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Newsletter - American Indian Center, v. 02, no. 03

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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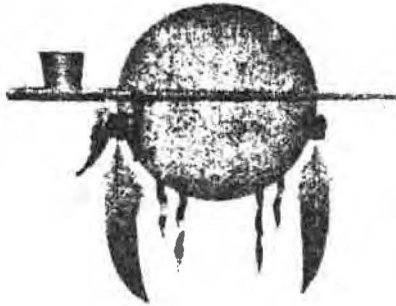
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AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
613 South 16th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
Phone (402) 344-0111

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, NO. 3

MARCH 1979

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MESSAGE TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

Dear Indian Community,

We would like to welcome the readers of our monthly newsletter.

Since our last newsletter went to press there have been some very interesting activities in our Nation, State, City, Reservations and Indian Community involving our Indian people. Through the efforts of the American Indian Center staff and Board of Directors, we will keep you abreast of these activities as they occur on a monthly basis. If any individual has an article to be published, please call or bring it to your American Indian Center Newsletter Editor for publication for our Indian community.

In our February newsletter, we discussed all of the services/activities being provided. In this month's newsletter, we will provide pictures of some of these activities to try and develop interest for those who are contemplating on getting involved and also to show the growth and concern of our American Indian Center for our Indian people.

If anyone has any ideas or articles for publication, please contact your American Indian Center.

Respectfully,

Timothy F. Woodhull
Executive Director
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
Member, Nebraska Indian Commission

"To give dignity to a man is
above all things."

"May happiness come on secret
winds and surround you forever
in the ways of beauty."

"Those who bring sunshine into the
lives of others cannot keep it
from themselves."

"Oh Great Spirit" Grant that I may
not criticize my neighbor until I
have walked a mile in his moccasins."



ALCOHOLISM STAFF GROWS WITH PROGRESS

By Maria Pearson, Program Director

First things first. We welcome Alfred Hallowell to our staff. He is our Alcoholism Court Referral Specialist. He coordinates between the courts and the American Indian Center. He has been in training under Diane Webb, the Indian Center's lawyer.

Our training has been progressing well. We are in various training programs here in Omaha and Council Bluffs. The two counselor trainees--Pauline Berscheid and Morgan Lovejoy are attending training at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute under the supervision of Dr. Blose. The two alcoholism counselors: Ramiro Sifuentes and Lynn McNeil are also receiving training. Mr. Sifuentes is at Immanuel Hospital working with their staff under their Director Joe Brady. Miss McNeil is at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs and is working with their staff under their Director, Bill Schroeder. Art Patlan, the halfway house cook, is training at Douglas County extension services. Joyce Tubbs, chemical dependency specialist for adolescents, will be training at Operation Bridge.

Our program director, Maria Pearson; head counselor, Eddie Wolfe; and data coordinator, David Heizer, have been busy working on plans for our new halfway house. Fred Leroy, employment specialist, states: "The Indian Center has received its microfiche from the Nebraska Job Service and will be able to start employment services in the early part of March 1979. CETA also has a "Jobology" program for its clients who need help in finding and securing employment. The program will last three days." Contact Fred Leroy, American Indian Center, for more information.

The whole staff is in the process of applying for certification under the Nebraska Division on Alcoholism. They will also be attending Counselor Training Services in Grand Island from February 19 to February 23, more on that when they return. Remember: There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen. Let's all work together and let things happen for the good of all.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Larry Conger

The American Indian Center is a non-profit, tax exempt social service organization committed to equal opportunities for all American Indians. Priority is placed on easing the transition from rural or reservation lifestyle to the more complex, often overwhelming, urban environment.

The Center provides direct services whenever these services are not being adequately provided by other public or private renders. Information is provided and referrals made to a wide variety of health education, employment and social service agencies and institutions.

As the recognized spokesman for American Indians in eastern Nebraska, the Center promotes, initiates and coordinates needed services for

urban Native Americans. Reservation Indians who come to Omaha are likewise served in all areas of assistance.

The Center needs cash donations, canned food and clothing and furniture donations. Volunteers, both clerical and professional are always welcome.

Please call our program planner at 344-0111 if you wish to help as a volunteer at the Center.

GORDON, INDIANS PACK CRIME-FIGHTING FUND

(Taken from the Omaha World Herald, 2-8-79)

Lincoln (AP) -- When Wolfgang Bauer became the city manager in Gordon two years ago he said he couldn't believe the city spent two-thirds of its property tax revenue on law enforcement.

