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Honga : the leader, v. 03, no. 11

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

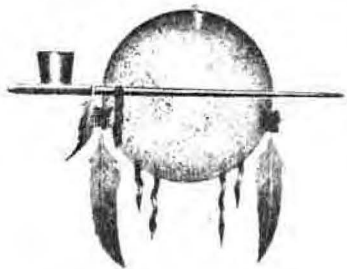
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HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOL. III - NO. II

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1980

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Indian community and supporters:

We would like to welcome the readers of our October-November 1980 edition of HONGA (The Leader). Since our last HONGA went to press, there has been some very interesting activities going on in our Indian community, reservations, cities, states and nation involving our Indian people.

In our last edition, the HONGA covered your American Indian Center's goals and objectives for the coming months ahead. The results of these grants to be awarded follow:

1. SEDS - Economic Development \$55,000
2. CETA - Indian Training & Employment Program \$114,000
3. Nebr. Interchurch Ministries - Civil Legal Program \$25,000
4. Alcoholism continuation grant approved \$141,000
5. Administration for Native Americans \$65,000
6. Community Food & Nutrition Program \$35,000

Total grant awards: \$435,000

Other activities included a successful native American Church ceremony for our Alcoholism Program and Indian community at our Spiritual Leader Mr. Joe Kemp's home. A Halloween Party for American Indian children, 12 years old and under was held with creativeness and enjoyment.

Proposals we are waiting to hear from are:

1. United Way - \$70,563.00
2. AKSARBEN \$14,000
3. Peter Kiewit Foundation \$14,000
4. National Indian Lutheran Board \$14,000
5. VISTA -- Two volunteers
6. Church solicitations (Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets)

Until our next issue of the HONGA, we hope to see you at the Center to make it work for you. If you have any questions on the above, stop by and have some refreshments to discuss them.

Respectfully,



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

Member, Nebraska Indian Commission

* * * * *

HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

OMAHA INDIAN TRIBE PICKS CHAIRMAN AND NEW COUNCIL

With council elections and the naming of a new chairman Tuesday (November 4), the Omaha Indian Tribe started the road back to health after experiencing some difficulty in its leadership.

Elmer Blackbird of Walthill, Neb., was elected by a new seven-member Tribal Council to succeed the former council.

Blackbird, 59, actually took over from Oliver Saunsoci, interim chairman, who lost a bid for council membership in the general tribal election Monday, November 3.

Mark Merrick of Walthill was elected vice chairman; incumbent Councilman Lemuel Harlan of Macy, Neb., secretary; and Dennis Turner of Macy, treasurer. Elected as council members were Hollis D. Stabler of Walthill, Neb., and Eddie Walker and Doran Morris both of Macy.

Blackbird is director of the Indian Action Program, a training program which operates as a construction firm dealing with heavy equipment. He said he will step down from the job to take over the tribal chairmanship, a full-time job paying about \$18,000 per year.

"We've stepped into difficult jobs here," Blackbird said. Reorganization of tribal government, a review of the constitutional bylaws created in the 1930s and improving public relations are top on the list of improvements to be made, he said.

Blackbird is encouraged by one thing, though -- a turnout of two-thirds of the registered tribal voters Monday.

DEFINITION OF THE WORD 'HONGA'

HONGA means "leader," or "first," and implies the idea of ancient, or first, people; those who led. The use of the term HONGA as applied to divisions and clans in the Omaha, Osage, Kansa and Quapaw tribes, together with the fact that these tribes either claimed for themselves this name or were known to one another by it, it seems not improbable that HONGA may have been the name by which the people called themselves when they were living together as one community or tribe. The general meaning of HONGA ("leader") is not unlike that belonging to names by which other Indian tribes designate themselves, i.e., "the men," "the people," "the human beings," etc. (Quoted from the Omaha Tribe by Fletcher and La Flesche.)

