6-1-1982

Honga : the leader, v. 05, no. 06-07

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/honga

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/honga/41

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Series at DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honga: the leader by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Indian Community,

One of the nicest months of the year in these parts is June. I spent a weekend on the Omaha reservation where I happened to be born. I attended the annual memorial day ceremonies at the cemetery grounds. The wild deep pink roses together with rich yellow and lavender irises grew profusely while casting a fragrant scent. Everything else was fresh with a deep greenness caused by recent heavy rains. The sky never seemed bluer. The memory of my beloved father and other dear ones lingered incessantly at that sacred spot.

In accord with tribal tradition, many kind and generous Omahas had gathered to give gifts of crystal bowls filled to the brim with fresh fruits, candies, cookies, cigarettes and chewing gum to the friends of those now deceased. I want to thank those two thoughtful persons who gave me such nice gifts in remembrance of our loved ones. A smart military honor guard provided services in respect to those comrades who had served in the armed forces, dating back to the civil war. It can be said that there are many who took up arms for their love of country.

Meanwhile in Oklahoma my sister and brother-in-law had a pow-wow for their son Richard in memory of our deceased fathers. There were more than three hundred dancers in the grand entry. Many from Lincoln, Macy and Omaha attended this event.

I want to thank all those persons who came to my birthday dinner on June 19. I especially want to thank Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Gilpin of Macy who had kind words for my family and who offered a prayer for me. I want to thank those who brought gifts for me. It made me feel happy.

On another note, it seems that our work at AICO is never ending. When it begins to look like things are tapering off, a new beginning is awaiting its turn. In short, from now until August, we will be writing new proposals for FY 83 funding. This has become quite competitive in recent times.

Very sincerely,

Wayne Tyndall

**********

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

FLANDREAU REMOVED FROM CLOSURE LIST; WILL REMAIN OPEN

Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith announced May 21 that Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota has been removed from a list of off-reservation boarding schools proposed for closure by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Flandreau had been scheduled to be closed at the end of the 1983-84 school year. The BIA held hearings in March and April on a proposed plan to close 8 off-reservation schools in the next four years. Smith said that a review of the facts showed that there was still a need for Flandreau, which will be the only off-reservation school left in the central plains service area of the Bureau. Flandreau now has an enrollment of about 400 and a capacity of 550. It is expected that some of the students from other schools to be closed will attend Flandreau.

AMERICAN INDIANS SEEK JAPANESE AID

By Frank T. Csongos
WASHINGTON (UPI) - A group of American Indians is seeking loans from Japanese in-
dustrialists, saying they are leery of help from government and corporations in this country.

"Over the past years, tribes in the United States have become cynical and wary of federal efforts toward reservation development - especially since resources such as coal and oil were ripped off by shrewd corporate types," explained E.M. Savilla.

Savilla is executive director of the National Tribal Chairman's Association, a Washington-based Indian organization.

Spokesmen for the association said they were "cheated" by energy producers leasing Indian land to develop coal or oil, adding "the record is clear, but I won't name these companies because we don't want any lawsuits."

Savilla said many Indians have been "cheated" by energy producers leasing Indian land to develop coal or oil, adding "the record is clear, but I won't name these companies because we don't want any lawsuits."

Savilla said American Indians own more than 100 million acres of land from Maine to California and from Florida to Alaska. He said about 13 percent of the nation's coal reserves, along with substantial oil and gas resources, are owned by Indian tribes.

Federal authorities have "neglected" the Indians, Savilla said, and he blamed high unemployment on reservations on government policies. He said the average jobless rate is about 45 percent, with the figure approaching 95 percent on more depressed tribal reservations.

"American Indian tribes historically have not had a real chance to develop commercially or industrially to their full potential," Savilla said.

He said the proposals submitted to the U.S.-Asia Institute for delivery to Japan ranged in project cost from $300,000 for a trailer park for the Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma to $40 million for an electric generating project for the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine.

The tribal association represents various Indian governments. There are about 500 American Indian tribes in the country but not all of them belong to the association.

CRISIS ON THE RESERVATIONS

Unemployment rates for the approximately 750,000 Indians living on or near reservations now averages between 31% and 46%, and range as high as 83% among those seeking work. According to one observer, conditions have always been bad on Indian reservations but have now reached crisis proportions.

