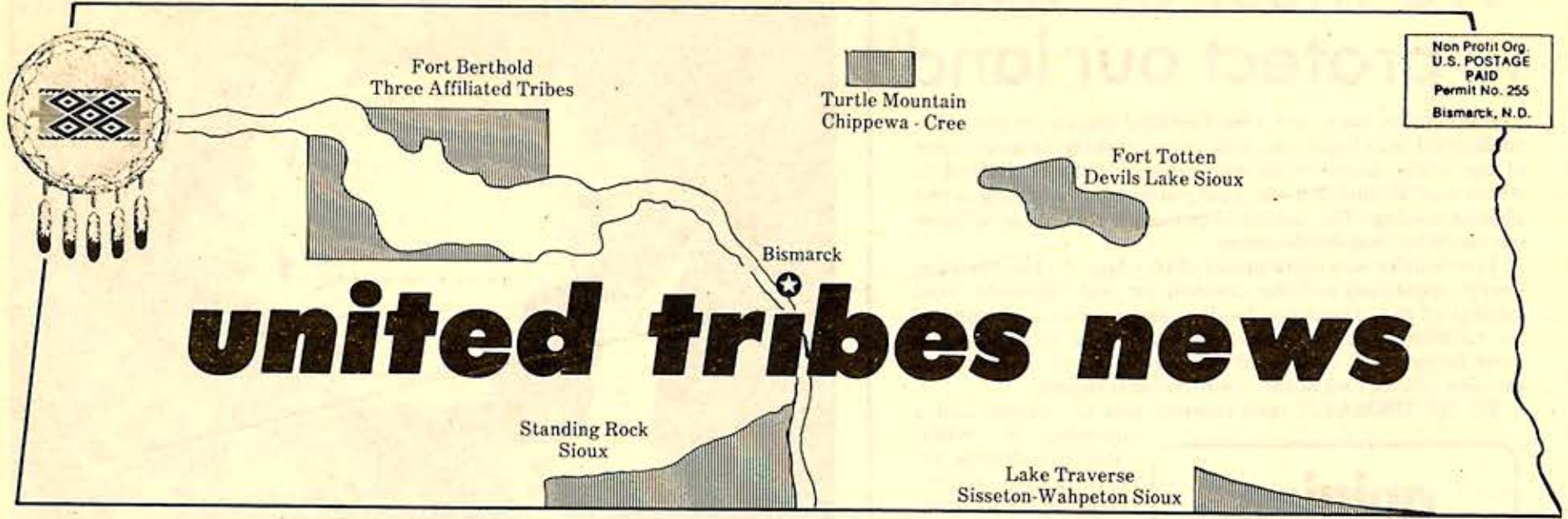


See United Tribes Days Supplement Inside



Vol. II No. III

Bismarck, N. D.

Sept. 25, 1975

N.D. Indians among poorest

BY KAREN HILFER

North Dakota Indians are one of the most impoverished groups in the nation, according to a recently published study.

The survey, *The North Dakota Indian Reservation Economy: A Descriptive Study*, was made by Dr. James J. Harris, Professor of Economics at the University of North Dakota.

HARRIS SAID IN HIS STUDY that, "Income for Indians in North Dakota is among the lowest recorded for states with a large Indian population."

The study shows that the difference of income between Indians and non-Indians is extreme. Sixty-nine per cent of all Indian men in North Dakota have an annual income of less than \$4,000 with the median income only \$2,287. North Dakota non-Indian men, on the other hand have a median income of \$4,930, with fifty-seven percent having an income of more than \$4,000. Seventeen per cent of the non-Indian men in North Dakota have an income of \$10,000 or more, whereas only three per cent of all Indian men have such an income.

Many Indians must depend on welfare payments to provide most of their means of existence. They receive income-support from the BIA and state social service agencies.

ALTHOUGH AVAILABLE, a large proportion of people below the poverty level are not receiving income assistance. The main reason for this is because eligibility requirements exclude many of the poor. Also, lack of knowledge and the stigma attached to welfare programs keep people from applying.

Unemployment rates for Indians in North Dakota are the highest for any state with a large Indian population. Also within the state they are higher for the Indian than for the non-Indian.

In 1970 the unemployment rate for the Indian male was 28.5 and only 4.6 per cent for the North Dakota male.

ONE REASON FOR THIS high rate can be attributed to



What does the future hold in store for Tommie Rousseau, 3, and thousands of North Dakota Indian children like her?

the lack of job opportunities on the reservation. The number of employing industries on the reservation are very few. Agriculture, once looked at as a major means of employin

Indians on the reservation, has decreased in importance because of mechanization of farming techniques.

The work experience that Indian do have are concentrated within a few predominant occupations, such as craftsmen, service workers and operatives.

The proportion of Indian family heads who do not work each year is 30 per cent. And those who do work, generally work less than 50 weeks out of the year. This means that about three times as many Indian families are without a wage earner as compared to other families within the state.

An important factor for the lack of income and high unemployment seems to be education.

THE MEDIAN NUMBER of school years completed by North Dakota Indians in 1970 was 8.9. Only 25 per cent graduated from high school and only nine per cent attended college. The rate for the general population was twice as high.

The completion rates on the reservations in North Dakota vary from ninety-six per cent at Fort Berthold to eighty-three per cent at Standing Rock. High school dropout rates are lowest for Fort Berthold, where there is a high labor-force participation and a low proportion of families in the bottom income group. The greatest dropout rate occurs at Turtle Mountain, where the unemployment rate is the highest.

THESE COMPLETION RATES are directly related to the level of family income, and the educational background and work experience of Indian parents, according to Dr. Harris. A young person who lives in poverty, he found, may be reasonably assumed to be less receptive to the idea of 12 to 16 years of schooling than an individual who has shared personally in the benefits of education.

These facts put Indians at a disadvantage in competing for jobs since employers put considerable weight on the number of completed school years.

INDIAN STUDENTS PERFORM as well as non-Indian

[continued on page 6]

commentary

Focusing on Tom Kleppe

Ask Indian leaders how they feel about Thomas Kleppe getting the nomination for secretary of the Interior Department, and you're likely to get a shrug.

They are not sure where the man stands on Indian affairs, and he's not saying. Officials at the Small Business Administration which Kleppe heads, say we can expect no public statements before the confirmation hearings, scheduled to begin later this month.

INDIANS WILL be affected by the appointment since the Bureau of Indian Affairs is an agency of the Interior Department. In recent years, Native Americans have complained that the department has been lax in protecting Indian lands from developers, and the National Congress of American Indians hopes to question Kleppe on this matter during the hearings.

People have been looking to the Indian community of North Dakota for an Indian

perspective because Kleppe, 56, is a product of this state: raised in Kintyre, N.D., he rose to become president of Gold Seal Co., mayor of Bismarck from 1950-54, and a U.S. representative from 1967-70.

BUT TOM KLEPPE has left little impression on our current Indian leaders. At a recent meeting, tribal officers of North Dakota's five reservations decided they didn't have enough information on the man to pass a resolution for or against the nomination.

Some of them had vague and slightly negative recollections of Kleppe's attitude during his unsuccessful Senate bid in 1970. They said that during the campaign, Kleppe, a Republican, passed over the predominantly Democratic reservations and their concerns. And it showed; the vote in Indian areas went two-to-one in favor of incumbent Democrat Quentin Burdick.

BUT IN ALL of our queries to Indian leaders and organizations, we came up with

no other solid information.

So we decided to dig around. And eventually we came up with some encouraging facts.

Despite his poor impression in 1970, Kleppe the Congressman did support major Indian legislation. Yea votes were registered on appropriations for the National Council on Indian Opportunities and on some reservation water rights legislation. In addition, Rep. Kleppe introduced legislation to place in trust certain land on the Standing Rock Reservation.

ESPECIALLY encouraging is the record of the SBA under Kleppe's administration. SBA officials in Washington and Fargo were glowing in their praise of the boss's support of Indian entrepreneurs, and they showed us a host of supporting facts. Since Kleppe took over in 1971, SBA has provided loans to 68 of the 73 known Indian businesses in North Dakota, loans which averaged \$30,000. During the last fiscal year, the Fargo office awarded \$16.5 million in



Thomas Kleppe

special contracts to Indian-owned businesses, a figure which represented 46 percent of its grants for the year.

The Denver region has taken on two Indians, including Fort Totten's Alfred McKay, as minority enterprise representatives. And Kleppe, they said, was a strong supporter of the Devils Lake Sioux Manufacturing Corp., a joint venture of the Devils Lake Tribe and the Brunswick Corp.

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'We must be free to protect our land'

Some years back, we Fort Berthold Indian people were confronted with large coal companies seeking to lease some of our lands. Some of us were aware of the conditions in which coal mining left the land, so we took a strong stand against leasing. The people voted down this move to lease our lands for coal development.

I personally was quite proud of this fact. As the need for energy continued and the demand for coal increased, coal mining off the reservation lands became active and many of the problems mining created came to light. Organizations were formed which opposed coal development without first taking a critical look at the environmental impact.

TO MY DISMAY, I read recently that our people had a

opinion

by John Fredericks



Fredericks is a Fort Berthold cattleman and president of the National American Indian Cattlemen's Association.

meeting in White Shield to discuss an exploratory permit with option to lease we were faced with, that our tribe negotiated with a coal company. I wonder who the "culprit" was that "thought" he knew more than the majority of people on Fort Berthold. Someone had to make the lease, and of course someone had to approve it. That is, if it went according to our traditional way of doing business.

I have been involved in meetings where I heard the chairman of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana

cursing the bureaucrats who got his tribe deeply into a coal lease contract on the reservation. He and his fellow council members are contesting to the Department of Interior to have this lease terminated. They have found many discrepancies on the part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who is our manager under the Department of Interior.

We have recently been meeting to establish a Native American Natural Resources Development Federation, involving the 26 Indian tribes of the Northern Great Plains. I personally think this is a very good move. However, there should be some grass-roots participation in selecting representatives on this commission, since they will be determining to a large extent how our natural resources will be developed and dispersed.

The time has come to look our problems square in the face and do something about them. If we cannot change the Bureau of Indian Affairs to serve the Indian community in a productive manner, then we should do away with the existing agency and develop our own agency to serve the Indian needs, while still assuring our sovereignty and federal relationship with the United States.

THE TIME HAS COME when we Indian people must shoulder our own responsibilities. All through the years, by traditions and culture, we have learned to respect our water, air and good Mother Earth where all living things come from.

All we ask is to be free to make decisions in protecting our rights and our way of life, on these lands that the federal government has set aside for us to live on tax free - "for as long as the grass grows and the rivers flow."



Gov. Arthur Link discusses Indian affairs at taping of Harriett Skye's "Indian Country Today" program. The governor sports a bolero tie presented to him when he was inducted as an honorary member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold.

Link voices support

Noting that "the shortcomings of Indians as a group are all too often pointed out," Gov. Arthur Link sounded a call this week for increased exposure of non-Indians to Native American values and accomplishments.

"A big problem is lack of understanding," he said. "We need an Indian curriculum studies program for all of our schools. All of us should know about the Indian heritage and values."

The governor made the comments during a guest appearance on "Indian Country Today," the television program hosted by Harriett Skye, director of United Tribes' office of public information.

The interview will be aired Saturday, Oct. 25, at 12:30 p.m., on KFJR-TV (Channel 5), Bismarck.

MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION was devoted to two resolutions on Indian problems which the North Dakota governor introduced in July at the Midwestern Governors' Conference in Cincinnati.

The policy statements, on Indian law enforcement and jurisdictional problems, were both passed unanimously at the conference and will be placed on the midwinter agenda of the National Governors' Conference.

Gov. Link spoke enthusiastically of the law enforcement resolution, which endorses the proposal currently being developed at United Tribes for a National Indian Criminal Justice Training Center.

"I THINK SOMETHING positive is going to come out of this," the governor said. "We are happy to work with you on it."

The resolution noted that United Tribes hopes to create a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program for Indian criminal justice personnel at the UTETC center in

Bismarck.

Gov. Link said the other, "rather broad and comprehensive" resolution which he submitted urged the federal government, the states and various tribes to resolve legal and jurisdictional conflicts and coordinate assistance programs on reservations.

"There is a constant conflict of authority regarding Indians," said Link, who has sought a conference of state, federal and Indian officials to deal with the problem.

GOV. LINK NOTED that these conflicts hinder Indian bills in the State Legislature.

"There is the feeling that this (funding programs for Indians) is a federal responsibility," he explained. "People think that if we get into some of this, then we will have to shoulder all of the responsibility."

The governor offered advice on how best to approach legislators for support on Indian issues. Each legislator should be contacted repeatedly, given extensive information and shown the urgency of the legislation. "It's a slow and arduous process," he said.

"THEY SHOULD BE taken to the reservation and shown by example. Not enough of our people have been exposed to Indian accomplishments. If they don't believe in what Indians can do, then they won't be real willing to commit funds to Indian programs."

"I have always had a desire for Indians to become part of the decision-making process," he told Skye.

THE NORTH DAKOTA Indian Affairs Commission, he said, should be strengthened as a liaison between the government and people.

"We need to instill in Indian people," he asserted, "that we really and truly want them to have an advocate and to strengthen their voice on the state level."

Focus on Tom Kleppe

[continued from page 1]

When the firm was organized here in 1973, SBA provided technical assistance and allocated what they believe was its largest Indian grant ever, \$11.9 million.