But, he told the Legislature's Judiciary Committee Wednesday, two years have made him a believer.

The annual police budget in the Sheridan County town of 2,200 people is \$130,000, and "two thirds of that amount is spent on people who are neither residents of the city or county," Bauer said.

Bauer appeared in support of LB 388, a committee bill that would create the Native American Crime Enforcement Fund. The bill was introduced at the request of Senator Sam Cullan of Hemingford and Senator Ernest Chambers of Omaha after LR 218 was passed last session, implementing an interim study of the problems of American Indians in the state.

SPECIAL TRAINING, EQUIPMENT

Cullan said the fund would be used to disburse funds to state and local law enforcement agencies in areas that have a high Indian population. Funds would be used to provide special training and equipment to those areas in dealing with the law enforcement problems they face, he said.

"There's a strong need, especially in Thurston and Sheridan Counties, for specialized training and sensitivity training for officers," Cullan said. This bill would be "a small step at solving a great problem, but a very vital step just the same," he said.

Bauer said most of Gordon's problems stem from the 13,000 population Pine Ridge Indian Reservation north of the town.

"We're a city that has a crime rate roughly eight times that of comparable-sized communities in the state," Bauer said, adding that "roughly 90 percent of those arrested are Indians, and of that number, 90 percent are for alcohol-related crimes."

DETOXIFICATION CENTER CLOSED

The city has six police officers, twice the recommended number for towns of its size, and a high turnover rate of personnel. "The average police officer in Gordon lasts for eight to 10 months," Bauer said.

Bauer said the State Fire Marshal's Office closed the city's temporary alcohol detoxification center Tuesday night and "we're without a place until a new one can be refurbished." He said a countywide center is being built in Rushville, "but until it

opens we've got a problem."

Alice Roach, a member of the Nebraska Indian Commission, said, "I grow weary of hearing people talk about sensitivity training. I find myself, again and again, testifying in behalf of my people. It's time we stop talking and start doing something."

Tim Woodhull, director of the American Indian Center in Omaha, urged the committee to allow the Indian commission to have a voice in decisions regarding in the use of the money. "We don't want law enforcement personnel to go out and buy faster cars, bigger guns and longer billy clubs."

"We want them to spend the money on training, not training to correct something after the fact, but training to provide for Indian law enforcement officers, and an Indian voice in the problems that affect them."

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

By Fillmore Walker Jr.

On Thursday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m., eleven (11) Indian youths met at the American Indian Center to form a youth council. As of yet, no name has been selected for the new organization. We sat down in the conference room and discussed the future activities of the youth program. We talked about the present recreation program at the Pearl Methodist gym, spring and summer recreational activities -- such as softball, swimming, roller skating parties, culture activities, such as a youth culture club and an Indian arts and crafts class, educational opportunities and fund raising projects. We want to hold these meetings every two weeks or monthly so I'd like to urge all boys and girls to contact me at the American Indian Center, 344-0111 or at the Pearl Methodist gym on Monday or Wednesday nights if they would like to attend our next meeting.

The youth recreation program at the Pearl Methodist gym on Mondays and Wednesdays is going strong with the youth and adult teams playing better each session. The American Indian Center of Omaha hosted some very interesting games in February. I'd like to take a moment to thank all the people who helped with the score keeping, timekeeping, and refereeing:

From Omaha): Paula Trudell
"Dutch" Gladfelter
Alfred Hallowell
Charles Keller
Mario Zendajes
From Lincoln) Frank Bearkiller

A basketball game was held on Wednesday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Omaha, WWT "Action All Stars" vs. Adult and youth of American Indian Center. Final score: WWT 64, American Indian Center 56.

On Monday, February 12 -- Omaha Lincoln Indian Center vs. American Indian Center of Omaha:

Adults Omaha 115 to Lincoln 81
Youth Omaha 57 to Lincoln 56

Eddie Zendajes of Omaha led adults with 56 pts.
Leon Cook of Omaha led youth with 16 pts.

Wednesday, February 18, in Omaha:

Eddie Zendajes youth team 68 pts.
AIC youth team 52 pts.

