



PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

14th Annual Convention

October 28 - November 1, 1957

Claremore, Oklahoma

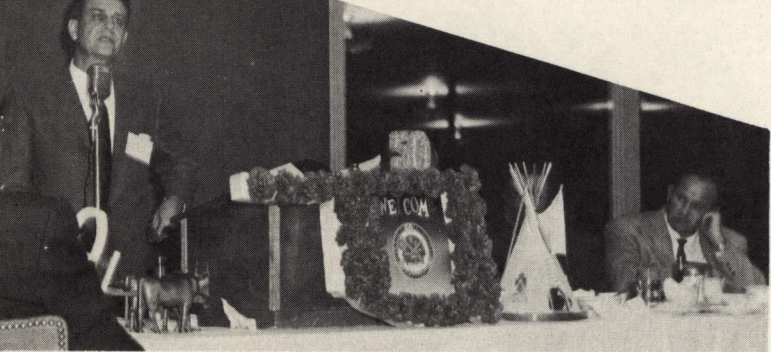


Many people think Indians are not citizens of the U.S.! They are not only citizens, many of them are mighty skilled and adept at politicking and elections. Here is the "Election Committee" at the NCAI convention in Claremore, counting the votes for officers for 1958. Seated, far left, is Edward Wilson, Delaware Indian from Tulsa; counting and with only his back showing, is Glen Galbraith, member of the Spokane Tribe, Washington; Sergeant-at-Arms, who was sworn in as deputy Sheriff of Claremore County on opening day of the convention in Claremore, is Kathryn Northover, member of the Yakima Tribe, and Deputy Sheriff of Toppenish County in the State of Washington. Seated and tabulating votes is Cato Valandra, businessman and Treasurer of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. Standing and watching the counting on the far left side is Frank George, Colville-Nez Perce, Recording Secretary, and in the group at right are: C. C. Victory, Cherokee attorney from Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Thomas A. Segundo, former Chairman of the Papago Tribe in Arizona and now director of the American Indian Center in Chicago; and Robert Burnette, Chairman of NCAI's Election Committee and Chairman of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota.

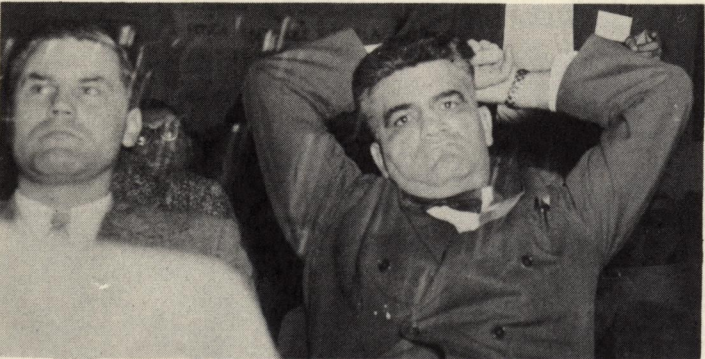


This picture story of the convention is made possible through the courtesy and efforts of Joe Pedro, Secretary to the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal Council. An accident to the film resulted in the loss of about four-fifths of the pictures he took which is regretted and which has limited somewhat the selection of pictures for this story.

W. W. Keeler, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and Vice-President of Phillips Petroleum Company, was host to the convention delegates at a fabulous picnic held at Phillips' Woolaroc Ranch near Bartlesville, Oklahoma. A member of the new Commission in Indian Affairs, Mr. Keeler introduced Dr. Wilson at the banquet. At right is Allie Reynolds, Creek, formerly the famous pitcher for the New York Yankees. Indians are proud of this great baseball player and were happy to have him at the 14th Annual Convention.



