
INDIAN CENTER NEWS

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REMARKS OF ROBERT L. BENNETT, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BEFORE
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, OMAHA, NEBRASKA,
SEPTEMBER 26, 1968

Indian Youth

As the forces of change are at work all over the world - and since the reservation is no longer isolated from the rest of society because of T.V, radio, and all communication media, Indian youth is in turmoil over what they see and hear. This turmoil is good if it is founded in the realities of the issues of today. And, the reality of the young Indian people in Indian country is - that they must learn to live in two worlds so as not to become the victims of both. My concern is that Indian young people not become diverted in their quest for meaningful places in society by those elements who are attempting to tear apart the fiber of American lifeways and who see this period of change as a means to achieve leadership through anarchy. Indian young people should not use their youthful energies to burn themselves out in hate and destruction as some young people are doing, but rather they should use these energies in the agonizing search for social justice. They need to look forward with goals in mind - and not backward in anger. To look backward in anger would only perpetuate discontent, provide no basis for revival of Indian spirit, and use of energies which are needed to build a better future.

We need to appraise our relationship with Indian youth before we find ourselves in treacherous waters, - before passion replaces reason, - before slogans replace

issues, - before carrying of signs replaces carrying of pride and dignity. We owe them our best efforts because we look to them for the fulfillment of our dreams. They are our prime resources of vitality and new ideas, and our greatest resource.

How do we establish communication between them and us? We need to create an environment for them to speak out with a sense of responsibility and not of futility. We need to provide a forum by which they can make their voices heard on public issues. We need to talk and listen to each other with mutual respect, and the desire for understanding - and we need to make them feel comfortable in this dialogue, but we do not need always to agree with them. We need to understand them. They want to talk to you the Indian leaders - and not to others. The reason I know this is because many, many young people in the last few months have told me this.

We should seek to build and not to destroy - because in seeking to destroy we become our own victims. We need to think and communicate in realistic terms with sincerity as its basis. And, we need to face life in our times. We need to draw upon the past - but not to rest upon it.

We need to keep Indian heritage a living thing - and keep it

from becoming stagnant. And the only suggestion I could make on the theme for this conference is to have the word "Living" before Indian Heritage because a stagnant or a dead heritage is of no value. Indian youth are coming on us very strong. They are coming on us in large numbers - they are coming on us better educated - they are coming on us more sophisticated. Fifty per cent of the Indian population is 17 years of age or under. Fifty per cent of the general population of this country is approximately 28 years of age and under. These young people as they come on can be a positive force for good, or they can be a negative force for evil - this is our challenge. Indian culture does not provide a place for the young person because in the Indian culture you went from child to man or child to woman. Wisdom was related to age, and silence among the young was a virtue. But because the minds of our young have been stimulated by education and new experiences, more than ever before they want to know "why?" and we need to answer. They possess everything to build healthy personalities. They have heredity in which they want to take pride - they come from an environment with which they know they must cope - but they know that they alone must accept responsibility for how they respond to the situations that they will be confronted with in daily life. They will have to accept their heredity, cope with their environment, and say to themselves, "Now what shall I do with myself?"

The rate of suicides among younger Indians is greater than the young people in society generally. The rate of suicides among older Indians is lesser than that of older people in society generally. Young Indian people need to find and know themselves. If they don't find themselves they will not be any good to themselves or to anyone

else. It could be that we have not provided them with the sources of strength, we have not helped them to see life in proper perspective, and develop values around which to build their lives. We have not taken them into our confidence to give them the recognition they so desperately want. We have not provided them a means by which they can see that they will ever derive a sense of fulfillment. We must see to it that they get the opportunity to build our Indian heritage anew and help keep it living and great; so they can live wholesome lives in the image of man and God.

But, we must start now, because today is already too late for some, and tomorrow will be too late for others. You can do this. In my experience, living on the reservation, going to school, with Indian young people, and 35 years of work among you I've developed an unshakable faith and abiding confidence in Indian people. I know you can rise to this challenge as you have risen to challenges in the past. I look to you for ideals, for goals and for inspiration. I am proud of the restraint and dignity that you have shown in this period of our history.