Even more than some of the nation's poor, Indian people are feeling the effects of budget reductions, with no relief in sight. Job training programs have been eliminated; health and education funding is inadequate. The Administration has rejected a proposal to replace budget losses with additional money for supporting tribal governments. The "economic development initiatives" of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are at best a drop in the bucket, and at worst unworkable for the majority of Indian tribes.

Meanwhile, the Administration has declared that it is developing an Indian policy statement. The announcement prompts two questions:

1) Will such a policy be shaped primarily by mandates from the Office of Management and Budget - a justification for budget cuts already in place?

2) If such a statement actually reflects policies sought by Indian tribes, will it carry sufficient weight to reverse any Administration budget decisions or to provide constructive alternatives for assisting tribes?

One thing is clear: in the absence of a declared "Indian policy," the power determining the Administration's actual policy is now squarely lodged in the Office of Management and Budget. The obsession with nonmilitary budget reductions is doing far more to determine actual "Indian policy" than Reagan campaign assertions of "government-to-government" relations and "Indian self-determination."

(FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION, No. 448, June 1982)
The rules changes proposed by President Reagan’s chief Indian official, himself a Warm Springs Indian, have mystified many Indian leaders.

One of the changes would take away all important Indian water in the West. Another would throw Indians on the mercy of local officials who have lusted after Indian lands and minerals for decades. A third would deny the obligation of the federal government to provide education to Indians. A fourth would eliminate Indians not living on reservations from eligibility for federal Indian services.

Ken Smith has in recent weeks emerged as the point man of the Reagan Indian team. He intends to change many of the rules of Indian affairs that have stood for the past 200 years.

Interviews with ten Indian leaders in the past few weeks brought forth four theories to explain why Smith is taking such anti-Indian positions. Smith himself would not comment.

Most of the ten believe Smith is marching to orders from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This theory was tested in an interview with Smith’s chief press spokesman, Carl Shaw.

Shaw confirmed that OMB, not Smith, initiated the move of the Office of Indian Education from the Department of Education to Interior.

According to Shaw, this move would mean that Indians living off reservations will no longer be eligible for this program. He confirmed that the budget proposals for next year would eliminate nonreservation Indians from other BIA programs.

This theory was further confirmed by Shaw’s statement that it was OMB, not Smith, who initiated the decision that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) would in the future serve only Indians living on reservations.

Several of the ten leaders believe that the heart of Smith’s campaign is his desire to enlarge his empire. They believe his motivation is to consolidate the power of the Interior Department over all Indian affairs.

This second theory seemed to be confirmed by Shaw’s statement that Smith wants to have Interior become a central coordinating point for Indian services. Shaw claims tribal leaders want to have all Indian services in one department.

He points out that Smith, as spokesman for the sub-Cabinet task on Indian policy, is the spokesman for all Indian policy inside of 60 days.

The head of a large Indian technical assistance agency offers a third explanation—that Smith really believes what he is saying. He points out that Smith, by associating with Republicans for over two decades, really believes in the Republican ideology.

A fourth explanation is offered by the executive of a national Indian organization. This official points out that Smith has had an easy life—attendance at non-Indian schools and colleges, being business manager at Warm Springs reservation, and managing the rapidly growing timber industry at Warm Springs in the 1960s and 1970s.

He says Smith really believes every Indian tribe in the US can be self-sufficient. But, he points out, most tribes are impoverished. The few which can support themselves with their natural resources are hampered by their lack of capital and management expertise, he says.

The fifth and final theory is offered by a long time observer of the Indian scene. She believes that Smith is either too dumb or too insensitive to the needs and desires of Indians to understand them. Serious or sarcastic, the five explanations, many agree, all have some validity, but most believe the good soldier theory is the most valid.

As a good soldier, Smith is apparently willing to ride roughshod over 200 years of US history in his eagerness to serve Reagan and Watt. This eagerness has caused him some minor embarrassments so far.

One example is the ridicule he endured recently at the hands of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. When he could not tell the members of the Committee how his reorganization plan would save $16 million as he claimed it would, he lost credibility instantly, according to one observer.

Andrews of North Dakota reportedly made him look ridiculous in the hearings on the school closings. When he could not answer questions about where the Indian children would attend school if three BIA schools were closed, he was laughed at openly. (Shaw blames this embarrassment on poor work by Smith’s staff.)

Smith and his top management bring back memories of the days of termination,
one Indian official says. Smith had told Indian leaders in the West, for example, that he believes their water rights should be "quantified." The concept of quantification is an administrative way to overrule the Winters Doctrine, this official adds.

