MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our Indian Community & Supporters:

We would like to welcome the readers of HONCA (The Leader). Many thanks we extend to our Indian community for their active participation in the activities of the CENTER and to many supporters for their continuing efforts and assistance. The contents of HONCA (The Leader) are basically an update on Indian affairs across the nation and within the state. It also presents our progress status to date.

In this month's edition, we have two issues which need to be brought to your attention for review and comment. These issues are:

1. Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP)
2. United Way of the Midlands of Omaha and Council Bluffs (U.W.M.)

The goals of ECAP are to defray/assist the economic, disadvantaged poor people of our nation to survive the energy costs of our severe winter months. Last year the American Indian Center received a grant for $42,000 from ECAP to assist American Indians in this area of energy needs. This year, however, the State of Nebraska refused to directly fund us, even though we had an excellent administrative performance on funds/assistance. The Nebraska State Technical Assistance Agency led the Nebraska Indian Commission, the Lincoln Indian Center, and the American Indian Center of Omaha to believe that we were going to be funded. Once again the State of Nebraska got involved in politics and bureaucracy to "beef-up" their local friendly programs.

Thus, the monies for these ECAP services have transferred by the state to GOCA first, and now it's in the hands of the Douglas County Welfare offices. We have taken this local issue and put it in the hands of our Governor and National Washington, D.C., CSA offices to try to get the American Indians in the state of Nebraska serviced. It seems that the people whom we put into the State/National offices cannot make decisions in our behalf. One of our fellow American Indians commented, "This might be a new relocation plan to get American Indians to move to the southwest where hunting is not a problem." Hopefully in the next edition of HONCA we can provide more positive information from what has become another major American Indian issue across our Indian country.

The second issue is United Way of the Midlands of Omaha funding. Do you realize the American Indian Center of Omaha receives approximately .00275% of $6,000,000 which amounts to $16,000. Can you believe that this figure is only 1/2 of 1%? We all are under the impression and have been over the years that these contributions are for the ethnic and poor peoples of Omaha. The American Indian Center of Omaha has been in operation 15 years in providing services to American Indians in numerous ways with very little or monies from any city group or government. Presently we are very disappointed with our 1980 United Way funding but in order to provide civil legal service we must accept it for our Indian Community. In our next issue more information will be provided on United Way 1980 allocations.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Harrison Harlan, an Omaha Indian, will retire February 8 from Arkansas Kent Freightlines after 28 years as a truck driver. He belongs to the No. 544 Teamsters Union. He and his wife, Regina, plan to remain in Omaha after retirement to be near their children and grandchildren.

The American Indian Center takes pride in wishing them a happy retirement.

INCOME TAX SERVICE

The Accounting Department of the American Indian Center is offering a new service to the Native American community. Effective immediately, we will process income tax returns, utilizing the expertise and experience of our existing staff.

Our service is offered to individuals, partnerships, corporations (both regular and Sub-S), farmers, and investors. All returns are completely confidential as dictated by the Privacy Act.

Our fiscal officer, Pauline Blangy, has 25 years of accounting experience. Charges for this service are 75% of the regular charges of other tax services in the area and proceeds will be 100% utilized to defray operating deficits of the American Indian Center. Individual rates will be quoted by our receptionist upon request (Call Sherry Pappan for appointment 344-0111). Open evenings — Saturdays by appointment.

Indian Center of Omaha
CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

A clothing giveaway was held on Thursday, December 27, at the American Indian Center. A total of twenty-six families were assisted in meeting their winter clothing needs. These clothes were a part of the donations provided by the community for Christmas clients.

THANK YOU!

The American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., would like to extend a special thanks to all those persons responsible for donations of clothing, food, toys, candy, etc., which were used in our holiday projects. Through your generous giving, we were able to make Christmas a little brighter for many Native American families throughout the city. We just want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

MARY THOMAS JOINS ARMED FORCES

Mary Thomas, nutrition counselor at the American Indian Center since last May, has recently taken a position with a branch of the armed forces. Mary is currently undergoing six months of basic training at a base in South Carolina. Upon completion of that assignment, she will then transfer to Fort Sam Houston, Texas to continue her career. Her presence at the Indian Center will be missed and we all wish her the best of luck in all her endeavors.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS BASKETS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES

On December 21, the American Indian Center gave Christmas baskets to forty-five needy Indian families in Omaha. These baskets were filled with food, candy and toys, all of which were donated by area churches, organizations, businesses and individuals. Forty eight gift certificates for food items were given to clients by the Good Fellows, Omaha World Herald. At the end of the day, a drawing was held for a bicycle to be given away. The winner of that drawing was Miss Billie Miller, daughter of Thomas Miller. A total of 93 families were assisted.