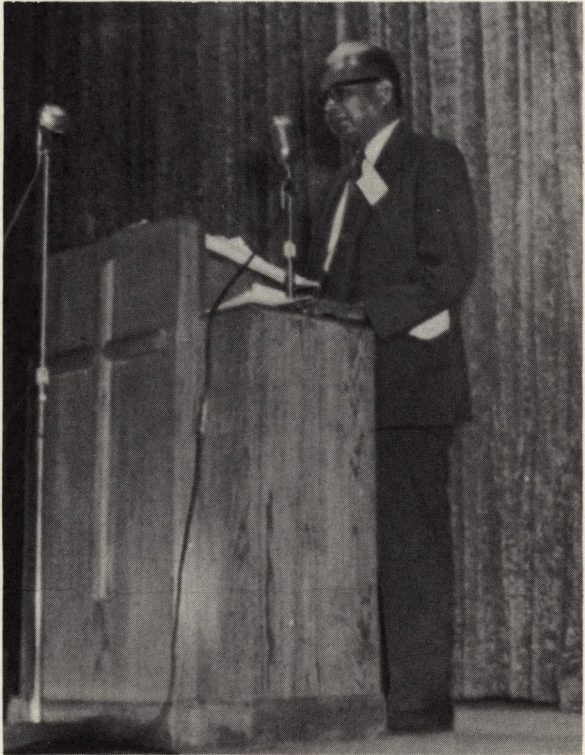
Kurt A. Smith, former manager of the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D. C., and now manager of the Sheraton McAlpin Hotel in New York, came from New York to the Claremore meetings. Earlier in the year he received this war bonnet as token of appreciation, esteem, and friendship from NCAI President Joseph R. Garry for his many courtesies and assists to Indian delegates.



NCAI is deeply grateful for the hard work and expert guidance which the various attorneys for different tribes render to the organization in cooperation with NCAI's own general counsel. Ray Simpson, left, is legal counsel for the Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians, Palm Springs, California, and he moved the hearts of convention delegates with his eloquent remarks about the urgent need and importance of NCAI during the banquet. On the right is Barry de Rose, Globe, Arizona, legal counsel for the White Mountain Apache tribe. Although this was his first NCAI convention he contributed greatly to the work done and the spirit engendered in the convention.



W. W. (Bill) Short, Chickasaw Tribe, with tearful appreciation, loyalty, and concern for NCAI, receives a blanket from the organization presented him for his service as the second President, retired in 1953. The gift came in Indian time—four years after his retirement from office—but the sentiment all around was genuine.



Dr. Paschal Sherman, fullblood member of the Colville Tribe, state of Washington; holder of two law degrees and a Ph.D.; Chairman of NCAI's Fiscal and Administrative Subcommittee for 1958. Here he's telling the convention and the press that Indians are tired of being "policy" and are fighting, through NCAI, for their very survival as a distinct ethnic group in this nation. Dr. Sherman professionally is vice-chairman of one of the boards of the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.

GUEST SPEAKERS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28



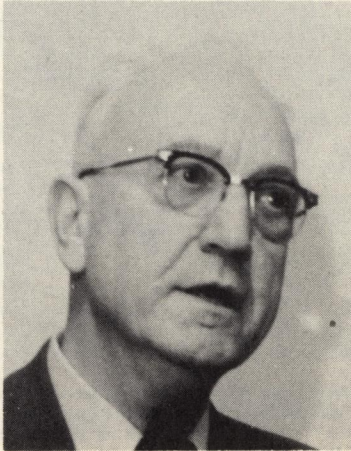
Keynote speaker on opening day was the Honorable Ed Edmondson, Member of Congress in whose district the 14th Annual Convention of NCAI was held. Congressman Edmondson is a member of the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29



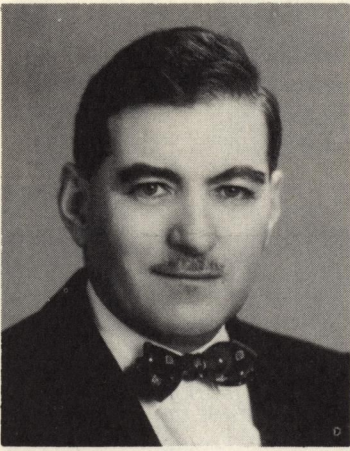
The Honorable Glenn L. Emmons, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, addressed the delegates during the fabulous "picnic" and museum tour at Woolaroc Ranch, Bartlesville.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30



