

Wabanaki Alliance



June 1980 40¢

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Pleasant Point clinic slates grand opening

PLEASANT POINT — A brand new tribally-administered health center is slated for a grand opening here June 18, and everyone is invited to attend the open house, 1-4:30 p.m.

Madonna M. Soctomah, a Passamaquoddy who has been health center director since April 28, said she would rather not be interviewed until she knew

more about her job. The clinic has already started providing certain basic services, and is staffed by experienced personnel. Staffers include medical social worker Doris Chapman, and nurse Hazel Dana. Shelley Francis is contract medical clerk, and Mike Farrell is dental lab technician.

Dental services are provided by a Public Health dentist from Eastport. Bonnie Troit works as dental hygienist two days per week.

The clinic is housed in a modern, one-story building with round-arch doorway, and has a full complement of supply rooms, offices, examining rooms and lobby.

The health center will be administered locally, through funds provided by Indian Health Service (IHS).

Construction began last October — with a number of tribal members employed on the job — and total building costs were estimated at \$225,000.

AAI, Mission sponsor camp

HOULTON — The Association of Aros took Indians (AAI) and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation of Ipswich, Massachusetts are again jointly sponsoring a Maine Indian Summer Camp for the 1980 season. The camp location is at Mud Lake in Sinclair, with the camp sessions being scheduled for June 29 to July 12 for 8 to 11 year olds and the second session beginning July 20th to Aug. 9, for 12 to 15 year olds. Aug. 9 is being set aside as Family Day. Traditional camp activities will be featured with an emphasis on Indian activities such as beading, craftwork, and Indian dancing.

Application forms are being distributed to eligible Indian children and extra forms are available at the office. For more information, call Harris Brewer of the Association of Aroostook Indians at 532-7317 or call him at his home at 532-7914.

Tribe blocks tracks

PLEASANT POINT — Several tribal members erected a sign recently on railroad tracks that cross the reservation.

The sign reads, "Passamaquoddy Land, No Trespassing." Some tribal members oppose rail salvage operations on the Maine Central Railroad Co. spur to Eastport, claiming the right-of-way belongs to the Passamaquoddy Tribe. The spur was officially abandoned 18 months ago.



WATCHING — A young Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy girl observes dental lab technician Mike Farrell at work in new tribal clinic.

SLUGGER — Jerry Pardilla, of Indian Island, takes a swing during softball game between Penobscot tribal officials and visiting Indian persons attending recent United South and East Tribes (USET) meeting in Bangor. At left, Miles Francis of Indian Island plays catcher, and Penobscot Gov. Wilfred Pehrson "calls 'em as he sees 'em." The well-attended game delighted young and old, and included home runs, mud slides and much humor.

Penobscots plan foot race, fireworks

INDIAN ISLAND — A four mile road race for all ages highlights a special Indian day here, sponsored jointly by Andrew Sockalexis Track Club, the Recreation Department, and Bingo Committee.

Also scheduled is a bean supper, to be followed by "the best display yet" of fire-

works at the Penobscot reservation. All are invited.

The race begins at noon, July 5, and categories range from age 10 and under, to 50 and over. There will be special awards for overall winner, and first Penobscot over the finish line.

Woman convicted of driving over man

BANGOR — A 25-year-old Hampden woman, Sandra E. Williams, has been convicted of deliberately running her car over Douglas Francis, 38, of Indian Island, in recent Superior Court action here.

The incident occurred Dec. 9, 1979, in Old Town. Testimony showed that when Williams' car stalled, after running over Francis, she backed the vehicle up, over his body a second time.

Francis was seriously injured in the

incident, and reportedly lost a leg through amputation.

Francis was run over on North Brunswick Street, in the driveway of Old Town Canoe Company. He and Williams had apparently had a dispute earlier that evening, at an Old Town bar.

Williams faced a maximum 10 year sentence for aggravated assault. She was sentenced to five years at Maine Correctional Center, South Windham, with three of those years suspended.

An Indian woman's ordeal with suicide

by Diane Edwards

The butcher knife was hard, cold steel. It was uninviting, unfriendly. The blade was razor sharp, like the cutting tongue of a nagging wife. The knife felt heavy, almost as heavy as my heart.

I turned it over and over in my mind. A ray of light beamed through my kitchen window and was caught on the blade. It shone on my eyes. I knew it would be the last time I would ever see a piece of the sun.

I held the knife above my wrist. It seemed to be suspended there, waiting, just waiting. I thought I saw my hand shake a little, but I knew that could not be. The fifty sleeping pills I took would keep my hands from trembling.

Already I felt tired. I thought the pills would give me more time, but they

wouldn't wait. They were hungry to do their job. I had to hurry. I was afraid the pills alone would not be enough. I had to be sure I would not fail.