The Winters Doctrine states that Indian tribes have rights to the water flowing through their lands. The water-hungry West wants to overthrow this doctrine and take Indian water for development, regardless of the legal niceties.

The heart of the problem may be that Smith apparently has no guiding philosophy for his administration. When queried about Smith's philosophy, for instance, Shaw replied that it was to manage the Indian programs well, to get the maximum benefits from them.

When asked if Smith plans to transfer Indian programs from other departments under his jurisdiction, Shaw stated that only the Office of Indian Education is planned for such a transfer this year. But he would not rule out the possibility of other transfers in later years.

In the meantime, storm clouds are appearing on Smith's horizon. It is reported that one inter-tribal organization in the Northwest, his main power base, is considering a resolution condemning his actions under Reagan. And with the economic collapse that has occurred under Reagan, the timber industry at Warm Springs, the feather in Smith's cap, is in trouble.

Smith's house of cards may soon collapse.
(by Dr Dean Chavers, from "The Calumet" April/May 1982)

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Health & Nutrition Department would like to take this time to thank all the people who helped with the dinner for our dearly departed "Libby" Merrick who passed away on the 23rd of May. The dinner was held at the Indian Elderly Site and more than 100 people were at the dinner in honor of Libby. Many people assisted with the dinner and brought food and paid their respects to her family. We will all miss little Libby!

Reverend Gary Cavendar (Dakota Sioux) currently assigned to St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church at 24th & J St. is establishing an outreach ministry to the Indian community in Omaha.

Rev. Cavendar originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota is married and has two children. Rev. Cavendar will be in Omaha for ten weeks and will be available at the American Indian Center during this time. He is currently assisting the Health & Nutrition Department with social work.

A "Get-Acquainted" Pot-Luck Dinner has been planned at St. Martin of Tours Church (24th & J) on the evening of the 25th of July and Rev. Cavendar is inviting the Indian community to attend this session and look at the church, get to know him, and discuss the problems of the Indian community. You can also reach the Reverend at 733-8815.

*****

Mr. Elmer Necklace, Program Director of the Alcoholism Program wishes to inform the community that A.A. meetings are being held at 3483 Larimore Ave. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending these meetings should call 453-6377. Mr. Necklace also informs the community that funding for the alcoholism program looks favorable for fiscal year 1983. The program recently passed their IHS evaluation with flying colors and the future looks bright for them.

*****

On Friday, July 9th at 11:00 a.m., the Bright Eyes Trading Post will be included in a tour of Downtown Omaha. The theme for this outing will be Native American-Nebraska Pioneer Day.

At this time we would like to invite all the local artists to display and sell their work. The Friendship Force Indian Tour will include visitors from Germany who are very much interested in Native American traditions, culture and artwork.

If you would like to participate, please contact Elva Pilcher at the American Indian Center, 344-0111.

We might add this will be a good opportunity for our craftspeople and artists in the area to display their talents to the visitors from Europe.

*****
The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
116TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING
POW-WOW
The Oldest Pow-wow in America

Commemorating the return of the Omaha Scouts, Co. A., of the Winnebago Tribe

WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA
At the Scenic Veteran’s Park, 1½ miles East of Winnebago

JULY 22 thru JULY 25
FOUR BIG DAYS
PUBLIC INVITED
10,000 Meter Run
Trophies

Honoring Ceremonies Daily
Honoring All Servicemen and Women Past & Present

For more Information call (402)878-2272

PERFORMANCES: 2:00PM & 7:30PM

ADMISSION
General Admission $3.00  SEASON TICKETS
Children Under 12 FREE  Single $7.00
Senior Citizens FREE  Family $15.00

DANCE CONTESTS
Prize Money.............$3800
Visiting Drum Money.$1000

Contestants must participate in all dances to qualify for contest moneys. No exceptions.

Camping & Concessions
116th Annual Omaha Tribal

POW-WOW

OMAHA RESERVATION

MACY, NEBRASKA

Located: 30 miles south of Sioux City, Iowa on Hwy. 73 and 75 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska on Hwy 73.

August 5, 6, 7, 8, 1982

ALL PRIZES PAID IN CASH!

REGISTRATION FOR CONTESTS: Rules to be given to each participant upon receiving registration number.