I am very optimistic for the Indian future because of the leadership that we have and is currently emerging among Indian people both young and adult. I am proud to be one of you.

NAMED TO BOARD

Earl Livermore (Blackfeet) has been appointed to the Human Rights Commission in San Francisco. Earl is well known as an artist and is presently Director of the American Indian Center in San Francisco.

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN

On Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. the American Indian Women's Service League will again host the annual Christmas Party for all Indian children 12 and under.

It will be held at St. James Grade School Auditorium located at 803 Terry. Take a #12 E. Cherry or a #2 Madrona or #13 Madison bus from downtown -- there is plenty of parking adjacent to the grade school.

Chairman of the annual event is Marirose Morris (Sioux) who will be assisted by Service League members. Bert Peters will be the Master of Ceremonies. Entertainment will be provided and, most important of all, SANTA CLAUS will be there to meet and greet all kids.

Mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy yourself.

NAVAJO GIRL IS SELECTED "TEEN-AGE FINALIST"

Miss Ruth Grant (Navajo) has been selected as one of the seven finalists in the "Miss Teen-Age Contest" held in Fort Worth, Texas, November 23 to 30. She is the first Indian girl to compete in this contest and her community is very proud of her.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Northwest Inter-Tribal Club will meet at the Indian Center on Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

We are also inviting everyone to our Christmas Pow-Wow to be held on December 22 at 5 p.m. in the I.O.O.F. Hall in Renton. Ham and turkey dinner will be served. Bring your moccasins, dance and have fun.

SICK CALL

Everyone has been ill -- Pearl Warren is just now up and getting around after a week's illness-- Helen White Eagle finally gave up the ship and has been on the sick list. We hear Marjorie Snowberg just returned from a stay in the hospital. Mr. Saludo has been ill at Doctors Hospital. Jerry Garcia actually took a couple of days off because of illness. His daughters Jan and Kim also have been ill. Joan Lupson was confined to home because of illness. Jean Hunt seems to be weathering the storm-- she only missed one day of work. (Mr. Peters, how come those herbs didn't work?)

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Radio KING once again held their Reverse Thanksgiving (the 7th one) by giving 15 turkeys to the Indian Center and were also guests at the annual dinner given for single men who come to the Center daily. Rick Mauser, KING disc jockey, came as a Pilgrim. He was welcomed by Bert Peters who was dressed in his full costume (Chief). Mrs. Warren came down (though she has been quite ill) and was hostess to all the staff and disc jockeys who were present. The Center also was provided with pumpkin pies and dressing.

Thanks to the following for all their help: Virginia Lambert who took a day off from work and spent all that time in the kitchen; Jan Garcia (senior at the U of W) came directly from class and helped serve; Dorothy Ackerman, Associate Member, also helped serve; Arlene Lamanna and daughter Michelle were busy at the phone; Grandma Dorothy Lombard, with the assistance of

Milton, set all the tables and sliced six turkeys that were cooked by Zena DeLorm, Lee Piper, Adeline Garcia and Arlene Lamanna; Meredith Mummey, who took time off to come in and help; Joe Frank who ran all our errands; and Ralph Holland and a couple of men who washed all the dishes. To all these people who so generously offered their help -- many thanks.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AWARD

The Seattle-King County Youth Commission presented its third annual Wing Luke Youth Award in a ceremony at the Seattle Indian Center, on November 20 at 8 p.m.

Seattle City Councilman Tim Hill presented the 1968 award to the American Indian Youth Activities Club Volunteers, a group that, among other things, works to develop a sense of ethnic pride in Indian youth.

The volunteer staff members who received the award were Mrs. Mary Jo Butterfield, Chairman; Mr. & Mrs. Jay Chastain, Bert Peters, Miss Jean Hunt, Mrs. Joycelle Smythe, and Bernie Reyes White Bear.

The response to this award was given by Mrs. Lee Piper, newly elected President of the American Indian Women's Service League, which sponsors the Indian Center, a UGN agency.

