

---

## INDIAN CENTER NEWS

Published by  
The American Indian Women's Service League, Inc.  
1900 Borean Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

---

Vol. V.

February 1967

No. 6

---

### A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

From: Pearl Warren, Executive Director

I hope everyone will join us in wishing the Indian Center News a Happy Birthday as it was 8 years ago that the American Indian Womens Service League put out the first issue of the Indian Center News. We felt then there was not enough communication among the Indian people. We are happy to see there are a lot more Indian newsletters today, so Indian people will know what other Indians are doing.

We started with an old hand mimeograph and we laugh now at our old issues since we are not professional journalists, as you no doubt can see, and very inexperienced. This work was completely volunteer. We have never had a paid person for the paper, and still we have been at it for 8 years. There have been a lot of volunteer hours put into the paper. The \$1.00 subscription does not cover the cost so if you have not paid for your paper, please help us by paying as the budget for the Indian Center News is small and we appreciate any help we can get.

Sometimes I wonder if people really understand what is involved in volunteer work. When you volunteer you have to keep your word and be on time -- for instance, if you volunteer for the clothing it doesn't mean you can spend your time rummaging to find what you want. You are there to see that other people who need the clothes get what they need. Just because you are working

there doesn't mean you are entitled to anything you want. If you are in need of clothing, you are eligible, but if your husband is making a good salary then you should come to the rummage sales at the A. I. W. S. L. meetings. If you have some nice things at home that you do not need or use, bring them to our Service League rummage sales, as the rummage sale money buys bus tokens and extra things we need for the Service League activities.

We want to tell you of some of our volunteer workers: Ida Dahl (Stillicum) and her husband painted and fixed up our kitchen. Ida also painted the ladies' restroom and her husband made a cupboard for our dishes and Ida even talked the paint store people into donating paint or selling things cheaper to us. Lottie Fenton (Yakima) comes down and cleans the woodwork when she sees it needs it. We do not have a paid janitor so we are dependent on our Indian men to keep the place clean. Eddie Pitka (Alaskan) was in yesterday and cleaned the windows and showcases before he went to Tacoma to visit his girlfriend. So people who help us are not people who want something. They do things because they like our Indian Center and they feel they are part of it. . . . and we have a lot of fun too. Meredith Mummey (Makah) and Eunice Carney (Alaskan) put up the baby layettes and Aleatha Runnels (Yakima) helped with the clothing and we will certainly miss Nellie Pelkey as she is moving to Anacortes. Nellie has been our clothing chairman for a long time. (continued)

Message from Pearl Warren (continued)

If we have missed some volunteers' names, it isn't intentional. We appreciate the help of all our members and friends.

\* \* \* \*

INDIANS PERFORM FOR AUDUBON SOCIETY

The crowd was so large we had to move to a larger auditorium in order to seat them all and they still kept coming!!! This was the reception the representatives from the Indian Center received at the Junior Audubon Society's January program held at the Science Pavilion at the Seattle Center.

Mr. Clifford Imsland of the Junior Audubon Society invited the Indian Center to participate in their January program. He asked us to put on a program of Indian dances and to explain what the Indian Center's function really is. Mrs. Lee Piper was given the job of narrating the lovely colored slides of the Center and telling of its many activities. Everyone was interested in the Center and asked many questions about it. The address was given and information as to the hours it is open. I expect there will be many visitors to the Center in the near future.

Bernie Reyes did a grand job as master of Ceremonies, filling the time pauses between acts and keeping the show running smoothly.

The gentle warmth and Indianness flowed from the Sam Cagey dance group and melted into the crowd. Everyone seemed to feel the closeness of this family and gave their rapt attention to the Cagey performance. Sam explained the dancing and costumes to an enthusiastic crowd of young and old. After the Northwest Indian part of the show, Larry and Lillian Williams, dressed in the gay and colorful costume of the plains Indians, danced. Larry did some of the war dances and the hoop dance. Bernie accompanied them on the drum and singing the plains songs.

The people were delighted. Larry and Lillian were besieged by many for autographs. Bernie got the audience to participate in the plains round dance, with Larry and Lillian in the middle and the people in a circle around a circle. It was very orderly and a great deal of fun for everyone.

The show was a real success and everyone enjoyed themselves, either putting on the show or watching it. At any rate, I guess we finally made the grade in society because upon leaving one little mite said to the other, "Gosh, Mary, Indians are real people, too!"

\* \* \* \*

ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

Plans are underway for the annual Arts and Crafts Show to be held at the Seattle Center on June 2, 3 and 4. Watch for further details.

\* \* \* \*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Indian Center

- Feb: 5 Sunday Dinner, 2 to 5 p. m.  
Adults \$1.25  
Children under 12 \$.75
- 9 American Indian Women's Service League - 7:30 p. m.
- 10 Advisory Board - noon lunch
- 12 AIYAC - 2 p. m.
- 22 Closed - Washington's birthday
- 26 Tlingit-Haida Club - 2 p. m.
- 26 AIYAC - 2 p. m.