Dr. Karl A. Menninger, Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas, is distinguished as one of the greatest psychiatrists in the United States and is famous nationally and internationally for his leadership in the field of mental health. Deeply moved by the earnestness and fine qualities of Indian delegates to the convention, Dr. Menninger said: "The government's present policy of treating the Indian as an individual rather than considering the whole ethnic group could result in the present generation being among the last of the race."

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30



Dr. Sol A. Tax, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, shared the platform at a main session of the convention with Dr. Karl A. Menninger. Both spoke on Indian policy and Dr. Tax also represented the President of the University of Chicago. (Note: Shortly after the convention Dr. Tax was elected President of the American Anthropological Association.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31



Forrest Gerard, member of Blackfeet Tribe, new tribal relations officer for the Branch of Indian Health, United States Public Health Service. He succeeds Peru Farver, a Choctaw, who retired last spring. Mr. Gerard emphasized the need for cooperation between Indian and Health Service people to bring about maximum benefits and progress in improving Indian health.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1



Left to right: Lawrence Nicodemus, Coeur d'Alene tribal councilman, able pianist, farmer, and son of the woman who figured in the "Nicodemus" income tax case which was finally settled by the Supreme Court's decision on the Horton Capoean case in 1956. Walter King, Jr., newly-elected third vice president of NCAI. Dr. O. Meredith Wilson, President of the University of Oregon in Salem who said in effect that if the present persistence in emphasizing individual Indian rights continues, this may be the last generation of Indians as a distinct cultural group that we see in this country. The moving and sympathetic tone of Dr. Wilson's main speech to the closing banquet of the convention gave Indians great hope that the work will indeed be worthwhile that is ahead of Dr. Wilson's Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian, an independent Commission of the Fund for the Republic which is beginning a number of studies in the field of Indian Affairs.



General convention sessions were held in the Oklahoma Military Academy auditorium. These are some of the eighty placards identifying the tribal delegations who came. Among the delegates in this picture are, left to right: the Honorable Paul Pitts, Chief of the Osage Nation, Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Francis Pipestem, Chairman Otoe Missouri Tribe; Ignace Pascal, Chairman of Spokane Tribe, Washington; delegates from the Ft. Peck Tribes of Montana; and Carl Whitman, Chairman of the Mandan, Gros Ventre, and Arikara Tribes in North Dakota.



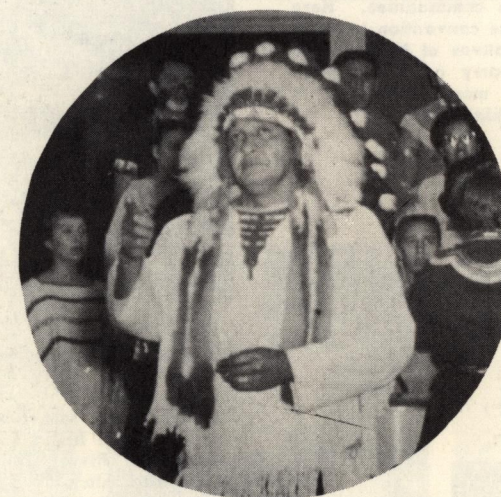
Left to right: Dennis Bushyhead, member of the Cherokee Executive Committee, successful attorney in Claremore, cousin of the late Will Rogers, and general manager of the NCAI convention; Helen L. Peterson, Oglala Sioux, Executive Director of NCAI; and Hon. Joseph R. Garry, Coeur d'Alene, great grandson of Chief Spokane Garry, Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene tribe in Idaho, President of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest, member of the Idaho Legislature, and 5th term President of the NCAI.