Now was the time. Now I was ready. I watched. It was almost fascinating. I felt the cold blade touch my skin. I watched as the knife slid across the veins in my wrist. I saw them burst open. They cried out at the undeserved pain, spilling their tears of blood. I had violated my own flesh. I had forced my veins in my wrist to cease the job they were meant to do. They were bewildered; frustrated, they were angry. They screamed in silence; they asked me why. I did not answer. I only watched. They were losing the blood so precious to them. I was losing the life once precious to me.

As soon as I cut the other wrist, there

was nothing else to do. My legs were very weak and my eyes were very sleepy. My house was quiet. It seemed to fit my mood. I slowly put one foot in front of the other and found myself in my bedroom. I lay down on my bed on the side where my husband slept at night. He was at work now but I felt this way I could be close to him for one last time.

Remembers the taunts

My veins had asked me once and now I asked myself, "why?" It would have been so easy to answer if there had been only one major upset in my life, but there were none. I guess it was all the different things that happened to me throughout my entire life. The things that sat in the back of my mind gnawing away, eating up my soul.

I thought about my childhood. The time

most people call their happy, carefree days. I remember only the teasing, the hateful snubs from my playmates, because I was a half-breed, Indian girl — a squaw, a redskin, a half burnt whitey. The names are still so sharp in my head; even now they make me wince. It's hard to forget the pain.

I remember my white grandfather when I was nine years old. He would come to my mother's house, (his daughter), and take me shopping for clothes and shoes and toys — all the things she couldn't buy for me. I had eight brothers and two sisters. I could see the relief in Mom's face when I would come home with pretty new clothes. My mother would tell me to be good for Grampa. She said I was a lucky little girl.

(Continued on page 7)

editorials

Lest we forget

Readers sometimes accuse this newspaper of being "negative." Perhaps some stories do seem that way. We do not try to be negative, or look for the "bad" news. We try to tell the whole story as best we can, and that story has its good and bad points.

Our overall outlook is optimistic. We want to reflect what is best in the Indian community; not just the problems. We must not forget, or overlook, the tremendous progress and potential of the four tribes in Maine.

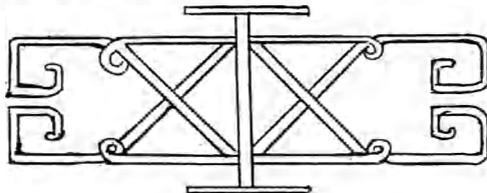
Of the four, Penobscots and Passamaquoddies have made the most stunning material progress, in terms of housing, schooling, health and tribal administration. All the more reason, as we have stated here before, to draw attention to Micmac and Maliseet people. All Indians are deserving of the fairest shake possible. Many Indians are still getting a bad deal, but as older folks will tell you, it's nothing like the old days.

Times were lean before BIA recognition of Maine Indians, and support from ANA (Administration for Native Americans) and the Federal Regional Council. But a not-so-funny thing has happened with all the developments: Indian culture is fading.

Perhaps some traditions and old ways would fade anyway. But material progress on the reservations has hastened the cultural erosion. Why is it that people say in 30 years nobody will weave beautiful Indian baskets? People eagerly embrace a new house on the reservation, but what do they leave behind? Do they give up just an old frame house that used to be flooded by the river in the spring? Or do they give up a way of life?

What should be saved? These questions are asked by critics of the current Indian land claims settlement, who call it a "money settlement" that sells out tribal sovereignty. We're not so sure the critics are correct. In any case, the settlement does provide a certain autonomy, and considerable acreage.

But these questions, like the loss of basket-making or the impending disappearance of spoken Passamaquoddy language, should be pondered. These are critical times for Indian people. We believe the controversial questions of what is progress, and what should be preserved, need to be discussed openly.



Quotable

The following dialogue was sent to Wabanaki Alliance by Florence Mitchell Archambeau Herskind of Fort Lauderdale, Florida:

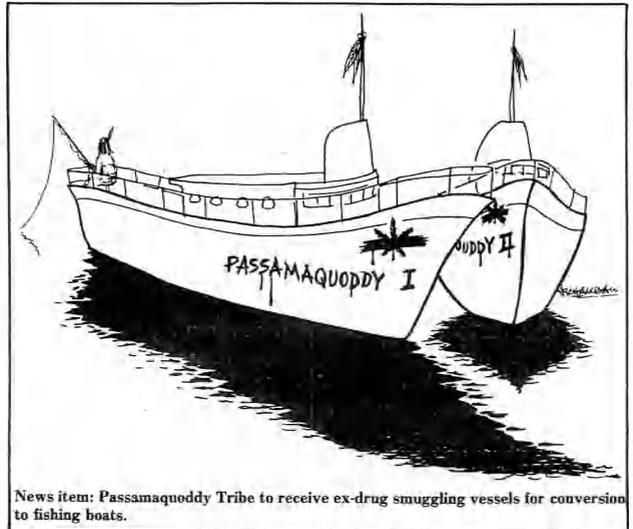
Indian Representative: "I have come before you, gentlemen, to plead on behalf of my tribe to manage its own lands."

