
INDIAN CENTER NEWS

Published by
The American Indian Women's Service League
900 Boren Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

VOL. VII

NOVEMBER, 1968

No. 3

FIRST CONVENTION OF AMERICAN
INDIANS UNITED

On October 10 to 12 the American Indian Center, Chicago, Illinois, was host to the first convention of American Indians-United, a new national organization whose membership will comprise those organizations primarily concerned with Indians.

Delegates and observers representing over 35 cities were welcomed by Robert Reece, Director of the Center, and by Russell Carter who also voiced his welcome and wished the group success in organizing, before having to leave for another committment. The delegates came to discuss problems of urban Indians. Because of their concern to preserve their cultural identity and facing special problems of transition to a different style of life, the urban Indians feel a need for a national structure through which they can share ideas and also present a united voice on issues that affect them.

Chairman of the Steering Committee that has planned American Indians-United was Jess Sixkiller, a full-blood Cherokee from Oklahoma. He is a Board member of the Chicago Indian Center and is a detective on the Chicago Police Department.

Guest speakers included Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert Bennett, who addressed the delegates on Friday, and William Carmack, Staff-Director of the National

Council on Indian Opportunity. Mr. Bennett said he was happy to see a national group form that they can work with, and that the BIA has formed a committee on urban Indians who will hold five meetings across the country, the first being in Oakland on October 24. He said that he would answer any question that is submitted in writing to Washington, D.C.

During the three days workshops were held on topics ranging from Education, Employment, Vocational Training, Indian Center Development and Fund Raising. Most delegates agreed that these workshops provided them the chance to meet and compare mutual problems and concerns.

The delegates were separated into four time zones and each time zone elected Board members to serve. Pat Locke from the Alaskan time zone was elected; Pearl Warren of Seattle Indian Center, Harold Redbird of San Francisco Indian Center, and Tim Wapato of Los Angeles Indian Center represent the Pacific time zone; Mountain time zone Board members are Rachel Ashley and Juana Lyon; Central time zone members are Jess Sixkiller, Robert Carr, and Ralph Ware; Eastern time zone members are John Wakefield and Mrs. Clarence Aiken. These 11 Board members will meet bi-yearly and as needed. Elected from this group to serve on the Executive Board were: Jess Sixkiller, President; Tim Wapato, Vice President; Pat Locke, Secretary; (Treasurer's name not noted).

The conference ended Saturday afternoon, leaving the Board to work on the bylaws and constitution, and work over the resolutions to make them more semantic. In the evening a pow-wow and banquet concluded the first constitutional convention.

AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE, INC.

November 4 marked the tenth anniversary of the American Indian Women's Service League.

We hope the next ten years will be as successful and rewarding as the last ten have been!

Some of the delegates were lucky to have enough free time to see the Indian Festival at the Field Museum which was co-sponsored by the Chicago Indian Center and Museum, with financial assistance from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; the Ernest G. Skinner Foundation; and the Wieboldt Foundation. Over 16,000 Indians from 99 tribes live in Chicago. The Festival tells the story: The American Indians 1968, proud of the past, looking to the future. The live demonstrations, dancing, exhibits of handicrafts and art works showed the Indians' important cultural role in our society and presented them as people. We could have spent hours more viewing all the displays, but time was limited.

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Within the colorful coils of the sea shell may be heard the restless call of the sea. A call as old as Time itself, for the sea shell was one of the first life forms on earth. Today, billions of years later, the sea shell is still with us, little changed from its ancestors that roamed where prehistoric life began. Hold the sea shell to your ear and listen to the ETERNAL CALL OF THE SEA.

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THANKSGIVING DINNER

Though most of the participants to this convention moved to the city from reservations, to work, most agreed they hope to return back "Home" some day.

Once again radio station KING will sponsor the reverse Thanksgiving at the Indian Center, 1900 Boren Avenue. They will give the Indian Center 15 turkeys to match the 15 won by entrants to the contest they present. So, listen to KING, sharpen your pencils, and send your entries in to KING.

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Glen Galbraith, Executive Secretary of the Spokane tribe, has been appointed by Governor Evans to the new State Committee on Law and Justice, funded through a grant from the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

We will serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Indian Center to the men who visit here.

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Chairman is the former King County Superior Court Judge Eugene Wright. After an organizational meeting on October 24, addressed by the Governor, four task forces (on Law Enforcement, Corrections, Juvenile Delinquency and Courts) are now preparing plans for the full group meeting in Seattle on November 22.

The Indian Center has a new carver (not totem poles).....a big thank you to Roger DeLorm who carved four big turkeys for our potluck dinner on November 3. What would we do without our volunteers!!

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SYMPATHY TO

Ella Aquino and family at the loss of her mother, Annie Pierre, at the age of 85.