FANCY DANCE CONTEST
MEN'S JUNIOR BOYS
18 & Over 13-17
1. $500.00 1. $100.00
2. 300.00 2. 150.00
3. 200.00 3. 75.00

LITTLE BOYS' TINY TOT
7-12 6-0
1. $75.00 1. $25.00
2. 50.00 2. 15.00
3. 25.00 3. 10.00

TRADITIONAL CLOTH CONTEST
WOMEN'S JR. GIRLS'
18 & Over 13-17
1. $100.00 1. $100.00
2. 75.00 2. 75.00
3. 50.00 3. 50.00

LITTLE GIRLS' TINY TOT GIRLS'
7-12 6-0
1. $75.00 1. $25.00
2. 50.00 2. 15.00
3. 25.00 3. 10.00

SHAWL CONTEST
WOMEN'S JR. GIRLS'
15 & Over 6-0
1. $75.00 1. $25.00
2. 50.00 2. 15.00
3. 30.00 3. 10.00

LITTLE GIRLS' TINY TOT GIRLS'
7-14 6-0
1. $50.00 1. $25.00
2. 30.00 2. 15.00
3. 20.00 3. 10.00

TRADITIONAL BUCKSKIN CONTEST All Ages
1. $200.00
2. 150.00
3. 100.00

FANCY DANCE CONTEST

CLOWN DANCE CONTEST
$200.00
IN CASH PRIZES

BALL TOURNAMENT and MARATHON RUN
Contact:
ARNIE HARLAN
402/837-5391

CONCESSIONS
ARTS & CRAFTS
BOOTHS
Space Available—Contact:
IDA ANDERSON
402/837-5273

Drawing On Cedar Chest

FREE

Barbeque Buffalo Feed
Sun., Aug. 8th

World's Largest Tee Pee

Absolutely No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed on Pow-Wow Grounds

Good Water. Camping Available, Police on Duty.
24 Hr. First Aid Station and Ambulance Service

Not Responsible for Theft or Accidents

Sponsored By—
OMAHA TRIBAL POW-WOW COMMITTEE
For more information contact: 402/837-5273

FEATURING:
Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers
Dennis Alley Dance Group
Kevin Locke, Flute Player

Absolutely No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed on Pow-Wow Grounds

Good Water. Camping Available, Police on Duty.
24 Hr. First Aid Station and Ambulance Service

Posters Courtesy

OMAHA TRIBAL POW-WOW COMMITTEE
For more information contact: 402/837-5273

Absolutely No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed on Pow-Wow Grounds

Good Water. Camping Available, Police on Duty.
24 Hr. First Aid Station and Ambulance Service

Posters Courtesy
EDITORIAL

Closing of Indian Schools -

The Native American is a conquered race. His way of life has been completely destroyed forever. In spite of all the misfortunes he's had to overcome, he is still indestructible. He has had to improvise a new lifestyle with some fragments of his own traditions and some based on contemporary concepts.

Today the United States Government is weakening his very heritage that he has adapted by closing the boarding schools, his alma mater, that have come to be a part of his way of life. Were Harvard to close its doors would not its graduates rally to prevent it from happening?

More important, however, is the fact that numerous homeless Native American youth will have no place to live with limited opportunity for an education. The least President Reagan could do is to keep the schools open so that these first Americans might have an equal chance in life as others. It is understandable for most of us to undergo a budget reduction for whatever reason but to deny anyone an education is, in my opinion, going a little too far.
* CALENDAR OF EVENTS *

July 9-11

July 11
Handgame in Macy, NE at the small arena pow-wow grounds, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Fund-raiser for the Omaha Tribal Pow-Wow. Sponsored by the Omaha Tribal Pow-Wow Committee. (Bring your own chairs and dishes!)

July 15
AICO Board of Directors Meeting, public invited. From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

July 16-18
Kickapoo Indian Pow-Wow in Horton, Ks. For more information call Merle J. Cisneros, Sr. at 913-486-2131.

July 22-25
116th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Pow-Wow at Scenic Veterans Park, 1½ miles east of Winnebago. For more info: call (402) 878-2272.

August 1-4
Purification Days for the SUNDANCE at Crow Dog Paradise, south of Rosebud, SD.

August 5-8
SUNDANCE DAYS at Crow Dog Paradise, Rosebud, SD.

August 5-8
116th Annual Omaha Tribal Pow-Wow. Sponsored by the Omaha Tribal Pow-Wow Committee. For more information call (402) 837-5273.