A program was put on by members who appeared in their costumes and danced for the guests. Karen Growing Thunder (Miss Indian Center) was among those who participated.

We are very happy this group won the award and very proud of their achievements. We were well aware of the many hours each put in to help our teenagers.

INDIAN CENTER EDUCATION COUNSELOR PROGRAM

The counseling staff attended the Washington State Indian Conference the first of this month. Mrs. Bertha Russell and Miss Jean Hunt participated on a panel concerning counseling with Indians.

Mrs. Russell has been getting many calls concerning absenteeism from the Spokane schools. She has been busy working with the students, schools, and parents concerning this problem.

Miss Hunt has spent several days at Western Washington State College this month. She conducted an orientation session for college students who are to tutor on the Lummi Reservation, spoke to a counseling methods class, and was involved in a planning session of the Workshop for Teachers of Indian Students.

November was an interesting month for Bert L. Peters because he visited all the reservations and school districts in his area. A pleasant day, especially, was in the Port Townsend District. This was arranged by Mrs. Mary McQuillan, one of our Makah friends, who is very active in school and civic affairs in this community. This counselor spoke to the Kiwanis Club, two schools, and the faculty of the district. This was enjoyable for him and presented a chance to create good relations for our Indian Counseling Program.

Cynthia M. Doney travels for the month of November included visits to various schools, colleges and she also had the privilege of attending the Washington State Indian Conference in Olympia. This presented the opportunity to meet many new contacts and the new chairmen from Tulalip and Lummi. She has visited about 150 Indian students in November.

FROM THE TEPPEES

Wilfred P. Schoenberg, S.J. of Spokane was a recent visitor to the Indian Center, looking over all the Northwest carvings as a future possibility for the museum they are building at the Gonzaga University.

Elaine and Lee Heinsh are the proud parents of a baby girl - Kimberly Ann - born on October 19 and weighing 8 lbs. 4½ oz. Proud grandparents are Rita and John Jametski.

Thirty-one Lake Hills elementary grade school children, accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Best and three mothers, visited the Indian Center.

Marirose Morris (Sioux) has been appointed our new Secretary of the American Women's Service League, replacing Miss Florence Hall, who had to resign due to job commitments that take her out of town frequently.

Joycelle Smythe (Makah) spent one afternoon helping put up 16 more baby layettes.

Three new Associate Members have joined the Service League. We would like to welcome Mrs. Frederick Mann, who is busy in her efforts to find us a place for the permanent Indian Center, Valerie Veirs, who is working out of Neighborhood House with the Indian program there, and Doris Fleming (cousin of Roger DeLorm, our new Indian Center carver) who has volunteered her services to the Center for several years now.

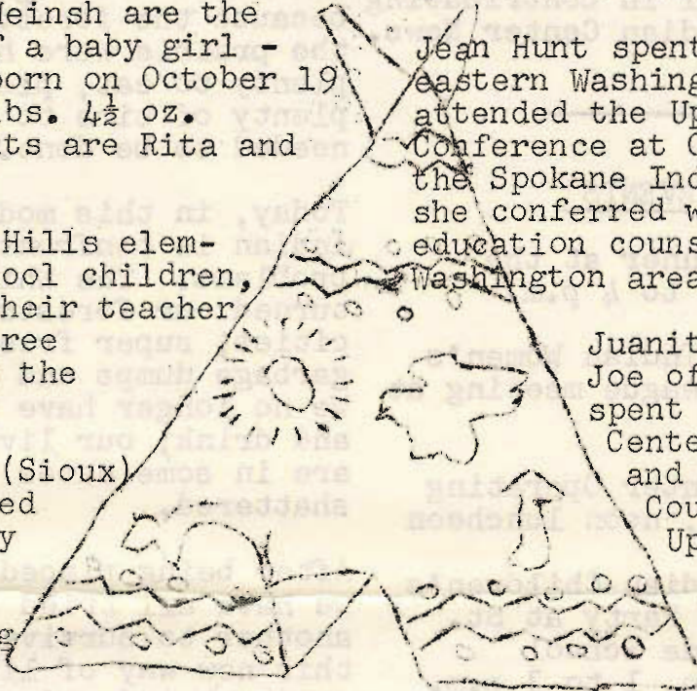
Ramona Benke (Clallam) of Port Angeles was in Seattle recently visiting her daughter Tiko who was in the hospital.