Senator: "I object! On the grounds that the average Indian hasn't the intelligence to manage property."

Indian: "Why, Senator, do you think I haven't been an intelligent representative?"

Senator: "I said the 'average' Indian. You surely can't be average, your tribe undoubtedly would send the smartest man they had to plead their case."

Indian: "That isn't so, Senator. We Indians are just like the other people in the U.S. We never send our smartest men to Congress."



News item: Passamaquoddy Tribe to receive ex-drug smuggling vessels for conversion to fishing boats.

Whose right of way?

There's some friction at Pleasant Point along the old Maine Central Railroad right-of-way across the reservation.

Although the tracks from Pembroke to Eastport were officially abandoned 18 months ago, the Railroad apparently still owns the right-of-way. Why MCR should still "own" it is beyond our ken. The land along the shore of the reservation was reportedly taken from the tribe in 1898. The Bangor Daily News asserts that it was bought from the tribe. This is highly unlikely. In those days, the Indians had virtually no political clout, and were at the mercy of land-grabs. Much later, a highway (Route 190) was laid right smack down the middle of Pleasant Point reservation. The Indians weren't paid then either.

Now a salvage company is pulling up the rails, starting from Eastport, and at press time, was about half way to Pleasant Point. So a few Passamaquoddies placed a sign on the tracks that says "Passamaquoddy Land, No Trespassing."

We agree. Before any track is pulled, the tribe should be consulted by Maine Central Railroad and state Department of Transportation officials.

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letters

An open letter

To the off-reservation Indian people who attended the meeting at the Portland Police Department regarding the land claims: The meeting was April 2, 1980; on April 3, 1980 I sent copies of the petition you signed to the tribal governors by certified mail and within a week had the receipts back from them, so they did receive the petitions! It is now two months later and as yet we have no word from them. One month ago I called Pleasant Point Lt. Governor Clive Dore, he was supposed to see the Tribal Governor the following day and then call me back, he hasn't as yet.

If you thing that C.M.I.A. should be involved in obtaining equal rights for off-reservation Indians, then attend the board meeting in Portland on June 14, 1980 at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building auditorium, and express your concern to the C.M.I.A. Board of Directors.

If you are interested in attending the next election at your respective reservation and voting for someone that will help off-reservation Indians please let me know in writing and I will see that you are notified of when it will be. Write to me at:

Tom Thurlow
49 N. Water St.
Old Town, Me. 04468

Island gymnasts are state champs

INDIAN ISLAND — Christa King and Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot youngsters, have won an extraordinary number of titles in recent statewide gymnastics competitions.

Christa, in a May 4 U.S. Gymnastics Federation meet, was first on the beam, fourth on floor, fifth all-around. Sherri was first in vaulting, and sixth overall, in that meet, according to coach-instructor Vicki Daigle of Bangor.

In a May 8 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) meet, Christa took fourth place vaulting, third place on balance beam, fourth on floor exercises, and fifth all-around. Sherri was third in the vault, first on uneven parallel bars, and fourth overall.

The girls will compete June 28, against Nova Scotia gymnasts, in Bangor.

Netherlands reader

Nijmegen, The Netherlands

To the editor:

I would like to become a subscriber to Wabanaki Alliance. I do not know what costs are involved. Enclosed you will find a \$10 note. If additional payment is required, please let me know. Also, I would like to receive the available back issues, and what the cost will be. Is a check required, or is it possible to send cash?

Dr. Franz L. Wojciechowski
Psychologisch Laboratorium
Katholieke Universiteit

Angry Penobscot

To the editor:

If anyone gets fired from his tribal job that person can go to a grievance committee. This is made up of three council members, and they are supposed to make decision if the firing was right or wrong. In December, there was a case like this. The governor went to the meeting and pushed what he wanted. He didn't even let council members make a small decision. So why have a council?

Can anyone answer me that?

An Angry Penobscot

P.S.

I don't dare to use my real name because I might lose my job.

Commiseration

To the editor:

Received your letter that said you must now start charging for your paper. Inflation is hurting us all as we are having the same problems, meaning lack of funds.

We would like to continue receiving your publication on an "exchange of publication" basis. It is understood that your letter may have been sent to every one on your mailing list and possibly was not intended for us.

We hope your paper can continue as it is a very good and informative publication. Hope this finds all of you enjoying good health and that many good things come to you and your publication/organization in the future.

Robert Melson
Talking Leaf newspaper



The graduates

Barbara Pehrson, left, and Josie Neptune, are recent graduates of a seven week Bangor Adult Education program, conducted at Bangor High School. Pehrson is a homemaker, and Neptune a nurse's assistant, with Penobscot Department of Health and Social Services at Indian Island.

