,148 acres because of a policy of allotting small amounts of land to Tribal Members. The remaining 36,000 acres was declared surplus land and opened up to non-Indian settlers.

After the Allotment Act, Tribal land was placed under the control of a Sheridan lawyer named Harold Fuller. Fuller was given control of the land as a private trustee by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Fuller, reportedly under federal orders, sold all Tribal land (except for the 7 1/2 acre cemetery and a few other plots) for as little as \$5.00 an acre over a period of time. Along with all the Tribal land, Fuller also sold the Tribes' "Government Building," which housed meeting rooms, shops, a school and the Tribes' cannery facility. Tribal member Marvin Kimsey reported that the building and its surrounding property was sold for a total of \$850.00. At termination in 1954, 597 acres of reservation land remained.

Termination not only stripped the Tribe of its land but it also began a "disastrous" chain of events that contributed to the demise of the people that made up the Tribes of Grand Ronde. Unemployment, alcoholism, health problems and school drop-outs began to increase at a dramatic rate. Essentially, Tribal identity, a very important part of Native American lifestyle, was decimated. In 1958, the United States Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton stated in a speech what his opinion of the Termination Act was. "No Indian Tribe or group should end its relationship with the Federal Government unless such Tribe or group has clearly demonstrated - first, that it understands the plan under which such a program would go forward, and second, that the Tribe or group affected concurs in a supports the plan proposed." Seaton also stated that "to me it would be incredible, even criminal, to send any Indian Tribe out into the stream of American life until and unless the educational level of that Tribe was one which was equal to the responsibilities which it was shouldering."

## TRIBAL CHAIRMAN GETS MARRIED!



The new Rennee' Mercier gives her husband a taste of his own medicine with this little bite of wedding cake. Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier married his bride at the Free Methodist Church in Willamina on October 21st.

## WINTER TERM DEADLINE

Students who are planning on attending school at the start of WINTER TERM 1990, please remember the application DEADLINE, you must have your completed application into this office before or by NOVEMBER 30th, 1989. Applications received after the November 30th deadline will be placed on a "waiting list" for Spring Term (March) 1990 consideration.

Students who are seeking enrollment into private training institutions (for example: Trend Business College, Phagan's Beauty College, West Coast Training, etc.) Must have their completed AVT application into this office 30 days prior to the day they will start classes. If your application is received less than the 30 day policy, we will place your application on a "waiting list" for the following month, or for the next open enrollment period offered by the institution.

If you are thinking about attending a private training institution, please bear in mind that you must check with this office prior to registering to attend the school; to see if the school is on a Bureau of Indian Affairs "approved" list. If this is not the case, we cannot provide assistance for you to attend that institution.

**Remember:** deadline for Winter Term '90, November 30th, 1989 & the "30 day prior" policy for private institutions.

## GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING:

The November General Council meeting will be held November 5, 1989, at the Grand Ronde Elementary School. A potluck dinner will begin at 12:00 noon and the meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m.. Agenda items for the meeting include: Presentations by BIA representatives; and the Drug and Alcohol Education/Prevention program.

## RESTORATION CELEBRATION:

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will celebrate their 6th Anniversary of their Restoration of Federal Recognition on Saturday, November 18, 1989. The Tribe was restored on November 22, 1983. The celebration will begin at 12:00 noon with a meal being served until 1:30 p.m., followed by a mini pow-wow lasting until 6:00 p.m.. Scheduled activities during the mini pow wow include drumming and dancing, games for the kids and staff recognition for those staff members employed for five or more years with the Tribe. Additional activity planning is in progress. Come and join us in celebrating this event marking an important point in the Tribes' history.