HONGA (The Leader) is published monthly by the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., with grant funds appropriated by Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and approved by the AICO board of directors. HONGA (The Leader) is mailed free to native Americans and other interested persons/organizations upon receiving a written request and has a circulation of 1,700 copies. All correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, HONGA (The Leader), American Indian Center of Omaha Inc., 613 South 16th Street, Omaha, NE 68102. (Full credit should be given HONGA (The Leader) when any material therefrom is reprinted.)

This edition of the HONGA will cover the months of October and November 1980.

EDITORIAL STAFF...

Editor-in-Chief.....Timothy F. Woodhull
Associate Editor.....Wayne Tyndall
Mimeograph Operator.....Clyde Tyndall

REPORTERS...

Alcoholism Program.....Nate Parker
Legal Services.....Diane Webb
Health & Nutrition.....Clyde Tyndall
Joan Garey
Employment Assistance.....Elmer Necklace

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS...

HEALTH & NUTRITION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES CFNP GRANT AWARD

By Clyde Tyndall

The Health & Nutrition Department recently received an award from the Community Services Administration in Kansas City, Mo., for \$35,000 for its Community Food & Nutrition Program. It had originally submitted a proposal for \$70,000 which was subsequently denied. However, through the appeal efforts of Timothy F. Woodhull, executive director of the American Indian Center of Omaha and Clyde Tyndall, health & nutrition project coordinator, this denial was overruled and the center was given an amount of \$35,000. The funding will be for Access and Crisis Relief. This means that we will still be able to get our Indian people into the various Federal food programs such as Food Stamps, WIC, etc. Also available will be emergency food supplies for situations where families do not have any food. This becomes especially important for the coming cold months. It should also be noted, that due to the limited amount of funds for this particular grant, AICO no longer could maintain a staff of five workers for the health & nutrition department. AICO has been forced to go with only two workers and it regrets the loss of the three staff members who were laid off. The services that have been available for you during the past year will be continued and AICO looks forward to a very fruitful and successful year.***

FOOD STAMP NEWS

By John Hanger, Nebraskans United for Food (NUFF)

The American Indian Center will be undertaking a major documentation effort to record client problems with the Food Stamp Program. The documentation effort will help to improve access opportunities for the American Indian population by recording violations of client rights and advocacy for measures to stop those violations. The goal of the campaign is to guarantee that the Food Stamp Office operates the Food Stamp Program according to law.

Clyde Tyndall will be utilizing two methods for documenting problems. First, he will be completing a standardized Food Stamp Complaint Referral Form. These Referral Forms will be collected and analyzed to determine specific client rights that are frequently broken. Second, Mr. Tyndall will be requesting that clients sign the "Release of Information" forms that permit the American Indian Center of Omaha to examine client case files and to represent them at Fair Hearings if the Food Stamp Office acted improperly.

The Community Food & Nutrition Program staff at the American Indian Center of Omaha will need the cooperation of clients to make this documentation effort succeed. This activity is being coordinated with Nebraskans United For Food (NUFF).

AICO ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM

In the month of September the American Indian Center Alcoholism Program was invited to attend a banquet sponsored by the Winnebago Alcohol Treatment Center. The banquet was titled: "Heroes of the Alcohol Massacre." The dinner was held in honor of those who have gone through an alcoholism program with one year or more of sobriety. All the residents and clients enjoyed the occasion and thank Winnebago for inviting them. The Program Director of the AICOAP will be continuing the process of further involvement with other alcoholism agencies in establishing a better working relationship with each other.

The AICOAP and Halfway House has been very busy in all areas of treatment, activities, and community involvement. They are very near full capacity and more are on the waiting list; however, this does not mean the staff will not be able to help those who are waiting. Counselors/staff are capable in servicing clients to their typical needs. They still encourage those native Americans struggling against alcoholism to indeed come and talk with them or just come there for a visit. Appointments are made daily for out-patient clients. The program is located at 4601 North 36th Street, 4th Floor (Phone: 402 451-3714). AA meetings are going very, very well. Meetings are held on Monday Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. It's an open meeting and all who are interested may attend. The meetings grow with each meeting held. Refreshments