Beth Prince, daughter of Lyle and Pat Prince (Clallam) of Port Angeles was married to Ed Anders on November 9. Attending from Seattle were Milton and Dorothy Lombard and Buck & Bea Prince, uncle and aunt of the bride. The newlyweds are living in San Francisco, where the groom is stationed.

Jean Hunt spent 3 days in eastern Washington where she attended the Upward Bound Conference at Cheney and visited the Spokane Indian Center where she conferred with Bertha Russell, education counselor for eastern Washington area.

Juanita Sobota and Dave Joe of the CAP LaConner spent some time at the Center visiting staff and Mr. Peters, Counselor of our Upward Bound Program.

Twenty pre-school children from the Shoreline School District visited the Center recently. They were very observant.



Sympathy is conveyed to the following:

Jim Owens at the loss of his wife, Susie. Services were held in Port Orchard with burial in Montana.

The family of Frank George (Colville), nationally known Indian leader and councilman from Nespelem District, who died on November 7 in Spokane at the age of 56.

Ida Dahl and family at the loss of her sister who passed away after a long illness.

(continued)

SYMPATHY (continued)

To the family of Ada Markishtum, Neah Bay, (Luke M., Chairman, Makah Tribal Council, Woodrow, Russell and Hubert and daughter Edith Hottewe) who passed away recently. Ada was a charter member of the American Indian Women's Service League and was always very helpful in contributing legends for the Indian Center News.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 1 - Sunday dinner at the Center, 1 to 4 p.m.
- 12 - American Indian Women's Service League meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 13 - Indian Center Operating Committee, noon luncheon
- 14 - Annual Indian Children's Christmas Party at St. James Grade School Auditorium, 1 to 3 p.m.
- 16 - Education Committee
(NO MEETING THIS MONTH)
- 23 - Distribution of Christmas boxes.
- 24 - Holiday

For those who may be interested, some of us have started a Pacific Northwest Dance Club. All those from Washington, Alaska, Vancouver Island and other parts of Canada, are invited to dance or learn to dance. We meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Indian Center. For more information call:

Mary Jo Butterfield - LA 2-2781
(evenings)

or Joy Smythe - CH 4-2781.

WHAT IS A CHR?

By Theresa Paull
Community Health Representative

As we look around us today, we can all tell that what we see was not sought 100 years ago. One hundred years ago the American Indian was the proudest living thing around. He had no housing problems, because the forest, the desert, the prairie were his home. He had plenty to eat, plenty to drink and plenty of time to do whatever needed to be done.

Today, in this modern age the Indian is confronted with many problems. The White man has turned our forests into super cities, super freeways, super garbage dumps and national parks. We no longer have plenty to eat and drink, our living conditions are in some cases completely shattered.

After being placed on Reservations, we have all tried in one way or another to survive the hazards of this new way of life. With a constant injection of many different cultures, the Indian has been placed in the last category. Instead of being able to hunt and fish, as we have in the past, we must take up our wits, our strengths and our pride in trying to mimick those other cultures in order that we are not mimicked and mocked.

Sometimes I wonder what these other people would do if they were the ones placed in a position such as ours. We should have been stronger, so that instead of being the inferior race we could "put the shoe on the other foot", so to speak.

To me, the whole Indian Race can be compared to the burden that Jesus carried when He carried the cross to Calvary. His cross was made of dogwood, ours takes a different form. Our burden is the cross of survival, suffrage,

WHAT IS A CHR? (continued)

adjustment and lack of proper communications and proper environment. You cannot place a penguin in the middle of the desert and expect him to survive.

Through the years, the different Indian Nations have taken up a war, both physically and mentally, to gain better standards, recognition (if not among others, at least among ourselves) and knowledge.