Indian woman gets law degree

PORTLAND — Debra Elaine Stokes, Penobscot tribal member, was awarded her Juris Doctor degree from University of Maine School of Law, at a May 25 commencement.

A 1977 graduate of College of Charleston in South Carolina, Stokes is the first Maine Indian woman to receive a law degree. She is the daughter of Olin D. and Elizabeth Nicoliar Stokes. Her mother is a native of Indian Island; her aunt, Emma Francis, is an Indian Island resident.

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IN THE FAMILY — The late Patrick Shay, Penobscot from Indian Island, left, legally adopted Karl Toney, center, on May 30, in his room at Eastern Maine Medical Center. He died June 4, and will be buried in traditional custom in the Penobscot Nation. With him in photo is his wife, Isabelle, and Gkisetanamoogk, medicine man of the Wampanoag Nation, in Mashpee, Mass. Shay will be buried in a sitting position, facing east, with totem pole as marker.

Petitioners await reply on tribal constitution

SOUTH WINDHAM — At least 52 off-reservation Passamaquoddy tribal members have signed a petition to tribal government, seeking establishment of a tribal constitution to set forth and protect their rights.

The signers of the petition, who are natives of Pleasant Point and Indian Township reservations, live mostly in the Portland area. The petition states in part: "We would like to see some type of constitution established by the respective tribes stating what the rights of each tribal member (are), both on and off reservation. And also (to) be notified of when the elections are held for tribal government and when various votes are taken that affect the tribe as a whole."

The petitioners were prevented by tribal government from voting in a recent referendum on the joint Passamaquoddy-Penobscot land claims settlement proposal.

"To date, we feel left out of everything and we feel that our strengths should be unified instead of split, and hope that you feel the same. Please notify us of your decision, thank you," the petition says.

However, a spokesman for the Passamaquoddy petitioners said several weeks have passed, and there has been no response from tribal government. The petition was sent to Indian Township Gov. Harold J. Lewey and council members, and Pleasant Point Gov. Robert Newell and council members.



CMIA Director Donna Loring signs cooperative agreement with Penobscot Consortium (CETA) Director Charles Tetro, while Karen Shorette of CMIA looks on.

CMIA signs cooperative pact

BANGOR — A first-of-its-kind agreement has been worked out between Penobscot Consortium and Central Maine Indian Association (CMIA), to share resources and provide better job service to off-reservation Indians.

"It's been unique for us here. It's going to substantially increase the number of Native Americans participating in our programs," said Charles Tetro, consortium executive director. The consortium administers federal CETA jobs in the area.

"What we're looking for is a fair share in CETA allocations," explained CMIA Director Donna Loring, adding that Tribal Governors Inc., sponsor of Indian CETA programs, cut CMIA from \$38,000 to \$15,200 at a recent meeting, and allowed the off-reservation group one and one-half job slots. She said the new inter-agency agreement will improve recruitment, management and planning.

"We went to the consortium because they agreed to give us an equitable share," Loring said. CMIA will remain a member of Tribal Governors.

Tetro said "technical assistance and staff development resources will be available as if they (CMIA) were our own staff." He cited computer use and training opportunities as examples.

The agreement was signed last month in Tetro's office.



Indian Township graduates of crash injury management course. [Kathy Tomah Photo]

crash injury course

INDIAN TOWNSHIP — The following people completed the CIM course sponsored by Wayne Newell, director of Indian Township Community Health Service Program:

Karen Buchanan, Rose Neptune, Cheryl Bacon, Paula Bryant, Doris Chapman, Martha Barstis, Sonja Dorn.

CMIA needs subcontractors

ORONO — Central Maine Indian Association is currently looking for Indian people (if possible) to sub-contract out for fuel (wood and oil) and blankets for our Winter 1980 Crisis Intervention Program.

If anyone has any competitive prices on these goods, please contact Marta at 866-5587.

Hearing set June 9 on health center suspensions

INDIAN ISLAND — Five employees at Penobscot Health and Social Services Department face a grievance hearing June 9, before the tribal council. Two were suspended six weeks without pay, and three placed on probation three months.

The hearing comes on the heels of the suspension of clinic director Dr. Elnice Baumann-Nelson and her assistant, Denise Mitchell. Tribal nurse Ruth Davis, health planner Maynard Krieder and nurse practitioner Phoebe Gray were placed on probation.

The group of five have alleged in letters to acting health center director Timothy Love that they were denied due process, and grounds for action taken against them were not substantial.

The disagreement between health center staff, and the tribal governor and council, apparently stem from an incident

several months ago when three health center employees left the building to assist Stanley Neptune of Indian Island, who was at the time in confrontation with tribal police.