March 5 Sunday Dinner, 2 p. m.

\* \* \* \*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Education Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at The Indian Center-- 6:30 P.M. -- Potluck dinner -- Lee Piper is chairman.

## UDALL HAILS INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF INDIANS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Secretary Udall noted that the number of American Indians being elected to public office is increasing and said this signals more Indian participation in major currents of national life.

"Fifteen Indians are now being seated in six western state legislatures as they convene for their sessions this year," Udall said, "and other Indians are taking office as judges, county officials, and others of public trust. It is noteworthy that several are women."

"We know this marks a distinct gain in Indian country, although specific figures for other years unfortunately are not available in depth. It is quite clear that the 1966 elections marked a greater acceptance by Indian people of their role as fully participating citizens, and a wider recognition by their fellow Americans of the contributions Indians can make to public life."

In addition to the legislators, two Indians were elected to state court benches; one as a justice of the peace, one as a clerk of a state supreme court, one as county attorney, and three to other county posts. In the Congress of the United States, Ben Reifel of South Dakota, an Indian, was elected to his fourth term as a member of the House of Representatives.

Following is a tally of Indians elected to state and local offices:

### ARIZONA

The Arizona Legislature has, in Rep. Lloyd L. House, the first Indian ever elected to that State Assembly. House, whose father was a Navajo and mother an Oneida, follows a reservation tradition begun two years earlier in New Mexico when two Navajos were elected to the State Legislature.

"I expect to be the image of the Indian in Legislature, and I know that whatever I do is going to reflect upon the Indian," House said recently. "Therefore, I'm going to do my utmost to work with such diligence at my duties as a legislator, and maintain the highest standards of deportment, so as to reflect favorably upon all Indians."

### NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico side of the Navajo Reservation increased its representation at the capital in Santa Fe this year by electing three tribal members, Sen. Tom Lee, Rep. Jake C. Chee, and Rep. Wilbert C. Begay. All are freshman lawmakers, since the two incumbent Navajos were defeated at the polls.

The three will meet in the State's new Capitol designed in the shape of a Zia, the Zuni Indian symbol for the sun, which is also featured on the New Mexico flag.

Although the Zunis and the Navajos once were enemies, the Navajo legislators would agree that their interests now have much in common and are joined with the interests of Indians across the nation.

### IDAHO

In some instances, Indian office seekers have been assisted by large numbers of fellow tribal members in their districts but a large Indian constituency is not an essential for success at the polls.

Joseph R. Garry, a member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe and President of its Tribal Council, was elected to the Idaho State Senate although only 200 Indian votes were cast in a total voter count of 18,000 in his district.

Garry says he is a believer in the theory that a small but effective group can hold a balance of political power that can help it win support for its needs and aspirations.

(continued)

IDAHO (continued)

Garry also believes that in politics "you have got to get in and start working at the precinct level. Indians should be precinct committeemen, they should work to fill all of the minor offices that go with political organizations and we still have to work to get Indians to vote. Voter education and registration should be encouraged at every step of the way."

MONTANA

The Flathead and Blackfeet Indians have been putting Garry's principles into practice. The Flathead Reservation sent Jean A. Turnage to the State Senate and elected Henry Burland a Justice of the Peace. The Blackfeet helped Percy DeWolf to the Montana Senate and at the county level, Aileen Sparger was elected County Superintendent of Schools; Mary L. Nāhini, County Clerk and Recorder; Violet Durhem, Clerk of Court; and Don S. Welch, County Attorney.

OKLAHOMA

Political veteran Clem McSpadden, a Cherokee, has been elected President pro-tem of the Oklahoma State Senate. Also serving in that body are Robert M. Murphy, Cherokee; and John Massey, Choctaw.

Andy Payne, Cherokee, was elected Clerk of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and Judge Hez Bussey, Cherokee, was returned to the Bench of the State's Court of Criminal Appeals.

ALASKA

Two Indian tribes and the Eskimos will be represented this year in the Alaska Legislature which will consider, among other things, the possibility of establishing an Alaskan Department of Native Affairs.

Two members of the House of Representatives will be the first Athapaskan Indians to sit in that body--Jules Wright, President of the Fairbanks Native Association, and

John Sackett, a 22-year old honor student at the University of Alaska.

Both placed strong emphasis in their campaigns on the need for more State attention to native problems.

The other natives in the Alaska Legislature are Sen. Ray Christiansen, and Rep. Weilliam Hensley, both Eskimos, and Rep. Frank See, a Tlingit.

Grassroots political activity is new to the majority of American Indian groups. Yet the history of this country is threaded with Indian participation in national affairs. The federated structure of the Iroquois Nation is said to have greatly influenced the thinking of the Founding Fathers. Oklahoma's first delegation to Congress included an Indian senator; and that State also produced a Vice-President (Charles Curtis) who was of Kaw-Osage extraction.

