Honga: the leader, v. 03, no. 06

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR INDIAN COMMUNITY & SUPPORTERS:

This month’s edition of the HONGA will focus on our newly elected board of directors of the American Indian Center of Omaha, and the activities surrounding our annual election held in conjunction with our annual picnic.

More than four (400) hundred Indian people of all ages turned out for these events. Seventy-two (72) registered American Indians voted in the annual election held at Hanscom Park on May 30. This was the biggest turnout from previous years. The ballot count and results was handled by the Women’s League of Voters. The new board of directors are:

1. Richard Barea
2. Louie Crispin
3. Thomas Davidson Jr.
4. Logan Fontenelle
5. Dr. Herb Grandbois
6. Thomas Harlan
7. Floyd J. Pilcher
8. Mario Zendejas
9. Louis Warner

Everyone enjoyed the picnic dinner and visited with old and new friends alike. Some remarks were made to the effect that we should hold pot-luck picnics where our community can donate food, and we can set up different activities for entertainment. If anyone wishes to participate in such events, please call or stop in to see us.

This coming year, we look forward with enthusiasm to a very active board of directors and a lot of progress. Let’s all get together in providing full support and encouragement to our new board of directors! Many thanks to our past board of directors for their selfless work and efforts.

Being a board member is a very demanding task. It’s hard to make decisions for the total betterment of our Indian community during these days and times. Presently everyone seems to be cutting back on funding. Everything is becoming very competitive, especially in the areas of funding of new programs.

Services available:

1. Legal
2. Health & Nutrition
3. Alcoholism
4. Indian Hlth Careers
5. Social Services

In closing, we ask your continuous support and involvement for the duration of the 1980’s.

(Cont’d next column)

Please stop by at your convenience and have a cup of coffee and visit a while.

Respectfully,

Timothy F. Woodhull
Executive Director
Member, Nebraska Indian Commission

VALENTINE PARKER SR.'S FIRST MEMORIAL MEETING & DINNER COMMEMORATED

In observance of Valentine Parker Sr.'s first memorial meeting and dinner, more than three-hundred tribal members and friends participated in this memorable occasion last weekend. He was a spiritual leader of the Omaha Tribe.

A peyote meeting was held in his honor followed by a feast the following day sponsored by his family. The meeting and dinner was conducted by Valentine Parker Jr.

Valentine Parker Sr. will be remembered for his many good deeds that he provided to all people. It was Russell Means mother, Theo, who also has passed on, who said, "Valentine Parker was most helpful to me with comforting prayers and talks when my sons were in trouble. Through his years of unselfish ways he touched the lives of many people and families, giving support, strength and encouragement. Hopefully in the future the goodness shared through his life will be carried on by everyone who knew him, supported him and were touched by his involvement.

As we remember all the good things that he has done, it should be every one’s desire to continue the traditional ways which he has taught us and for which the Omahas are widely known. Our deepest regards are extended to Minnie Parker, wife of Valentine Parker Sr. and all his children and relatives and friends and the Native American Church.

A granite gravestone marker for him was unveiled which read, "Father, Valentine Parker Sr. Expressed his love for his wife, Minnie, all his children and Native American Church, 1906-1979."

Valentine Parker Sr. had served on the Omaha Tribal Council for more than fifteen years.

* * * *
Prichard, 33, was named in January 1977 as director of the center, becoming the center's 21st director in nine years. He has served the longest as executive director of one of 73 Indian Centers nationwide.

Prichard initially accepted the position for one year after taking a leave of absence from his job as director of news and public affairs for KLMS radio station.

AICO ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM NEWS

The AICO alcoholism program has three new additions this past month. They are Frank Bearkiller, certified alcoholism counselor; Nick Necklace, career development specialist; and Alvin Cox, weekday manager. We are happy to have them all on our staff.

Fred LeRoy has left our program May 21 to work with OPPD. We appreciated Fred for all he did for us. Fred also said he thanks us all for giving him the opportunity to work with the Indian community and the American Indian Center Alcoholism Program.

Whitman Harry, program director, traveled to two conferences -- at Louisville, Kentucky and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Both conferences had to do with Indian Alcoholism Programs, funding, Indian health, etc.