"ALL THAT is Tom Kleppe's doing, 110 percent," said E. Maine Shafer, North Dakota district director for SBA. "I think he feels that equal opportunity laws aren't built for Indians, that they're balanced more for blacks."

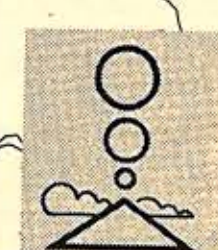
"He's spoken around the state about helping minorities to get into the business mainstream. That's been one of his priorities, if not the priority."

There is reportedly bi-partisan agreement that Kleppe modernized the SBA, which had a reputation of being one of the least effective agencies in the capital. His office was shaken last year by a loan scandal and investigation of improper political influences, resulting in the firing of two SBA officials. While some Congressmen charged

Kleppe with poor management and called for his resignation, he was not held personally responsible for any wrongdoing.

SO THERE ARE reasons to be hopeful. A possibility exists that as Interior secretary, Kleppe the businessman might lean toward the corporate energy interests and away from the tribes. But if he continues to develop the sensitivity that he has exhibited in the SBA post, Tom Kleppe may be a power whom Indians can trust.

(In any event, Kleppe's nomination relieved many people in Indian Country who were worried that the nod might go to Kent Frizzell, the Interior solicitor and acting secretary. They feel that Frizzell, who was a prime candidate for the nomination, has shown himself over the past few years to be "somewhat less than enthusiastic" about strengthening tribal governments. His appointment, they believed, would have jeopardized Indian efforts at self-determination.)



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Editor: Harriett Skye
 Assistant Editors: Jim Remsen, David Roach
 Associate Editors: Karen Hilfer, Sandy Steger
 Photography: Bill Miller, Karen Hilfer
 Advertising: David Roach
 Business Manager: Annette Yellowfat

Ft. Berthold says 'no' to coal

NEW TOWN — Earlier this month Anson Baker, superintendent of the Fort Berthold Reservation, nullified a prospecting permit and exclusive leasing option granted in 1970 to Consolidation Coal Co. [Consol].

In a letter to Consol, Baker said he was voiding the arrangement because the Bureau of Indian Affairs "did not sufficiently comply with the code of federal regulations" in the case. The BIA, he explained, should have obtained a "technical examination" of the environmental impact before issuing the permit.

Baker's decision was encouraged and later endorsed by the tribal council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold.

Under the permit, Consol technicians had spent several years exploring a tract of reservation land surrounding White Shield. Encouraged by its finding, the company moved to exercise its leasing option, and had been waiting some 17 months for Baker's decision on its application to begin mining.

Consol is expected to appeal the decision to the BIA area director in Aberdeen by the end of September.

By JIM REMSEN

The Fort Berthold coal case is a story of the seventies. It contains a message that is being heard throughout the Northern Great Plains, as tribes and other communities grow in awareness and seek to gain more control of their coveted natural resources.

To begin, take yourself back to the late sixties. Catch-phrases on the reservations then were economic development and self-sufficiency, and any plans to increase the money base were favorably received.

COAL DEVELOPMENT was hardly a burning issue. Fort Berthold has a massive deposit of the mineral; an estimated reserve of 15 billion tons, equalling about five percent of the state's lignite resources, lies beneath the reservation. And the prospect of digging it out of the land upset few people then.

So it was understandable that BIA officials at New Town, including Jim Keaton, then superintendent, and Ben Kirkaldie, trust and natural resources officer, were receptive when coal developers approached them in late 1967 about the possibility of marketing the coal.

The two BIA officials, carrying out their mineral management duties for the tribe, brought the developers before the Fort Berthold tribal council, where the pitch was repeated. Coal development would bring financial gain to the tribes, it was said. There could be more jobs, more money and a better life for the people.

THE COUNCIL members were interested, and asked the BIA to see if any companies wanted to explore for coal. In August, 1968, the BIA advertised that it was accepting bids for prospecting permits on four tracts of land in the southeastern corner of the reservation, on an area covering 128,000 of the tribe's 418,000 acres of trust land.

There were no takers. Experts said later that the demand for coal was too low, and that the terms of the permit were not favorable, since the BIA was requiring that at least \$10 per acre be spent on exploration.

The matter rested until late 1969, when the tribal council asked the BIA to try again. In January, 1970, a second notice was issued for the competitive sale of rights to prospect 175,000 acres, at a "development expenditure" now of only \$2 per acre.

THIS TIME a bidder was found. Consolidation Coal Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., offered a bonus of \$38,000 for the right to prospect Tract 2, a 34,000-acre area of grass and farmland near the little town of White Shield.

The bid was accepted, pending the approval of the 50 or 60 landowners on Tract 2. Consol set out to obtain these signatures, and the BIA's mining section in Washington was asked to draw up a permit.

Kirkaldie thinks the permit. Washington put together was modeled after coal permits on the Crow Reservation in Montana. It was for a period of two years, renewable by the superintendent, and gave Consol "exclusive option" to go to lease at any time during the prospecting period, by applying to the superintendent.

Signatures had not all been gathered by April 10, 1970, when Consol, the BIA and some landowners entered into mineral



Only Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and a few houses sit on the rolling farmland of Tract 2, where prospectors isolated a rich bed of lignite. Lake Sakakawea lies in the distance.

prospecting permit no. 14-20-A04-2432.

SOON AFTER, the first drill rigs began rumbling down Tract 2's dirt roads. Exploration teams from the Bismarck office selected about 180 sites and began sinking holes 200 feet down with the portable rigs. Samples were removed for tests on density, temperature and other conditions. The holes then were plugged with concrete.

This was a slow process, and the company had to put up another \$38,000 in April, 1972, to have the permit renewed for another two years.

In the end, \$1 million was spent on exploration, said Tom Hoffman, Consol's head of public relations for the region.

The test results, however, indicated that this had been a good investment. They had isolated a potentially good project.

See John Fredericks opinion on page 2.

Parts of Tract 2 were found to contain reserves of low-sulphur lignite in excess of 200 million tons, an average prospect for the state and easily acceptable to the utilities which Consol would seek to supply. It was "surface-recoverable" coal, and probably would be mined with drag lines.

Hoffman said Consol had done only preliminary planning with the project, and expected progress to be slow since they were dealing with the government. Whenever a coal lease is approved on a reservation, the lease must file for approval with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management.

Obtaining a lease is the first step in this process. And so Consol, hoping for the best, notified the superintendent on April 3, 1974, that it wished to exercise its exclusive option to lease 27,821 of the 34,231 acres on Tract 2. Of the desired acres, 8,132 were owned by individual Indians and 19,688 were tribal lands and mineral estates.

The company indicated that it would pay royalties of 15 cents per ton if the coal was marketed on the reservation, and 12½ cents per ton if it were taken off. Royalties would have gone to both the tribal treasury and the individual landowners, depending on where the coal was mined.

RECLAMATION also would have been undertaken according to state requirements, at a cost averaging \$3,000 per acre. Hoffman said that after mining, Consol would have hauled back the topsoil, regraded the land to its original topography, and reseeded.

Consol's notice was met with silence and delay. They were to receive no official reply until 17 months later, when Anson Baker said no deal.

Baker's letter should have been expected. For what had occurred while Consol explorers had been intently digging was a reversal of the forces on the reservation, a total change in the wishes of the people involved. Baker was in effect carrying out their mandate.

Like others directly involved by strip mining, the people on Tract 2 had grown fearful of the drag lines and angry at their public servants.

THE TURNABOUT had been prompted by some of the younger and more educated members of the tribe, who had gotten wind of the negative implications of coal development.

One of these people was Phyllis Howard, coordinator of Fort Berthold Community College. She said that in 1971, she and others contacted people who had researched strip mining, particularly at Black Mesa near the Four Corners region of the Southwest.

A questionnaire was circulated on Tract 2, which revealed that few of the people who signed their agreement realized that an exclusive option to mine was included in the permit.

Meetings with the tribal council were organized in the White Shield area, at which tribal members shared their grievances and concerns. Examples were given of alleged duress, coercion and other improper means used by Consol in obtaining signatures and in prospecting.

Films and speakers on strip mining were brought in, and some residents took trips to coal operations in North Dakota and Montana.

THE FEARS GREW. Talk was heard of a gasification plant system in the state, and residents envisioned clouds of pollution over their land, although Hoffman said Consol had never gotten to that stage of planning.

"The BIA and Consol were just trying to ram all this down our throats," said Austin Gillette, a young tribal council member who was active in the resistance.

BIA and Consol officials had a chance to address the meetings, but the people had decided. At one meeting, attended by some 70 tribal members, a motion to allow no coal development was unanimously approved.

The tribal council also had become apprehensive of wholesale energy development. The council called an oil and gas moratorium in October, 1973, and asked Baker to hold off on signing any coal leases until expert advice could be received.

THE BIA and the tribal council asked Thomas Fredericks, director of the Native American Rights Fund, to research what rights Consol had in the case. In a lengthy opinion dated Dec. 3, 1974, Fredericks argued that Consol should not be entitled to go to lease, since the permit had been drawn up improperly and did not serve the tribe's best interest.

Fredericks noted three instances of BIA violation of federal regulations. The agency, he wrote, did not obtain a technical examination of possible environmental effects, issued an "exclusive option", which went beyond the allowable "preference right," and specified a \$2 per acre expenditure where \$10 was required.

"Once Consol obtained a permit with exclusive option," Fredericks wrote, "the Three Affiliated Tribes lost forever its right to evaluate prior to lease the terms and conditions under which the coal reserve would be mined."

IN JUNE, the General Accounting Office completed a review for the BIA of mining resources on Fort Berthold, and charged the New Town Agency with lacking initiative and planning for coal development, providing no expertise to the tribes, and having no reclamation monitoring.

After this information was in, it was decided that the coal permit had been a mistake and Baker's letter of denial was drafted.

"I HOPE THIS doesn't damage the tribe's reputation with developers," observed Baker. "This isn't a case of the tribe saying no. It's a case of the federal government—owning up to some of its shortcomings."

Kirkaldie asserted that all along, the BIA just was doing what the tribes wanted.

Fredericks tends to agree. "To be fair," he observed, "you have to admit the BIA wasn't acting out of conspiracy with the coal company. They were acting more out of ignorance. They were being encouraged by the tribe, and neither knew what they were getting in to."

Hoffman said Consol "is naturally disappointed, since this wasn't related to anything we failed to do. To spend five years and over \$1 million in exploration, and then be told that the BIA didn't act right, is disappointing. I wish we could have straightened it out earlier."

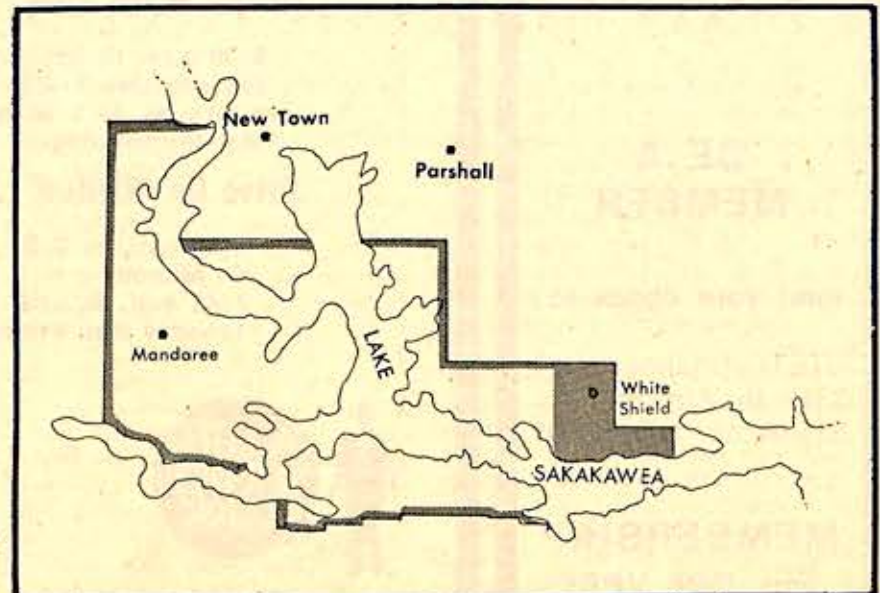
"WE ARE AT a turning point now," he said. "It's clear that reservations all over the Central Great Plains are taking a new look at coal development. Once they decide on a course of action, things will be easier for everyone."

What is the Fort Berthold tribe's present policy on developing its resources? Maybe yes on oil, gas and water, but no way on coal, said Gillette. Inventories currently are being done of their water, gas and oil supplies.

"I can see tapping our oil and gas," Gillette said, "because they don't disrupt the farmland."

"Maybe in the future, if strip mining regulations are improved, we will consider a joint venture between a coal company and the tribe, where we share half of the profits and get some workers in."

"Maybe. But for now, the people have spoken — no way on coal."



Center of the action was the gray area around White Shield

Crow sues U.S. on Coal

BILLINGS, Mt. — The Crow Tribe has filed suit against the Commissioners of the Interior Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs asking that most coal leases and permits on the Crow Reservation be cancelled.

Five coal companies have access to tribally owned coal underlying about 10 percent of the Montana reservation.

THE SUIT, FILED Sept. 19, in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., charges the BIA with "complete mismanagement of the Crow tribal resources," and claims that the permits and leases of four of the coal companies are illegal and not binding on the tribe.

