



Wabanaki Alliance

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'Take an Indian to lunch'

PR letter a fraud

OLD TOWN — An official-looking letter on City of Old Town stationery was mailed to The Ellsworth American last month, stating that the new public relations theme is to "promote greater harmony and understanding between the tribes and the public at large."

The letter, appearing to be signed by a "director of public relations," urged volunteers to "take an Indian to lunch next week."

The photocopied signature of Dorothy R. Smith appeared on the letter, although Smith is an employee of the city housing authority. Smith emphatically denied any knowledge of the letter, and said she was greatly upset by it. She said it was indeed her signature, and may have been copied from a letter she sent out the same day — Jan. 4 — concerning the Penobscot River House elderly project.

"Certainly did not appreciate any of it," Smith told Wabanaki Alliance.

The fraudulent letter was mailed to John R. Wiggins at the Ellsworth American, who wrote a critical story about it, and planned to publish it, along with his story, in the weekly American. The story was pulled before publication when Old Town/Orono Times publisher David C. Wollstadt informed James Russell Wiggins, publisher of the American, that Old

Town had no public relations department. Wollstadt doubted the veracity of the letter.

Smith expressed relief and gratitude that the bogus letter, typed on City of Old Town stationery with its Indian-in-a-canoe logo, was exposed as a fake prior to publication. She said she had no idea who wrote the letter, nor why it was written at all.

The letter's contents were as follows:

"We are looking for volunteer coordinators to help us in our big January drive to promote greater harmony and understanding between the tribes and the public at large. Your name has been suggested to us as a bellwether in your community."

"It is felt that the public will follow the lead of citizens such as yourself and that what will follow will benefit the restaurant business throughout all of Penobscot, Hancock and Washington counties in addition to bringing a new dimension to important interpersonal relationships."

"The 1982 concept is as simple as our theme suggests!

TAKE AN INDIAN TO LUNCH
NEXT WEEK

"I hope we can count on your leadership and cooperation."



SECURITY is a nice warm lap, in this Indian Island portrait.

Love defends ID plan for non-members

INDIAN ISLAND — "We've tried to get people to understand we're not picking on them," tribal Gov. Timothy Love told this newspaper.

Love defended a recently adopted policy that all non-members of the Penobscot Nation who reside on the reservation must register. Under the new law, spouses and other non-Penobscots (including non-Indians and members of other tribes) are required to file an application at the tribal clerk's office. The tribal council then reviews the application, and approves or disapproves of it.

As Love put it, "for spouses it's a formality."

Apparently, an earlier law to remove "undesirables" from Indian Island has either been ineffective, or was not enforced. That law said unattached non-members were simply not welcome on the island. But in the summer of 1979, Adrian Loring, a Penobscot, was killed by William A. Holmes, a non-member and a drifter.

Love said the earlier law was "too cumbersome, and it required court action and all that stuff." The new law, he hopes, will remove unattached non-members from the reservation. The Governor said it is the right of his people to keep out non-members.

Wabanaki Alliance has received a number of telephone calls from Penob-

scots who oppose the registration requirement. They called the law humiliating, and said it's like registering your dog.

Love countered, "We had public hearings, we had meetings, they should've been here." Further, he said, people will have the opportunity to appeal decisions before the tribal council.

Those persons refusing to comply with the new law face criminal trespass charges in state district court.

"Our laws are going to be respected the same as any other government's," Love said. "We've got very little left from 200 years ago, and we're going to protect our members."

16-year-old sets fire to tribal hall

PERTH-ANDOVER, N.B. — A 16-year-old Maliseet Indian, David Perley, pleaded guilty recently to setting fire to the tribal hall on his reservation here, Canadian Broadcasting reported.

David Perley pleaded guilty to the arson charge in connection with a fire that destroyed all tribal records at Tobique Reserve, and a firetruck was declared a total loss in the blaze. The value of the truck was put at \$40,000.

Maliseet says state stalling on Houlton Band

HOULTON — A Maliseet Indian official here says the State of Maine is "dragging its feet" in assisting his group with land acquisition.

Fred Tomah, health director for the Houlton Band of Maliseets, told Wabanaki Alliance that "things are moving rather slow," in negotiations to acquire 5,000 acres, promised to the Maliseets in the \$81 million Penobscot-Passamaquoddy land claims settlement of 1980. No land has yet

been optioned, although some has been inspected, Tomah said. Some \$900,000 of the land claims award has been invested in certificates of deposit ("CDs") and with interest may exceed \$1 million.

Tomah said land claims lawyer Thomas N. Tureen of Portland told him he was not to speak publicly on land claims negotiations. Only Tureen and state Attorney General James Thierney should make

(Continued on page 4)

Drop-in center going strong

By Georgia Mitchell

INDIAN ISLAND — Since the doors opened in June of 1981, there's been a variety of happenings at the Drop-In Center which is headed by Rose Francis and Francis Sapiel, both Alcoholics Anonymous counselors, but the new center isn't strictly for AA's, it's for everybody.

Some come in just to chat with friends; others play cards, cribbage, read books of which a lot were donated, or have a snack, usually coffee and donuts, sometimes other goodies that someone brings in to share. The Drop-In Center gives people a chance to see their old friends.