(Cont'd page 3, col. 1)

and snacks will be served. Please come!!! Also, our Family nights have been moved to Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. Our client/residents are fully involved with not only treatment sessions which go on daily, but activities consisting of basketball, at Pearl Memorial Church; football, movies, bowling, etc., etc. In-house activities are also playing a part in Arts & Crafts, painting, beadwork, woodwork, etc., broadening with each opportunity. A sweat lodge has been built with help from our residents for their enhancement in the spiritual phase of our program. Mr. Joe Kemp and Mr. Joe Dick are sponsors for the sweat lodge. Watch for future dates and times when the next sweat lodge ceremonies will be held.***

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

The American Indian Center is once again issuing turkeys and food baskets for Thanksgiving. We will try to reach as many families as possible. Also, we will be taking applications for Christmas Baskets. Deadline for Christmas applications is November 26th. For further information, contact Ms. Joan Garey at 344-0111.***

CULTURAL CLUB APPRECIATION

The Urban Indian Cultural Club wishes to thank everyone who helped make the 9th Annual Dodge Park Pow wow a success.***

IN MEMORY OF A BROTHER

We were saddened to learn of the untimely death of our brother Timothy Saunsoci, a traditional singer of the Omaha Tribe. Tim's group called the Skunk Hollow Singers appeared in the now famous play, "Footprints in Blood," staged in Omaha last year. Tim was the great great grandson of Ponca Chief Standing Bear whose story was the basis for the play.

We extend our sincere condolence to the family of Tim -- his wife, children, parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.***

FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAM INFORMATION

Are you aware of the Food Stamp Program, WIC, Supplemental Foods, School Breakfast or the Elderly Nutrition Program in Omaha? You may be eligible and not know it, or you may know of someone who might be eligible. The Health & Nutrition Department at the Indian Center has been funded for this purpose to let you know about these programs and to help you get these benefits which you are entitled to. Did you know that Nebraska participation in these programs was last in the four state region which includes: Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska?

If you desire information on these programs to see if you are eligible, or if you have a complaint about any of the programs, please contact Clyde Tyndall or Joan Garey at the Indian Center. Remember, these programs are for your benefit if you qualify. Call 344-0111.*

FLANDREAU INDIAN SCHOOL

Jack A. Belkman, who was recently appointed Superintendent at the Flandreau Indian School, Flandreau, South Dakota, opened classes on September 4, 1980. The enrollment for the 1980-81 school year has shown a sharp increase and the Dormitory Home Living facilities are filled to near capacity with a total of 549 students. The staff at the Flandreau Indian School is looking forward to a successful year, and plan to share student accomplishments by sending out news releases to the hometown newspapers. - Ed Buck, FIS Promotional Committee.***

TRIBAL LEADER: DECISION ON LAND FEELS 'GOOD'

Oliver Saunsoci, Omaha Indian tribal chairman, said it felt "real good" to learn the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower court decision on 2,900 acres of Iowa farmland.

That means the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, which said the land belongs to the Omahas, stands.

Saunsoci said that after more than five years of legal battles, the Monday morning decision seemed to mark the end for several non-Indian farmers who have been fighting for possession of the land along the Blackbird Bend of the Missouri River.

"I think that's as far as they're going to go," Saunsoci said from Macy, Neb.

However, Elizabeth Osenbaugh, assistant Iowa attorney general, said the State of Iowa is in a different position from other parties in the legal battle.

Representing the Iowa Conservation Commission, she said its portion of the suit is not dead and will be sent back to the federal district court that originally heard the suit.

Other non-Indians who claimed ownership of the land and have farmed it since the turn of the century could not be reached for comment.

Saunsoci said Indian farmers who have been cultivating beans, corn, alfalfa and oats on the disputed land want to make "lots of improvements" there, including the establishment of irrigation and a "very careful study of the land."

Blackbird Bend is northwest of Omaha, Iowa, and across the river from Omaha Tribal headquarters. The tribe said the land was part of an area west of the Missouri River that it kept under an 1854 treaty. Since then, the river has shifted course many times, leaving the disputed land on the Iowa side of the river, where much of it was settled by whites who held it until 1975, when the tribe seized the land. Saunsoci said the tribe's attorney, William Veeder of Washington, D.C., called Monday morning to announce the court's decision.