Tuesday, February 20 - at Lincoln:

Lincoln vs. Omaha
Youth Lincoln 69 to Omaha 31
Adults Omaha 68 to Lincoln 55

Extracted from the WEEWISH TREE

GO, MY SON

Long ago an Indian chief counselled his people in the ways they should walk
He wisely told them that education is a ladder to success and happiness.

Go, my son, and climb the ladder.
Go, my son, go and earn your feather.
Go, my son, make your people proud of you.

Work, my son, get an education.
Work, my son, learn a good vocation,
and climb my son.
Go and take a lofty view
from the ladder of education.

You can see from the ladder, how to help your Indian nation.
And reach, my son, lift your people
upward with you.

Sung by Arlene Williams

(MODERN INDIAN COOKING RECIPE - CORN SOUP)

Ingredients:
One-quarter pound lean salt pork
2 cups whole kernel corn (frozen)
5 medium potatoes
1 chopped onion
one-half cup celery
4 cups water.
Boil the salt pork in water for one hour. As the water evaporates, add more water. Remove the salt pork, chop the meaty parts off, leaving some fat, and boil the pork with chopped onion, potatoes, and celery. Season all of it with pepper to your taste. Add the corn and boil for 20 minutes more. If the soup is too thin, add flour for thickening. Serve the soup with fry bread and maple syrup for a delicious low calorie meal.

GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER

Oh! Great Spirit's voice in the wind
speaks loud
Your breath is for all to share
Hear me, like a child I come
Give me strength for the life I bear

your wisdom, make me learn it well
 May I walk in your beautiful lands
 My heart respects your creative desires
 My life is held in your hands
 May I know the lessons my people speak of
 Who have learned your sacred lores
 And Mother Earth who's secrets she hides
 Be mine, from the strength that is yours
 I seek to have wisdom, but to share it too
 With my many brothers I know
 I seek to be strong, where weakness stands clear
 The enemy within -- let it go.
 Make me always ready to know you are there
 Where my life be as clean as the snows from
 The north
 And for my people, it's purpose true
 And when in time I awaken no more
 May my people remember my name
 May no finger of scorn behind me be raised
 And may my eyes see yours without shame.
 By Clifford Harding. England.

PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNS INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

The Indian Child Welfare Act was signed into law by President Carter last November 8, 1978 and is now Public Law 95-608.

The purpose of the law is to restrict the placement of Indian Children by non-Indian Social agencies into non-Indian homes and environments. It also stated in part "that there is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian Tribes than their children....."

Interior Assistant Secretary Forrest J. Gerard stated November 22, 1978, that the Act "is responsive to one of the most deeply felt concerns of the Indian Community -- the proper care of Indian Children needing adoptive or foster home care."

The BIA has asked that because of the short time allowed for implementing regulations that the public be invited to submit comments on the legislation prior to the issuance of proposed regulations. Write: Bureau of Indian Affairs; Director of Social Services; 1951 Constitution Avenue NW; Washington D.C. 20245

Copies of the Act are available upon request from that office.

MORMONS' PROGRAM EXEMPTED FROM NEW LAW

The Indian Child Welfare Act, aimed at restricting the placement of Indian children in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes, will not affect the Mormon church's student placement program which places Indian children with Mormon families for the nine months of the school year.

According to a recent report in the New York Times, the exemption of the ~~Mormon~~ program from the bill's restrictions was not an accident. The Times quotes former Senator James Abourezk from South Dakota as saying: "We exempted it in purpose and out of necessity. There would have been one hell of a political fight if we hadn't."

The Times said the proponents of the bill feared that without the exemption, the strong Mormon lobby could have caused its defeat.

Suggestions for naming our newsletter have been submitted by different persons and a selection will soon be made and announced in the April newsletter publication.

REMINDERS:

Adult Basic Education classes are held at the American Indian Center every Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

* * * * *

Emergency Food Assistance

If anyone is having difficulty in receiving food assistance, please contact the American Indian Center, Health & Nutrition Program:

Ms. Linda Azuguo Health Educator
 Ms. Twiggy Parrish Nutrition Counselor
 * * * * *

Sunday School classes for children between the ages of 3-16 are held each Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the American Indian Center. Lessons include: Teaching of Christ; Positive outlook on Life; Self-development. Call Sister Begay at 731-6497 for further details. Several Indian children are now attending and enjoy this type of arrangement. A driver will pick up your children and return them after the classes are through.