\* \* \* \*

THANK YOU

Thanks to Claude Heyer, Deputy Director of the Lummi Community Action Program, for sending us your copy of the Republican Party Platform, and bringing our omission to our attention. The following is an excerpt from the Civil Rights and Responsibilities portion:

"6. The inborn rights of any Indian ward pertaining to tribal property held in trust by the U. S. Government should be transferred into vested legal property rights by the passage of proper just and equitable termination legislation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs should eventually be abolished."

\* \* \* \*

THIRD ANNUAL INDIAN TRADE FAIR - March 3 & 4, 1967

Wapato, Washington (on the Yakima Indian Reservation)

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wapato Filipino & Japanese Halls  
(near center of town)

Cash prizes & ribbons for best booth displays, individual items, fine arts. Exhibitors entitled to noon and evening meals. All types of Indian articles may be sold by Indians (at 10% commission).

Performances 3 times daily, Japanese Hall. Indians demonstrating special crafts (such as basket-making) may receive some help in transportation and lodging.

Sponsored by: SPEELYI-MI INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB

Free admission

(Donations will be accepted)

For reservations or more information, write or call any club member or:

Mrs. Isadore Johnson, P.O. Box 894, Wapato, Wash. Phone: 879-3891

Mrs. Eagle Seelatsee, White Swan, Washington

---

ATTENTION: INDIAN ARTIST

The University of Utah, in cooperation with the Indian Community Action Program of the Bureau of Indian Services, will sponsor a regional Indian art exhibit. Indian artists from tribes in each of the following states are invited to participate: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah.

The exhibit will be displayed from February 20 to March 4. All pieces for display should reach the University Union Gallery by February 15.

Prizes to be awarded are: First - \$400, Second - \$200, Third - \$100. In addition to the prize winners, those pieces judged to have special merit will be considered for inclusion in the National Indian Art exhibit, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Works in any of the following areas may be exhibited:

1. Paintings (oil, water color, paintings on hides, etc.)
2. Prints and drawings
3. Sculpture (wood, stone, other)

All of this work must be of typical Indian subjects done primarily in the traditional Indian style. The sculpture should be small enough to be manageable for crating and shipping.

For further information call 322-7911 for Keith Ward or Lyman Tyler, or write Bureau of Indian Services, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

\* \* \* \* \*

TEEPEE NEWS

Wedding bells rang for Virginia Boyts and Theodore White Eagle, Jr. on January 14 at the Glendale Evangelical Lutheran Church. A reception was held at the Park Lake Homes Community Building. Ted is the son of Ted and Helen White Eagle. Congratulations and best wishes!

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Epstein have returned from a trip around the world. Mr. Epstein is Chairman of the Indian Center Advisory and Operating Committee.

Alvin and Myrtle Solberg sent greetings from Honolulu where they are enjoying a well deserved vacation.

Mrs. Isadore (Lydia) Johnson, Wapato, spent the weekend of January 21 with Georgianna Whetung and family. Isadore went on to Ocean Shores to attend a VFW meeting.

News comes from Neah Bay that three families welcomed baby girls in December and January. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. Luke Markishtum, Jr. Congratulations to the new parents!

Melvin L. Schwartz has been assigned to the Bureau's Phoenix, Arizona, area office as assistant area director for community services. He transfers from the post of superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Agency (Utes) at Ft. Duchesne, Utah.

Roger (Chippewa-Cherokee) and Zena (Munsee) DeLorm visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hogsed in Turner, Oregon, on January 28. A celebration was in order to observe three Silver Wedding Anniversaries of three of the Hogsed sisters and their husbands. Gene and Nema Poitras were married in January, 1942; Roger and Zena in February, 1942; and Jerome and Iris Matheson, Tacoma, in March, 1942. It isn't often that a couple can see three daughters observe 25 years of marriage -- 75 years in all!

\* \* \* \*

CLOTHING CENTER

Clothing Day is every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It would help if orders were placed ahead of time.

Thanks to Nellie Pelkey and her family for the many hours spent sorting and straightening the clothing. This is an endless job and Nellie has spent many hours working on the clothing.

\* \* \* \*

SEATTLE INDIAN BASKETBALL

Tournament Schedule:

Feb. 16, 17 & 18	Lapwai, Idaho
Mar. 3, 4, & 5	Tacoma, Wash.
Mar. 9, 10 & 11	Hoopa, California
Mar. 16, 17 & 18	Chiloquin, Oregon
Mar. 22 thru 25	Yakima, Wash.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER BLANK

INDIAN CENTER NEWS subscription price is \$1.00 per year. It is printed monthly from September through May. A receipt will be issued when your \$1.00 is received. It is necessary that your name, address and ZIP code be correct to assure your receiving the newsletter. Please inform the Indian Center if you do not receive your paper and keep us informed of any change of address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_