



Chairman's Report

By Mark Mercier

In this issue of Smoke Signals, the 1991 proposed budget for the Grand Ronde Tribes is presented to the tribal membership. The public comment period is from October 1, 1990 to November 16, 1990. A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on November 4, 1990 as part of the General Council meeting which will begin at 1 p.m.

In establishing a sound future for our 2600+ members, budgeting is essential. Without it, Tribal progress will grind to a halt. If you are to speak with any successful business, (individual or corporation), they will tell budgeting is an absolute must.

In other business, the Tribal Council will be very busy for the next few months. First, we are in the process of acquiring 4 modular units for the Tribe to move into, so we will be out of the old Manor building. We hope to be moved into the modular units sometime in November. About 2 years ago, the Tribe considered the option of purchasing the manor building. We had an architectural study conducted, and the finding was that it would cost \$250,000 to renovate it into usable office space.

The Community Center construction is up-coming. First, the Council will have to seriously consider the buildings' design. What will be the style of our new building? What type of materials will be the building be made from? To answer these questions will take a great deal of time. We will need to review an enormous number of drawings completed by architects, and engineers. No doubt, when 9 Council members begin looking at these blueprints, many changes will be made during the planning process.

Besides planning the Community Center, housing is another item which will require a great deal of the Councils' time. Already, we have looked at preliminary drawings for both the Community Center and housing.

We will want to give serious consideration to the part of the area the Tribe wishes to develop for our Pow-Wow. We now know that the school may be inadequate even in 1991. Since the Tribe began hosting our annual Pow-Wow, the crowds have increased dramatically - just look at the size of the crowd we had attending this years' event. As we plan our permanent site, the Council will be faced with a major decision to make. Will we plan for future growth of crowds as we move into the future?

Planning the Pow-Wow site alone will take time.

Another critical component of the Councils' duties will be monitoring activities by the federal government agencies and Congress. At this very moment, the BIA is in the process of a major reconstruction of it's internal organization. Currently, the Bureau is planning to separate the branch of education from the rest of the main organization. Also, we will need to monitor the activities by the IHS. There is a possibility of the Council needing to work with other federal agencies as well at the BIA and IHS.

Currently, Indian Tribes are beginning to actively take a role in working with both the Administration and Congress, in formulation of the Agenda for the 1990s', for Native Americans. Our Tribe may wish to partake in this particular activity. Currently, we have a tremendous supporter as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee, Indian Affairs. Also, we are very fortunate to have a supportive Senator and a 1st District Representative from Oregon. Other Tribes throughout the U.S. aren't as fortunate as we are. In Wisconsin and Michigan, Indian Tribes now have a hostile Congressional delegation, which consistently introduces legislation to either limit Indian treaty hunting and fishing rights, or to abrogate them all together.

Since we have a supportive Congressional delegation, the time may be now to work to do future planning for our Tribe and Indians throughout the nation. We are aware that the U.S. Supreme Court has handed out decisions which were not a bit favorable for Indian Tribes. So, we can assume that future conflicts with States or other entities won't get a favorable resolution from the Supreme Court.

There are other levels of government the Tribe will need to work with. The State of Oregon, for example. We know we will have a new Governor early next year. Also, we will want to formulate a good working relationship with our new 3rd District State Representative.

Establishing a working relationship with the local County Commissioners should be considered as well. Good Public Relations with our neighbors will be essential for the future of the Tribe.

Lets' look at what is currently pending as duties facing the Tribal Council. Right now, we have the Draft Indian Child Welfare (ICW) ordinance, which needs review and final approval from the Tribal Council. Also, the Council may want to begin working on the changes proposed by NAPOLS, regarding our Tribal Court Rules and Evidence Code. Both these documents are rather thick.

Economic development is another complex arena the Council is in. In Public Law 100-425, the bill establishing the Grand Ronde reservation, there is a requirement for the Tribe to allocate 30% of annual revenues earned from the reservation, exclusively for Economic Development. Just how will we accomplish Economic Development? How about tourism? We all know there is an enormous amount of traffic going by Grand Ronde during the weekends and, during the summer the traffic is heavy 7 days a week. Maybe small businesses will play a role. Tribal enterprise is a possibility, but Tribal government stability is a must.

I believe the Tribe can have a most positive impact on the Community, and West Valley area through Economic development. But, careful planning and analysis are necessary. It won't happen overnight. In the timber industry, environmental concerns could have a negative impact on the economy of this area. Therefore, it may behoove us to diversify the economy away from timber.

These are but a few duties facing the Tribal Council. We have a lot of work to do charting the direction our Tribe wishes to pursue.

## ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

Sponsored by: Archaeological Committee

Salmon Bake 12:00 Noon

(All food will be provided)

November 4th, 1990

At General Council Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Guest Speakers & Displays

for more information call CeCe 623-8513

The Archaeological Committee has a vacancy. If anyone is interested contact Jackie Colton for an application form. 879-5211.

## CIS Commission Meeting

October 10, 1990

Commission on Indian Services Office,  
454 State Capitol, Salem, Oregon.

## 1st Annual Timber Committee Workshop

The first annual Timber Committee Workshop was held in Bend, Oregon, August 10th & 11th. Six out of the seven Timber Committee members plus the Forestry staff were in attendance. The opening address was given by Mark Mercier and Jim Willis. The guest speakers and topics were as follows:

Christmas Tree Farms: Profit or Fun? - Doug Sager of Yamhill Tree Farms

Forest Inventory-Toby Atterbury of Atterbury Consultants

Logging & Transportation- Dallas Hemphill - Logging Engineering International

Recreation - Bernie Smith - U.S. Forest Service

Communication Workshop - Cisco Garcia - Nuevo Sol Consultant

Intertribal Timber Council Update & Economy - Jim Spitz -

Forestry Consultant for Warm Springs & I.T.C.

Following the workshop, the Timber Committee met to discuss the information at the workshop and to elect new officers. The election was postponed until our next meeting scheduled for August 21st. At that meeting the following officers were elected:

Larry Brandon-Chairman; Bob Mercier-Vice-Chairman; Connie Monson-Secretary/Treasurer. The rest of the Timber Committee Members are Eugene LaBonte, Reyn Leno, Russ Leno, Ray McKnight and Darrel Mercier.

## PARENT COMMITTEE MEETING/POTLUCK

All parents of Native American Children should attend.

October 24, 1990 at 6:00 p.m.

Willamina Middle School Library