Indian Affairs Deputy Turns In Resignation

Washington (AP) -- Forrest J. Gerard has resigned effective January 19 as assistant secretary for Indian affairs in the Interior Department, the department announced.

Gerard, born in Montana and a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, said he made the decision to resign reluctantly, but that he wanted to return to private business.

Andy's Transmission Service

1602 Sprague -- Phone: 344-3373

EXCHANGED - REBUILT - OVERHAULED

SERVICES: 1) Check Cars
           2) Provides Advice on Car buys
           3) Other auto services

Halfway House for Recovering Alcoholics Opens in January

The transitional living center (halfway house)
of the American Indian Center of Omaha will
open for resident clients by January 15. Re-

novation, furnishing and equipping of the
15-bed unit is completed, and the counseling
staff is screening applicants for admittance.

Located at the Community Plaza for Human
Resources at 4601 North 36th Street in Omaha,
the halfway house facilities include sleeping
quarters, lounges, kitchen, dining room, re-
source center, arts and crafts room, laundry,
counseling rooms, offices and reception area.
All rooms have been named in honor of famous
American Indians of the past and present, in-
cluding Indian Hall of Fame.

Applicants should have completed a minimum 28-
day alcoholism treatment program before seek-
ing admission to the transitional living
center.

The program is funded by the National Institute
for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The use and misuse of alcohol is the number
one health problem among American Indians.
An important phase of care at the Omaha Center
will be sessions in traditional culture and
values with emphasis on the spiritual needs of
clients.

VIDEO/FILM OF STANDING BEAR PLAY NEARS
COMPLETION

A famous American Indian play, "Footprints
in Blood," was premiered in Omaha under the
sponsorship of the American Indian Center.
Over 19 hours of raw videotape of all five
performances is being edited and enhanced for
public service, television and rental/sale
to colleges, communities, reservations and
other groups interested in the richness of
native American heritage.

The Standing Bear play is based on one of the
most famous civil rights trials in American
history. In his decision, the federal judge
declared the Ponca Chief "a person within the
meaning of the law and therefore entitled to
the protection of the U.S. Constitution." Standing Bear was the first American Indian to
become a human being in the eyes of the Govern-
ment. The year was 1879.

Tom Hertert, producer, is editing a 1-hr.
version of the play which featured a profes-
sional cast of 40 actors, dancers, singers,
musicians and technical staff. A portion of
his magnificent work was showcased to mem-
bers of the board and staff this past week.

He believes the drama by Christopher Sergel,
playwright for "Black Elk Speaks" in a land-
mark achievement in American theatre. It is
hoped that the lives of millions of people
will be enriched by this production in the
future.

Please contact us if you wish to rent and/or
purchase the videotape and film of "Footprints
in Blood."

POSTERS FOR SALE

Standing Bear posters are available in two
versions. One is a brown photograph of Standing
Bear at $2.50 and the water color drawing ver-
sion at $3.00 each. Standing Bear booklets
are still available at $3.50 each. Anyone
interested in purchasing one or more of the
items which have become a collector's item
please contact John Pappan at the AICO.

COMMUNITY FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAM EMPLOYEES

New employees for the CSA-funded Community
Food & Nutrition Program are:

Linda Azoquu....Food & Nutrition Project
Coordinator
Elise Harlan....Nutrition Education
Specialist
Ellen Cunningham,Outreach/Social Worker
Sherry Pappan....Nutrition Counselor
Fillmore Walker, Driver/Community Aide

CONSUMER TIPS OF THE MONTH

by Linda C. Azoquu, Home Economist

BUYING FRESH FRUITS & FRUIT PRODUCTS:

1. In general, do not buy overripe, soft,
bruised, or moldy fruits.

2. Buy citrus fruits (such as oranges,
grapefruit, lemons, limes, etc.) and pineapples
that feel heavy in relation to size; they will
be juicy.

3. Select fruits with good color and aroma.
These will be signs to ripeness; for example,
strawberries should have a bright red color
and a rich aroma.

4. Bananas, pears, avocados, and apples
are some fruits that ripen after harvest.
They are safely purchased while unripe.