Step by step, we have finally reached a point of advancement. Introduction of such programs as Public Health, Bureau of Indian Affairs, OEO Projects, Mutual Self Help, PL 121 and Community Health Representative is indeed a higher elevation for us. Of the most importance is the CHR Program because the type of person it involves has been the missing link for many, many years.

This is the first and beginning of a Community Health Representative. After a month in training at Desert Willow, we have been given the opportunity to look at the different diseases and major problems of our people. Instead of staying in our own backyards complaining, these select few have had the chance to back up, re-look, underlook and turn the problem around, see what the problem is, know the problem backward, frontward and finally see a solution. Sure, I can see our major problems are poor housing, poor sanitation, lack of communication, and proper environment, but our real problem is lack of proper education. If we had proper education, we could see how we could utilize all possible resources for advancement of the people and for the people.

To me this is a CHR job in action. To keep people informed, how they can use the resources. In other words, I am going home to help my people help themselves. If such a position, introducing Indian involvement, had been created years ago, we could all be off and running and possibly win this mad

race we're in. I'm not saying, however, that we should give up because we got a late start. Who knows, we may win this race yet. In the future, I hope we can clasp hands, be Indian for Indian, gain more and more knowledge for ourselves and our community, walk, talk, live, act and "think" Indian.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

- Delores Shaffer (Colville) Nespelem
- Martha Boyer (Quinault) Taholah
- Nina Rowe (Warm Springs)
Warm Spring, Oregon
- Alice Arnold (Makah) Neah Bay
- Elizabeth Jones (Umatilla)
Pendleton, Oregon
- Linnette McKay (Tulalip) Marysville
- Irene Siddle (Swinomish) LaConner
- Noah Little (Yakima), Toppenish
- Donna Sones (Makah), Neah Bay
- Margaret King, Toppenish
- Christine Sijohn (Spokane) Wellpinit
- Faye George (More, Inc.) Puyallup
- Delbert Ellenwood (Nez Perce)
Lapwai, Idaho
- Maynard Johnson (Lower Elwha band
of Clallams) Port Angeles
- Alvina Sijohn (Coeur d'Alene)
Plummer, Idaho
- Terry Isaac (Nez Perce), Lawai, Ida.
- Frankie Sijohn (Coeur d'Alene)
Plummer, Idaho
- Josephine Marcelley (Colville)
Nespelem
- Ethel Williams (Umatilla)
Pendleton, Oregon
- June George (Suquamish, Skokomish
& Squaxin Island) Poulsbo
- Eula Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock)
Fort Hall, Idaho
- Ellen Williams (Muckleshoot)
Enumclaw
- Theresa Paull (Lummi-Nooksack)
Ferndale.

POTLUCK DINNER

There will be a potluck dinner on Sunday, January 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Indian Center.

\$1.25 for adults
75¢ for children under 12

(Mr. Bishop said that it was extremely logical and proper for the dancers to perform at the Civic Center during the pow-wow.)

Long before this area was the Civic Center of Seattle; long before the hill called Denny was sluiced into the Wholge (Elliott Bay); long before this exact spot was part and parcel of that Pioneer David Denny homestead, long before Louisa Boren, his Sweet Brier Bride, and Seattle's first bride, planted her rose; long before that time, this Land where now stands "the Needle", where now flows the "Fountain", was a "Potlatch meadow" where came the Duwamish, the Suquamish, the long-gone Shilshole to parley and play the Indian stick game Slahal.

This is the land Seattle meant when he said, "When the white man shall come from the North, the South, the East, the West to potlatch on the ancient ceremonial grounds, I, Sealth, will be there!"

By R. O. Bishop.

THE WHITE BUFFALO

I have heard many stories
From an old Indian friend
And this is my favorite
Even though it has no end.

There's an old Indian legend
Was told long ago
It's about a special valley
And the White Buffalo.

The legend says you'll find him
If your heart is brave and true
And you treat all men as brothers
No matter what they do.

I have searched for that valley
Since I started to rove.
I won't stop until I find it
And the White Buffalo,
For I know it's right to find
The White Buffalo.

Submitted by Ruby Fields,
Associate Member

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