Recently, a community task force was formed. What this C.T.F. will do in the future will benefit the young and the tribal members of any age.

Regular meetings are held Thursday mornings, and all activities are discussed, as well as plans for the coming year. Volunteers have been donating their time for various projects like making Christmas wreaths and trimming them for sale. Rose sold quite a few, all profits going to fund the Drop-In Center.

As soon as there are enough funds, arts and crafts will begin with teaching by some talented young people who wish to donate their time for others to learn these last crafts at no cost.

A family was helped out by the C.T.F. not too long ago, when a collection of food and money was given to it.

The center is independent, through the contributions and donations of community members. The telephone number is 827-6153 if you wish to call.

editorials

Off limits

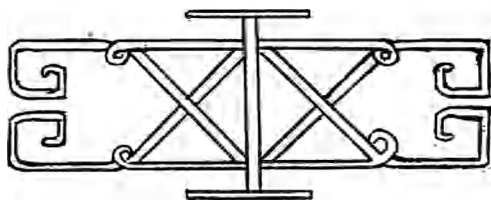
We have heard on good authority that a patrolman was injured in a scuffle at Indian Island's New Year's Eve party.

We understand that the scuffle ensued after a certain tribal official allowed minors into the Community Building, in violation of a regulation that when booze is being consumed, the minors stay out.

Nobody would deny an adult the right to consume liquor on New Year's Eve, but certainly, at a public gathering at a public building, minors can be restricted.

We hope tribal leadership will re-think its position on this matter. The Penobscot Nation has not won the battle with booze and drug abuse, and the young in particular should be protected.

Let's not lead them down the wrong path by the hand.



Not taken in

On the front page, is a report of an unusual letter that is clearly a fake.

Fortunately, cool heads in the newspaper business realized somebody had a sick sense of humor, and nobody was taken in by the rather absurd message. Thank goodness journalists can "smell a rat" once in awhile.

"Take an Indian to lunch next week." It's almost funny, except that the letter has all the appearances of an attempt to embarrass (or worse) Dorothy R. Smith, whose signature was photocopied on the letter. Smith is a legitimate Old Town housing authority employee, and we believe her when she says she knew nothing of the public relations letter.

We don't know how many copies of the phony letters were mailed, but an attempt to bamboozle the Ellsworth American was made. The attempt failed. That copy of the letter was addressed to John R. Wiggins of the newspaper, and Wiggins had at first planned to publish a story condemning the "take an Indian to lunch" promotion. He would have pointed out that stating, "Your name has been suggested to us as a bellwether in your community" is dubious, since the dictionary defines bellwether as someone who leads a flock; or a mutiny or conspiracy; and wether is defined as a castrated male sheep.

This humbug practical joke is mean and stupid, but deserves one comment: We don't buy the idea that harmony between the Penobscots and the people of Old Town has ever been lacking. There were many good "bridges" between the communities long before the first real bridge to Indian Island was opened in 1950.

All people are capable of being good citizens, whether Indian, Franco-American, or English origin, or what-have-you. Of course, some people are capable of shameful things, such as the writer of the fraudulent letter.

Perhaps we should make a wether out of him, never mind the bell.



NEWS ITEM: THE MAYFLOWER II IS IN STONINGTON, MAINE, FOR REPAIRS. ANOTHER CHANCE FOR INDIANS TO POINT OUT, "WE WERE HERE TO MEET THE BOAT."

Penobscot energy director says thermal scan a scam

INDIAN ISLAND — A total of \$11,500 is budgeted by Penobscot Nation for a thermal scan of reservation homes — a process to determine the energy efficiency of a building.

But Philip Guimond, director of Housing Improvement Program (HIP) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), says the State of Maine would lend equipment for the tribe to conduct a thermal scan at tremendous savings to the \$28,000 budget.

He nicknamed the plan a "thermal scam."

Guimond said Tribal Governors Inc. (TGI) of Orono obtained a contract with a Canadian firm to perform the thermal scan of the 159 households on Indian Island. However, Denise Mitchell, TGI director, said the Canadian firm itself said the project wasn't "cost-effective," and the scan contract has been canceled.

Funds will be used to study alternative energy options.

The contract specifies \$2,200 for data presentation, \$2,000 for processing and analyzing, and \$600 for an aerial "over-flight."

Guimond said some of the problems faced by Indian Island householders include faulty construction of recently built federally-funded housing, and the fact the first housing project units had no chimneys. Guimond would like to explore wood heat potential, as well as solar collectors for alternative energy on the reservation.

He said he recently assisted Fred Loring with installation of a wood furnace at Loring's Costigan home.

Guimond, 35, is a tribal member who formerly held the job of administrative assistant at the Penobscot health department. He recently got married in a ceremony at Indian Island.

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Old Town
Old Town

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letters

To non-members

Indian Island

To the editor:

I've been living here on the Island for 9 years, but have been in the area for nearly 15 years.

I can see no reason to feel upset by any law that is passed here; even the residency permit law. A Greek philosopher once said: "I may not agree with the law, but if I chose to live here I will obey them." I met and married a Penobscot by choice and feel more at home here than any other place I've lived. "For whither thou goest, I will lodge; thy people will be my people." — taken from the book of Ruth in the Bible.