5. Both at the supermarket and at home,
handle fruits gently; bruising hastens spoilage.

6. Buy bananas when yellow with green tips.
When speckled, they are at their prime. Re-
frigerate them with caution; though they may
lose quality, they will be suitable for such
uses as making banana cake or bread.

7. Read labels on beverage and drink con-
tainers and on mixes for punches, ices and
drinks. These products may not contain any
natural ingredients only sugar, water and
flavoring.

8. When buying canned fruits, try several
different brands. The most expensive may not

(Coprd next column)
be the best for flavor. Pears composed of pieces irregular in shape ought to be low in cost and may be quite flavorful.

9. Frozen fruits have good flavor but may have poor texture.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
By Fillmore Walker

The American Indian Center's Golden Eagles are now about halfway through their first season and they have a record of two wins and three losses. Although our two wins were by forfeit, we are looking forward to the second half of the season for our first real victory. We stand a better chance of winning the rest of our games since we have acquired a number of new players.

I am still interested in coaching a team of boys 14 - 16 but if I don't hear from anyone by January 5 I will have to drop the idea. Maybe another idea would be a girls' volleyball team. If you have any ideas along this line let us know.

Also it looks as though Indian youth will have the opportunity to see some of our area's fine college basketball teams (Creighton, UNO, etc.) in action — courtesy of their athletic departments. If this sounds like fun to you, ring the phone at 344-0111.

POSITION VACANCY

Applications are now being taken for the position of Health Careers Recruiter. This program will be offering the Indian community via the public and reservation school systems information and counseling regarding futures in health careers. This person will be going out into the school systems of Omaha, where the majority of Indian children attend, and will be presenting information about the various health-related careers, the schools offering these programs, and scholarships which are available, whether they be specific Indian-Education scholarships or others. Direct counseling and guidance will be part of the duties. All interested persons are encouraged to come to the AICO and fill out an application.

EMERGENCY ENERGY CRISIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

Presently we have been referring clients seeking Emergency Energy Crisis Assistance to GOCA. Meanwhile AICO, Lincoln Indian Center and the Nebraska Indian Commission have been seeking an audience with Governor Thone to receive direct EAM funds as in the previous year. However, we will continue to refer those clients seeking assistance to GOCA, Greater Omaha Community

To qualify for these services, you must have fuel/utility/energy needs, and your income must fall within the applicable guidelines. If you are certified, you will be assisted in meeting the heavy financial burden which will be the result of both the high cost of energy and the anticipated severity of the existing winter.

The ECAP effort will continue until late September 1980 so to ensure timely attention to your needs, if you think you may be eligible or would like more information, contact Ellen or Linda at the American Indian Center at 344-0111, as soon as possible.

AMERICAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

The American Indian Legal Services program has again been funded by United Way of the Midlands. These monies will be used to continue paying our attorney's salary for the 1980 year. We have not been funded for our legal secretary position as of yet. Other proposals have been submitted and are pending for approval soon. We hope to secure funding for our legal secretary by February 1, 1980.

Our Civil caseload continues, and we hope we will soon be able to establish appropriate funding for Criminal representation.

It is through our concern and effort that we continue to keep the American Indian Legal Services Program active and ready to serve the Indian community.

TRIBAL HISTORIES

We plan to write brief histories of Indian tribal groups which are represented in Omaha and we need to talk with tribal members familiar with their respective tribe and its history. We would like to identify tribal histories, their culture and social structure and traditions as well as other areas of interest. Contemporary histories are also invited. Material on these subjects may be mailed to the AICO or the person may come for an interview and the information written down. We believe that many Indian people have knowledge of tribal histories which should be written down and preserved for future generations to come. Please plan to participate in this important project. Call Wayne Tyndall, assistant director of AICO, at 344-0111 of your interest to share in this project.