The tribe charges the Interior Department with a conflict of interest between serving Indian tribes and carrying out national energy policies of coal development.

The action is seen as part of an effort by tribes to wrest mineral management control from the BIA.

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs put the Crow Tribe on the wrong road," Crow tribal chairman Patrick Standsoverbull said in a press conference called here Sept. 19 to announce the suit. He said the Crows hope to "wipe the slate clean and start new."

STANDSOVERBULL SAID that the disputed coal deals never received the approval of the Crow tribal council. "It is our belief, and conviction," he said, "that the Crow tribal council has the sole authority to approve any sale on lease of our resources."

The Crow, he stressed, are not necessarily opposed to coal development. Rather, he said, they seek an opportunity to formulate their own terms which would protect the tribe.

At the time the leases were entered into, Standsoverbull said, the tribe did not realize, and was not made aware of, the potential environmental and social impact of development.

IN JANUARY, 1975, several years after the first permits were signed, the BIA provided the first environmental impact statement on coal development. It reported that "the adverse impacts would be dilution of the Crow way of life through increased industrial activity. This could mean loss

of cultural heritage and even the eventual extinction of the Crow language."

This statement, and reports from tribal attorneys, prompted the suit, which charges that the BIA violated its trust responsibility by not complying with the Code of Federal Regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act in issuing the permits and leases.

The suit seeks to cancel the coal leases of Shell Oil Co. and Amax Coal, and the prospecting permits held by Gulf Oil Co. and Peabody Coal Co. The tribe, Standsoverbull said, will not renegotiate with any of the four firms.

ONLY WESTMORELAND RESOURCES, which had renegotiated its lease to provide higher royalty payments, is not mentioned in the suit.

"It became clear to us," Standsoverbull said in a statement, "that the Crow people and our lands are not adequately protected from the problems that this development would bring."

"There are presently no tribal strip mining regulations and reclamation laws that would guarantee the restoration of our lands. There is no land use plan and zoning regulations that would allow us to control the massive influx of people. Also, a comprehensive law and order code, utility citing act and taxation code have not yet been adopted by the Crow tribal council."

"IF WE ARE TO PROTECT ourselves from the potentially devastating impacts of coal development, then we must first be prepared by establishing laws and then by creating a system to enforce those laws. Work has already begun to draft the needed legislation."

In a letter to tribal members, the council explained that "the key to the successful and profitable development of our coal is the Crow Tribe's ability to control all coal development on our own terms, and not on the terms of any outside special interest groups."

In the 20-page lawsuit, the tribe explained its grievances with the BIA. "The defendants," it said, "have recommended and approved leases and permits which are

"The projected development could be a blessing or a curse. If the Crow tribe can control this development and maximize the beneficial aspects of mining on the reservation, we could realize economic self-sufficiency."

"But, if the proposed development is not controlled, the Crow people in 50 years will simply be the victims of the classic boom and bust cycle that has so often been seen throughout this nation."

— Patrick Standsoverbull
Crow Tribal Chairman

saturated with violations of the BIA's own regulations.

"THE DEFENDANTS HAVE violated their regulations by approving permits and leases in excess of acreage limitations and tract configuration requirements. In addition, the defendants have failed to provide technical exams on the impact of coal development, which are a required precondition to approval of leases and permits."

"The defendants as trustees have utterly failed to protect the economic interest of the Crow Tribe. The defendants have failed to investigate or realize the economic potential of the Crow coal resources; the defendants have failed to bargain for equitable rates and terms; and the defendants recommended and approved terms and rates which are one-sided, improvident and unconscionable."

"THE DEFENDANTS HAVE indicated a consistent predisposition to the swift development of Crow coal resources; the Crow tribe alleges the failure of the defendants to meet their trust responsibility is related to the conflict of interest in the Department of Interior between the responsibility for the execution of national energy policies based on development of western coal, on the one hand, and the responsibility as trustee to manage and supervise Crow coal resources on the other."

The Interior Department and BIA, which were not represented at the press conference, will be defended by the Justice Department.

Suspects arrested at Pine Ridge and Rosebud

PINE RIDGE — Several more murder and assault cases were being investigated this month on Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations.

Jesse Bear Shield, 27, of Manderson on Pine Ridge, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder in connection with the March shooting of Stacy Cortier, 18, near Manderson. Bear Shield had previously been arrested and charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of William Steel, also in March near Manderson.

The FBI arrested three men on charges of second-degree murder stemming from the beating death earlier this month of James

Little, 35, of Oglala. The three were identified as Thomas Chief Eagle, 25; Johnson Bear Robe, 19; and Fred Marrow Bone, 19, all of Oglala.

At Rosebud, FBI agents arrested seven persons in connection with an alleged assault earlier this month on the reservation. The seven, including American Indian movement spiritual leader Leonard Crow Dog, was held under \$5,000 bond.

Refuse to talk

RAPID CITY — Three witnesses have twice refused to testify to a federal grand

jury here about the June 26 shooting on the Pine Ridge Reservation which left two FBI agents dead.

The three witnesses, Angie and Ivis Long Visitor and Joanne Ledeaux, claimed that under the Laramie Treaty in 1868, the Sioux Indian Nation is sovereign, and the grand jury thus does not have jurisdiction to subpoena them.

The grand jury voted to hold the three in

contempt. They could be jailed until they agree to testify.

news briefs

Means denied

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — A motion asking that the trial of American Indian Movement leader Russell Means be placed under jurisdiction of the federal court system was denied Sept. 12 by U.S. District Court Judge Fred Nichol.

Means has pleaded innocent to riot and injury to a public building in a disturbance in the Minnehaha County Courthouse on April 30, 1975.

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Thompson ponders leaving BIA

WASHINGTON (AIPA) — Sources close to Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner Morris Thompson have told AIPA the commissioner is considering a departure from the BIA within several months to run for the position of Alaska representative in the U.S. Congress.

If Thompson leaves the BIA soon, Deputy Commissioner Harley Frankel, a non-Indian, would most likely assume temporary command.

The seat Thompson would seek to win in next year's Alaska state election, if he does



Morris Thompson

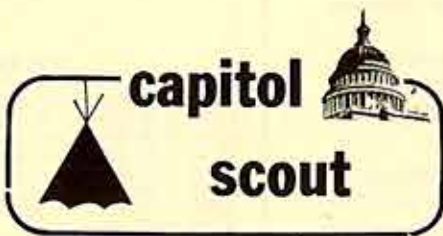
leave the BIA, would be that presently held by Rep. Don Young, an Alaska Republican.

Alaska state law requires all public candidates to file their intentions to run by next June 1.

Thompson's political allies in Alaska are known to be pressing him strongly for a decision and a departure from the BIA.

Thompson was named BIA area director for Alaska in 1971. He took the oath of office as Indian Commissioner on Dec. 3, 1973, almost a year to the day after the BIA had gone without a fully-confirmed commissioner.

Thompson, an Athabascan and the fifth



Indian in history to lead the BIA, now for nearly two years, would be the first Alaska Native to hold a seat in the U.S. Congress if he enters the Alaska primary and wins the 1976 election.

Insiders told AIPA that Thompson, young at 36, is concerned that most former Indian commissioners "have nowhere to go but down," and that he has 30 years or so of potential public service ahead.

Thompson's present annual salary as Indian commissioner is \$34,000. As a Congressman he would draw \$42,500 annually, plus benefits of the new Congressional pay raise tied to a cost of living allowance between 5 and 8.6 percent.

Rep. Young currently serves on the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

Of, by and for

The American Indian National Bank of Washington, D.C., was selected as the first private lender in the history of Indian Affairs to make loans under the Indian Finance Act of 1974. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson and Charles W. Swallow, senior vice president of the bank, have signed an agreement which establishes a mutual arrangement and understanding for the making of loans by private lenders and the guaranteeing of loans by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Under the provisions of the Indian

Finance Act, up to \$200 million in loans made by private lenders to Indians and tribes can be guaranteed or insured for up to 90 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due. This act also provides for interest subsidies that will reduce interest charges paid by the borrowers.

Swallow, an Oglala Sioux, said that the act will have a tremendous impact on Indian country.

EDA offerings

More than \$200 million has been granted to Indian tribes and communities by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration since the office was established in 1965. The grants have been used for such programs as creating jobs for the unemployed, public works, industrial park and plant development and construction, business development loans, planning grants, technical assistance for feasibility studies and construction of community and recreational centers.

These projects were among 877 selected by Secretary of Commerce Rogers C. B. Morton in June for participation in the Job Opportunities Program which is being carried out under an amendment adding Title X to the Public Works and Economic Development Act. Title X provides for projects that will put the unemployed to work in their home communities, said Wilmer D. Mizell, assistant secretary of Commerce, and is designed to assist tribes and reservations in assessing resources and in developing vocational skills.

The aim of the program is to attract commerce and industry which will help the tribes diversify their economies and create long-range, year-round jobs for unemployed and underemployed workers.

JOM revision

Controversial regulations contained in the amendments to the 1934 Johnson O'Malley Act (JOM) are expected to be clarified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs by November, and submitted to Congress for approval.

JOM provides for the BIA to contract with state, local and private educational, health and welfare agencies to provide services to Indians, and calls for increasing services to the Indian population through the same facilities supplying non-Indians.

At issue is a provision that states that services to non-Indian students cannot be paid out of JOM monies, although they can take part in programs with Indian students. Another amendment which has caused confusion gives Indian parents on education committees the power to veto programs and to challenge the power of school boards.

Indian education directors from 13 states recently asked the BIA to clarify the provisions.

CAP hearings

In the end of September or early October, the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Energy Research and Water Resources will hold hearings in Washington, D.C., on the controversial Central Arizona Project (CAP) which intends to route the Colorado River waters into Phoenix and Tucson for municipal and industrial uses.

Among points of view expected to be heard: the Ft. McDowell Tribe, which would be flooded out largely by the project; the central state tribes, who believe water they will obtain is insufficient for their needs; the western river tribes of Arizona, who believe the river is already over-appropriated and over-salinated; state offices, which are booming the development; and environmental groups, who oppose state interests.

Clayton Hirst case heats up

GREAT FALLS, MT. — A \$35 million lawsuit has been filed against Montana authorities by the family and tribe of a Blackfeet Indian, Clayton Hirst, who died under disputed circumstances in March at Glacier County Jail, Cutbank, Mt.

While state officials reported at the time that Hirst had hanged himself, the Blackfeet believe they have evidence to prove that he was electrocuted first. And such an action, they say, would be part of a pattern of repression by the state.

"CLAYTON HIRST was intelligent, vocal and proud of his Indian heritage, and for this reason Glacier County jail authorities electrocuted him to death," said Melvin Belli, a prominent San Francisco attorney who filed the suit along with Philip Roy.

Because of extensive press coverage, a gag order has been issued by the U.S. District Court here, where the suit was filed Aug. 19.

Hirst, 22, had been jailed Feb. 28 for "excessive drinking," and later was charged with "malicious mischief." County Coroner William Riddle announced that Hirst had been found dead in his cell, and ruled after performing an autopsy that the young Indian had died from "self-inflicted hanging" by a belt.

HIRST'S FAMILY, remembering that Clayton rarely wore a belt,

was dissatisfied. The Blackfeet Tribal Council paid to have the body exhumed and sent to California, where another autopsy was performed by the San Francisco Medical Examiners office. Veteran coroner Dr. Robert Wright said his examination revealed evidence that Hirst was electrocuted, then hanged after he was dead.

THE LAWSUIT was brought by Hirst's brother, James, and father, Jack, and by the Blackfeet Indian Nation. It seeks damages on seven claims, including the allegation that Hirst was denied freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, and was denied a fair jury trial and assistance of counsel and life.

The suit also charges that the state officials named "have subjected Blackfoot Indians to acts of aggression, violence, torture and death, in direct violation of the treaties between the Blackfoot Nation and the Territory of Montana and the United States."

NAMED AS defendants were Glacier County, City of Cut Bank, State of Montana, Attorney General Robert Woodhal, Glacier County Sheriff Jean Gertzen, Glacier County Coroner William Riddle, Cut Bank Police Chief William Bruch, Glacier County Attorney John Moore, County Deputy William Koepke and others.

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our lore



The following is an excerpt from "Circle of Life," one of the five books comprising the American Indian Curriculum Development Program's recently completed junior high school teaching packet. The text was written by Jane Kirchmeier, with artwork by Butch Thunderhawk.

The games children played were educational. In these games boys and girls learned to become swift and strong.

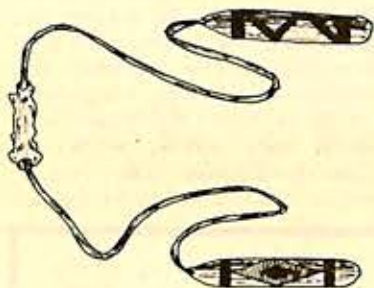
WOSKATE PASLOHANPI (pronounced wo-shke-teh-ba-slo-hun-pe). Game of Javelins: We made a javelin from a willow branch. It was a pole, three to six feet long, and it tapered to a point at one end. We peeled the bark from it to make it smooth. We held the javelin in the middle and threw it at a target. The boy who was most accurate was the winner.

Sometimes we decided that the one who threw it the farthest distance won the game.

Girls played a similar game with a horned javelin. They fastened a tip of an elk horn to one end. The game was played by throwing the javelin so that it would strike and slide on the snow or ice. The one whose javelin slid farthest won the game.