NATIVE AMERICAN ESSAY COLLECTION

Brian Swann is soliciting essays for a book devoted to such topics as the use and abuse of Indian (Native American) material by Indian and non-Indian alike, Indian autobiography, forgotten or neglected Indian writers, and works of fiction concerned with the Indian. He also seeks essays on, and interviews with, contemporary Indian writers, and so on. Send papers to Brian Swann, The Cooper Union, Cooper Sq., New York, N.Y. 10003 by Jan. 1, 1981.***

SWEAT LODGE CEREMONIES

A Sweat will be held at Mr. Joe Kemp's residence on Nov. 18, 1980, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Joe Dick will conduct the ceremonies. Mr. Wilfred Lovejoy will be door man. A pot luck will follow. Bring your dishes and towels. Everyone is welcome to attend.***

REGULATIONS GOVERNING PREPARATION OF DELAWARE

ROLLS PUBLISHED

On August 1, 1980, President Carter signed legislation (P.L. 96-318) setting forth provisions for the distribution of the judgment funds among four Delaware groups: the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma, Cherokee Delawares; Kansas Delawares and Idaho Delawares. For more information write to: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Tribal Government Services, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20245. Or call Kathleen Slover at 703/235-8276.***

THE EAGLES ARE GATHERING

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will sponsor a gathering for all peoples involved in work among the native Americans. The Western conference will be held in Denver on Nov. 14-16 in the North Valley Church, 9521 Lou Drive, Denver, Colo. All participants should come in fasting and prayer. A unique Spiritual and unifying experience is anticipated.***

GOURD DANCE CELEBRATION FOR DAVID HEATON JR.

A birthday gourd dance celebration will be held for David Heaton Jr. at Fort Calhoun J.C. Hall on Nov. 8, 1980, at 2 p.m.

HEAD SINGER.....Mitchell Sheridan
HEAD WAR DANCER.....Hoover Harlan
HEAD MAN DANCER.....Paul Calcaterra
HEAD LADY DANCER.....Maxine Harvey
HEAD BOY DANCER.....Berry Wells
HEAD GIRL DANCER.....Delina Esau
MC.....Alfred Gilpin
In-charge.....Joseph Dick
SPONSORS.....Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kemp
EVERYONE IS INVITED... BRING YOUR CHAIRS & DISHES.

BUREAUCRATS



"We've all been invited to a teepee warming!"

GAME SCHEDULE - FIRST AMERICANS VOLLEY BALL

TEAM #9

BENSON COMMUNITY CENTER

Friday Night Coed Volley Ball

Dates	6:15	7:00	7:45	8:30
Oct 17				8-9
Oct 24	2-9			
Oct 31				9-1
Nov 7		4-9		
Nov 14			9-3	
Nov 21			6-9	
Dec 5		9-5		
Dec 12	9-7			

LEGAL NEWS

Until December 31, 1980, our attorney will be on part-time status. Her hours will be from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday thru Friday of each week.

You will need to call and make an appointment with the legal department during these hours. Some appointments will be made after 2 p.m. for those who work and cannot come in between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. However, if you do not call before coming, our attorney will not be available. Be sure to call for appointments after 2 p.m.

If you must cancel your appointment, please call and let us know and schedule your appointment.***



"Another obscene call."

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	5 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	6	7 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program 7:00 P.M.	8 David Heaton Birthday Gourd Dance Ft. Calhoun J.C. Hall at 2 p.m.
9	10	11 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	12 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	13	14 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program	15
16	17	18 Sweat Lodge ceremony Joe Kemp's Home at 6:30 p.m. Adult Basic Ed 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	19 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	20 Monthly Board Meeting (Board of Directors) - 7:00 p.m.	21 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program	22
23 30	24	25 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	26 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	27 HOLIDAY THANKSGIVING	28 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program	29