A law can only be as good as the people who obey it, and any member with a white spouse should be proud to say my family has complied. I for one shall and I'm sure Tony would agree with me in doing so.

Sharon Francis

Interested

Westfield, Mass.

To the editor:

I am interested in subscribing to the "Wabanaki Alliance" monthly newspaper. Please send me some information on the subscription cost as well as other publications you may have. Thank you.

Cindy Fitzgerald

Baskets for sale

HOULTON — Indian basket crafts are now on sale at Houlton, Me. Large and small potato baskets, comb and brush, small berry, market, envelope and letter holders are the featured native American products.

Contact Tomah Basket at P.O. Box 1006, telephone 207-532-2074 and ask for Jim or Aubrey.



FACES of the future leaders of the Penobscot Nation.

Tribe rakes \$800,000 in berries

PLEASANT POINT — The Passamaquoddy Tribe last summer raked in a gross profit of \$800,000 on blueberry barrens bought last year through land claims settlement funds.

Gov. J. Hartley Nicholas said here that actual profits were \$600,000 after equipment purchases are subtracted. Roughly 5,000 acres near Columbia were purchased by the tribe from Bertram C. Tackiff. Tribal members were not employed in the harvest operation; the tribe simply acted as landowner, the Governor said.

Of the \$800,000, half of it was "set aside" for future needs. Of the remainder, \$100,000 was earmarked for education;

\$50,000 for paying outstanding bills; and \$150,000 in unspecified funds were allocated each reservation.

A genealogist not necessary?

PLEASANT POINT — "I can't see paying a genealogist," said tribal Gov. J. Hartley Nicholas.

And with that, Nicholas dismissed the idea of following the Penobscot tribe's lead — in which for several years Penobscots have employed S. Glenn Starbird, a former state legislator, as tribal genealogist.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe are basing their "full blooded" status on a 1900 census, even though nobody can prove full-blood status at that time. Nicholas said the cutoff date was July 22, 1981. Persons on the census as of that date will remain on the list to receive benefits. Theoretically, Indians must be a minimum of "quarter blood" Passamaquoddy (or Penobscot) to be on the census.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe — with reservations at Indian Township and Pleasant Point — currently numbers about 2,100.

Environment topic of UMO seminar

ORONO — An energy and environment "teach-in" has been scheduled Feb. 26-28, at University of Maine of Orono.

Topics include agriculture, forestry, pesticides, oceans and coastal development, mining, nuclear power, pollution and Indian rights and struggles, a flyer said.

For more information, contact Student Government Association, in UMO's Memorial Union.

Conservation jobs available 1982

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. — Student Conservation Association is accepting applications for its 1982 program.

With the Reagan administration's decision to phase out the federal service youth programs (Youth Conservation Corps and Young Adult Conservation Corps) the Student Conservation Program is the only national program left which provides the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with a significant number of conservation volunteers on a nation-wide basis.

Volunteers are essential because recent budget limitations make it increasingly difficult for agencies to respond to visitor needs while protecting the natural resources under their care. In 1982, the Student Conservation Association, Inc.

expects these agencies to request as many as 1,400 participants to serve in more than 100 parks, forests and resource management areas.

The Student Conservation Association Inc. recruits high school and college-aged youth from all over the United States to assist resource management professionals in the above-mentioned federal agencies and in the Nature Conservancy and other private conservation agencies. Programs are available throughout the United States in such places as Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the north woods of Maine on the Appalachian Trail, Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, Big Bend National Park on the Rio Grande in Texas and Olympic National Forest in Washington.



Newlyweds

Cutting the cake at their recent Indian Island wedding are Marie Mitchell of Indian Island, and husband Erik Townsend of Old Town. The ceremony took place at the health center, with a reception in the Community Building.



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Five generations

A total of five generations of the Ranco family are represented here, with the eldest being Mabel Ranco of Indian Island, followed by daughter Lena Mitchell, granddaughter Sandra Broschard, great-grandson Ralph Broschard, and great-great-grandson Michael Broschard, one-and-one-half years old.

Tribe tallies debts

PLEASANT POINT — Tribal government here is attempting to balance the books by clearing them of a number of long unpaid debts.

Tribal officials listed the following outstanding bills, while asserting that with proper management, the bills will soon be paid in full.

A total of \$160,000 is owed Depositors Trust Company; \$54,000 is owed on the "force account," a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) scheme for employing tribal members in constructing reservation homes.

Pleasant Point man takes too much pop

EASTPORT — Two men have been charged with criminal mischief in the attempted theft of a soda machine here, the Quoddy Tides reported.

Ralph Smith of Perry and Frank Lola of Pleasant Point were allegedly loading the machine situated beside the R&M IGA store into a truck at 1:30 a.m., Dec. 18, 1981, when Eastport Police Officers Hollis Ferguson and Merrill Lank drove by, during their night patrol, and arrested the two men.

Smith has also been charged with operating under the influence.

Investigation led to the recovery of a second soft drink machine that had been stolen from the IGA lot earlier in the evening and, according to Eastport Police Chief Richard Young, Smith and Lola will probably be appearing before the grand jury in Machias on theft charges.

Cable Television and former tribal governor Robert Newell are owed \$6,000 each, according to records.