Gov. Wilfred Pehrson maintains the employees, Neana Neptune, Philip Guimond and Vicki Almenas, had no right to leave their posts during working hours. Raumann-Nelson argues that the three had permission of acting supervisors to leave the workplace.

Other issues of dispute include reimbursement for a trip to Nashville and how it should be handled, confidentiality of medical records, and payment of medical costs outside the Penobscot clinic service area, sources told a reporter.

In a related matter, nurse Davis has decided against resignation from her job, and will be retained on a consulting basis.

Indian seeks Senate seat

Former U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson (1973-76) has announced his intentions to run for the Senate seat now held by Senator Mike Gravel. D-Alaska. Thompson, an Athabaskan Indian who is President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, is one of five candidates for the Republican nomination. Don Wright, also an Athabaskan and a former AFN President, is also a candidate.



WABANAKI CORPORATION ALCOHOLISM COUNSELORS AND THEIR LOCATIONS:

Old Town	
Rosalie Clark	866-5577
Clarence Francis	866-5577
Pleasant Point	
Grace Roderick	853-2547
Ralph Dana	853-2537
Northern Maine	
Alfred Dana	866-5577
Caribou Area	
Pious Perley	532-7317
Harriet Perley	532-7317
Portland Area	
George Paul	499-7589
Indian Township	
Bernard Stevens	796-2301
James Mitchell	796-2301

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Opinion

Outreach worker an ally of people in need

by Brenda Polchies

The outreach worker — a non-professional worker with a non-professional name applied to a human being who is in a position to reach, make contact, and get down to the level of the regular people, the common people, the white people and the Indian people in Aroostook County. The only qualifications needed are an ability to get along with people, to exercise good judgment in dealing with clients, and to have a real understanding of the poor economic conditions of rural people.

The outreach worker comes across all facets of living. The non-professional worker communicates with the young, unwed mother, the senior citizen, the alcoholic, the drug addict, the migrant and transient client. These are individual people with dismal destinies.

In the rural environment of Aroostook County, days and weeks can go by without a glimpse or presence of another human being. People living in isolated situations welcome and extend a warmth to you — they are glad for the chance to relate, to communicate, to tell you of family situations and personal problems. They tell you what the doctor prescribed for medication for a physical ailment; they tell you the problem they had with the landlord. What are these forms that came in the mail today? Do I

have to go see these people about my SSI? Where can I go to get the right kind of assistance? Fuel is so expensive this year, and I can't afford another 100 gals. of fuel oil — do I qualify for energy assistance at the so and so agency in Presque Isle?

The outreach worker is able to perform tasks which are ordinarily assigned to professional people. The outreach worker can soothe the troubled mind of an alcoholic mother; the outreach worker is put in the position of dealing with agencies on behalf of clients who meet up with red tape and who cannot understand the complicated system which doles out assistance provided that the client meets endless guideline rules.

More than anything else, these people just need to know there is an ally, an advocate — a friend who understands and does not condemn. Just the plain fact of being able to talk to someone and for that someone really to listen and make no judgments, this is what is needed. The physical presence of another person does more, accomplishes more in terms of uplifting morale, and it says to the young, unwed mother, the senior citizen, the alcoholic, the drug addict, the migrant and transient client — hey, you're not alone after all. Someone out there knows I'm here.



BIKE GANG — Out for a spin at Peter Dana Point, Indian Township, are these five youngsters doing their "wheelies." Just as cool is Melissa Mitchell of Indian Island, below, who had to slow down for the photographer to focus his camera.



Poetry

Untitled

Love I

It happened so cool
so calm and collected
time didn't matter
we both felt protected

The night was young
and the moon so bright
I hoped all along
our intentions were right

Our quick reactions
was part of the story
but we didn't mind
we were in our glory

Like a star that falls
it wasn't expected
I felt pretty good
the night was perfective

The question was why
that I was the one
to fall in her arms
and hide from the sun

Was there an event
sometime before
which made her decide
to open the door

Was it the night
or the moon alone
somehow it happened
I've not yet known

James Francis

Love II

Who says I'm yours
who says you're mine
our so called love
has just declined

It's shaded black
like stormy clouds
and there you are
just sitting proud

Your lifeless heart
has got no end
for love with you
is just pretend

Pretending to be
the love so good
and that you think
I'm made of wood
you burnt me up
and what remained
was left to face
the endless pain.

James Francis

I have
cut my hair, said goodbye
to granite ledges,
upcountry hills
and places of primitive power

Stopped thinking of
old men
with blind eyes
and warriors' hearts
remembered
every word,
touch,
shared silence
and the frigid pool deep in beech woods
where we swam and embraced like
awkward children.

I have stopped trying not to love you.
Lately
I have taken to roaming salt water
meadows,
to sleeping
under apple trees gone wild.
Like them, I face the sea
My dreams are not disturbed
by summer wind
Or doubt,
I have forgiven you.

