

25th Restoration commemorative issue

Temporary Grand Ronde Council meets in June 1975 Early Treasurer's Report cites Tribal bank balance of \$2.27

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The year is 1975. Gerald Ford sits in the White House. "All in the Family" is the most popular show on TV. "Love Will Keep Us Together" by the Captain & Tennille tops the pop charts.

Gas sells for about 50 cents a gallon.

And on June 8, 10 people christened "The Temporary Council of the Grand Ronde Indians" convene. Those in attendance are Chairwoman Margaret Provost, Co-Chairman Merle Holmes, Secretary Patti Martin, Treasurer Vicki Lawrence and Council members Darrell Mercier, Marvin Kimsey, Les Houck, Russell Leno, Verna Larsen and Ken Hudson.

According to minutes kept by Martin, the discussion items are mostly procedural.

Among the decisions made:

- Meetings will be held on Sundays;
- General Council meetings will be held once a month;
- Bylaws of the Siletz Tribal Council will be adopted and revised to meet Grand Ronde needs.

And the next meeting will be held at the Kopper Kitchen in Salem.

The meeting adjourns at 4:01 p.m.

Forty-three people attended the meeting in Grand Ronde, driving from as far away as Tillamook and Portland.

From such humble beginnings, the Restoration of the Grand Ronde Tribe began.

According to Martin's minutes, taken between June 8, 1975, and Feb. 1, 1976, money to fund the effort was indeed scarce.

For instance, the June 17 meeting held at the Kopper Kitchen is fronted by Margaret Provost. She pays \$14.75 for dinner and the meeting room, and will be reimbursed when "the funds come in," the minutes state.

During the Sept. 21, 1975, meeting, Holmes announces he has applied for a \$7,800 grant from the National Indian Lutheran Board. In addition, Tribal members have approached the Small Tribes of Western Washington for admission, which would make the Grand Ronde Tribe eligible for the organization's grants.

Also in September, Kimsey moves to keep the same Tribal Council members on until September 1976 because of all the work they have done and the contacts made. The motion passes.

In October at a meeting held in the conference room at Chemawa Indian School, attendance swells to 57. Provost explains the ultimate goal of the council to newly attending Tribal

members - Restoration. The meeting also includes a potluck meal.

In addition, a show of hands indicates interest in a health survey, which Diana Denhem and Patti Martin agree to conduct in the Grand Ronde Library on Oct. 31.

On Dec. 7, Treasurer Vicki Lawrence delivers her first report detailed in the minutes. The amount of \$21.27 was collected at the previous meeting, of which \$15 was dispersed for rental of the church and \$5 used to purchase stamps, leaving a balance of \$2.27.

Holmes reports receiving a letter from Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood.

"Since the Menominees were restored, it looks good for Siletz. We are sure that we could be restored also, because we have as many rights and needs as the others. There is also a chance for state recognition," the minutes say.

The Dec. 15 Tribal Council meeting held at a Bonanza restaurant discusses putting together a Christmas party and spaghetti feed for Indian children in Grand Ronde. Several names are offered regarding who would be the best Santa,

but the minutes do not reveal who the eventual Grand Ronde Claus turned out to be. However, the party is slated for 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

In January 1976, the Tribe is notified that its admittance into the Small Tribes of Western Washington is denied. An early setback in obtaining funding for the Restoration effort.

"The fact that Chinook Indians are a member, and receiving funds, is very puzzling since Grand Ronde has more than 300 Chinook Indians," the minutes state.

On the positive side, Holmes says he feels confident about receiving a \$7,800 National Indian Lutheran Board grant since ineligible groups were supposed to be notified of such by Jan. 1.

It also is announced that Ray Cross, a Mandan Indian who helped the Menominees obtain Restoration, would be taking over the Grand Ronde's case with the Native American Rights Fund.

The Tribal Council also decides that all meetings should be held in Grand Ronde from now on. "The

public school is open to use by the public," the minutes state. "There is no cost unless we use the kitchen. The Tribal Business Committee is filling out the necessary forms to see that the first Sunday of every month is scheduled for our meetings."

Monetarily, things are improving. The Tribal checking account stands at \$93 thanks to donations at the Christmas party. (There's no mention of Provost being reimbursed for the Kopper Kitchen expense.)

In February, Holmes appoints Dean Mercier to the remainder of Ken Hudson's term on council until September elections are held. And a Bylaw Committee of Russ Leno, Dean Mercier, Darrell Mercier, Vicki Lawrence and Patti Martin forms to update the Siletz bylaws.

Twenty-eight people attend the Feb. 1 Tribal Council meeting. Most of them list Grand Ronde addresses on the attendance sheet.

Slowly, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is re-awakening in its traditional homelands as the nation's 200th birthday approaches. ■

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GRAND RONDE INDIANS

DATE:

DECEMBER 7, 1975

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Vicki Lawrence
Russ Leno
Merle Holmes
Marvin Kimsey
Darrell Mercier
Patti Martin

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Les Houck
Margaret Provost
Ken Hudson

MINUTES:

Merle called the meeting to order at 1:20. Roll was called--Margaret Provost, Ken Hudson, and Les Houck were absent.

Treasurer's report was given by Vicki Lawrence. The amount of \$21.27 was collected at the last meeting. \$15.00 was paid to the pastor for the rental of the church. \$5.00 was used for stamps, a balance was left of \$2.27. Merle motioned the treasurer's report be accepted; Marvin seconded.

Merle asked Marvin to give his report on the visitation of the lawyer, James King. He said that probably no government land could be given back. He told the people if they are on this list, they must contact the State Land Board. There is a charge of \$7.50 to get it.

The question was asked, "Is there any hope of doing something to Mr. Fuller?" The statute of limitations has run out.

Merle and Marvin attended a meeting of the task force at Siletz. There were some Indians there; but Merle said that if they did anything at all, they were very sympathetic. "But who knows?"

We want to have a meeting with Mr. Lonefight and the Public Health in order to use the dental health facilities at Chemawa. Merle said the people who are on the old rolls, and their dependants, will be recognized for this dental program.

Merle has some feelers out about low-income housing in the Grand Ronde area. The rent would be very low, because of the incomes out this way. Nothing smaller than 2 bedrooms.

Marvin said a work-shop is being held in Portland concerning the CETA Program. He hopes we will be sub-granted by U.I.F., and have CETA monies to use in the Grand Ronde area.

There are a lot of educational grants--the main one being B.E.O.U. The school must be Federally accredited before they will accept the grants. Marvin Kimsey told the people that if they could get up enough men for a tree-planting crew, the CETA Program will arrange a contract between the crew and the Forest Service.

The question was asked, "Does anyone know what the cost of hooking up to the water system is?" It is an initial cost of \$300.00, and then a monthly charge of \$7.00 - \$8.00.