The Native American Rights Fund, former employer of land claims lawyer Thomas N. Tureen, is owed \$1,255 for the nonprofit law firm's assistance with a tribal co-op, acquisition of a government surplus yacht, and work on the possible purchase of the Eastport Water Company.

Webb River land managers are owed \$4,320; Lincoln (gravel) Company is owed \$10,400; ECIP (Emergency Crisis Intervention Program) is owed \$2,500; and Brown, Tibbetts et al have billed the tribe \$150.

A sum of \$10,000 is due Tribal Trucking, the reservation's own firm. County taxes of \$7,000 are due, and finally, the federal Administration for Native Americans (ANA) questions \$6,500 in costs the tribe has recorded.

Obituary

FRANK V. LORING III

INDIAN ISLAND — Frank V. Loring III, infant son of Frank Loring Jr. and Diane Wiley, died Jan. 4, 1982. Besides his parents he is survived by one sister, Marria Elayna Loring; his paternal grandparents, Frank and Martha Loring of Indian Island; his maternal grandmother, Grace Adams of Olamont; his paternal great-grandparents, Harold and Madeline Francis; several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were at Baillargeon Funeral Home, 109 Middle Street, Old Town, with the Rev. John Ciyello officiating. Spring interment will be in the tribal cemetery.

State drags feet on Band

(Continued from page 1)

public statements, Tureen told him. But Tomah said he is not about to be silenced; that he prefers "open meetings."

Tomah said that when he asked if state Senator Michael Carpenter, a Houlton Democrat, could sit in on a negotiating meeting, Tierney said no.

Tomah said Tierney proposed withholding \$50,000 for payment in lieu of taxes, on yet-to-be purchased lands. Tomah opposed the idea.

According to Tomah, the state legislature has a deadline by which it must ratify agreements with the Houlton Band of Maliseets.

The Houlton Band consists of about 380 members, who must be Maliseet or part Maliseet Indian, and a U.S. citizen. The latter requirement is to preclude Canadian Indians from becoming eligible for benefits and services from the Houlton Band.

Tomah himself served on the Micmac Recognition Committee, which has achieved its goal of federal status for the band — leading to federal support from Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Tomah also serves on the board of directors of Association of Arrostook Indians (AAI), founded some years ago to serve needs of both Micmac and Maliseet Indians in the Houlton-Caribou region of Arrostook County.

The Houlton Band is chaired by Terry Polchies, a resident of Bangor. He presides over a council of six Maliseets, five of whom are related by blood. They are: Aubrey Tomah, Paul Tomah, Roy Tomah, Danya Boyce, Shirley Levasseur and John Joseph. They serve two year terms. Gene Kilpatrick of Houlton has been hired to replace James Wherry as administrative

assistant to the Houlton Band. Wherry, who quit Sept. 30, 1981, took a job in the midwest. Wherry and Terry Polchies had been fired by Association of Arrostook Indians, but were successful in leading the Houlton Band.

Fred Tomah, a former councilman, said "the thing that's disturbed me is the tribe has yet to develop a constitution." Tomah said no action has been taken on a draft constitution he worked on.

"The most important thing that the Houlton Band can do is to develop a constitution . . . if you don't have a constitution, you'll have anarchy," Tomah stated.

Commenting about Houlton Band members at large, Tomah said, "I don't think the people realize what they have."

Co-op idea favored

PLEASANT POINT — "A great deal of money is flowing into the reservation, but it's also flowing out again."

So says Gov. Joseph Hartley Nicholas. He favors a co-operative store venture, organized by tribal government, and funded by tribal members at, for example, \$100 per person. The settlement of the land claims brought thousands of dollars into Passamaquoddy hands, but the money is spent off reservation.

Nicholas said he thinks the store "would be an excellent idea. We could probably sell produce and food at a competitive price. It would be convenient and it would employ four or five people."

The Governor said it would be "wonderful" if tribal members would support the idea.

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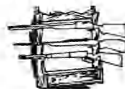
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Marijuana interferes with growing up

By Rose Francis

Marijuana does cause "acute panic anxiety reaction," usually experienced by using a large amount or after smoking strong marijuana. The common effects are feelings of euphoria, relaxation, altered sense of identity, and bouts of exaggerated laughter, that was commonly reported at social abuse levels of marijuana.

The real danger in marijuana use, as in all serious taking interferes with the normal process of growing up. Young people need to learn how to make decisions, to deal with success and failure, and to form their own beliefs and values to carry with them into adulthood. Drug taking can be an escape from these "growing pains" and may mean that the young people will never learn these important skills of maturity, independence, and responsibility. This can begin at home.

Families are very important to preventing drug abuse. The family is a good place to start drug prevention.

There are many single parent families today, which is common today. Families try to raise young people to face life realistically and positively, and to give them some personal resources and values to guide their decisions as they grow up. Not all families succeed, but most families try to do the best they can for their children. That includes protecting them from the harm that drugs can cause them and those close to them.

What is Drug Use Prevention? Prevention is a simple concept, but it requires constant work to be successful. Drug abuse prevention does work. It requires a basic understanding and strong commitment from you.