PLAINS INDIAN ARTS & CRAFT EXPOSITION

The Plains Indian Arts and Craft Exposition will be held at the Rushmore Civic Center, Rapid City, South Dakota, on August 22, 23, 24, and 25, 1979. According to Eva J. Nichols, director of the Plains Indian Craft, Merchandizing and Art Exposition, the date of August 22, 1979, is the moving in day and they will make every effort to set up private booths and curtain such booths off for better displays. If you have items you wish to sell, please contact Ms. Nickols at 605 348-5300. A fee of \$100 will be charged for the four days. Last year more than 12,000 persons passed through the Center. More are expected to attend this year.

INDIANS FILE LAW SUIT AGAINST USDA

Improverished Indians on 300 reservations across the nation have filed a class action suit against the Department of Agriculture, charging it with failure to implement a one year-old federal anti-hunger program established for Indian reservations. Congress wrote special provisions into the Food Stamp Act in September to allow, among many other things, both the food stamp and commodity programs to operate on the same reservation, provided that the same persons didn't participate in both programs. The USDA still hasn't implemented the law, Indians complained. Suggestions from the Indians were ignored by USDA officials. Indians today are seeking their rights than ever before.

The Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is one of Arizona's most spectacular and most popular family attractions.

NEWSLETTER

INDIAN TENNIS TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD AT HASKELL

The North American Indian Tennis Association has been incorporated in Arizona with the hope of promoting the playing of tennis among urban and reservation Indians.

The National tournament will be held on May 26 and 27, 1979, at Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, Kansas.

To participate in this event for tennis championships, you must be one-fourth degree North American Indian and belong to N.A.I.T.A. The membership dues are \$5.00 per year.

The Association needs your full support to continue to grow and to promote tennis participation among Indian people. Your membership will also entitle you to a Newsletter prepared by Dr. Noah Allen, (Euchee) an experienced Indian coach and player.

Send your membership dues and proof of Degree of Indian blood to: Holly Butler, President, N.A.I.T.A., Haskell Indian J.C., Box H-1303, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

FROM HEALTH AND NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

We are currently in the process of organizing a program that will be geared toward helping the elderly Native Americans in Omaha. But, first of all, we must find out who these people are and where they are living. If you are over 50 years of age and of Native American descent, we would like you to contact us at the American Indian Center by phoning 344-0111. Or, if you know of someone over 60 who, for some reason, is unable to contact us, please let us know.

Also, it is essential that we get input from the community concerning the types of services that are most needed. Some suggestions that have been brought to our attention include activities such as social meetings, luncheons and arts/crafts classes. We would like your opinion and welcome any ideas that you may have to enhance this project.

BUDGET PLANNING AND NUTRITION COUNSELING

Do you often find yourself running short of money, food items, at the end of the month?

Are you wondering where you can make some cuts in your budget? Would you like to learn how to cut down on your food budget and still maintain good nutrition?

The American Indian Center is now offering assistance in planning your food needs to save you time, energy and money. The Health & Nutrition Department is now setting up appointments with homemakers to discuss their food and nutrition problems. Not only will this service be offered at the Center, but we will be assisted by Elizabeth Gramaldo, who will be making

home visits. She will be working as a nutrition aide for the Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program, a part of the Cooperative Extension Service. If you are interested in making an appointment, or would like more information, call 344-0111. Ask for someone in the Health & Nutrition Department.

Since many Native Americans have served in the military service, we are extending the following information to you:

From the VA: Questions and Answers:

Q -- What happens if I don't complete and return the annual income questionnaire that comes with my November Veterans Administration pension check?

A -- Your benefits may be suspended near the start of the following year. You would not receive checks after that date until VA receives your completed questionnaire.

* * * * *

Q -- My husband is a veteran and has been told he's eligible for burial in a national cemetery. If I should die before he does, can I be buried in a national cemetery on the basis of his eligibility?

A -- Yes you can provided your husband signs an agreement with the cemetery director that he will be buried in the same gravesite with you at the time of his death. (What is he remarried?)

* * * * *

Q -- My father is receiving pension from the VA and was just placed in a nursing home. Is he entitled to any additional VA benefits?

A -- Yes. A statement from the director or custodian of records at a nursing home verifying that a veteran is in need of nursing home care usually will justify aid and attendance benefits in addition to the veteran's regular pension arrangement.