Mr. & Mrs. C. Alvin Solberg at the loss of her mother, Mrs. Bergland, at the age of 100 years.

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Mr. Earl Lund (Clallam), well known for his totem pole carvings and artwork, died suddenly in Seattle.

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SECOND ANNUAL "ALL AMERICAN INDIAN WEEK"

This will be held on November 22, 23 and 24, 1968, at Wrigley Field, 41st & Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, California. Admission will be \$1 for adults and 50¢ for children under 12. All proceeds will go for Indian education, social, economic and other needs.

They will feature arts and crafts demonstrations and sales, rare Indian exhibits, nine war dance contests, two beauty contests, teepee village, TV and movie personalities, and a horse show.

For further information, write to:

Chairman, 13002 Via Del Sol
Whittier, California 90601
(Phone: 336-6352)

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FOOD STAMP PLAN

On December 1 the Food Stamp Plan will go into effect in King and Pierce Counties. Anyone on Public Assistance, Social Security or any low income households are eligible. Authorization cards are available, as well as further information, at your nearest Public Assistance office.

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FROM THE INDIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE,
American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, Ann Widditsch, Chairman; Maxine Cushing Gray, Secretary.

It is against federal policy for the state Public Assistance to require any American Indian to sell his land in order to receive welfare payments. Attorney Ed Wood, ACLU board member, and presently on the Seattle Model Cities legal staff, has a copy of Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations setting forth this federal policy, which is contradicted by state Public Assistance regulations to the effect that "each Indian is expected to take all available steps to make their trust lands meet their needs." Individual Indians who find themselves under this kind of state pressure are invited to consult with Sidney Strong, OEO Legal Service attorney at 104 1/2 Cherry St., Seattle, Wash., 98101. (Mr. Strong, formerly of St. Ignatius, Montana, could take a case anywhere in the State of Washington since he is working here under a general fellowship supplied by University of Pennsylvania to the OEO program.)

Sometimes welfare benefits are held up for aged persons because they cannot produce birth certificates. As with other citizens, any American Indian has the right to go before a State Superior Court judge in his or her county and get an affidavit of age. The State Department of Public Assistance then would have to accept this date of birth as conclusive. A person in need of such an affidavit should be able to get the department representative to prepare such an affidavit and accompany the aged person to the judge for his signature. If there are any problems, call Sidney Strong (MA 3-5455), address above.

(The above information was supplied by Maxine Cushing Gray, Associate Member, American Women's Service League.)

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FROM THE TEEPEES

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Charles of LaConner visited the Indian Center in search of baskets for the collection they have accumulated over the years. Ray is employed as Regional Supervisor of the Youth Corps, Washington State Parks.

Six Junior Leaders from Port Angeles and their chaperone, Criss Carey, made the Indian Center one of their stops while on a tour of Seattle. They were: Janice Saari, Sarah Charles Pauline Forsberg, Cheryl Charles, Valerie Sampson, Judy Dougherty and Bernice Turrey.

Joseph Fejes, Fairbanks, Alaska, stopped to see our craft display and to see if he can find someone to do a big totem for him.

Roger DeLorm has returned from Korea where worked for 2 months. Roger is now retired from the Civil Service and supposedly is leading a life of leisure. Zena said he has gone hunting.

Dorothy Lombard and Carol Parry have returned from a trip to Chicago where they attended the first convention of American Indians-United, a newly formed organization of Indian Centers and groups.

Pearl Warren has been appointed to a two-year term as member of the King County Central Public Assistance Advisory Committee, by Sidney Smith, Director.

Gloria Mummey and two children arrived by plane from Guadalajara, Mexico, to join her husband, Ted, who has been visiting his mother, Meredith Mummey, this summer.

Stopping briefly to say hello were Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hall, Lapwai, Idaho.

Mary Jo Butterfield took a short vacation trip to San Francisco where she visited her cousins and sister-in-law, Katie Hall, and children.

Marirose and Bob Morris are parents of a son, Patrick W., born on September 15, weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz. He joined a brother, Daniel.

On Saturday, October 19, a Blanket dance and pow-wow was held to aid Juanita Brown and family, Tacoma, whose home was burned. There were some top singers and drummers and dancers present.

Mr. Garber, Registrar of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Africa, was a recent visitor to the Indian Center

Joe Whetung, SP-4 in the Army, will be taking his R&R in Sidney, Australia. He is stationed in Bien Hoa, Viet Nam, and has been there 8 months. His parents, Georgianna and Amos Whetung, expect him home in 4 months.

Jim Wilson (Sioux) of the OEO Indian program, Washington, D.C., stopped by to visit the Indian Center. He also visited his niece, Roberta Sense.