Prevention is a positive process. If children grow up with love and security, can express themselves freely, are realistic and yet optimistic about their abilities, and can make sound decisions, they will probably never become dependent upon drugs. Here are some kinds of things you can give your children to help them from becoming involved with drugs:

1. Love and affection as the child grows.
2. Open channels for feelings and thoughts.
3. Opportunities for successful experiences at home and in school.
4. A stable family atmosphere.
5. Tolerance for the child's mistakes.
6. Tolerance for the child's spills.
7. Models of strong and thoughtful adults.
8. Accurate information about the problems of growing up today: sexuality, drugs, crime, and other topics about which children may be ignorant and fearful. This may sound unrealistic or too simple, but studies of serious drug abusers show that failing to give children these kinds of support can be as easy as helping your children find satisfying alternatives to drugs.

Family prevention

If you don't already know what your children like to do best, then take time to find out. Take the time to do what they enjoy. Too often, other seemingly more important things come along. To prevent drug abuse, there is nothing more important than spending time with your children. Experimentation, with a wide variety of things, is a natural part of growing up. Children learn from their mistakes. It is not only difficult to discourage experimentation, but, as most parents know, it often backfires. Drug experimentation should not be encouraged nor condoned, but too strong a reaction may drive a child deeper into drugs and serious abuse. Adequate preparation and a certain amount of behind-the-scenes guidance can help a child to chart a safe course though potentially dangerous waters.

Families can give the loving relationships and basic self-confidence that are the keys to preventing drug abuse. With good family prevention practices communication with children should be open enough so that they feel comfortable in sharing their feelings about experimenting with drugs. It is usually much better to work on this relationship than for parents to spend their energies as anxious "detectives."

Township pays back excise tax

PLEASANT POINT — Tribal government at Indian Township has agreed to turn over to Pleasant Point up to \$1,500 in excise tax on trucks owned by a Passamaquoddy man.

Ralph Dana of Pleasant Point reportedly paid excise taxes on his trucks — part of his Dana Trucking firm — to Indian Township, rather than his local tribal government.

Gov. J. Hartley Nicholas was prepared to take Dana to court if the excise money

had not been returned. But a satisfactory arrangement was apparently worked out. Governor Nicholas said some \$1,200 of the excise tax due has been returned to Pleasant Point.

In a possibly related matter, Nicholas said he has not yet responded to Dana's petition of several months ago, that sought to impeach the Governor. "I haven't responded to it, but I will," he said. Nicholas' term of office expires this fall.

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NOW HEAR THIS! Benjamin Neptune, 9, of Pleasant Point, takes a hearing test from community health worker Geneva Taylor, at the Passamaquoddy tribal health clinic. "BJ" is the son of Estella Neptune of Pleasant Point.

CMIA funded to assess ed

ORONO — Mary M. Smith and Donna Forsgren are not Indians, but their hearts are in the right place, and Central Maine Indian Association has hired them to use a planning grant to conduct a needs assessment of adult education for Indian people.

CMIA has obtained an \$84,000 grant from U.S. Department of Education, for an effort that began in November 1981. "Our major thrust is planning and development," Forsgren said.

The basic premise, Smith said, is the fact that a great many Indian people in Maine lack high school diplomas, and are thus ineligible for many jobs. The state reports that 47 percent of Indian adults did not complete high school.

"We want to do an enormous informational campaign to inform the clients of the availability of this new adult education," Smith said.

Noting that for many adults, "school was an unpleasant experience," Smith said that adult ed "is not a repeat, it's usually totally different."

At this stage, there will be no direct services, Smith said. "Our program here is to assist Indian adults in getting their GED (high school equivalency diploma) or high school diploma."

Smith said state education commissioner Harold Reynolds has been "supportive" of their work.

Smith was enthusiastic over a recent national Indian adult ed conference in Albuquerque, N.M., which she attended with CMIA executive director James Sanborn. Forsgren did not attend the sessions. "By going there we linked into the national circuit," Smith said. "We became mainstreamed in three days, that could've taken us three months or three years."

"We were very fortunate in that we had one to one TA (technical assistance) sessions," Smith told Wabanaki Alliance.

Both women come to their jobs with years of experience in education, and both have previously enjoyed working with Indian people, they said.

Smith spent more than three years with Tribal Governors Inc., in training and education fields. A resident of Bangor, she has completed many college level courses, although she does not have a degree. She is very active in Democratic Party politics.

Forsgren, who holds two degrees from the University of Minnesota, one of them

in elementary education, lives in Old Town. She has spent 13 years in adult education work. Serves on her local adult ed board, and is on the executive board of Literacy Volunteers of Maine.

Smith, former chairman of Bangor adult ed board, continues to serve as board member, along with Bridget Woodward, a CMIA board member. Smith was recently elected vice-chairman of the state advisory board on adult and community education, and is a member of National Indian Adult Education Association.

Some Indians allow women rights

Canadian Indians have attained a certain notoriety — including United Nations attention — in regard to the policy of denying Indian status to Indian women who marry non-Indians.

The reverse, where an Indian man takes a non-Indian wife, does not affect tribal status.

This inequity is allowed by many male-dominated tribal governments, and is condoned by Canadian authorities.

However, a recent newscast on CBC, the Canadian public radio station, said at some reservations things are changing. In Nova Scotia, at least one tribe has voted to retain status for Indian women who marry non-Indians. This means the family may now choose to remain on the "reserve," and be eligible for whatever benefits tribal members receive.

