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INDIAN CENTER NEWS

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The Indian Center News is two years old this Month. As we orginally .. stated in our first issue we have tried to bring to you various sub- jects and a wide range of articles of the Indian World. Guest articles have appeared under by-lines by such out-standing people as Bea Gar- ner(Sioux), Walter Wetzel(Black ner(Sioux), Walter Wetzel(Black foot), Hank Hawkins(Snohomish), Tandy Wilber(Swinomish), William Paul, Sr. (Thlingit), Wilbur Betts(Seneca), Sebastian Williams(Tulalip), Harvey Davis(Choctaw), and who ever could for- get Lydia Johnson's(Yakima) "A Plea".

We have kept you informed and up-to-date on the activities of the Indian Center meetings, dances, beading and carving classes, parties, A. A. announ- cements, and sports events. Through our pages we have spread the work of the Center to every reservation in the State of Washington, five surrounding States, Canada, and Alaska. Where else but in an Indian paper would you find such unique receipts as "Sturgeon Spinal Cord" and "Buckskin Bread" legends written, as told by the old people, the "Lord's Prayer" in Chinook. We have not over-looked the ever present world we live in, land and claim decisions, inter-tribal meetings, fishing and hunting, House and Senate Bills pending on local and national levels, University of Washington work-shops, special Indian events such as the "Toppenish Pow-Wow", "Makah Day," "Lummi-Stommish."

We plead guilty to slanting our language, expressions, cartoons and jokes to the Indian People, for as we stated in the beginning, we are an Indian Paper, written, printed, by Indians for Indians.

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CONFIDENTIAL WORKSHOP

One hundred and twenty five persons took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the ways and means of the Indian people through education by attending the Educational Workshop held at the Indian Center on September 26.

Everyone listened attentively to the guest speakers and later the audience felt it a privilege to participate in group discussions with the speakers and members of their panels.

Wayne Williams (Tulalip) and his panel members; Mary Hillaire (Lummi), Bob Groeschell and Dike Willoughby gave a very enlightening viewpoint of "What are the problems our children encounter when pursuing education?" by pointing out some of their more serious problems. Frequently the home environment can be the cause of inadequate scholastic efforts put forth by Indian children. It was suggested that the following home situations be taken into consideration when observing the school work and attitudes of Indian students (a) Alcoholism (b) the size of the home compared to the size of the family (c) the age of the parents and (d) the home sanitation facilities. Social pressure also plays an important part in the lack of educational pursuit. Many students feel the awareness of being different, not solely because they are Indian but because they lack adequate clothing to meet socializing standards and simply because they lack the know-how of good grooming habits. Lacking these two traits creates a social pressure that they should not have to endure. Poverty can be overcome only by adequate education and adequate education can only be acquired by first seeing "why" education is lacking. At present approximately 68% of Indian students fail to complete their high school years.

Jessie Curley (Quinalt) and her panel members, Priscilla Peterkin (Narrangansett) and John Rossi discussed "How parents and children should prepare themselves for school readiness". It was pointed out that many Indian families do not share the same viewpoints of the modernized family and do not teach their children the same types of willingness, quickness, promptness and discipline which is necessary to adjust to classroom procedures. Therefore after the child has been introduced to public schools only to find difficulties in adjusting, the child finds the desire to seek refuge by attending an Indian Boarding School when attendance there is not really necessary. Boarding schools were designed for those who do not have convenient access to a local school system. If parents could learn to discipline themselves and perhaps learn to devote more of their time reading to pre-school children and to teach them that listening is the key to success it would make a great difference to the child's "school readiness".

Tandy Wilbur (Swinomish) and his panel members, Bruce Wilkey (Makah), Sebastian Williams (Tulalip) and Leo LeClair (Muckleshoot) pointed out that the local communities can help the situation concerning the problems of educating Indians. In some Indian communities a summer school and summer workshop have been established with the aid of volunteer teachers and student teachers. Residents in the area have helped by donating materials and books to equip the programs with proper facilities.

John F. Gordon, the Co-Ordinator of Programs in Washington State for the Economics Opportunity Act gave a generalized version of what the Anti-Poverty Act can provide for. It was advised that any organization wishing to investigate the possibility of how the Act can be used, must obtain a copy of the provisions, then study it thoroughly, then they must devise a plan to be submitted to authorities. The act was designed for the purpose of using funds on those who genuinely need it, to expand old programs and help to make new programs.

Jim Danielson, representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs says that many Indian students do not attempt to attend a secondary school, either vocational or college level simply because they feel that they do not have adequate grades. When applying for Indian Scholarships the grade