Many thanks to member Ida Dahl who painted the kitchen at the Center all by herself. It has made a 100% improvement. Ida is one of our most faithful volunteers.

Lee Piper (Cherokee) and her husband have returned from a month's vacation in Wyoming. They report a nice time and a rest.

Carol Parry (Sioux) substituted for Pearl Warren at the World Community Day service of United Church Women, held Nov. 1 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

FROM THE NATIONAL INDIAN YOUTH
COUNCIL OFFICE:

Melvin D. Thom, Executive Director of the National Indian Youth Council and one of its founders, resigned his post effective Sept. 7. Thom, a Walker River Paiute, served in this position since August, 1965. Previous to 1965 he was President of the organization of younger Indians. Tom Lentz, a Sioux from Denver, Colorado, succeeds Thom as Director.

"To make room for more younger Indians in the organization", was one of the reasons given by Thom when he first announced his resignation at the August annual NIYC meeting. He said that a time always comes when leadership must change hands and changes by young people are usually good. "Indian affairs must change; new ideas must be tried; and little by little we might get closer to dealing directly with our problems. Organizations and people in them must be willing to accept change, otherwise we will all remain in the same paternalistic bind," he said.

Thom said he wanted to devote more time and work with local community organizations. Noting that basic policy and programs come almost entirely from the top level down to people, Thom advocates a movement by local communities that would reverse this. He said a lot of lip service has been given to people involvement but this is only tokenism compared to the control that is really needed by Indian communities. "Indian communities still have a long way to go in gaining at least an equal voice in decisions that affect them." Thom concluded his statement of resignation.

His work now will primarily be with the Coalition of American Indian Citizens, a group that came together during and following the Poor People's Campaign. It is still in the "idea" and organizational stage but will probably be a

political arm of organizations like the National Indian Youth Council.

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INDIAN CENTER COUNSELING PROGRAM

Miss Jean Hunt (Yakima-Nooksack) has been asked to serve on the Advisory Board of the Indian & Migrant Education Center in Toppenish. She attended the first meeting on October 9. At that time she also contacted several high schools in Yakima concerning students and found them very cooperative.

Mr. Bert L. Peters (Pawnee) travels over 1,000 miles a month covering his area, which includes Port Angeles, Neah Bay and Forks. Much of his work this month has been "trouble shooting" with the problem students in schools.

Mrs. Cindy Doney (Warm Springs) was recently at Western Washington State College visiting Indian students. She reports they are planning to organize an Indian club there.

Mrs. Bertha Russell (Colville) has been making contacts in Spokane schools and will start working with reservation schools next month. Mrs. Russell has been instrumental in getting school lunches for some students.

The American Indian Youth Activities Club scholarship fund is down to \$318. If anyone wishes to contribute to the scholarship fund, contact Miss Hunt. The following grants have been made since January, 1968:

Student at Green River Community College for room and board \$50.
Student at Washington State University to help with fees \$50.
Student who needed summer credits to graduate from high school \$10.

The counselors can be reached by calling MA 3-0272, 9:30-4:30 Monday through Friday at the Indian Center, Seattle, Washington.

GROUP OF EIGHT WAR DANCERS
TOUR EUROPE - By Bernie Whitebear

At the invitation of "Koleda", an official Balkan dance ensemble at the University of Washington, Bernie Whitebear was asked to select other Indian dancers to accompany this group on a 3-month tour of Europe leaving on June 15. The lucky ones chosen were: Pat Cloud (Yakima), Angie Chinn (Dakota), Alison Bridges (Puyallup), Lilly Kauffman (Nez Perce), Billie McCloud (Puyallup-Walla Walla), Phil Bracero (Thompson), George Abbot (Thompson), and Bernie (Colville). Following is Bernie's story:

En route to Montreal, Canada, where we departed from we stopped on the Crow Reservation at Hardin, Mont., where we were treated to fry bread and buffalo roast, witnessed an arrow-throw contest and toured the reservation, including Custer's Last Stand. At Montreal we performed at the EXPO 67 grounds.

We flew directly to Amsterdam, Holland, and for many it was their first plane ride. We made our first appearance in costume at the University in Braunschweig, Germany, and received many compliments and answered endless questions. Two more performances were given in schools in Wolfsburg, where youth festivals were in progress. At first the children were very shy but soon we were busy answering questions through interpreters about our dances and costumes. Wolfsburg is only about two miles from the Communist East German border.