HOHU YOURMONPI (pronounced ho-hu you-gh-mun-pe). Bone Whirler: The bone whirler was made with a foot bone from a large animal attached to a 12 inch-long piece of sinew. At each end of the sinew string, a stick was fastened to use as a handle.

A boy held each handle and whirled the bone to twist the sinew. He then drew the



bone whirler

string tight, which made the bone turn rapidly in the opposite direction. This process was repeated many times.

A number of boys, each with a bone whirler, would imitate fighting bulls. The buzz of the bone whirler represented the bellowing of the animals.

They approached each other and struck the bones together. If the bone of any player stopped, he was defeated.

Report finds N. D. Indians 'among poorest'

[continued from page 1]

students in the early elementary grades. But this performance falls when he enters the secondary and college levels. This factor is attributed mainly to psychosocial factors such as the degree of adherence to Indian values by the family.

Some advancement as far as training, education and employment have been made in recent years through the manpower and other government programs. "However," Dr. Harris said, "there is still a long way to go."

THIS IS ALL a vicious cycle. Indians have difficulty in finding jobs because of the lack of education. The frustration and poverty of the working-age Indian acts as a disincentive for the young. There is no compulsion for them to go on with their education after the eighth grade.

Indians poorest group in U.S.

PIERRE, SD - Indians are the most poverty-stricken group in America, the South Dakota Office of Economic Opportunity has declared in a report compiled on poverty in that state.

Jurisdictional problems have caused poor delivery of services to Indians, the report indicated. It said federal policy towards Indians should be clarified, and urged state human development agencies to set up cooperative liaisons with tribes for the sharing of expertise.

INCOME IN 1969 OF PERSONS BY SEX:
NORTH DAKOTA INDIANS, NORTH DAKOTA, AND UNITED STATES

	Males		Females	
	N.D. Indians ^a	N. Dak. ^b	N.D. Indians ^a	N. Dak. ^b
Less than \$1,000	26.6	13.3	35.9	37.4
\$1,000 to \$1,999	20.3	11.8	18.8	19.4
\$2,000 to \$2,999	10.5	9.7	15.9	13.1
\$3,000 to \$3,999	11.6	8.2	11.6	11.0
\$4,000 to \$4,999	8.4	7.5	6.4	7.0
\$5,000 to \$5,999	6.6	8.4	3.8	4.2
\$6,000 to \$6,999	6.1	7.8	2.7	2.8
\$7,000 to \$7,999	3.5	6.7	2.1	1.8
\$8,000 to \$9,999	3.5	9.7	2.1	1.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.5	10.8	.4	.9
\$15,000 or more	.4	6.1	.3	.5
Median Income	\$2287	\$4930	\$1751	\$1651
Mean Income	\$2108	\$6009	\$2280	\$2367
Total Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
with income	82.3	90.3	63.5	59.1
without income	17.7	9.7	36.5	40.9

^a Calculated from: U.S. Census of the Population: 1970, Vol. II, Subject Report, American Indians, p. 33.

^b Calculated from: U.S. Census of the Population: 1970, Vol. I, Detailed Characteristics: North Dakota, p. 8.

United Tribes to host education seminar

United Tribes of North Dakota next month will host five sessions of the fourth National Seminar in Indian Education, organized by the Center for In-service Education.

Several hundred people are expected to attend the sessions, which will be conducted from Oct. 4-8 at the United Tribes Employment Training Center and the Holiday Inn in Bismarck.

THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a session on alternative programs for urban Indians will be presented from Oct. 1-3. From there the participants will move to Bismarck for the remaining four sessions.

The portion here will begin with a program Oct. 4-5 entitled "Focus on the Plains Indians." The session deals with the history and culture of the Plains Indians, with special attention given to the present efforts of local educational groups.

THE SECOND SESSION, Oct. 6-8, is entitled "Teaching Reading and Language Arts to the Indian Child." It includes bilingual, bicultural and ESL, (English as a Second Language) programs, language-experience approach to reading, show and tell of educational materials developed by teachers, school systems and curriculum programs.

"Utilizing Community Resources in Education" will be the topic of the third session Oct 7. Discussed will be the use of tribal elders and other local resource people in educational programs, and the developments of oral history projects.

The seminar will conclude Oct. 8, with a session on Native American publications.

Co-chairpersons of the seminar are State Rep. Art Raymond, Sioux, chairman of Indian studies at the University of North Dakota; and Sam Billison, Navajo, school superintendent at Fort Defiance Agency.

The seminar will afford one or two hours of graduate or undergraduate college credit, for the additional cost of tuition.

For information, contact the Center for In-service Education, Box 754, Loveland, Colo. 80537.

Native recipes

PUMPKIN SOUP

- 1 (lb. 13 oz.) can water-pack pumpkin puree
- 1 quart milk
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup or light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered margoram
- dash fresh ground pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon mace
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Juice of 1 orange

Heat pumpkin puree, milk, butter, and honey together slowly in a large saucepan, stirring.

Combine maple sugar, marjoram, pepper, cinnamon, mace and salt. Stir into pumpkin-milk mixture. Heat slowly, stirring to simmering point. Do not boil.

Add the orange juice, a little at a time, stirring constantly. Serve hot.

[From an Indian recipe book compiled by the staff of the United Tribes Employment Training Center. Copies are available for 75 cents by writing to the Office of Public Information at United Tribes, 3315 S. Airport Rd., Bismarck, N.D. 58501]

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Sixth Annual United Tribes Days

They danced to pounding drums, to chants of native songs. They danced afternoons under warm Dakota skies. In rainbow-hued costumes of buckskin and feathers with bells and beads and chimes, they danced into the freeze of early morning hours.

Not more than 100 yards away, another culture played out its heritage, its traditions: the rodeo. The neighing and whines of horses. Bulls bellowing, groaning, pawing. The cowboys — macho, strutting men of strength and skill.

Generations ago, the white man had brought the horse. But the Indian knew its value and mastered roping and riding, branding and bulldogging. This rodeo was theirs, too.

United Tribes Days. Like a magnet it drew record crowds of spectators and competitors from across the nation. A magnet that held and celebrated the lore and heritage of Native Americans. It was an Indian holiday to be remembered.



dancing and singing



Through the balmy afternoons and into the cool nights the drumbeat continued, propelling hundreds of dancers around the ring and drawing throngs of spectators to the wings.

For hours the singers took turns sounding out their traditional tattoos, as dozens in the crowd captured the quality music on cassette.

For session after extended session, the dancers, fancy and traditional, bustle and non-bustle, stepped tirelessly with the beat. The feathers, fringe and bells of their dazzling costumes shook in time, their faces showing joy and pride.

Gradually their numbers dwindled, as the judges discarded the lesser participants in this most prestigious of powwows. Into the last night the finalists paced themselves, disregarding weariness and cold weather, and saving a burst for the end.

Finally, in a chilly ceremony early Monday morning, the judges tabulated the points and awarded certificates and checks to the premier performers. Then, the victory song, ending the sixth annual United Tribes Days, a marathon and memorable celebration of Indian culture.

The top prize of \$700 was awarded to the winner of the popular men's fancy dance. This went to Gordon Lasley, 22, a Sac and Fox from Tama, Iowa.

Winner for the second consecutive year of the men's straight (bustle) category was Wayne Goodwill, 34, of Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

Ellis Head, 65, of Saint Francis, S.D., captured the men's straight (non-bustle) title for the third consecutive year.

Top women's shawl dancer was Kim Dickenson, 17, of Minneapolis, Minn. Dianne Redman, 23, of Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, was the winner of the women's traditional dancing contest.

For the second straight year, the judges named the Badlands Singers, of Brocton, Mt., as the top singing group in the

international competition.

Other winners were Brian Ziegler, of Lower Brule, S.D., in the boy's straight dancing contest (15 years and under); Tony Brown, of Ronan, Mt., in the boy's contest (11 to 15 years); Damon Brady, of Wahpeton, N.D., in the little boy's (10 and under) contest; Verzella Condon, of Cherry Creek, S.D., in the girl's traditional (15 and under) contest; Lolita Attack Him, of Porcupine, S.D., in the girl's contest (11 to 15); and Michele Means, of Rapid City, S.D., in the little girl's (10 and under) dancing contest.

The sportsmanship award went to Stuart Decorah, of Webster, Wisc. Richard Bad Moccasin was chairman of the dance contest.

It is the drum that is our heartbeat, and we who sing and dance express our happiness with life, our gratitude to the creation. Some drums have been stilled. Some use the songs to entertain. Some dance and no longer know why. But you singers who have kept the songs; you, dancers who know the spirit of the drums, keep us strong as we join you.

— from Akwasasne Notes



classic rodeo finals

The stands filled with people, the air with anticipation and the arena with dust as North Dakota's top cowpokes stampeded into United Tribes for the 1975 finals of the North Dakota Rodeo Association and the Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association.

For two action-packed days and nights, the riders roped and rode in four championship go-rounds. The camaraderie was evident as the wire competitors, many riding in both leagues, laughed and cheered during the events, then partied together into the early morning.

The festivities were concluded on Sunday with a special match meet between the newly named champions of the two leagues. Hundreds filled the stands to see the NDRA cowboys ride to a slim 36-34 victory.

Denver Jorgenson, of Dickinson, the NDRA's 1975 all-around champion, won both saddle bronc and bareback riding in the match meet.

Bull riding was captured by Fred Berger, of Mandan, representing the NDRA.

Steer wrestling was captured by Del Fritzler, of Montana's Crow Agency, riding for the GPIRA.