Bacone College Choir



Left to right: Allen Slickpoo, Nez Perce representative and Wayne Gilpin, Omaha tribal representative to the NCAI Executive Council. President Roger Getz, Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma.



Dick West, famous Indian artist, head of Art Department at Bacone College (all-Indian junior college), Tahlequah, Oklahoma



Ed La Plante, Chippewa, made an impressive pitch to get the NCAI to come to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1958, but the organization's governing board finally voted to hold the next convention in Missoula, Montana, at the Florence Hotel, September 15-19, 1958.



Here are Chinooks, from the State of Washington, with their attorney. Back row, left to right: Roland Charley; Jim Trick (general helper-out at the convention and assistant to the President!); Mr. Satiachum; James McLeod, attorney for the Chinooks. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Roland Charley, Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Betsy Ann Trick, Secretary of the Chinook tribe, and Mrs. Satiachum. To NCAI conventions come husbands and wives; mothers and sons; sisters and brothers; parents and their children; grandparents and babies. These are some of the "values" in Indian culture—in the culture our Preamble obligates us to preserve and which we regret to see lost, in spite of jibes that when we speak of preserving culture we want to keep Indians as "museum pieces." Do these people look like museum pieces?

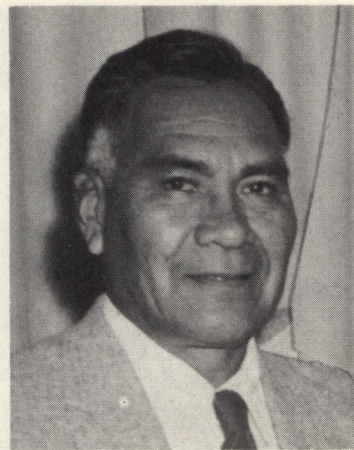


Dick West's Indian Dancing Club





Avex Miller, Chairman of the Warm Springs Tribe, Oregon, presented to the general convention a \$300 check as a special contribution to further the work of NCAI.



Pete Homer, Chairman of the Colorado River Tribes, Parker, Arizona, reviewed the developments in Congress and in the courts on Indian water rights.



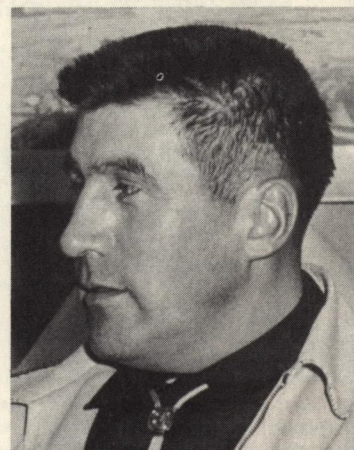
Allen Quetone, Kiowa, one of a group of younger Indians in Tulsa called "Indian Affairs Council" whose stated objectives are to interpret and disseminate information about Indian affairs at the grass-roots level in their Indian communities. Here he is urging the convention to name field representatives of NCAI—without pay—to carry out the organization's work more effectively in Oklahoma.



Marie Potts, in Sacramento, California, edits one of the brightest, best Indian publications coming out of Indian country. In times past, she and her good friend Bertha Stewart from Smith River, California, have practically hitch-hiked to the Nation's Capitol to fight for Indians' interests. At Claremore, Marie worked hard at the convention on the regular things, and in addition she sold Oklahoma Centennial ties and coins to raise money for NCAI.



Governor Floyd Maytubby of the Chickasaw Nation and successful insurance executive from Oklahoma City, introducing Congressman Ed Edmondson in whose district the convention was held.



Melvin Robertson, chairman of the Sisseton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, with help from some of his tribesmen raised the entire amount of their first year's tribal dues from special activities and solicitation in their communities.