* * * * *

Q -- Are veterans with a non-compensable rating for hypertension automatically entitled to a 10 per cent rating by the Veterans Administration if medication is continuously taken for control of the disease?

A -- Veterans in this category are not automatically entitled; however, there are provisions for compensable rating to veterans who take medication for control of hypertension when other medical standards are met.

* * * * *

Q -- I receive education benefits under the Veterans Administration's War Orphans Act. Will my marriage terminate these benefits?

A -- Marriage does not affect entitlement to education benefits provided under the War Orphans Act.

* * * * *

Arizona has more Indians and more Indian reservations than any other state in the nation.

NATIVE AMERICAN RECORDING COMPANY FORMED (Extracted from the Tulsa Indian News)

Tom Bee, former lead vocalist of the internationally acclaimed musical group XIT, and John Wagner of John Wagner Recording Studios in Albuquerque have formed Mother Earth Records and Tapes. It will be the intent of the company to produce professional quality sound recordings from what they feel to be the best contemporary Native American talent in America. Initial product from the label will be a solo album and tape from Tom Bee titled, "Color Me Red," and new country products from Harold Mariano, former voice of the popular Navajo Sundowners, with a new offering containing mainly original compositions titled, "Moving From The City." Also scheduled for release is a rock project, featuring the clanish young Navajo group from Farmington, with their first recorded effort, "American Clan." Other releases and signings are planned in the very near future. Native American groups and singers are invited to send demo tapes, along with a picture and brief resume to the company for their reviewal, and a possible recording contract. Unlike other ethnic oriented labels, Mother Earth will be promoted and distributed nationally, with all of the companies artists benefiting from the many years of experience that both Tom Bee and John Wagner have between them in the music business. Anyone wishing to either submit a tape, or desiring more info about the company, can do so by writing: Mother Earth Records and Tapes, 202 Wisconsin IE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108.

NATIVE AMERICAN COOK BOOK

The Department of Health and Nutrition is trying to put together a "Native American Cookbook" and we would like to invite everyone in the community to submit recipes. We want to collect as many different recipes as possible. After we have collected these recipes, they will be compiled in a cookbook and the names of persons submitting them will be printed along with them. The recipe categories will include: 1) meat, fish & poultry, 2) breads & cereals, 3) vegetables, 4) salads, 5) cakes & cookies, 6) desserts and 7) miscellaneous.

Forms on which to submit your recipes are available at American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., Department of Health and Nutrition, 613 South 16th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. If you have any questions, please call 344-0111. Ask for Linda.

CONSUMER TIPS FOR THE MONTH (MARCH!)

By Linda Azuogu

- Nonfat dry milk is the most economical form of milk. When reconstituted with water, nonfat dry milk costs from one-third to one-half as much per quart as fresh fluid whole milk.
- When shopping for food, eat before you shop--everything looks good to a hungry person! And, if possible, leave the children behind; they may be too eager to "help" you with the choices.
- Watch the cash register as your foods are

checked out; mistakes often happen in busy lines.

- If you're in doubt about whether to purchase an item, ask yourself these questions: 1) Will my family eat it? Do I need it? Is it worth it?
- Prices of fresh fruits vary with the seasons. Plentiful fruits carry smaller price tags!

Remember the above ideas, suggestions when you enter the supermarket next time.

FOOD STAMP BENEFITS EASIER TO OBTAIN

The new Food Stamp Act has several significant reforms designed to help the people who need it most--the elderly, people living on fixed incomes, and other families or individuals with very low incomes. Eligibility for the program is based on financial criteria which includes an income test.

Under the new plan, people will not have to purchase food stamps. They will simply get what is called the "bonus." For example, a person who has been paying \$20 for \$50 worth of stamps will now pay nothing and still get \$30 in food stamps.

A standard deduction has also been incorporated into the system. All households will subtract a standard amount from their gross income. The amount will be adjusted twice a year to reflect changes in the cost of living. Currently the standard deduction is \$60. Working households will be able to deduct 20% of their earned income.

In addition, a standard deduction for excess shelter costs is allowed when such costs exceed 50% of net income. Shelter costs include: rent, mortgage payments (including interest), utility payments, property taxes, and home insurance. For many elderly the costs of fuel plus rent is more than half of their income. That excess can also be deducted from the adjusted income.