From Germany we went by bus to Zurich, Switzerland, and gave a series of shows and even had the chance to picnic at a mountain cabin in the foothills of the Swiss Alps. Within the week we returned to Munich and an impromptu show was held there. Thence to Sneek, Holland, and our first festival, The Sneek International Folkloristisch held July 4 to 6. To us the windmills and canals seemed

like pictures from a story book they were so picturesque. Top dancers attended from all over Western Europe, Ireland, France, Austria, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Poland, including a dance ensemble from Israel. Many beautiful costumes were worn, including many that have never appeared outside of Europe -- the gold helmeted lace-enclosed Friesland costumes of the Netherlands. We were the first American Indian group to ever dance at their festival (which was also true of the other festivals where we performed). We completed the cultural exchange by showing our costumes and dances. The Israeli dancers from Tel Aviv became our friends and invited us to include Israel in any future tours. At the conclusion of our stay we enjoyed a tour of the canals and waterways of Sneek and learned the farewell song of Israel, "Havano Shalam Aleychem."

From Holland we went back to Germany and Austria on our way to the Balkans. From Northern Italy we viewed the majestic Alps; the view was tremendous. We spent a night in Trieste, Italy, then crossed into Yugoslavia and stopped in Opatija on the Adriatic coast. In the Communist countries we felt an emotion close to hatred. Istanbul was the most intriguing city, beautiful and ugly, friendly and scary, and all the time noisy. We entertained the NCO and Officers Clubs in this area, participated in parades and were treated to dinners in many homes. The Mayor of Dijon chose Alison Bridges (Puyallup-Nisqually) the prettiest girl at the festival and at our farewell dinner a gold necklace, made from a 16th century medal, was presented to our group.

At this point we had traveled all of Europe. Saying goodbye was sad. We arrived home, happily, on September 21, with renewed appreciation of our truly great country.

TEACHERS OF INDIAN STUDENTS TO GET
NEW GUIDANCE COUNSELOR TRAINING

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, has announced a year-long counselor training course for selected Bureau of Indian Affairs educators, a new program designed to "fill a need for counselors trained to help Indian youth adjust to cross-cultural problems".

The new program under a contract with the Bureau's Division of Education, begins this month at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Dr. James R. Frederick is the University's project director for this BIA Counselor Training Program, a part of a Bureau-wide effort to implement new programs of Pupil Personnel Services in BIA schools.

The plan is to start with 30 Bureau educators selected from applicants who have bachelor's degrees and qualify for graduate training.

"Under this new program, we expect to develop a new degree of professionalism for the counselor who will be trained in the general areas of human development, and in the sensitive field of helping the Indian student adjust to differences in culture values and environment," said Bennett.

To accomplish this, they will be involved in intensive studies including counseling relationships, learning theory, practices and diagnosis, and "on-the-job" training in schools serving bi-cultural students. The intern-counselors will be under the supervision of master teachers, local BIA administrators and the University Staff.

Bennett said that before educators can talk about career development, they must help many Indians understand the world of work as it applies to today's society.

"This is by no means a simple concept to people whose cultural heritage reflects a time when work was

left to the women, and hunting and fighting were man's main functions," said the Commissioner.

Training and workshops will be conducted in BIA schools, kindergartens through the 12th grade, under voluntary arrangements. The most successful participants will be used as full-time professional guidance counselors upon their return to their school situation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 3 - Sunday Dinner, 1-4 p.m.
- Nov. 9-11 - Veterans Day Ceremonials
Yakima Nation's
Community Center
- Nov. 12 - Mother's Club, 7:30 pm
- Nov. 13 - Wednesday Dance Group
7:30 (every Weds. night)
- Nov. 14 - American Indian Women's
Service League, 7:30 pm
- Nov. 18 - Quarterly meeting of
Advisory Board
Noon luncheon
- Nov. 26 - Mother's Club, 7:30 pm
- Dec. 1 - Sunday Dinner, 1-4 pm
\$1.25 adults
75¢ children under 12

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Watch for time and place for the annual Children's Christmas Party.

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MANY THANKS: The response for renewal of the Indian Center News subscription has been gratifying. Keep up the wonderful work--we have heard from friends we haven't heard from for some time.

WHY THE DOG FISH HAS GREEN EYES

Once upon a time, the dog fish (xut-goo in Tlingit) had no eyes and so went blundering about in the ocean and whatever he bumped into he ate, but it was very hard for him to get food. He would follow the tide into tide rips where most food was gathered. There he met his grandfather who asked him what was the matter. Xut-goo explained. The grandfather then gave him an eye made of green abalone shell. Since then all dog fish have green eyes.

The grandmother, Mrs. Roberts of Klawock, went on to say the organizations made by the Indians were like the dog fish which swam about, blundering for food till the grandfathers in the organizations gave them this abalone shell for eyes so now we can see and now we have power to get the food that is so plentiful about us.

(William Paul, Sr., Tlingit)

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Seattle, Wa. 98101

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Pearl Warren
3419 Densmore Ave. N.
Seattle, Wash. 98103