Residents have in-house AA meetings at the Alcoholism Program on Friday nights, starting at 7:00 p.m. We encourage the Indian community to attend. If you wish to find out more about the AICO alcoholism program or Indian alcoholism in general, please call or come in to see us at 4601 North 36th Street, Fourth Floor in the COMMUNITY PLAZA FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, 402 451-3714. Anyone of our alcoholism staff would be happy to assist you with your needs:

Whitman Harry, Program Director
Carolyn Williams, Secretary/Recreation
Alfred Hallowell, Chemical Dependency
and Court Referral Specialist
Nick Necklace, Career Developer
Art Patlan, Halfway House Cook
Dave Walker, Halfway House Weekend Manager
Alvin Cox, Halfway House Weekend Manager

In 1962-67 The U.S. Government spent more than $100 million upon wars with the Sioux, Cheyenne and Navajo Indians

In 1921 U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs was created by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun.
CLASS AT NORTH HIGH RAISES

American Indian Literature class at North High School has donated $867.50 to a fund to help Cheri Otero, 3, who became paralyzed four months ago.
The 25 juniors and seniors raised the money by holding a bake sale and a raffle of Indian jewelry, said their teacher, Irene Smith.

(Cont'd Next Column)
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May 27, 1980

Editor, HONGA
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
613 South 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102

M. Woodhull,

I would like to be put on your mailing list for your newsletter "HONGA." I didn’t even know Omaha had an Indian Center until a few months ago.

I am currently working here at the Indian Center as a Housing Officer. We are deeply involved in trying to get Grant monies for low-cost housing for Urban Indians in the Los Angeles area.

I just read your copy for May 1980, very informative. Just reading some of the names of the people in your newsletter brought back old memories of my childhood days in Walthill. I and my wife graduated from California State University Long Beach in 1978. Being an Omaha, I’d like more news of the people.

Thank you.

Louis Himman
1864 Locust #7
Long Beach, Ca. 90806

FIFTH ANNUAL WAR EAGLE POW WOW ATOKADA PARK
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA--JULY 27, 28, 29

The 6th Annual War Eagle Pow Wow will be held June 27, 28 and 29, 1980, at ATOKADA PARK, South Sioux City, Nebraska. Contest categories: Men’s Fancy, Women’s Shawl, Drum Contest, Men’s and Women’s Traditional, Junior Girls, Junior Boys’ Fancy and Tradition- al and Tiny Tots. Agenda: Friday, 7:00 p.m., Evening Performance (no contest), Saturday, 2:00 p.m., Grand Entry, 6:30 p.m., Registration Closes, 7:00 p.m., Grand Entry. Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Grand Entry (finals). There will also be Men's and Women's Fast Pitch Tournament at Klassey Park, South Sioux City, Neb. -- Winnebago, Nebraska. Double elimination -- 12 teams. Camping available. For more information contact: SIOUX CITY AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER PHONE: (712) 255-8957.

NUTRITION AND HOW IT CAN HELP YOU

By Elsie Harlan

On June 11th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. a meeting will be held at the Woodson Center at 3009 R. Street.

Mrs. Emma Navarette, nutrition aide from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, will speak on nutrition and how it can help you.

People differ widely on how much they want to know about nutrition, but everyone needs to know a few facts about food and health as a basis for selecting the foods to eat, according to Family Fare, a guide to good nutrition.

Make plans to attend this meeting. Transportation will be provided upon request. Contact Ms. Elsie Harlan, health educator, at 344-0111 for more information.

WAKONDA (SOURCE OF ALL THINGS)

WAKONDA to the Omahas did not mean "the great spirit." Equally improper would it be to regard the term as a synonym of nature, or of an object god, a being apart from nature. WAKONDA stands for the mysterious life force permeating all natural forms and forces and all phases of man’s conscious life. The idea of WAKONDA is therefore fundamental to the Omaha in his relations to nature, including man and all other living forms. As has been said by a thoughtful member of the tribe, "No matter how far an Omaha may wander in his superstitious beliefs and attribute godlike power to natural objects, he invariably returns to WAKONDA, the source of all things, when he falls into deep and sober thought on religious concep- tions."

Visible nature seems to have mirrored to the Omaha mind the ever-present activities of the invisible and mysterious WAKONDA and to have been an instructor both in religion and in ethics. The rites pertaining to the individual reveal clearly the teaching of the integrity of the universe, of which man is a part; the various tribal rites emphasize man’s dependence on a power greater than himself and the idea that supernatural punishments will follow disobedience to constituted authority. An old man has said, "Wako’nda causes day to follow night without variation and summer to follow winter; we can depend on these regular changes and can order our lives by them. In this way Wako’nda teaches us that our words and our acts must be truthful, so that we may live in peace and happiness with one another. Our fathers thought about these things and observed the acts of WAKONDA and their words have come down to us."

Taken from the Omaha Tribe by Alice Fleckner and Francis Laffene
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