1980 CENSUS WILL BE TAKEN

Don't forget to have your census taken this winter. The urban Indians and tribal groups lose out in funding, services, programs and other things by being under-counted. More information on this subject will be printed in the next month's issue of the "HONGA."
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER
ANNOUNCES
GRAND OPENING
ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM
JANUARY 26, 1990 - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
4601 N. 36TH ST. (4TH CENTER)

GOURD DANCE - WAR DANCE - FEAST

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

TIME: 2 P.M. - 12 P.M. - JANUARY 26, 1990
WHERE: FT. OMAHA, BLDG. 80 (STUDENT CENTER) (30TH & FORT STREETS)
HEAD LADY DANCER: MS. ALVINA ESAU
HEAD MAN DANCER: MR. PAIGE PARKER
HEAD SINGER: MR. CARROLL STABLER
MC'S: MR. JOE KEMP AND MR. CLIFFORD WOLFE SR.
PLEASE BRING:
1. SALADS - CAKES - POT LUNCH
2. DISHES
3. CHAIRS
4. ALL DRUMS AND DANCERS WELCOME TO THE WAR DANCE

SPECIAL RETIREMENT DANCES FOR:
MR. ALBERT DICK -- OMAHA COLD STORAGE
MR. HARRISON HARLAN -- ARKANSAS BEST FREIGHTLINES

LET'S CELEBRATE THESE SUCCESSES IN OUR INDIAN COMMUNITY.
SPONSORED FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY OF OMAHA BY: AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER AND ORPHANS AIDES OF OMAHA.
IN 1976 these concerned American Indian community members got involved for the purpose of having a voice in Indian Alcoholism destiny:

Mr. Joe Kemp  
Mr. Harrison Harlan  
Mr. Nate J. Parker  
Mr. Alex Lundeman

Mr. Frank V. Love  
Mrs. Josephine Clinchess  
Mr. Timothy F. Woodhall  
Mrs. Eva J. Nichols

In 1977 this Corporation "Urban Indian Health Association, Inc." under the Douglas County Hospital Administrators, Mrs. Delia Robinson and Mr. Harold Rogers put together a grant application for funding from National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. These American Indian staff members did the work and were funded:

Mr. Timothy F. Woodhall, Executive Director  
Mr. Wayne M. Tyndall, Grantsperson/Planner  
Ms. Elsie Harlan, Health Educator  
Mr. Mario Zendejas, Urban Health Representative  
Mr. Dan Smith, Urban Health Representative

Board of Directors:

Mr. Roland McBride  
Mrs. Jean Lovejoy  
Ms. Donna Cantu

Mr. Joe Kemp  
Dr. Ronald Deriana, DDS  
Mr. Joe Hallowell

In 1978 Mr. Timothy F. Woodhall, Executive Director, and Mr. Wayne M. Tyndall, Grantsperson/Planner of the Urban Indian Health Association, Inc., transferred this grant to the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., in following the goals and objectives that the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., be a community-based Indian Center.

In 1978 this Board of Directors of the American Indian Center of Omaha accepted the transfer of the grant:

Mr. Mario Peniska  
Mr. Joe Kemp  
Mr. Gene Crawford  
Mr. Fred Grant  
Mr. Rick Sayers  
Mr. Timothy F. Woodhall, Executive Director

Mrs. Julia Morris  
Ms. Norma Levering  
Mr. Mario Zendejas  
Mrs. Grace Muntich  
Mr. Dan Smith  
Mr. Joe Hallowell

In 1980 this Board will implement all administrative, fiscal management, programmatic aspects of our American Indian Center of Omaha Alcoholism Program Halfway House and Treatment for our American Indians in Omaha which make up the 1/3rd of our Indian population in Nebraska.

Board of Directors 1980:

Ms. Diana Walker, Chairperson  
Mr. Joe Kemp, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Louie Crispin, Secretary  
Mrs. Doris Rodgers, Treasurer

Ms. Norma Levering, Co-treasurer  
Mr. Eugene Crawford, Member  
Mr. Joe Hallowell, Member

The total administration/management of this alcoholism program was directed by Mr. Timothy F. Woodhall, Executive Director, of the:

Urban Indian Health Association, Inc. 1974 – 1977
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc. 1978 – 1980

OFFICIAL OPENING DATE January 15, 1980
OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING DATE January 26, 1980
HONGA-MI-00-MUBLTHI-IKE
"WHEN THE SNOW DRIFTED INTO
THE TENTS OF THE HONGA"

HECEL-LENA-OYATE-KIN-NI PI-KTE
"THAT THESE PEOPLE MAY LIVE"

NEW YEAR'S DAY

13 - Kicking Horse surrenders rifle to Gen. Miles ending Ghost Dance

1925 First execution of a white man in the U.S. for murder of an Indian at Pendleton, Indiana.

NOTE: Monthly Food Fair - Everyone welcome - Feb. 4th 2 p.m., AICO, Coffee & Rolls served.