

# Yakima Indian language interp

Dec 12, 1989

**TOPPENISH** — An interpreter of the Yakima Indian language has begun working in the Toppenish Community Services Office.

LaRena Sohappy is the first Yakima interpreter hired by the Department of Social and Health Services for the Toppenish office.

Sohappy is a graduate of Wapato High School and Haskell Institute of Lawrence, Kan., where she majored in business administration.

She began her career with the Indian Health Service in Washington, D.C. "I started at the bottom of the top," she laughed. "It was very exciting to hand carry congressional correspondence from our tribal leaders to the hill."

Sohappy also completed a paralegal course at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

She has also performed administrative duties with the Yakima Indian Nation, serving as program director for Prevention of Elder Abuse and most recently as Yakima County Program Specialist where she was a liaison between Yakima County Community Services Mental Health and the tribe.

Sohappy's new duties will include outreach. "I anticipate visiting in the home to explain DSHS programs. This will open doors to the elders, and Yakima members can speak their own language and have the written documents explained to them. I see this as DSHS being more responsive to the needs of our people."

Sohappy can be contacted through the Area Agency on Aging, 865-5121.

The items will be given to Artz-Fox Elementary School for distribution, said Sylvia Martinez, customer service manager.



(Photo by Charles Lamb)

Winona Zack, Lydia Johnson and Arlene Olney, from left, members of the Creative Alternates to Alcohol and Drugs Committee, look over list of winners in the all-Indian talent show.

## Dramatic interpretation earns top prize

**TOPPENISH** — Maureena Many Fingers of the Yakima tribe won the \$300 best of show award at the annual all-Indian talent show presented Dec. 2 in the Heritage Theater by the Creative Alternates to Alcohol and Drugs Committee.

Lydia Johnson, president, said Many Fingers gave a dramatic presentation of an Indian legend.

Prizes of \$100 each were won by Doneta Sargeant, best vocal; Raefield Benson and Victor Andrews, instrumental; Jorja Oberly, Jorja Oberly, Nez Perce and former Miss Indian America with puppet "Chief Little Bit," best comedy; Aja Decoteau and Raynel Olney with interpretation of "Mickey Motion," contemporary dance;

Cheryl Brown in jingle dress dance, Indian act in costume.

Lona Pond, Pendleton, Ore. won \$25 for dance in flapper costume. Teen awards of \$25 went to Gary Lay, gospel singing and Melva Stahi, flute solo.

Childrens' incentive \$10 award winners: Victor Gardee Jr., lip sync; Michelle Jacob, piano; Elizabeth Stancliffe, singing; John Elk Washines, Indian hoop dance; Winonah and Wah Leah Washines, lip sync; Teaira Manuel, piano; Annie Benson, Nicole Cree, Selda, David and Willie Gomez, lip sync.

Judges were Doris Cook, Dr. Chris Delecki and Carmen Buck.

## Indian sewing, beadwork winners honored

**TOPPENISH** — Winners in a sewing and craft contest at the Christmas Bazaar Dec. 1 in the Heritage Center Winter Lodge near Toppenish were announced by Winona Zack, secretary of the sponsoring Creative Alternates to Alcohol & Drugs Committee.

In beadwork, Natalie Pond, Pendleton, was first; Sammy

Telakish, Toppenish, second, and Kalea Benson, White Swan, third.

Traditional Indian sewing, Mary Phillips, Parker, first; Sandra Speedis, second, and Mary Phillips, third.

Modern sewing, Rose Peters' wedding dress, Toppenish, first; Geri Miller of Wapato two-piece dress, first, and wool coat, third.

Special awards — Lila Comes at Night, beaded checkbook case; Barbara Heilman, Wapato, sweat shirt; and Irene Cloud, Toppenish, beaded wallet.

### Now you know

President Truman's favorite sports were fishing and walking.