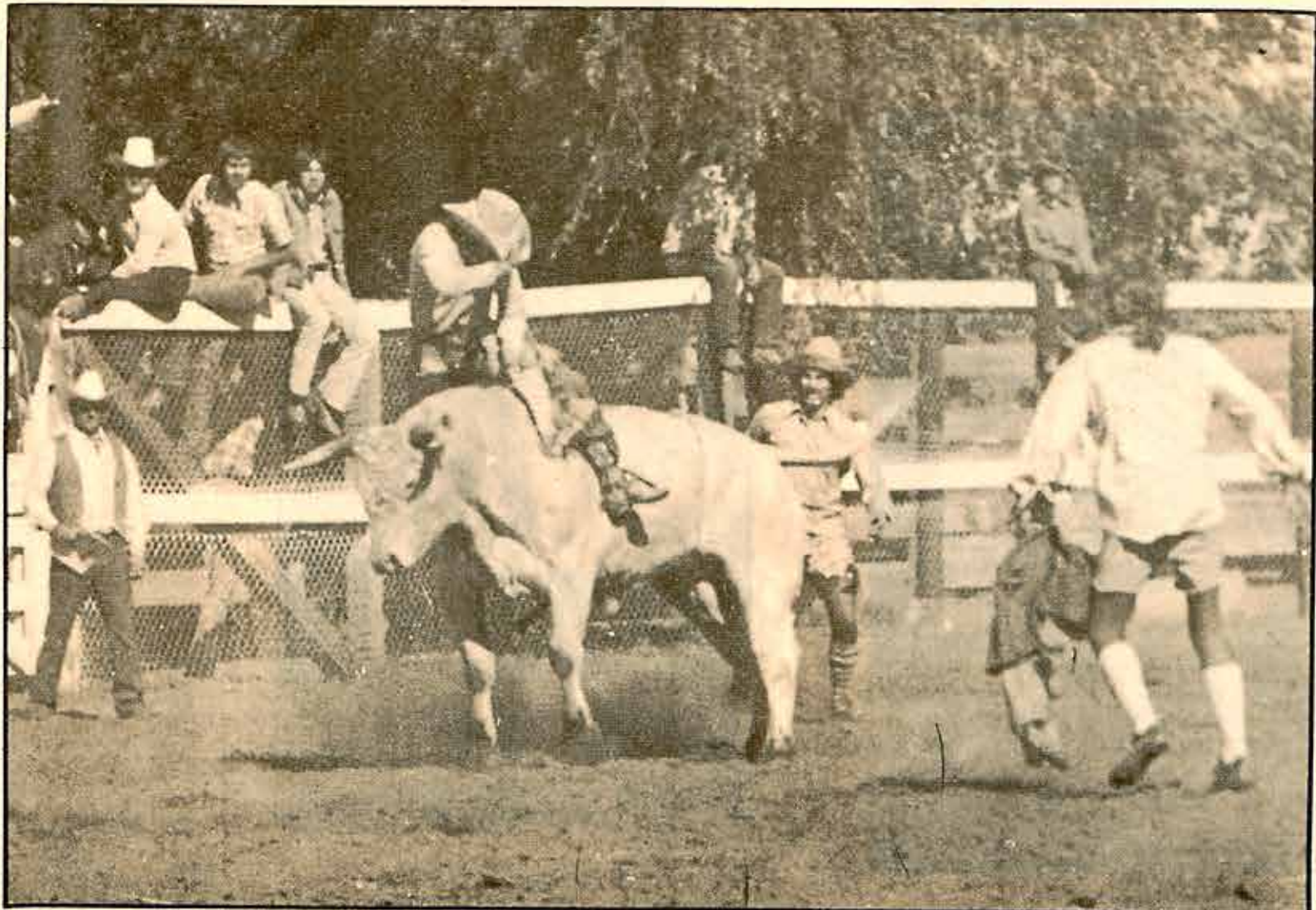
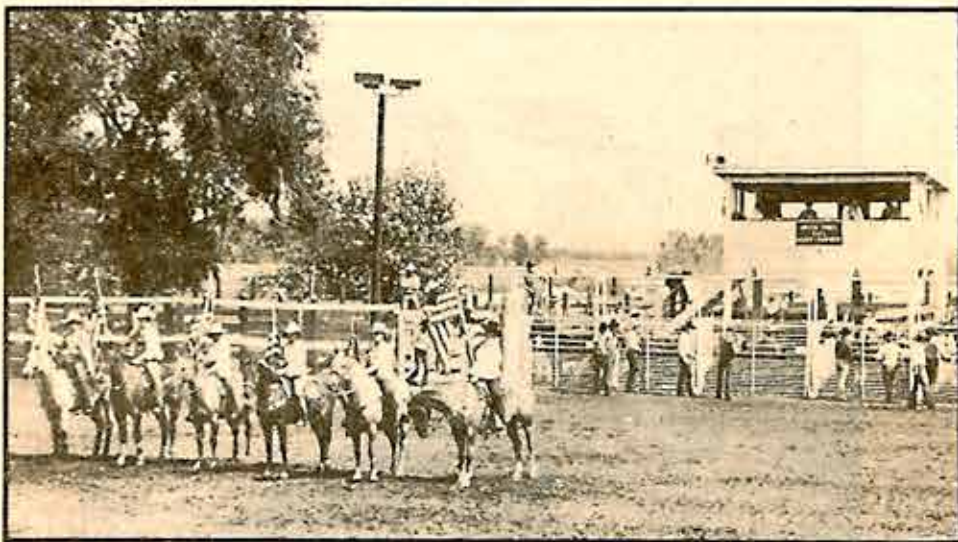
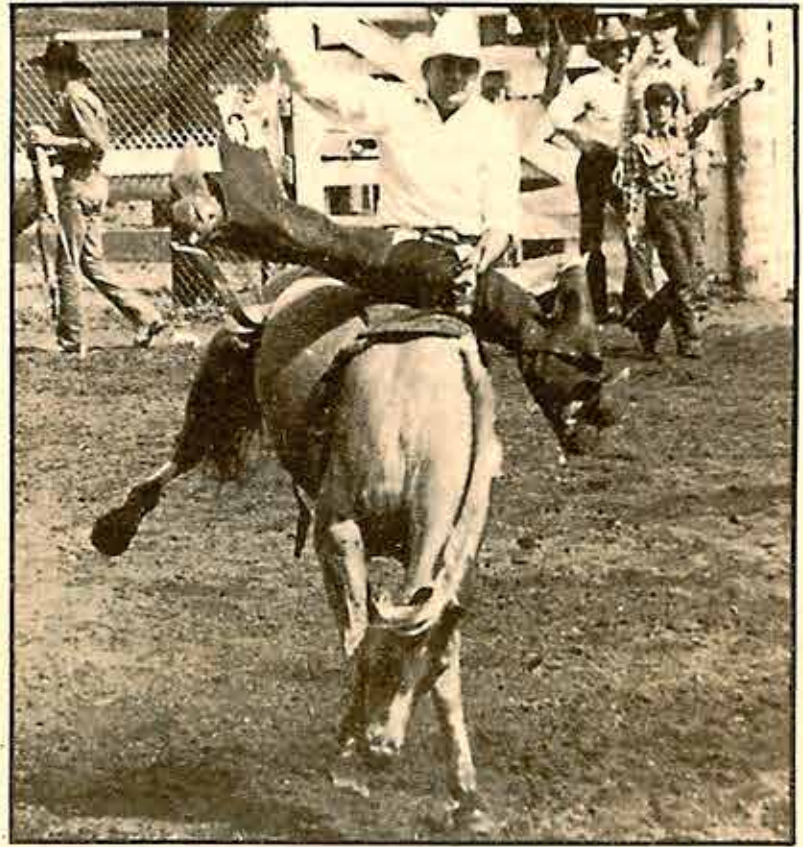
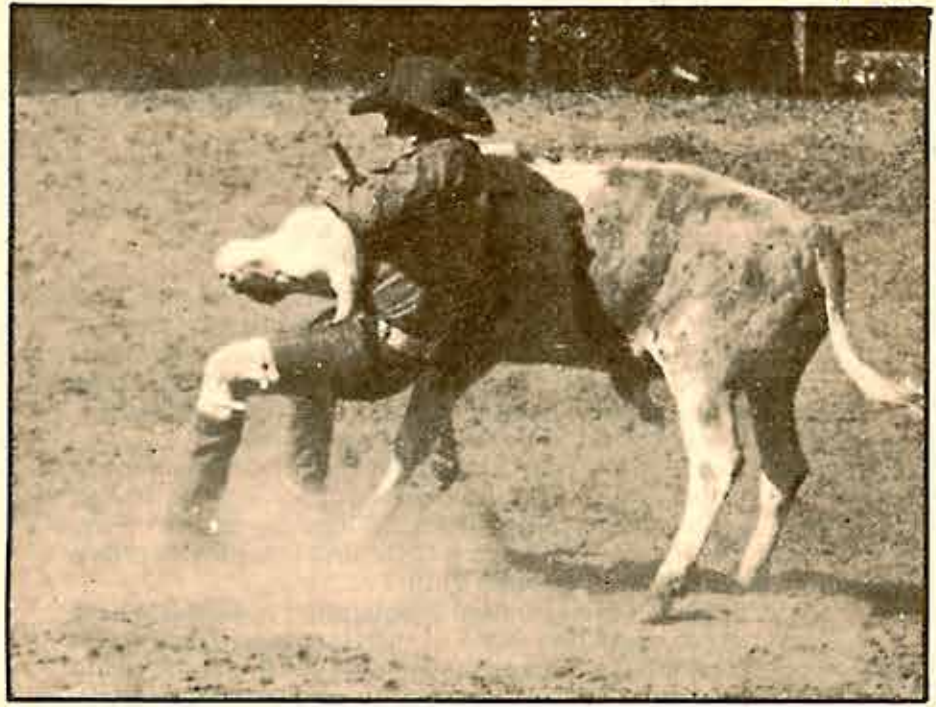
Clinton Small, of Ashland, Mt., got the GPIRA another first by winning the calf roping contest.

Team roping was won by the NDRA team of Harvey Billaudeau, of Parshall, and Bud Anderson, of Mandan.

The NDRA's Linda Haas, of Mandan, took the barrel racing title.

The NDRA's Dean Meyer, Milo Walling and Larry Stall won the wild horse race.

The all-around champion for the GPIRA was Kenny Danks of Mandaree, and the all-around champion for the NDRA was Denver Jorgenson of Dickinson.



first Indian art show

"I like his horses."
"Oooo, look at the turtle."
"This is a great show."

These were among the remarks overheard at the first annual Plains Indian Art Show, presented at the Kirkwood Plaza shopping mall in conjunction with United Tribes Days. During the three days of the exhibit, hundreds of shoppers filed past the colorful paintings, crafts and slides representing the work of some 15 Native American artists.

Featured was the work of Jackson Beardy, a Cree who is one of the top Indian artists in Canada; Rev. Godfrey Broken Rope, a 68-year-old elder from Billings by way of Pine Ridge; Phil Falcon, of Trenton, N.D.; and State Penitentiary inmates Randy Van Nett and Virgil Feather.

Rev. Broken Rope exhibited a pictograph of Custer's Last Stand, which contained many of the traditional symbols he hopes to compile in a book. He is noted for the authenticity of his work, and has two paintings on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

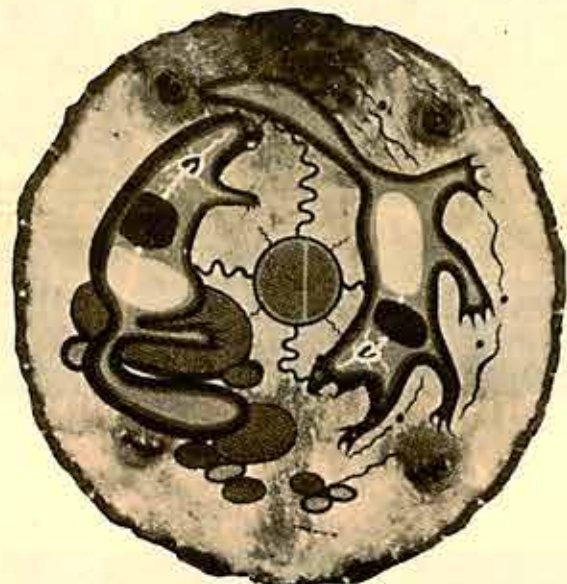
Since he taught himself to paint 40 years ago, Rev. Broken Rope has refined his technique to the point where he can turn out a landscape in 30 minutes. At the powwow, he drew crowds who watched in wonder as he stroke-stroke-stroked dozens of sunset scenes.

"I don't paint portraits anymore, just scenery," he explained with a twinkle. "Since I've had three strokes in the last two years, my hands aren't so steady. Now if the brush jerks, I can just turn it into a tree."

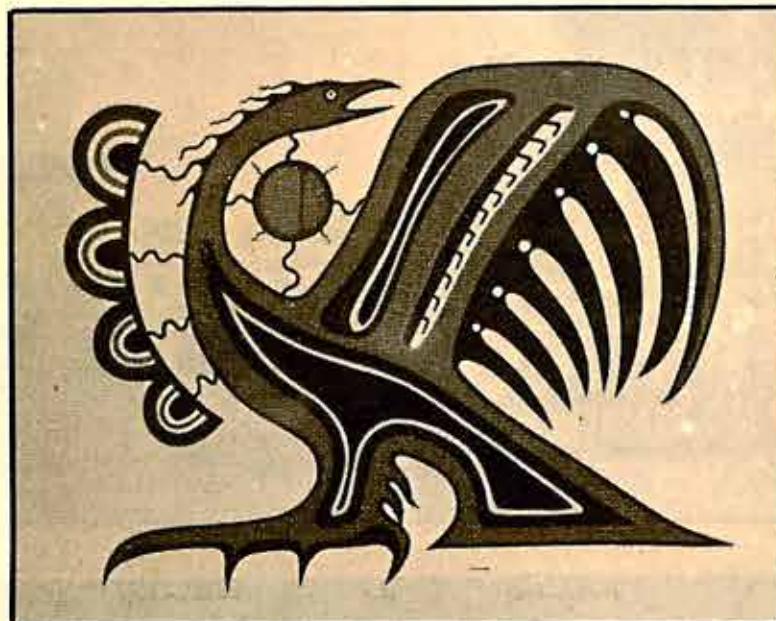
Beardy, 31, traveled from Winnipeg with paintings, prints and slides representing the work of the seven-member Professional Native Indian Artists Association of Canada, of which he is president. The two-year-old group, he said, is developing a program of scholarships and workshops to encourage budding Indian artists in Canada.



Rev. Godfrey Broken Rope



A painted beaver pelt by Beardy



Beardy's "Weather Warner"



Jackson Beardy



Insert photos by:
Bill Miller
Tom Creed
Karen Hilfer
Jim Remsen

Wind River school dispute goes to D.C.

WASHINGTON (AIPA) — Should Indian students at Wyoming's Wind River Reservation be allowed to have a separate school district, or should they be part of school districts off the reservation?

The question has moved to the U.S. Supreme Court, after a series of disputed rulings in Wyoming courts.

AT ISSUE IS the validity of the Wind River Indian Education Association (WRIEA) and Wind River Indian High School, formed several years ago by parents dissatisfied with the system under which their children are being bussed to off-reservation schools.

The parents found that at the mostly white schools in nearby Lander and Riverton, their children were undergoing a 50 percent dropout rate, high juvenile delinquency, severe emotional problems and low achievement scores in state testing.

A group of reservation parents proposed the creation of a separate Indian school district, and were given approval by the state board of education, under a school district reorganization plan. In 1971, the WRIEA was formed at Ethete, Wyo., in the heart of the reservation.

IN JANUARY, 1972, Wind River Indian High School was opened with 50 students, all transfers from white school systems.

(Today the enrollment is 125, from ninth to twelfth grades.)

About 15 percent of the reservation is non-Indian, and non-Indian students were welcomed at the school. One insider told AIPA that the school has corrected "the tragic educational failures of Indian children in white-controlled schools off reservation."

Local Indians, however, were split on the issue. Some supported the Indian control of WRIEA, while others wanted their children to attend school with non-Indians, and were satisfied that some Indians were sitting on other local school boards.

In January, 1972, a Shoshone faction on the reservation filed a suit contesting the plan permitting a separate Indian school district.

THE STATE PLAN was upheld by a trial court in February, 1974. Then, in February, 1975, the Wyoming Supreme Court reversed the decision, holding that the state was not legally empowered to create an Indian school district.

A WRIEA petition for rehearing was denied the next month, and attorneys appealed the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A decision is expected to be handed down Oct. 13.