Sandra Lovelace, a Maliseet from Canada, took her discrimination case to the U.N., which ruled in her favor.

All you need is...

By Freeman Morey
Penobscot Health Dept.

INDIAN ISLAND — As the Tribal Family Care Coordinator for the Penobscot Nation, part of my duties include improving communications between the community and the state Department of Human Services.

I enjoy this role as "go between" and try my best to express the views I hear from community members whenever the opportunity arises.

When I sat down to write this article I intended to outline the Child and Family Services Program and briefly describe the program's goals and objectives. However, as I sit here and watch the snow fall outside, I can't help but turn my thoughts to the bright little faces I see all bundled up to ward off winter's bitter chill. I see out my window a young mother and her little boy with smiles as big as Santa's. I see her expression of mock terror as she is struck with a well-aimed snowball, then her son's squeal of glee as he is swept off his feet and hugged until his cheeks turn even redder than they were.

To see this simple scene of love between mother and child I am reminded of some of the other sights I have seen as a human services worker. Some of the things I've seen just don't fit in with the sight of snow falling gently to the ground. The need to elaborate is unnecessary; we have all seen examples of child abuse and neglect and I'm sure that once you've seen a battered little face you'll never forget the look on that face for the rest of your life.

To look at two sad little eyes and know that your love is the most important thing in the world should be enough to melt the coldest heart. All your children want from you is love. It's not their idea to get sick and make your life miserable, it's not their wish that you have high bills to pay and your boss is always on your back. They didn't elect the president you're not satisfied with, nor did they create the welfare state we live in. They are the products of an environment that we made or inherited, and can only be expected to learn what we teach. I know I'm not happy about the wars and crime that my generation inherited, and I'd like to try to leave a better, not worse world for my children to enjoy.

Take time with child

Your children don't need all of your time, they don't need to receive all kinds of expensive gifts or treats. What they do need is to know that you love them and will stand behind them when things get rough. They need to have special times with you, not while you are watching the game, or "Merv," but time to sit down and read them a story or just name the pictures in a book. They need the stimulation of being taken different places and shown different things.

These aren't things that your children want to demand from you, they are things

that they need in order to grow up and lead a normal life. We all know people that grew up without these precious times and being one of them, I know how it feels to wonder why so-and-so gets to do this or that with their parents and I never did.

I can never go back and change the way I was brought up; in fact, there isn't a thing I can do about it. All the complaining in the world cannot change so much as a minute of my past. All the blame I can throw at the state, my parents, or my foster parents doesn't do anything except waste my breath.

There is only one course of action that will do any good whatsoever and that is to see that my children don't go without the things they need to grow and flourish in the intense world we live in. Instead of planning a career that will make a lot of money I have elected to put my family first and the accumulation of wealth after. My wife is encouraged to spend as much time with the kids as possible, to the point of neglecting the housework if necessary.

When the children are in bed, we finish the dishes or do the dusting or whatever is left after spending time with the kids. Washing and other loud chores have to be done during the day so the noise doesn't keep the children awake, but these chores don't take up most of the time, anyway.

Sometimes a drag

You may ask, "Isn't it a pain in the butt to do dishes at nine o'clock, especially after working all day?" The answer can only be yes. In fact many of the chores of a parent are a downright drag. Never in a million years would I do housework at night unless it was necessary. Unfortunately, since I work from eight to four-thirty and bedtime for my girls is eight o'clock, I feel the three and one-half hours I get to be with my children is too important to use for anything else.

It's true that children will grow without this kind of love and attention, some will have happy lives and will outgrow the sadness felt while young. On the other hand, children learn what they "live." The crime rates and overflowing prisons are all testimony needed to show what happens when a society puts its most important resource on the back burner. I realize that the world cannot be changed overnight, and there is always the chance that a child can grow up to make the wrong choices in life no matter what's done. All I ask is that you give your children the chance to make their own choice, and not be victims of the environment they live in.

There is no hiding the truth from a child, their eyes see the world around them and how it turns. In their minds lies the hope for tomorrow.

When you are old, how will their eyes look at you, as a burden or as the light to lead them through darkness? Remember, even a dog knows whether it has been kicked or tripped over.



YEAR OF THE PENOBSCOT — Francis C. Sapiel, president of Indian Island's tribal historical society, displays a special calendar printed for the first time this year. Dr. Frank Seibert researched the traditional Penobscot lunar calendar, and a standard calendar is printed alongside. Drawings are by Debra Mitchell of Indian Island. The red and black calendars are for sale at the tribal office, and proceeds benefit the society.

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Guest opinion

A gift of sight

By Helen Becker

[In memory of Donald W. Loveday . . . founder of, "Downeast Recording Library For The Blind."]

I learned to count my blessings early. I often thanked God for health and life. I especially had much empathy for the blind. But it was not until a neighbor died in my presence that I came to the realization that . . . his eyes, the miraculous gift of sight, were going to wind up as so much garbage. A shudder went through me. I immediately spoke to the medical examiner about eye donation. That day I made a commitment. In the event of my death my eyes would be donated. I wanted my physical ending to be a beginning for someone else. I was just a kid.