Scarlet Kinney
(copyright)

SPECIAL WINTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SEASONAL WORKERS ATTENTION

You or someone you know may be eligible for a new winter assistance program for seasonal and migrant workers.

This program is basically for individuals and families who have not received the regular fuel assistance (that the state of Maine has offered this winter).

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF:

1. You or someone in your family has worked at least 25 days in the last two years in seasonal agriculture, woods work, fishing, clamming, fish packing, fir tipping, or other seasonal farm, fish or forest occupations. This includes clamdigging, berry raking, potato picking, haying, working as a woodcutter on someone else's land or cutting wood on your own land, work in food processing plants that is not year round, etc. If you are not sure whether your work qualifies you, get in touch and ask.

WHAT KINDS OF ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE?

Under this program you may receive assistance which will enable you to pay for the following kinds of items and services:

1. FUEL (any kind, including wood, oil, kerosene, coal)
2. UTILITY BILLS which are due or overdue
3. LP GAS
4. WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKETS
5. STOVES AND REPAIRS TO FURNACES AND HEATING SYSTEMS
6. FOOD
7. MEDICAL CARE
8. Some RENT ASSISTANCE in special circumstances

If you think you or someone you know may be eligible for the kinds of assistance outlined here, please send a postcard to: ECAP Outreach Worker, Route 1, Box 74-1, Steuben, Maine 04680. Give your name, address and phone (if you have one). Or call: 546-7293 or toll free in Maine at 1-800-432-1766 for more information.

IMPORTANT! YOU MUST APPLY BEFORE JUNE 30, 1980.

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INDIAN ISLAND

Child welfare ultimately up to Indian people

by Freeman A. Morey
CMIA Outreach Worker

The first week in May marked the end of scheduled meetings for the subcommittees of the Governor's Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption.

Now the Task Force itself is faced with the chore of taking the subcommittee's recommendations and suggestions and molding them into a final draft which will be presented to the Governor.

Central Maine Indian Association (CMIA) has taken pains to present the problems facing Indian children to the Task Force and subcommittees. We have stressed the lack of Indian Social Workers, unfair licensing procedures and attitudes, and removal of Indian children to non-Indian foster or adoptive homes as three of the biggest problems in this area today.

We have been working to educate ourselves and others about "The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978" which, when fully implemented, will make things easier for Indian foster children. The Act states that Indian children in foster care are to be placed with a member of their family as a first priority, or with a member of their tribe, as second priority, and with another Indian family as third priority. Only as a "last resort" can an Indian child now be placed with a non-Indian family. Unfortunately, this applies only to Federally recognized tribes, which is another thorn to be plucked.

With the "Indian Child Welfare Act" on

our side, and general acceptance of the fact that placing Indian children out of their own culture more often adds to their problems than helps them, we hope to never see a "last resort case."

We have met no strong opposition to our goals within the Governor's Task Force. The torch now remains to be taken by us, the Indian people.

We at Central Maine Indian Association are now experiencing a better attitude of cooperation between ourselves and governmental agencies concerning Indian foster children. Our office has already been asked to intervene in certain foster care cases by Department of Human Services. This in itself is a milestone for Indian Foster Care in Maine.

Central Maine Indian Association and the reservations will be working hand-in-hand to see that if an Indian child has to enter the foster care system he/she will be placed with the best possible family, not a family that has no cultural connection or concerns.

However, none of the good things being done will have meaning if there are no Indian foster homes for our children. If you think you know of an Indian child being taken illegally, or better yet, if you are interested in providing a foster or adoptive home for an Indian child, please feel free to contact Central Maine Indian Association, at 95 Main Street, Orono, Maine — phone: 866-5587. There will be a lot of "red faces" if a "last resort" case occurs because there are no Indian homes to take Indian children.



Lori Nelson, sister Kelly and friend Scott Therrien.

Island student in honor society

INDIAN ISLAND — Seventeen-year-old Kelly Nelson, a Penobscot and daughter of Lorraine Nelson, has been admitted to the National Honor Society for her achievements at Old Town High School.

Interested in biology and Spanish, she said she hopes to pursue physical therapy, possibly at University of Vermont. She is vice president of the student council, and is a junior class representative. She has been a cheerleader for basketball at Old Town High.

Kelly is a topnotch runner, and the track team has a 3-1 record. She has qualified for regional competitions with a time of 2:44.5.

Kelly's older sister, Lori, will graduate this June from Old Town High School, and plans to attend an eight week health science training program for Indians, in Michigan, this summer.

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DEACON'S TRUCK — There's no mistaking the pickup owned by Brother Larry Smith of Pleasant Point, who is a strong advocate of preserving and teaching the Passamaquoddy language. "Sesuh" means Jesus, or the Lord.