UTETC students come and go



Thirty-one persons arrived in August to begin studies at United Tribes Employment Training Center. Standing from left on the porch are Gerald and Beverly Bercler, of Turtle Mountain; Julie and Greg Seda, of Standing Rock; Darrell and Leonard Boyer, of Turtle Mountain; Glen Quick Bear, of Rosebud; Wesley Pretty Weasel, of Cheyenne River; UTETC placement officer Bob Zimiga; Mike Owen, of Sisseton; and Lavan White, of Rosebud. Standing in two rows on the stairs are Eunice Grey Water, of Fort Totten, Alva Bear Heels, of Rosebud, Josephine Culbertson, of Standing Rock, and Alvin Bear Heels, of Rosebud; and [second step] Jackie and Kirby LaPointe, of Rosebud. Standing on the ground are Patricia DeCoteau, of Turtle Mountain; Lorraine Picotte, of Crow Creek; Genita Grant, of Turtle Mountain; Rhoda Driftwood, of Crow; David and Andrea Allery, of Turtle Mountain; Dennis and Clara Bastien, of Crow; Albert and Linda Leader Charge, of Rosebud; Velva Stiffarm, of Fort Belknap; Lowell Little Eagle, of Standing Rock; Julie Cotanny, of Standing Rock; and Effie Little Bear, of Standing Rock. Not pictured is Rose Bird Horse, of Standing Rock.

Six students, each completing a different course of study, were graduated from United Tribes Employment Training Center at a ceremony Thursday, Sept. 25.

Graduating were Bertha Montgomery, from business clerical; Gerald Iron Shield, food service; Cora Baltazar, painting; Phyllis Looking Elk, police science; Lucinda Iron Star, nurse aide; and Rita Joshua, human services.

INCENTIVE AWARDS for July also were awarded. Student of the month was Clyde McHugh.

Adult education awards went to Carol Golus, Pauline Pinto and Walter Morin. Personal development had a three-way tie

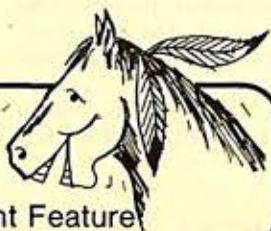
between Clyde McHugh, Ivan Defender and Dian Oshkeshquomam.

The social service award went to Rita Joshua, the men's dorm award was given to Percy Good Eagle and the women's dorm honor went to Carol Golus.

EACH VOCATION cited a top student: auto body, Herbert Dini; automotive, Virgil Wise Spirit; building trades, Clyde McHugh; business clerical, Bertha Montgomery; food services, Juanita Garcia; human services, Rosalind McHugh; nurse aid, Lucinda Iron Star; painting, Cora Baltazar; police science, Candace Vondal; and welding, William Garcia.

horse feathers

AIPA Light Feature



50 PROOF ON-THE-ROCKS: Runners from South Dakota report a new apple beverage being sample marketed in that state called, Goone's Farm."

RUBBLE-ASIAN HUMOR: Members of the Potomac Tribe were among several curious onlookers witnessing the tearing down of the historic Roger Smith Hotel, long a stopping place for visiting tribespersons to the nation's capital. Among the brick fragments, now all that remains of the multi-story structure, we sighted a 1972 AIM (Haskell Chapter) membership card, a former BIA Commissioner's telephone credit card, Ramona Radish's unlisted telephone number, and a Poloroid photograph of a former NTCA official,

smiling.

PEN PICKS: A group of Indian prison reformists recently visited officials at the South Dakota State Prison in an effort to open up communications which could enhance sensitivity to conditions Indian inmates are subjected to. During the meeting, one of the officials related that he had learned to forget and forgive that his own grandmother had been raped by Sioux Indians. An Indian reformist replied, "In April?"

PROF. CARL CARLISLE'S LATEST DISCOVERY: "If all Indians were placed end to end on the earth, each would be facing in a different direction."

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Governed by the five North Dakota tribes, UTETC is an arm of the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corp. It is the only Indian owned and operated educational institute of its kind in the United States.

For further information, contact your nearest Bureau of Indian Affairs Employment Assistance Office or write: UTETC Office of Public Information, 3315 S. Airport Road, Bismarck, ND 58501.



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suits & settlements

U.S. sues Iowa

The Justice Department has filed suit in U.S. District Court in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, charging Iowa with violations of the treaty rights of the Sac and Fox Tribe in that state. The suit, filed Aug. 18, seeks a declaratory judgment that the tribe may exercise rights to hunt, fish and trap within the 3,476-acre reservation.

The Sac call themselves *Osakiwug*, or People of the Yellow Earth, and the Fox call themselves *Mesquakiee*, or Red Earth People. The combined reservation population is about 600.

Pueblos win claim

A plan for the use of approximately \$750,000 awarded by the Indian Claims Commission to the Zia, Jemez and Santa Ana Pueblos is being published in the *Federal Register*. The award represents payment for land in central New Mexico taken from the Pueblos from 1905 to 1936.

According to the plan, approved by Congress and made effective June 17, 1975, the funds will be equally divided between the three Pueblos. Funds will be invested by the tribal governing bodies for social and economic development purposes, including the acquisition of land. The plan permits the use of principal funds, as well as investment income, for tribal purposes.

Utes nudge Frizzell

Kent Frizzell, acting secretary of the Interior Department, ordered acceleration of the Central Utah Project and action on specific related requests submitted Aug. 13 in a resolution by the Ute Indian Tribe. Frizzell directed: award by the Bureau of Reclamation of a \$26.9 million contract for construction of Vat Tunnel; expeditious investigation by the BIA and Bureau of Reclamation of the Leland Bench Area as an agricultural development for Indian benefit; and completion by the Reclamation Bureau of the planning report for the Ute Indian Unit of the Central Utah Project by Dec. 31, 1978.

The Vat Tunnel is an integral part of the 37-mile Strawberry Aqueduct feature of the project which will develop most of Utah's share of Colorado River water for municipal and industrial purposes along the heavily populated Wasatch Front area of the state, plus providing water for irrigation, recreation, hydro-electric power, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Ottawas re-emerge

A plan for the distribution of more than \$260,000 awarded by the Indian Claims Commission to the Ottawa Indians of Oklahoma is being published in the *Federal Register*. This award represents additional payment for six tracts of land in Northwestern Ohio that were ceded to the United States by four bands of Ottawa Indians under treaties of 1831 and 1833.

Federal trust responsibilities for the tribe were terminated and the Ottawas ceased to function as a federally recognized tribal entity in 1959.

The payment plan calls for a per capita distribution of the funds to those persons whose names appear on the Ottawa's final roll in 1959. The shares of deceased enrollees will be paid to their heirs or legatees.

Are you eligible?

Final regulations governing the preparation of a roll of those persons eligible to share in a \$1.2 million judgment fund awarded by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon are being published in the *Federal Register*. The award, to be distributed on a per capita basis, represents additional compensation for the cession of land under an 1855 treaty.

conventions

Educators parley

Oklahoma City is the site for the seventh annual national Indian education conference, Nov. 5-8. Although previous conventions have been programmed for educators and administrators, this year a large attendance is expected by parents and students, specifically with regard to Johnson O'Malley and Title IV Indian Education program.

Pre-registration may be sent to Katie Scott, Tulsa Indian Youth Council, 716 South Troost, Tulsa, Ok. 74120. Exhibit spaces will be available to accommodate more than 350 booths of Indian projects and arts and crafts dealers. Entertainment, including a pow wow, is planned.

For more information, contact NIEA/OCFC, 1212 N. Hudson, Oklahoma City, 73103, or call (405) 235-2250 or 235-3952.

Aboriginal meeting

Aboriginal delegates from more than 40 nations in the Western Hemisphere and the Atlantic and Pacific regions are expected to gather on British Columbia's Vancouver Island in the next few days for the first international conference of indigenous peoples. Two delegates from each nation will attend. The conference, in the making for more than two years, will be conducted in several languages.

For information, contact the National Indian Brotherhood, 130 Albert St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4, telephone (613) 236-0673.

32nd time for NCAI

The National Congress of American Indians has scheduled its 32nd annual meeting for Nov. 10-14 at the Sheraton Hotel in Portland, Ore. The presidency of the prestigious organization is up for election. Conventioneers also will consider Indian priorities for the coming year, and will establish the agenda for the executive director and staff.

Elders included

Native American Elders United, a non-profit senior citizens group formed to work on behalf of all Native American elders, will be a co-sponsor of the 25th annual meeting of the National Council on the Aging, scheduled Sept. 28 through Nov. 1, in Washington, D.C.

Elders will sponsor a workshop on the problems and concerns of Native American elders. A number of Indians from various federal agencies in Washington have been invited to participate in a panel discussion and to answer questions raised by the Indian participants at the conference.

For further information, contact Native American Elders United, 808 Ivy St. Carson City, Nev.

job scene

BIA picks woman

Rebecca H. Dotson, a Navajo woman, has been appointed superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' agency at Chinle, Ariz. Ms. Dotson, 45, is the second Indian woman to hold an agency superintendent's position. She had been the education program administrator at the agency, one of the five on the Navajo Reservation.

Career guide offered

The BIA's Indian Education Resources Center has just completed a 56-page booklet entitled *Career Development Opportunities for Native Americans* in three sections: education beyond high school, Native American programs of assistance, and general student aids programs. The book, devised under IERC's Leroy Felling, provides many hard-to-find avenues and resources for the individual student. For the free booklet, write Indian Education Resources Center, 123 4th St. SW, P.O. Box 1788, Albuquerque, N.M. 87103. Or call (505) 766-2605.

Education openings

All 15 positions on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) are open for replacement by May, 1976, and the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is presently soliciting nominations for those positions from Indian organizations and individuals around the nation. Nominations will be accepted until Oct. 15.

Two of those eventually chosen will be from the category of professional educators, and five will be either laymen involved in education, students, or individuals whose experience is other than education. Nominations are to be made to Office of Indian Education, U.S. Office of Education, Rm. 4943, FOB-6, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

BIA man goes west

Ronald Lee Esquerra (Chemehuevi) has taken the post of assistant regional administrator for Indian programs in the San Francisco office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

He resigned his former position as executive assistant to Indian Commissioner Morris Thompson to direct a staff of 38 persons serving 301,000 Indians and their housing needs in California, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. A total of 115 tribes are within HUD jurisdiction for housing and community planning.

Room at the top

The Indian council of Regents for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., is seeking an Indian executive director to serve the council by exploring contract possibilities of the institute by the council, and to work as an in-house liaison among the administration, school and council on a day-to-day programming.

Masters degree in education preferred. Interested persons send resume and applications to John Ranier, Native American Council of Regents, Institute of American Indian Arts, 1900 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87501. Or call 505: 982-3801.

Art director named

Gary Colbert, a Creek Indian, has been named new art director at Bacone College, Muskogee, Ok.

School fills spot

Van A. Peters has been named superintendent of the Stewart Indian School, Stewart, Nev. Peters, a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada, has been a school principal in Elko County, Nevada since 1972.

New BIA super

Edward McCabe, Jr., a member of the Navajo Tribe, has been named superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Shiprock Agency in northwestern New Mexico.

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Review of Indian colleges finds 13 exist, 20 planned

DENVER (AIPA) — The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) headquartered here has completed a comprehensive assessment of the history and future needs of existing and projected Indian community colleges, and the BIA will sift and assess its recommendations before Oct. 1.

By that date the education division of the BIA must forward its program for Indian community colleges and legislative recommendations to the House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees in the U.S. Congress.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH for the five-volume report included on-site visits to the 13 existing Indian colleges and to approximately 20 other reservations which have such education plans in the offering for their own tribal members.

A count of existing Indian community colleges not administered by the federal government or by the churches includes:

NORTHERN PLAINS

- Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College, established in 1974, at Sisseton, SD, for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux;
- Standing Rock Sioux Community College, Fort Yates, ND, formed in 1972, for Standing Rock Sioux tribal members;
- Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND, formed in 1972, for members of that North Dakota Reservation;
- Fort Berthold Community College, New Town, ND, established in 1974, for the Mandans, Arikaras and Hidatsas;
- American Indian Satellite Community College, Norfolk, NE, established in 1974, for members of the Omaha and Winnebago tribes;
- Cheyenne River Community College, Eagle Butte, SD, for tribal members of the Cheyenne River Sioux, created in 1974;
- Lakota Higher Education Center, Pine Ridge, SD, established for members to the Rosebud Sioux tribe;

NORTHWEST

- Inupiat University of the Arctic, Barrow, AK, established in 1974, to serve Inupiat Eskimos with a

- student enrollment of 500 within the Arctic Circle; Kuskokwim Community College, Bethel, AK, created in 1974, to serve about 400 Native Alaskans in rural higher education;
- Land Claims College, Fairbanks, AK, founded in 1974, under the dispersed learning concept where instructors go into the villages themselves;

WEST

- Hehaka Sapa Community College, D-Q University, Davis, CA, founded in 1971, by both American Indians and Mexican-Americans for the higher education of both ethnic communities, including Indians of all tribes;

SOUTHWEST

- * Navajo Community College, Tsaile Lake, AR, the earliest of the new wave of Indian community colleges, established in 1968 to serve members of the Navajo Nation and others.

Buffalohorn heads Fort Totten BIA

John Buffalohorn, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, has been appointed Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Fort Totten Agency in North Dakota.

The agency serves the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe.

Buffalohorn has been the administrative manager of the Fort Peck Agency, Poplar, Mt.

A graduate of the Haskell Indian Institute, Buffalohorn is a Korean War Army veteran.

He has worked 21 years for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For nearly six years prior to going to Fort Peck, he was the property and supply officer at the Turtle Mountain Agency, Belcourt, N.D.

getting by

advice

some tips on buying used cars

By JAMES KROGSRUD

UNITED TRIBES STAFF ATTORNEY

Q. What should I watch out for when I decide to purchase a used car?

A. There is no substitute for knowing how cars operate and for knowing some of the characteristics of a well running automobile. Therefore, you should shop with a friend who knows used cars or buy from a person who is known to be fair and honest.