What a high it gave me to know that I had within me the potential to give someone sight! I have always believed that one does not go from death to death but rather from life to life. This is God's promise. This gift of sight is so simple. It just requires a signature. A gift from the dead can make life meaningful for the living. This gift costs nothing. So many times we are limited in life by outrageous prices. But we can give sight at no cost when we no longer have need of this thin membrane called a cornea for ourselves.

Can you imagine life without a rainbow? Or life without a mountain view, a gurgling brook, clouds, snow, rain, moon and stars, changes of seasons, trees, fields of flowers, a single rose, your parent's smile, a baby sister, that everlasting drop falling off an icicle in winter, your dog, a sunrise, a sunset, or any of the millions of creatures that make noise in your dark world? I've had the pleasure of seeing them all. But some of my friend's have not. Don had never seen his wife's dear face.

This decision of mine was a very private thing because many people do not like to think of death, even when they are faced with it. I kept my opinion to myself until one day I nearly poked a stick through my eye while jogging and praying for other people's health. I was quite angry with the situation. I do now know if I was more concerned with not being able to donate my eye than experiencing losing my own. When I discovered I had inactive scar tissue I had an urgency to tell others about the importance of eye donation because many of my friends have died. I never mentioned a word to them about corneal transplant which is a whopping 85% successful. Some of them could have given the gift of the rainbow. If I had only asked, many blind people would see today.

I had questioned why God would allow my cornea to be damaged which incidentally has affected both my eyes. Certainly of all people I appreciated my sight. I re-

member only one week after major surgery I jogged a quarter mile while praying for my friend Yvon's life. . . I was so grateful for mine. Why then, God, why me? I was told I could not donate that damaged eye and I wept for I heard that there are waiting lists for corneal transplants. And I could only give one eye.

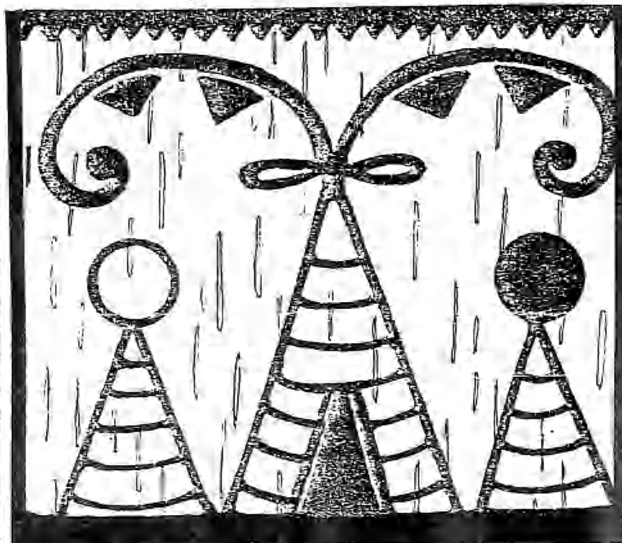
Well, God knew that certainly if my eyes did not work, my mouth sure did! For some reason I had been singled out to make a different kind of contribution. If I brought this to people's attention I could by my efforts donate more than one eye. I could through others ultimately give possibly 200 eyes! I believe in goals so my pledge to the Lord in deep, deep appreciation of my own sight, is to enlist 100 eye donors. Miraculously I can read my fine print Bible and my eyesight has been continually improving. I maintain that the Lord will allow me to see normally out of that damaged cornea in the future. Doctors are full of knowledge but they are not healers. They are limited by their human-ness. God heals! In the meantime I am willing to recruit others. And by opening my mouth three other people have become eye donors.

So now when I run and the wind tangles my hair and rain beats on my face or whatever . . . I have a prayer on my lips and a genuine appreciation in my heart for all the Lord has given me. And when I think of all the people that will benefit from my accident I thank Him all the more.

The New England Eye Bank works as a control unit for the collection and distribution of eye tissue. It serves Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island. It was founded in 1946. Tissue is provided for eye research and for the education of future eye doctors, as well as for transplant operations.

People of any age may donate eyes. You do not need perfect vision to donate. You may wear glasses, be old, or even blind from a cause other than corneal disease. Material has even been utilized from still-born babies. But speed is essential in eye transplant cases. The eyes must be removed within six hours of death. So never, "WILL," your eyes. Simply fill out a donor card or in Maine the back of your driver's license before two witnesses. (It's good if your family know of your strong desires so they will honor your wishes.) And carry your donor card with you at all times.

If I am responsible for anyone's decision to become an eye donor please let me know. For I have promises to keep. . . Thank you and may God richly bless you for this decision.



WIWILAMEHKW, "tickler fish," is a snail who has special supernatural gifts, and is able to live in water, on land, or in trees, according to anthropologist Frank G. Speck, writing on Penobscot religious beliefs in *Journal of American Folklore*, 1935. The illustration is from "The Indians of Maine: A Bibliographical Guide," published by Maine Historical Society, Portland, 1972. [Information from Charles Colcord of New York City.]

Indian lands seized in 1907

BOSTON — Did the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have the right to terminate the Fall River-Waluppa reservation in 1907?

This, and other legal questions, were raised by state Indian official John A. Peters, in a letter on state stationery addressed to "Sisters and Brothers."