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Cheryl Hodgkin and Tom Thurlow
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An Indian woman's ordeal

(Continued from page 1)

When my grandfather and I would go into a store in town, many people would come up to him and shake his hand and talk to him. He was well loved by everyone.

I remembered the first night he raped me.

At the age of nine, a child will believe almost anything, especially from someone she loves. My grandfather would tell me if I told anyone what he did to me, I would be put in jail. He also said my mother would be mad at me because he would buy me no new clothes.

I loved Momma. I couldn't do anything to hurt her or make her mad at me, so I kept it to myself. For sixteen years I never told anyone. My silence was from fear, from shame and also from guilt.

I thought about my first marriage. I was sixteen. It ended up in a divorce after only one year. It left me with a beautiful baby girl which I raised myself for three years alone.

I remarried at nineteen. He was a good and gentle man. I gave Tom two more daughters. We were very happy.

We lived right next to his parents in our new little house. One day his father, who seemed a second father to me, came up to visit me while Tom was at work. He tried to molest me. I fought him off. He left, but he left me with all the old memories of my grandfather. Everything about that horrible time in my life came flooding my mind.

I had a nervous breakdown three days later.

I was in a mental ward for two dreadful, long months. The doctors I had at the hospital put me on so many strong drugs I became an addict. I couldn't function as a normal person. I shook violently. I lost sixty pounds in one month, necessitating intravenous feeding. I was a mess.

Friends stayed away

The road to recovery was hard and rocky. Slowly I made it, but things had changed with my family.

My husband never touched me again, the way he used to do. My friends stayed away; they didn't want to "disturb" me. My brothers and sisters were so shocked by the facts they learned about my grandfather and me, they just stayed away also. My mother just cried.



However, I still had my children. They loved me just as much. Sarah was eight, Amy was four, Kathy was two years old. I loved them so.

My eyes were getting heavy now. The blood covered my bed. I was glad my last thoughts would be of my babies. I love them so much.

Who would kiss them

in the mornings?

Who would wipe their

nose?

Who would tell them

Mommy loved them,

but she felt she

had to go?

My husband made it clear to me I was not to be trusted with my own children. He said he was afraid it would be too much for me to take care of them after my "disease." We fought a lot about this. Sometimes we got bitter. Many times he was cruel. He told me if we ever split up I would never have the children. After all, I had a mental record and he would use this against me in court. We grew farther and farther apart. I knew I could lose my babies. The thought broke my heart. I loved them so.

If only I could hold them one last time. If only I could kiss their sweet, chubby cheeks. If only I could be there to wipe

away their tears when they found out Mommy was gone. I would tell them they were my heart. I love them so.

A deep, peaceful sleep

I fell asleep then. It was a deep, peaceful sleep. Then, suddenly, someone broke my peace. I felt a rush of air in my lungs. A man was pounding on my heart. I heard someone cry, "Thank God, I think she's alive!" They took the oxygen mask off my face. I opened my eyes and saw the two paramedics who were working over me. I saw my sister crying, shaking with fear. They brought me in the ambulance to the hospital. There they pumped my stomach and gave me blood transfusions.

My sister, Sherry, stayed with me at the hospital. She said she saw my car in the yard so she stopped in to have coffee with me. When she looked through the window in my door, she saw the kitchen floor covered with blood. She tried to break the window but she couldn't. I have special glass in all my windows.

She ran down to my mother-in-law's house because she remembered Louise had an extra key to my house. She told Louise to give her the key and call an ambulance. My white mother-in-law said "No I don't want to get involved." Sherry screamed at her, "For God's sake, at least

give me the key!" She grabbed the key from Louise's hand and raced back up to my house. She called the paramedics, then tried to stop my bleeding. She slapped my face several times but she got no response. She tried to find a pulse or a heartbeat but she could detect none. She thought that I was dead.

My husband came into my hospital room a little while later. He showed me his concern by saying, "How could you do something so stupid. All you wanted was attention."

I've thought a lot about that. It's a hard way to get attention. If I were trying to just get attention from him why did I have to go so far as I did to get it? I don't put the blame on him or anyone else for that matter. I did what I did because of myself. If one learns to hate and be ashamed of oneself, one learns one has no worth, no purpose in life.

I've changed my way of thinking a little bit now. I know that what happened between me and my grandfather wasn't my fault. Still the shame and some of the guilt are still here. I go to a psychiatrist once a week and we talk a lot.

I have also learned my husband can't use my mental record against me in court.

I'm learning to forgive myself and others who have hurt me. I'm learning I have to try to love myself. I'm not the "bad girl" I always thought I was. I'm a good person with a lot to give.

Editor's Note: Diana Edwards, 26, (not her real name), a Penobscot, is currently attending college, majoring in mental health.