Elderly or disabled who cannot travel to a certification office may be interviewed by mail, telephone, or home visit. For more information, contact your Douglas County welfare office or call Linda at the American Indian Center (344-0111) or call the Food Stamp Hotline, toll-free 800-742-7630

AMERICAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

The American Indian legal services of the American Indian Center of Omaha has been in operation since October of 1977 and now includes 1 attorney, 1 para-legal and a legal secretary:

Diane Webb Attorney
Benita Seliga Para-legal
Carolyn Williams Legal Secretary

The Legal Department will accept clients on a case by case basis. We take cases in the area of criminal law and some areas of civil. Cases are evaluated by type of case, clients' financial status and ability of the legal staff to handle a particular area.

Please feel free to call us if you think you have a legal problem. Contact us for advice or make an appointment to see our attorney at 402-344-0111.

BLACKBIRD BEND A QUIET BATTLEGROUND (By DOUGLAS KNEELAND) NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE

Onawa, Iowa -- Blackbird Bend sleeps easily these days beneath the snows of February, a gentle reach of bottom land, broken by occasional stands of cottonwood, along the frozen waters of the Missouri River.

Wrapped in the peacefulness of winter, Blackbird Bend seems an unlikely battleground for a bitter territorial struggle between Indians and whites that has found its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But at a time of increasing legal actions over disputed lands by many of the nation's tribes, the ruling of the court, which could affect the ownership of the 2,900 acres at issue on Blackbird Bend, is considered portentous. Indeed, 49 states have joined with Iowa and other landholders here to resist the Indian claim to the land, which is based on an unusual interpretation of 19th-century Indian lore.

YEARS OF LITIGATION

After nearly four years of litigation, the land, which is on the Iowa side of the Missouri, is in the possession of the Omaha tribe whose reservation is in northeastern Nebraska.

The court is expected to hear arguments in a few weeks on an appeal by Iowa landowners from the decision of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit that overturned a ruling in their favor by the Federal District Court in Sioux City.

In the meantime, strong feelings persist on both banks of the Missouri, which for generations has not only separated Iowa and Nebraska but has always been a barrier between two worlds, two cultures.

On the flat, rich lands of Iowa, farmers have prospered around farming communities like Onawa, which boasts of "the widest Main Street in the USA." In the low, rugged hills on the Nebraska side, the Omahas have eked out an existence, the level of which is visible in the dilapidated houses and ill-built wooden shops on the streets of Macy, where the tribal headquarters is situated.

WILL LOSE 60 ACRES

Most of the 2,900 acres at stake on Blackbird Bend belonged to absentee landowners or to the state. Harold Sorenson is the only farmer who lives here and owned land in the disputed parcel. If the Supreme Court rules for the Indians, he stands to lose 60 acres, worth about \$2,000 each, of his 600-acre farm.

"There's been a lot of ill feeling up and down the river," Sorenson grumbled the other day. "I've been here since 1939. I came down from South Dakota in the dry years. When I first came here, I started clearing it by hand -- you know, I and my family and anybody I could get to help me."

In those days, the land along the river bottom was an unworkable tangle of brush and cottonwood, brought into agricultural production only after years of labor by adjacent farmers.

The Omahas do not dispute that. But they say it is their land that whites cleared and farmed these many years.

Standing on the high ground of the west bank of the river, Clifford Wolfe Sr., a member of the Omaha Tribal Council, swept his hand across the whitened landscape across the Missouri.

"That was all Indian land over there," he said. "We think about our children and our grandchildren. From the income, maybe they'll feel like we're people. Maybe it'll help their schooling, give them something to fall back on. We want that back. Anyway we can get it back, we want it back."

Although the courts have given the Indians possession, any income they receive from renting the land to farmers must be held in escrow until the case is finally decided. Therefore, they feel as little sense of real ownership at the moment as the whites.

What is really at fault, both sides agree, is the Missouri River itself. Before it was finally tamed after World War II by the Army Corps of Engineers with upstream dams and channelization, the river meandered wildly.

Those meanderings did not cease after the Omaha Reservation was agreed upon by treaty in 1854 or after the boundaries were finally set by the so-called Barrett Survey in 1867.

The 2,900 acres of Blackbird Bend in dispute, everyone also agrees, fall within the confines of the Barrett Survey. The question is: How did it get from the west bank of the river to the east?