Edward "Posey" Whiteman, Chairman of the Crow Tribal Council, took seriously the urging that resolutions be prepared in advance of the convention. Result—there are four resolutions in support of the Crow Tribe among the 61 total resolutions passed by the convention—and adopted almost word for word as Posey Whiteman and his delegation brought them to the convention.



One of the pleasant surprises of the convention was the announcement by Mrs. Irene Dixon Mack of the Menominee Tribe's vote by General Council to join NCAI. Here the chairman, James Frechette, and delegate Monroe Weso discuss current developments in connection with the Menominee Termination act with President Garry and former Acting Indian Commissioner William Zimmerman who has attended many NCAI conventions.



Delray B. Echo Hawk, Pawnee from Oklahoma, reports with earnestness and sadness of police abuse and discrimination against Indians—in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and in other states. His committee put through a resolution directing NCAI to look into such matters and take appropriate action. Seated and listening intently is Chief J. W. Harry Belvin of the Choctaw Nation, one of the parliamentarians at the convention and member of the Oklahoma State Legislature.



There's mighty heavy subject matter discussed at NCAI conventions and these officers of NCAI are obviously straining to get every word of it. Left to right: 1957 First Vice-President Clarence Wesley, General Manager of the San Carlos Apache Tribe; Jay Morago, Jr., Governor, Gila-River Pima Maricopa Indian Community; and Nelson Lupe, Chairman, White Mountain Apache whose tribe is one of the new member-tribes of NCAI. These delegates are from Arizona.



Leona Garry, Oglala Sioux and wife of President Joe Garry shows moccasins given her during convention by Sam Buffalo and Woodrow Wilson, Cheyenne-Arapaho delegates and silver concho belt presented her during closing banquet by staff of NCAI in recognition and appreciation for her devoted efforts and success in fund-raising for the organization.

The 14th Annual Convention passed sixty-one resolutions which are available upon request.

More than two hundred Indians representing eighty-six tribes and from twenty states in the United States and Alaska were present at the 14th Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians at Claremore, Oklahoma, which was the birthplace of the beloved humorist and philosopher, Will Rogers, Cherokee. In addition to the broadest representation of Indians ever to attend the annual meetings of NCAI, this convention was notable for the distinguished visitors who participated in or observed the proceedings.

Mrs. Winnie Howell the Director of the California State Legislative Interim Committee attended all sessions and consulted widely with official delegations. The Oklahoma Legislative Committee on Indian Affairs held a session in Claremore concurrently with the convention and then attended the banquet in a group.

University of Chicago's President sent an official representative and Wheaton College had an observer there. The Oklahoma Historical Society sent a visitor and the Friends Society sent local representatives. To gather material for one or more feature articles on federal Indian policy, the Denver Post sent Bob Hansen, one of its ablest research men and reporters to study the entire convention and interview delegates. Some of the best convention coverage NCAI has ever had was done by Don Janson, Des Moines Bureau representative of the New York Times newspaper. A representative of Time came especially to cover the convention for two days from the Dallas Texas Bureau of the magazine.

Mr. Lloyd Pantages, a member of the Board of Directors of the Doris Duke Foundation in New York; Dr. Wilton Dillon, Executive Secretary of the Phelps-Stokes Foundation, New York; and Gardner Jackson, Trustee of the Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust Fund also in New York were intent observers of the proceedings and they did overtime in listening to committee deliberations and formulation of reports.

The following Indian-interest organizations had official representatives: Lawrence Lindley for the Indian Rights Association, Philadelphia; LaVergne Madigan for the Association on American Indian Affairs, New York; Dr. Russell Carter for the Fellowship of Indian Workers, Lawrence, Kansas. Louis R. Bruce, Jr., Mohawk-Sioux, President and Tom Colisemo, Acting Director for Arrow, Inc., Washington, D. C.