The law provides some protection to used car buyers, but the general rule is let "the buyer beware." This means that unless the seller promises something specific, the buyer is usually stuck with whatever he gets.

Q. Alright, give me some information that will help me when I do want to buy.

A. Even if the buyer has a knowledge of cars, the buyer should try to get the seller to tell as much about the condition of the car as possible. Statements the seller makes which the buyer relies on in making this decision to purchase the used car will be grounds for getting your money back if they are not true.

Q. How can I do that?

A. Make sure that you have a witness with you. Then ask such questions as:

- "What kind of mileage does this car get?"
- "Did you tune this car before sale?"
- "Will you guarantee that the car will run without major repair for one year?"
- "What kind of guarantee will you give me?"

These are only examples, and the more direct the questions and answers the better. Don't be satisfied with something too vague.

Q. What happens next?

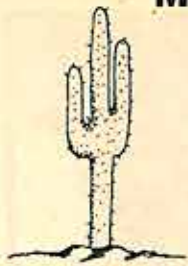
A. If after you listen to what the seller says about the car you decide to buy, then you can make the seller hold to his statements.

Thus, if the seller said the car gets 15 miles per gallon and you find one week later that it gets only 10 miles per gallon, you can force him to fix the car or give you your money back.

Not all used car dealers will make a great number of definite statements if they aren't asked. Some may refuse to give any guarantee.

Remember that if you rely on a statement the dealer makes when you buy, that statement becomes part of your agreement to buy. In other words, you are purchasing the car on the condition that his statements are true.

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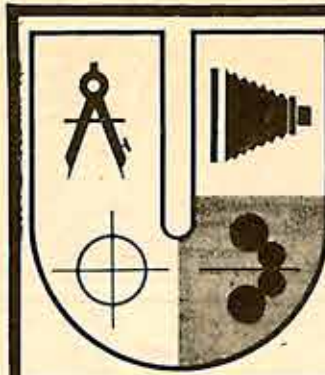
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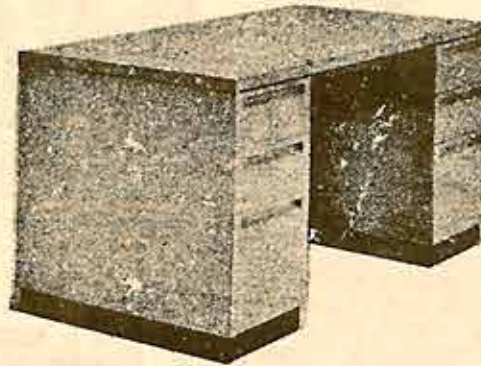
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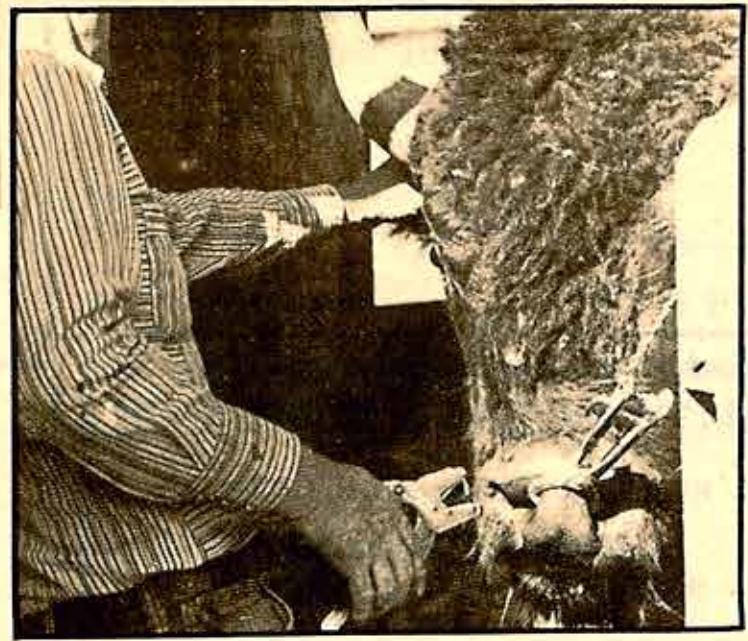
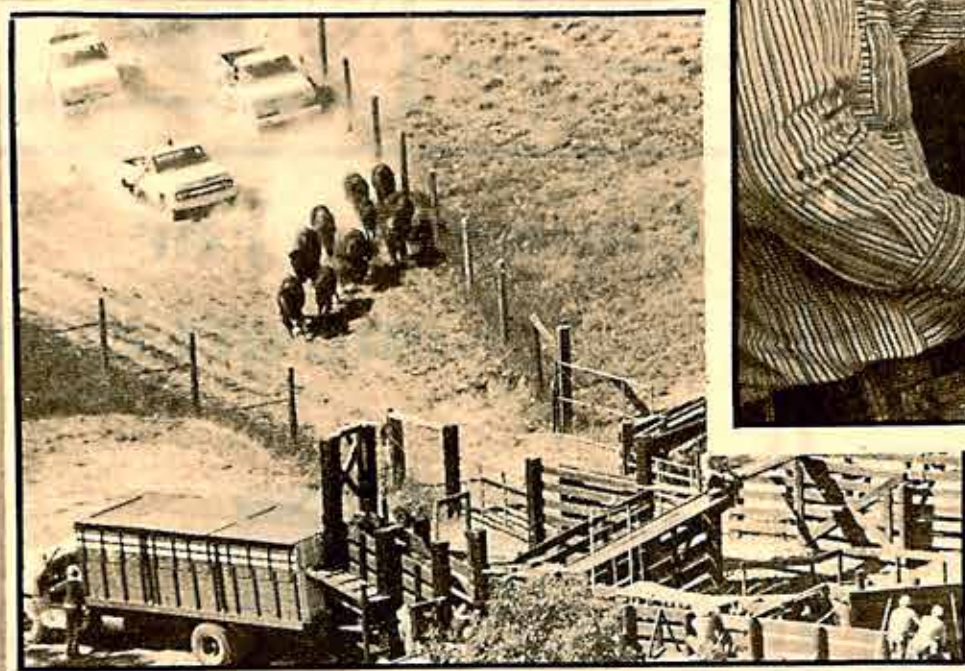
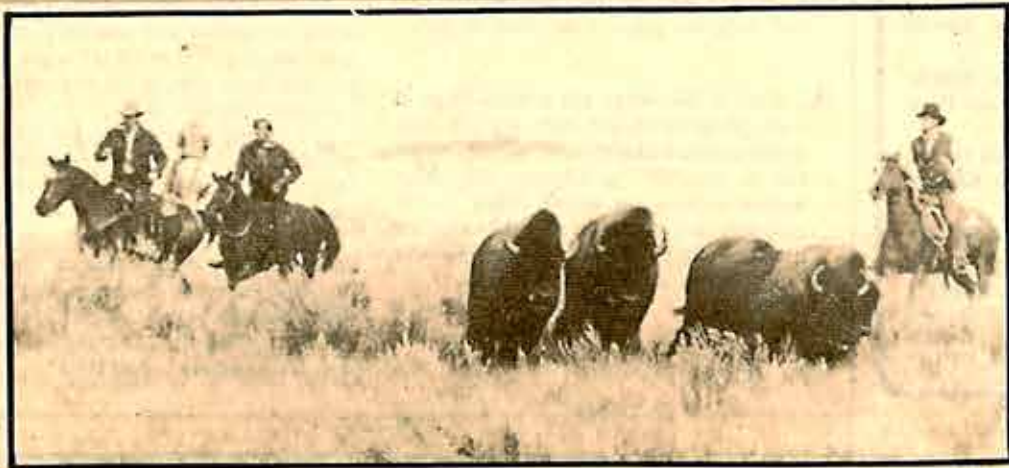
Biannual bison

Bison. Buffaloes. Once thousands in herds that spread as far as the eye could see brought the thunder of hoofs and looming clouds of dust to the plains. Not much more than a generation ago, unrestricted hunting and the white man's push westward had dwindled their numbers until the bison's existence tettered on the precipice of extinction.

Today, through strict hunting laws and government restrictions, the bison survives and thrives on reservations and game reserves, in state and national parks.

One of those parks is the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in North Dakota. The success of the Roosevelt herds has permitted John Lancaster, park superintendent, and other park officials to conduct a biannual bison round-up, reducing their herds by roughly one-third and giving the culled animals to tribal governments that have applied through the BIA. Tribes from around the nation transport the shaggy mammals back to their reservations for restocking herds and distribution to reservation districts for use during powwow celebrations.

This year's round-up, Sept. 8-13, saw airplanes circling the park, spotting bison and radioing their location to transistor-toting cowboys below. By Saturday, the 13th, 14 tribes from the Standing Rock Sioux in Ft. Yates, ND, to the Kaw in Cushing, OK, had their share of over 150 bison.



Pick-up trucks chase ornery bison into corrals. Three trucks were damaged and three drivers startled when, time after time, the buffaloes rebelled and stampeded over the trucks. Restrained by post and chain (above right), identification tags are clipped to the animal's ear. Below right, a full trailer heads for the ranges of a reservation.



Photos by Bill Miller
Story By David Roach

Farmington found racist

[continued from back page]

conclusions."

The lengthy report begins with a comprehensive history of the Indian-white relations in Farmington in the spring of 1974, following the brutal beating deaths of three Navajo males, on-and-off efforts by the city government of Farmington to deal with rapidly growing Navajo unrest, and the birth of the militant Coalition for Navajo Liberation (CNL). THE REPORT EXAMINES the anatomy of the political, legal, social and economic structures of the community of about 25,000, and finds that all parts of the social structure create suffering, hardship and injustice for the Navajo people.

Chairman Black also warned of the possibility of continuing interracial violence in the trouble-plagued reservation border town.

"The dangerous situation we perceive," he told the press, "is an impending clash between forces going in opposite directions. Older, more conservative Navajos have spoken out things which are very moving, but these people are used to the status quo. 'YOUNGER NAVAJOS ARE AWARE of the same complexities, indignities and injustices, but they want something done to better the situation of their people. And the ideas of the establishment are in headlong opposition to younger Navajos."

"There may be a clash if the forces continue to move in different directions. I abhor violence on all sides, but some people feel violence is the answer.

"The atrocities committed against these people," Black complained, "are worse than anything I heard while I was a child growing up in the South," but added that there is "a better chance for communication in Farmington between Indians and whites than between southern whites and blacks."

THE REPORT CHARGES that the Navajo Tribe and land are the main props for the economy of Farmington, but there is an unequal return to the tribes. Proposed coal gasification plans have not been assessed for their full potential impact on tribal life, the report states.

And the report presents evidence that Navajos have not been able to seek employment or move up to white collar jobs on the same basis as whites, whether in the private sector or in city employment.

Health care for Navajos there is at "a critical stage," and the arrest rate of Navajos by Farmington city police are out of phase with population ratios. Only two Navajos are policemen on the local force, the report revealed.

WEBB SAID he believed "Unfounded charges have been the primary basis for the conclusions reached. The real shame of this report is that it will only widen the gap that now exists between the two cultures and has contributed little, if anything, to permanent solutions."

To brand all Farmington white residents as "racists," he said, is as illogical as branding all Navajos "alcoholics."

Several solutions were recommended to local, state and federal agencies. These were:

- The city of Farmington should appoint a permanent human relations committee representative of major racial, cultural and economic groups in the community;

- The chief of police and the city of Farmington should upgrade the community relations unit of the Farmington Police Department in terms of staff and budget;

- The New Mexico Department of Alcohol Beverage Control should increase the number of agents in the region to enforce state liquor laws;

- The present Detoxification Act should be amended to provide sufficient funds for health facilities in local communities so they can initiate services for intoxicated persons where such services do not exist;

- The Indian Health Service should upgrade present facilities at the Shiprock, N.M., hospital and increase the size of its staff to meet the needs of the Navajo people living within its service areas;

- The Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should initiate an on-site review of San Juan Hospital in Farmington to determine whether Navajos have been denied equal access to medical attention by the hospital;

- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission should initiate an investigation of private and public employers in Farmington and San Juan County, and on the Navajo Reservation, to determine if there is employment discrimination against Navajos;

- An independent research organization should review the potential social and environmental impact of present industrial development projects on the Navajo Reservation, especially in the Burnham area in the eastern portion of the reservation, near Farmington.

Conditions of Navajos termed 'disgraceful'

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Conditions on the huge Navajo Reservation are "shocking and disgraceful," according to an 144-page report issued by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

After a three-year study, the independent commission found unsafe medical conditions, a poor educational system and inadequate economic assistance. Twenty-nine recommendations were made on these problems.

The commission urged the federal government to recognize the Navajo tribal council as a governing body equal to a state or county in qualifying for federal funds.

Per capita income for the reservation's 137,000 inhabitants was found to average \$900 per year, less than one-fifth of the national average. Unemployment was listed at 40 percent.

The commission claimed that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has not enforced provisions that would give Navajos preferential treatment in hiring for work on federal contracts.

Although the reservation is rich in mineral development, the commission said, "development thus far has operated primarily in a neocolonial context, with outside developers primarily interested in mineral ex-

ploitation."

Profits are taken off the reservation rather than invested in it, the report concluded. "The federal government has chosen to run a relief economy rather than a development economy."

The efforts of the BIA in this area "has ranged from obstructionist to, at best, insufficient to change the status quo, the report said.

The commission recommended that development aid continue until the tribe becomes self-sufficient.