SUDDEN CHANGE

The Indians contend it was by avulsion, a sudden change in channel. The whites argue that the land came to their side by accretion, that the Indian land was swept downstream over the years and new land was formed on the east bank by silt washed up by the river.

The district court accepted the white landowner's arguments and ruled that under riparian law, they were entitled to land that accreted to their property.

However, the Court of Appeals decided that neither side had convincingly proved its case, and cited an 1834 federal statute in the finding for the Omahas.

"In all trials about the right of property in which an Indian may be a party on one side, and a white person on the other," the statute reads, "the burden of proof shall rest upon the white person, whenever the Indian shall make out a presumption of title in himself from the fact of previous possession or ownership."

The precise meaning of that statute has apparently never been litigated, according to both sides in the present case.

The Supreme Court has agreed to determine whether the Appeals Court erred in making it applicable to the case, whether the state of Iowa is "a white person" and the Omaha tribe is "an Indian" within the meaning of the statute, and whether the court was right in applying federal common law rather than state common law, which differ slightly, in deciding that there was no firm proof as to whether avulsion or accretion took place.

STATES JARRED

The implications of the "burden of proof" finding jarred the 49 other states, any of which might be faced with similar litigation, into filing briefs as friends of the court in behalf of Iowa.

Already the outcome of the case is expected to have a broader effect here. Shortly after the Omahas filed their Blackbird Bend suit in April 1975, they filed a second. That suit, the trial of which has been delayed pending the outcome of the first, lays claim to 8,300 more acres of bottom land on the Iowa side of the river, some in Blackbird Bend and more upstream in Monona Bend and Omaha Mission Bend.

"If they win this one, there's nothing to keep them from just keeping on going," said Sorenson, about half of whose 600 acres lie within the area covered by the second suit.

"To us laymen farmers, that's a scary thing," said Vincent Willey, president of the Monona County Land Association, a group of 40 landowners organized to fight the second suit, which also calls for \$50 million in damages.

BITTERNESS

"The Indian people never lived on the east side of this river, never," he added with some bitterness.

"Nobody pushed them out. Nobody developed it with any idea that it belonged to them. It was land that was worthless, and people cleared it and developed it and started farming it."

On the Omaha Reservation, where tribal leaders acknowledged that only about four of the 1,500 residents are farmers and that most of the agricultural land is rented to whites, Willard Phillips, a young tribal council member, had an answer for that kind of talk.

Said he, "As long as the Indians are fighting for what belongs to them, there'll always be that prejudice. They will never get over it."

URBAN INDIAN CULTURAL CLUB OF OMAHA (TO HOLD GOURD DANCE)

The Urban Indian Cultural Club will hold a War dance and Gourd Dance on March 10, 1979. Starting time is 6:00 p.m., at the Pearl Methodist Church at 24th and Fort Streets, across from Bakers Grocery Store. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring along your chairs and plates. All club members and friends are welcome to attend.

HEAD STAFF

Head singer Carroll Stabler
Head man dancer Valentine Parker Jr.
Head lady dancer Alberta Canby

There will also be little boy and little girl head dancers to be announced later.

By - Joe Hallowell
President, Cultural Club

1979 C.E.T.A. SUMMER YOUTH JOB REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE ABOVE PROJECT WILL BE HELD AT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER ON APRIL 19, 20, & 23. AGES 14 THROUGH 21.

Applicants for Summer Youth jobs must be disadvantaged (Low Income) Youth only. Ages 14 through 21. Residents of Douglas County or Sarpy County. Must have proof of age and Social Security Card to apply (Birth Certificate, Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or computerized Report Card may be accepted as proof of age.) All registration will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Secure family income card at your school or any registration site Card must be completed by parents and presented at time of registration. Applicants must currently meet U.S. Department of Labor income guidelines. Remember the dates, so you may find employment.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOSE THOSE EXTRA POUNDS?

The AIC, Dept of Health & Nutrition is currently planning a weight control-exercise program. If you have a weight problem and would be interested in taking part, contact us at 344-0111 for more information. Ask for Linda, Evelyn or Twiggy.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER
OF OMAHA

AND THE URBAN INDIAN
CULTURAL CLUB
WILL SPONSOR A

WAR DANCE

**&
GOURD DANCE**

PEARL METHODIST CHURCH
24TH & FORT

**MARCH 10
6PM**