The entire membership of the new Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian (an independent Commission of the Fund for the Republic) attended sessions of the convention. The President of Bacone College attended the convention, he authorized participation by five students in preparation and carrying out of the convention; the Bacone College Choir presented entertainment at the banquet; and the famous and beloved Cheyenne artist, Dick West, not only brought and exhibited his Indian Dancing Club but his Art Department did the art work for the convention. Claremore's oldest Indian women's club in Oklahoma assisted in registration and banquet arrangements.

The committees on Resources Development, Discrimination, and Health-Education-Welfare made excellent reports, which are available upon request and the Committees on Rules and Credentials, on Elections, and on Resolutions, as usual, were dedicated and long suffering.

The hotels and motels of Claremore burst at the seams with convention delegates, who exceeded all estimates based on previous conventions but Ataloo, a Chickasaw from Los Angeles, California, and a long and faithful worker and member of NCAI, did yeoman service in making the most of the rooms and in keeping convention delegates and visitors as happy as possible. In addition to the Pocahontas Club of Claremore, Mrs. Letitia Shankle, Osage, Mrs. Irene Dixon Mack, Menominee, and

Mrs. Betsy Ann Trick, Chinook, rendered dedicated service on the registration and banquet ticket desk. Their sons, Jim Trick and Max Dixon, chauffeured VIP's, helped run the office, and did endless errands.

The Hon. Paul Pitts, charter member of NCAI and Chief of the Osages, deserves extra special mention and thanks along with James Kennedy, William Martin, and other members of his Council for contributions of autographed, leather-bound souvenir booklets, office supplies and invaluable clerical and stenographic services. Chief Pitts, with his waxed-cardboard ice-cream buckets, turned out to be about the best collection-taker at the general sessions that NCAI ever had. Ataloo and President Garry were eloquent in their appeals for funds which may have helped Chief Pitts along, and several speakers, including Dr. Menninger and Dr. Sol Tax, with their warm praise of NCAI also made Chief Pitts' job much easier. Certainly the \$300 check from the Warm Springs tribe presented by Avex Miller gave encouragement to others to "loosen up" a bit on the pocketbook.

On the sad side, the whole convention grieved with Oswald George, Coeur d'Alene, over the death of his infant daughter which occurred almost immediately after his arrival in Claremore and necessitated his return to Idaho . . . Tommy Appah and Jason Cuch, Utes from Utah, and John Baker, Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe, and Robert Goombi, President of the Anadarko Exposition, Ignacio, Colorado, all got flu along with Former Acting Indian Commissioner William Zimmerman and had to either go to bed or go home. Kurt Smith, Manager of the Sheraton McAlpin Hotel from New York also came down with the flu but not until the convention finished.

The 14th Annual Convention re-elected Joseph R. Garry, Coeur d'Alene, as its president for a fifth term. It elected Walter S. Wetzel, Blackfeet, as 1st Vice President; Woodrow Wilson, Cheyenne, as 2nd Vice President; Walter S. King, Jr., Quapaw, as 3rd Vice President; Frank Parker, Shoshone-Bannock, as Secretary, and John Rainer, Taos Pueblo, for second-term Treasurer. During the Executive Council meeting toward the close of the convention, it re-appointed Helen L. Peterson, Oglala Sioux, as Executive Director and it elected Dr. Paschal Sherman, Colville, Washington, D. C., as chairman of the Fiscal and Administrative Subcommittee. To serve on the committee with him, they elected Forrest Gerard, Blackfeet, and Ira Grinnell, Potawatomie-Cheyenne River Sioux, both of Washington, D. C.

The Executive Council also voted to establish the NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS FUND which is designed to serve as the tax-exempt, non-legislative, educational and charitable Trust. Along with this, the Executive Council adopted an organization chart and instructed the new Fiscal and Administrative Subcommittee to put it fully into operation.

Finally, the Executive Council voted to hold the 15th Annual Convention of NCAI in Missoula, Montana, at the Florence Hotel, and after negotiation with the hotel the dates have been set for September 15-19, 1958. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW.

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