Health care was found to be "not only inadequate, it is unsafe. Patients are left unattended; doctors are limited in kinds and number of diagnostic tests they can request; laboratories are cramped and un-equipped.

"The hospitals are understaffed and the staff is overworked — and mistakes, serious mistakes, are common. Staff shortages have been the documented cause of needless loss of life in several instances."

No attempt was found to coordinate the reservation's educational efforts which are provided by New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, the BIA and several private schools.

This has caused problems with virtually every phase of education, the report said.

Crime wave rocks Acoma reservation

[continued from back page]

U.S. Indians for New Mexico and the FBI.

In a further incident, on Aug. 8, a young Acoma woman, her baby and boyfriend decided to go out for a Sunday drive on the reservation, taking a back road to San Fidel. The trio came upon a pickup with two Mexican men and one Indian man inside.

The trio stopped the couple and picked a fight with the boyfriend. One of the Mexican men said, "Why not just shoot him? I have a gun in the truck."

The boyfriend began running in the direction of his brother's house in order to get his brother and a gun at the house. He managed to elude the trio who turned back to the girl and her baby.

"They've got (...) and the baby!" the boyfriend yelled when he arrived at the house. The gun, however, was not in the house, and he and his brother had to run to another residence to get it.

IN THE MEANTIME, the trio held the gun to the baby's head, forcing the young Acoma woman to submit to sexual relations.

Suddenly the boyfriend, his brother and others approached in a vehicle with a gun, and began shooting at the tires of the assailant's pickup. The pickup careened away safely down the road.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police were then contacted by the girl's mother, who filed a complaint against the three men.

The Indian in the trio, a high school student in an off-reservation town, was known to the family. The family also learned the identity of one of the two Mexican men. And the family was fully intending to prosecute. But the mother did not find the BIA officers immediately responsive. One man was off-duty, and it took some time to impress the other with the emergency situation. No suspect or suspects were picked up immediately.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, the girl's mother, who had had a telephone installed in her home at the pueblo a few weeks previously, received a phone call from an unidentified caller who said: "I'm calling to have you know that if you go through with the complaint, she'll not only be raped but murdered. I have cousins in Cubero and Grants and San Fidel."

The mother was greatly upset but did not tell her daughter of the call. She received another call that night. "I meant what I said," the caller repeated. "We know

where you live."

The mother saw that the legal complaint was withdrawn from the BIA law enforcement headquarters. She was taking the threat seriously and was not willing to risk her daughter's life.

She worked some distance away from the pueblo every day. She was advised by friends to get a gun and keep it around the house, but she felt it was too dangerous to have a loaded gun around her young children.

THE LATEST INCIDENT involved an Acoma couple, again out for a ride on pueblo lands, who had their infant son riding with them. The child was standing on the front seat of the pickup.

Another pickup containing non-Indians wheeled up behind them, and shots were fired at their vehicle. The father had a rifle in the truck. He grabbed it and returned the gunfire, and the vehicle behind slipped back and vanished.

Much family and community conversation at the pueblo, now is devoted to these and other incidents. Among options under consideration at the pueblo are these:

- A formal request for a full investigation by federal authorities of all incidents affecting Acoma people to be placed by the Acoma Pueblo Governing Council under Gov. Merle Garcia;

- Private retaliation by affected pueblo families against known assailants;

- Independently initiated investigations by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for alleged criminal acts occurring on Indian trust lands.

What could clear the atmosphere of violence and apprehension at the pueblo? Said one lawyer who has observed the scene intimately for several years:

"If they would all cooperate with federal law enforcement authorities and bring charges and not get faulty memories from intimidation . . . There are terrible relations between Mexicans and Indians in that area. I could speculate they're caused by competition for jobs, the fact that both groups come from different backgrounds, that the Indians on the reservation cling together, and that the Mexicans off the reservation come into the reservation for 'good times.'"

Nightmares in New Mexico

Violence grips Acoma

BY RICHARD LA COURSE

ACOMA PUEBLO, N.M. (AIPA) — Death, beatings and rape have rocked this famous pueblo in north central New Mexico, leaving the 2,000 member tribe fearful and suspicious of its Mexican-American neighbors.

The past year has seen a murder in addition to shootings, beatings and rape of tribal women, and some pueblo members have been so threatened by the instigators of violence that they are afraid to press charges.

The group said to be causing the most fear on pueblo lands is known in the area as the "Cubero Gang" or "Cubero Mafia," which consists of a loose network of Mexican-American youths.

SOURCES DESCRIBED the Cubero Gang as "cousins from the neighboring off-reservation towns of Cubero, Grants and San Fidel."

A lawyer involved in the courts in one past Acoma case described to AIPA the inter-family gang as a group which "consistently runs together. Indians get their heads kicked in. It's very real to them."

"Many Indians stay out on the backroads of their reservation, involved in pretty innocent activity. But they get their wind-shields kicked in, guns fired at them, and they are targets of some pretty violent acts. Indian people seem quite frightened of these circumstances. And there are many unsolved cases over there."

SOME OF THESE CASES — both solved and unsolved — are:

In September of 1974, an Acoma woman in her twenties, Phyllis Esteban, was found dead east of Acoma on Laguna trust land. Three men, including one Indian, were charged in her death and brought to trial separately. The father of the man eventually convicted in

the case operates Ray's Bar in San Fidel, a small town on the pueblo reservation boundary, which is frequented by many Acoma people.

Two friends of the slain woman, Geraldine and Millie Pancho, sisters who reside at the Sky City pueblo, testified during the trial of defendant Richard Maestas Jr. Following their testimony, both had their lives threatened by unknown parties.

Richard Maestas, Jr., was convicted on two counts of rape and one count of murder for a crime on an Indian reservation against an Indian committed by a non-Indian under the Ten Major Crimes Act. He received one sentence of life imprisonment and two sentences of 10 years apiece.

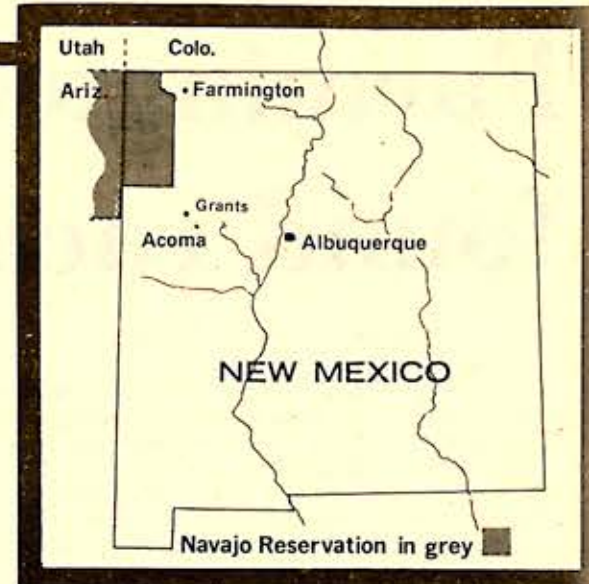
The Indian defendant was acquitted of all charges in a later trial.

The third defendant, a Mexican juvenile, had his case dismissed when a witness was out of state and failed to appear.

EARLY IN THE SUMMER of this year, Millie Pancho was badly beaten in the town of Grants, not far from the pueblo, where many Acoma townfolk go to shop and relax. She refused to identify her assailants to law enforcement authorities after she was found behind a bar in Grants.

She was taken to one hospital, then transferred to another, where critical eye surgery was proposed, but not undertaken.

This July 4 — almost one year after the murder of Phyllis Esteban — Geraldine Pancho's body was found behind Ray's Bar in the town of San Fidel. Just before her body was discovered, five Acoma men ranging in age from 20 to 40 were sitting outside behind the bar drinking beer.



One of the younger men noticed some garments in the lot, and reportedly draped them on a tree, wondering aloud to the others whose the clothing was.

SOON THE VALENCIA County sheriff arrived and asked whether the five men knew an Acoma woman with a short arm. One said he knew her, and provided her name.

All were taken in for questioning. They were shown the victim's body, which they later described as "already blue, with the stomach bloated. Maybe she was dead a whole day."

The five were charged with murder, held on \$50,000 bond apiece, later reduced to \$25,000, and held in the Las Lunas County jail. All five lost their jobs and had their clothing separated from them.

The five had all charges dismissed against them August 28.

The charging of the five Acoma men reportedly took a huge toll on the families of the men. That toll included one heart attack suffered by one parent, continuing sorrow and anxiety for all families, and financial pressures for some resulting from the need to borrow money for legal defense.

THE FIVE MEN, protesting their own innocence, agreed in consultation with other concerned Indians that the case should be pursued, involving the office of the

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Ariz. hearing to air gripes

In late September and early October, the Arizona Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold public hearings in the state on problems faced by Indians in the criminal justice system in areas near Arizona reservations.

Persons willing to testify concerning their cases at the open hearings are asked to contact Maria Pares, Mountain State Regional Office, 726 Champa St., Ross Building, Suite 216, Denver, Colo. 80202. Or call [303] 837-221

Navajo deaths rekindle fears

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AIPA) — The deaths of four Navajos, three men and one young woman, have renewed a case of nerves among Indians living in this small border town just east of the Navajo Reservation, and investigations are underway or completed in the various cases.

The victims, and the circumstances of their deaths were:

MERLE RED MULE BURTON, 70, a Navajo from Fruitland, near Farmington, who was assaulted and tortured June 12, by having a broom handle shoved repeatedly up his rectum, at his home on the reservation. Burton died of severe internal injuries the following day after Navajo tribal police hospitalized him. The FBI became involved following his death. Relatives at his bedside quoted the victim as saying a white man had assaulted him.

The day after Burton's death, two FBI agents and a BIA police officer arrested the only albino Indian in Farmington for the crime, but after producing an ironclad alibi, that suspect was released.

LUCINDA MANYGOATS, 14, a Navajo from Shiprock, N.M., was struck and killed June 21 by a speeding Navajo tribal police car which was driven by a non-Indian policeman just south of the old Fairchild plant below Shiprock. After being hit, she was dragged about 150 feet by the vehicle. No legal action resulted.

RODGER VICTOR, in his 30s, of Fruitland, was found hanging in a back cell of the Farmington city jail on July 7. Police ruled the death a suicide, but the family is considering a criminal suit against the Farmington police department, a local hospital and mortuary for the burning of Victor's clothing.

KENNETH DAVIS, also in his 30s, of

Carson, was found dead on July 8, in the "holding cell" immediately facing the booking desk at the Farmington city jail. Police said the cause of death was chronic alcoholism. But the Davis family is also pondering a criminal suit against the Farmington police department, with the assistance of two attorneys once a final autopsy report has been received.

Following Burton's death, the FBI reopened an older case of the slaying of Jack Benally, also a Navajo, which occurred in the same area where Burton was tortured. Benally's death had been ruled due to natural causes, although he had been stuffed in a vehicle, according to police sources.

There were also reports of the violent deaths of three Navajo girls at Greasewood, Ariz., near Lupton, which the FBI was said to be re-examing.

Report finds Farmington racist

ALBUQUEQUE, N.M. (AIPA) — The city of Farmington, just outside the gigantic Navajo Reservation, has been brought to trial on charges of racism and discrimination against the Navajo people and has been found guilty as charged, according to a 171-page report released here August 13, by the New Mexico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The report, entitled, *The Farmington Report: A Conflict of Cultures*, contains seven specific recommendations to heal the interracial wounds in the small New Mexico reservation border town.

STERLING BLACK, CHAIRMAN of the State Advisory Committee which undertook the year-long investigation behind the report, said here that, "Discriminatory treatment has compounded the problems of poverty, economic deprivation and exploitation, inadequate health and medical care, alcohol abuse and alcoholism suffered by the large Navajo population in the northwestern part of the state."

"There appears to be little awareness on the part of the general population or elected public officials (in the city of Farmington) of the complex social and economic problems arising out of the city's unique relationship

with the Navajo people in the region."

Gerald Wilkinson, a committee member who is executive director of the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), will chair a continuing sub-committee on Indian

"Farmington has been shown to be a blight on the state of New Mexico and a parasite on the Navajo Reservation. Insecticides sooner or later are usually found to control blight and parasites.

"Whether what cures Farmington will be more violence or reasonable programs and a sharing of power with Indian people is up to the city fathers. The entire public of New Mexico must bring pressure to ensure that the city of Farmington chooses wisely from these alternatives.

— Gerald T. Wilkinson [Cherokee] a member of the New Mexico State Advisory Commission to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission

rights following the release of the report. He said:

"THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRS) has shown in its report beyond question that Farmington is a racist and sick community which treats its Navajo citizens in many respects like animals. Its public officials for the most part have been shown to be flatly racist and incompetent to deal with other human beings."

"Services provided to Indian people have been shown to be minimal at best. Employment discrimination, consumer fraud and brutality go on unabated. As for attitudes, the Farmington public is not indifferent to Navajo people, they despise and ridicule them."

Warned Committee Member Carnis Salisburg, a black woman noted: "The Commission has been able to give an ear to those who need to be heard. They were like children crying in the wilderness — 'This is the story of what happened to me.' — Some cried, some were very mad, and some had solutions to offer. 'THEIR STORY IS TOLD' in the report. Now it's still in book form. If it rests here, nothing will be accomplished."

Farmington Mayor Marlo Webb assailed the study as a "collection of half-truths, innuendos, statements out of context, falsehoods and unrealistic and illogical

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