Peters referred to an unfavorable ruling on Indian land called the Chappaquiddick case, in which a federal court ruled Massachusetts has had no sovereignty over

Indian land since 1789. If that's true, how could the state take the Fall River land, Peters asks.

The letter then asks, "How do you, as an Indian of Massachusetts, feel about bring a lawsuit against the City of Fall River and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for recovery of this land and for damages?" A coal gasification plant was proposed on or near the land in question.

"Your guidance is needed," the open letter concluded.

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Ron Sockbasin and David Tomah find that reading can be lots of fun, at Indian Township Elementary School.

news notes

Dore takes over health clinic

PLEASANT POINT — Tribal Lt. Gov. Clifford (Cliv) Dore has been appointed director of the reservation health clinic here.

Dore succeeds Madonna Soctomah, who was fired last year in a lengthy, heated controversy with Passamaquoddy Gov. J. Hartley Nicholas. The clinic is funded through the federal Indian Health Service (IHS). It provides both health and social services from a recently constructed, centrally located facility.

Indian designers powwow

SWARTHMORE, Pa. — American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers hosted a workshop on facility repair and improvement for Indian architects and engineers, recently at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting was attended by 21 architects and engineers from around the country, including Alaska, Montana, Washington, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Arizona, Kansas and Pennsylvania. Representatives from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Corp of Engineers attended.

The workshop focused on the demand, budget and priorities for repair & improvement work on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service facilities. Discussions were held on the processes used to select Indian architects and engineers and mock contract negotiations were held.

Lou Weller, Indian architect, reviewed the work he has been doing on the Riverside Indian Dormitory at Anadarko and arranged for a tour of the construction work at Anadarko.

Neal McCaleb, former chairman of the council, was presented with a plaque recognizing his services. Neal said he is a candidate for the office of Governor in Oklahoma.

There are approximately 30 Indian architects and 30 Indian engineering firms nationally.

Indian property said tax-exempt

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court refused to let Washington state apply its sales tax system to Indian property used both on and off tribal reservations.

The high court, without comment, let stand a ruling that such an application of the tax system, composed of a sales tax and a complementary-use tax, violates federal law. The court has ruled that states cannot tax Indians' property and activities inside tribal reservations. In asking the Supreme Court to review the case, Washington state officials said: "Under the court of appeals decision, having the personal property delivered to the reservation, and having the initial use of the property occur there will immunize the Indian from ever having to pay the same tax burden that has already been paid by the non-Indians, even when the Indian moves off the reservation."

Fellowships offered

CHICAGO — Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian offers D'Arcy McNickle Memorial Fellowships and Frances C. Allen Fellowships for Indian people.

A man or woman who receives a McNickle award is supported by the stipend of \$300 a week, for a period of one to four weeks, plus transportation costs of a single round trip between the place of residence and The Newberry Library.

3M lawyer joins BIA

WASHINGTON — John Fritz, a lawyer for Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, has been named Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary James G. Watt announced.

Fritz, 33, is a Cherokee. He will manage day-to-day operations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and will serve as a deputy to Indian Affairs boss Kenneth L. Smith.

Flashback



Maliseet health program may serve Micmacs

HOULTON — Micmacs may not be totally out in the cold, if the 31-year-old Maliseet man who directs a health program has his way.

"We're going to provide services to the Micmacs people to the extent that federal law allows," said Frederick Tomah, health director for the newly-formed Houlton Band of Maliseets. The band received authorization to purchase 5,000 acres out of the 300,000 acres designated in the Penobscot-Passamaquoddy land claims settlement of 1980.

Tomah works with planner Barbara Morris, outreach coordinator Mary London, outreach workers Sally Joseph and Gloria Tomah, and Brenda Polchies, secretary. Thus far, the band's health program is in development stages, and not ready to provide services.

The Houlton Band of Maliseets, recognized by the federal government as a bona fide Indian tribe, is eligible to receive considerable amounts of money from the

federal Indian Health Service (IHS) in Rockville, Md., and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Washington, D.C.

Corrections

INDIAN ISLAND — The January 1982 issue of this newspaper incorrectly reported that Dr. Stuart Corso, dentist for the Penobscot tribal health department, no longer worked for Indian Health Service. The story should have stated that Dr. Corso no longer was employed through the Public Health Service. The tribal health department as a whole is funded through the federal Indian Health Service (IHS).

The editor apologizes to the good doctor for any confusion resulting from the error.

A photo caption in the December 1981 issue of this newspaper incorrectly identified a Catholic statue. The statue is of Our Lady of Fatima.

Indian paper bites the dust

PARKER, Arizona — The Manataba Messenger, a weekly begun in the fall of 1980, ceased regular publication last month.

The Messenger was started by Indian journalist Richard LaCourse, building a weekly on a newsletter called "Smoke Signals" that had been printed for 24 years by Colorado Indian Tribal Council.

Costs were prohibitive, and the Messenger's quality deteriorated after LaCourse left the paper, and Joan Travis took over as editor.

Travis will remain on the staff to manage a monthly tabloid, still to be called Manataba Messenger. Most of the staff were fired.

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Togetherness



Pauline and Burnell Mitchell of Indian Island enjoy the company of their two daughters, Marissa, and Naya, born Dec. 1, 1981. She weighed seven pounds, 11½ ounces, and was 20½ inches, at birth. Naya means "wander."