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Carter cuts BIA budget by \$41 million

WASHINGTON — Bureau of Indian Affairs' 1981 budget request has been reduced by \$40.2 million as a part of President Carter's anti-inflation program. The President's revised budget proposals, sent to Congress March 31, cut some \$15 billion from the total U.S. budget. Congress received Jan. 28.

Proposed cuts for the Bureau call for closing of two off-reservation boarding schools.

The largest reductions, however, will be brought about by delaying irrigation project funding (\$22.3 million) and road construction (\$10.8 million).

The new budget proposal would reduce funding for the operation of Indian programs by \$7.1 million. This includes \$1 million from the closing of the two schools; \$4.1 million in personnel compensation; \$1.7 million for supplies and equipment, and \$300,000 from a program to recruit

Indians into various starting-level professional positions in the Bureau.

If the Stewart and Fort Sill schools are closed, the students can be accommodated in other Bureau schools, the Office of Indian Education Programs has indicated. A large proportion of the students now enrolled at the two schools are from out-of-state. Stewart has a current enrollment of 409 and Fort Sill has 160.

The 1981 fiscal year begins October 1, 1980.

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news notes

Mashpee Indians plan gala weekend

MASHPEE, Mass. — All night drumming is part of festivities planned here by the Wampanoag tribe, July 4-6.

Prizes will be given in a dance contest, including traditional and fancy. Canoeing, foot races, archery and fire ball, plus a

"princess contest," are on the agenda. Crafts, a clam bake Sunday and bean supper Saturday, will be featured. Space is available for camping. For further information contact Mashpee Wampanoag tribal council, Box 1048, Mashpee, Mass. 02649. Gates open at 1 p.m.

Health staff attend Arizona meeting

Four health workers representing Passamaquoddy and Penobscot health departments attended a recent meeting in Tempe, Arizona.

Present at the April 18-23 session were Ruth Davis and Natalie Mitchell from Indian Island, Sonja Dorn from Indian Township, and Hazel Dana from Pleasant Point. The event was called American Indian and Alaska Native Nurses convention.

Mitchell joins marines

INDIAN ISLAND — Burnell Mitchell, Penobscot, joined the U.S. Marine Corps last month, and has been assigned to Parris Island, S.C., for training.

Mitchell is married to the former Pauline Benally, a Navajo. They have a baby daughter, Marissa. Mitchell is the son of Juanita and Matthew Mitchell Sr., of Indian Island.

All-nations powwow planned

BISMARCK, N.D. — A variety of prizes in various categories of singing and dancing will be offered at an all-nations powwow, slated June 21-22, at United Tribes Educational Center. Total prizes amount to \$3,325. Both fancy and traditional styles will be performed.

Sapiel a poster finalist

ORONO — Jennie E. Sapiel, a fifth grader at Asa C. Adams School, has been notified that for her entry in the Education Ecology Poem and Poster Program, she has been selected as a finalist.

An official of the Awareness Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has announced that this is the second highest award in the program and only 200 entrants out of more than 7,000 were selected as finalists.

Flashback photo



REMEMBER WHEN — Can any of our readers date this very early photo of teacher and pupils at Indian Island school on the Penobscot reservation? The school in background has been expanded over the years to its present size, and is today said to be too small. This photo, a postcard printed in Germany for Berry Paper Co. of Lewiston, was lent to Wabanaki Alliance by Pastor Donald Daigle of Indian Island Baptist Church.

Three resign from development office

INDIAN ISLAND — Three staff members of Penobscot Department of Employment and Development resigned recently. One of them complained recently about his situation.

Elwin (Al) Sapiel, told Wabanaki Alliance he quit his job because, "we would've been let go anyway, sooner or later. I can't get no help over here. I have to go outside

the reservation for some technical assistance," he said.

Sapiel acknowledged he has had "disagreements about different things" in the past, with tribal Gov. Wilfred Pehrson, his half-brother. Also resigning were Sheila Sapiel and Alison Sapiel. The three DED employees were replaced by Kenneth Paul, Lee Cameron and a receptionist. Richard Hamilton has replaced George Tomer as director of the department.

Correction

A front page story in last month's Wabanaki Alliance incorrectly stated that Maynard Krieder, placed on probation by the Penobscot tribal council, was records clerk with the Indian Island health center. Krieder is the health planner with the clinic.

NCAI slates conference

WASHINGTON — National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has scheduled its mid-year conference June 18-20, at Reno, Nevada. Plans are, to "receive and strengthen" the role of these committees.



Have you got their number?

Pleasant Point reservation has a new "PBX" centralized phone system, with one general connecting number: 853-2551. Learning about the pushbutton phone system with new equipment are, from left, Barbara Dana, Katha Seeley, Beatrice Soctomah, Thomas Lewey, Cindy Lola, Mary Lola. Helen Frydel of New England Telephone conducted the class.

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