

From: Nevada State Centennial Commission
State Building, Room # 12
Virginia at Mill
Reno, Nevada
Clyde Anderson
Executive Secretary
Telephone: 358-1964

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

INDIAN POW WOW AND TRADE FAIR

DECKED OUT IN ANTICIPATION OF THEIR COMING INTER-TRIBAL POW WOW AND TRADE FAIR are these Nevada Indians, whose appearances in inherited or painstakingly copied costumes of the former century will add color and drama to Nevada's Centennial celebration of statehood this fall. Invitations to participate in the Indian extravaganza have gone out to nearly 70 tribal chairmen of ten neighboring Western states. Indian leaders predict it will be one of the greatest gatherings of the nations ever to be assembled.

- 30 -

August 20, 1964



PHOTOGRAPH

By

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS CO.

3400 Mill St., Reno, Nev.

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INDIAN POW WOW

The throbbing of tom-toms, the rhythmic rise and fall of ancient tribal chants, the bright feathers and richly-hued beading of rare and treasured Indian costumes will brighten the celebration of Nevada's Centennial birthday during the last week of October.

Nevada Indians are planning to make their Centennial inter-tribal pow wow and trade fair at the Carson Indian colony literally the biggest and most colorful of the century.

Invitations to participate have been dispatched by mail and telegram to nearly 70 tribal chairmen in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana.

Meanwhile, work of preparing the site for the pow wow, its teepee village, Indian handicraft booths and a huge dancing mound is being pushed by week-end work parties to assure that it will be ready for the hectic, colorful week of celebration that will mark the 1964 Nevada Day.

Ground clearing and leveling equipment has almost completed preliminary site development; bulldozers have pushed a great mound of earth together in the center of the space to be used for dancing exhibition; and arrangements are being completed for lighting the entire area.

The dancing mound will be surrounded by a rustic framework of uncured slab lumber, forming an elevated performance point for the Indian dance formations.

The teepees now under construction are more than ornamental -- they'll be used as shelters by visiting Indian delegations.

Booths in the trade fair area will offer items of Indian arts and handicrafts for sale, as well as displays of Indian art collections that cannot be purchased.

Committee members in charge of the week-long inter-tribal event predict that it will preface the largest and most exciting Indian parade ever held in Carson City. For the first time in the history of the event the Indians will present their own parade as a separate part of the statehood celebration.

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CAPTION

CARSON COLONY INDIAN TRADE FAIR

RARE AND IRREPLACEABLE TREASURES OF INDIAN HANDICRAFT will be exhibited at Teepee Village during the Carson Indian Colony's celebration of Nevada's centennial of statehood -- October 29th through November 1st. Displaying some of the inherited, or painstakingly handcrafted, articles of Indian arts and skills are (from left) Florence Summerfield, Clara Costello, and 4-year-old Yvonne Costello. Many items of Indian artcraft will be sold to the public from booths. Invitations to participate in the Centennial Indian Pow Wow and Trade Fair have gone out to 65 Indian Tribal Councils in 11 Western states. The Colony is located approximately 2 miles south of Carson City on Highway 395.

- 30 -

September 4, 1964



PHOTOGRAPH
BY
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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

INDIAN YOUTH DANCERS

Without someone to tell them, very few of the fascinated spectators of the performance of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Dancers will know they're attending a prayer meeting.

But Gary Cypher, who formed the group of young Paiute dancers about six months ago, says that every one of their dances is a prayer.

The colorfully costumed young Indian boys and girls will appear on the Saturday program during the first Nevada Indian Inter-Tribal Centennial celebration at the Carson Indian Colony, October 21 through November 1.

Cypher not only trains and directs the 16 Indian boys and girls, whose ages range from 7 to 12, but sings the chants and drums the tom-tom rhythm that accompanies their dancing.

"Our Indians have never danced for pleasure as the white people do," he explains. "Our dances all have meaning and a purpose."

Cypher goes on to relate that the Paiute people were always worshipers of one God, unlike the many other Indian tribes who prayed to many dieties of sky and forest and stream.

"We didn't know until the white people came though," he says, "just who this supreme being was."

Understandably, they were quick to embrace the beliefs and practices of Christianity.

As Cypher chants the ancient Indian prayers, the dancers portray them in the Feather, Snake, Rabbit, Owl, and Cricket dances.

The dance of the Kiowa Eagle and that of the Paiute Eagle are performed by boys only. The girls come in for their turn as they perform the strictly feminine dances of the Pine Nut Grinder and the Flower.

Of all their prayer dances perhaps the most sacred one, Cypher says, is the Pine Nut dance, which always preceded the pine nut harvest. It is, in essence, a supplication that the harvest will be a bountiful one.

INDIAN YOUTH DANCERS (cont.)

Recent performances of the dance group at Genoa Days and at the Carson Colony have drawn much praise.

His plan for the newly organized dancers is to make them increasingly a part of community and social life of the area, the young director says.

Sept. 21, 1964

From: Nevada State Centennial Commission
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CAPTION

YOUNG INDIAN DANCERS

PAIUTE PRAYER DANCERS, sixteen of them between the ages of 7 and 12, will appear at the Saturday performance of the first Nevada Inter-Tribal Centennial celebration at the Carson Colony, October 24 through November 1. Every Paiute ancestral dance is a prayer, says Gary Cypher, who trains, directs and provides drum ~~backgrounded chants~~ to accompany them. Seated (from left) are Victoria Kane, Deborah Coffee, Linda Tobey, and Polla Dressler, Standing (from left) are John Dressler, Steve Kane, Lindsey Blossom and Vincent Pete. All the young dancers are from the Reno-Sparks Indian colony..

- 30 -

Sept. 21, 1964



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MISS INDIAN CENTENNIAL PRINCESS CANDIDATES

CAPTION

THE NEVADA INDIAN INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL'S list of official entries in their Miss Indian Centennial Princess contest has grown to 17 with these 5 Indian maidens. Pictured at the top (from left) are: June Prudenciado, Carson City; Doris Wyatt, Dresslerville; and Carol Harris, of Nixon. At lower left is Janice Valdez, of Yerington; and Deirdre Jones, of Woodsford. Other declared candidates who have not yet submitted pictures are Carol Lee Frazier, of Nixon; Janice Knight, of Elko; Brenda David, of Virginia City; and Barbara Happy, of Lovelock. Their participation will raise the number of the court of princesses to 21. The winner, to be determined in judging on October 29th and 30th, will reign over Indian activities connected with the celebration of Nevada Day, October 24 through November 1 in Carson City, Nevada.

- 30 -

Sept. 29, 1964



PHOTOGRAPH
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