

# STEWART VISIONS



Nevada Indian Commission, 5366 Snyder Avenue, Carson City, NV 89701  
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## 2007 Stewart Father's Day Powwow Wrap-up

This year's event took place June 15-17, 2007 at the former Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada. There were approximately 4,000-5,000 spectators, dancers and drummers throughout the weekend.

The event was blessed with more dancers and drum groups than the past 3 years and there was a marked increase in the number of dancers this year than last year. Well over 300 dancers during the Saturday evening session! Drum groups also increased. This year the powwow attracted 8 drum groups who came from as far away as Montana.

Stewart alumni activities included a great barbeque planned by alumnus Marge Dressler that took place during the Saturday evening dinner break in front of the Indian Commission office and an alumni hospitality lounge was located in Building 1, the site of the future Stewart Indian Cultural Center, complete with coffee, water and snacks. Also on display in Building 1 were Stewart Indian School pictures and memorabilia made possible by the Nevada State Museum.

A special thanks goes out to the Nevada State Museum staff and the following Stewart Powwow Committee and volunteers who made the powwow a great success!

### 2007 Stewart Powwow Committee Members

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Gridley Hilpert  | Sam Johnson    |
| Sherry L. Rupert | Dez Hilpert    |
| Dez Hilpert      | Marge Dressler |
| Chris Gibbons    |                |

### Volunteers

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ben Rupert          | Sheryl Hicks      |
| Fredina Drye-Romero | Frank Joe         |
| Dianna Andrews      | Sandy Joe         |
| Keith Andrews       | Brenda Frank      |
| Rocky Boice         | Reginald Stewart  |
| Marion Christensen  | Kathleen Dressler |
| Kari Emm            | Shane Gibbons     |

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*Display of Stewart Indian School Memorabilia at the Stewart Father's Day Powwow*



*2007 Stewart Powwow Princess Alyssa Dick*

## In Memorial of David Sanchez Sr.

By Buck Sampson

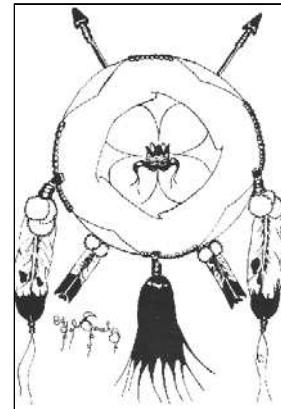
David Sanchez, Sr. passed away on July 14, 2007. David was a Shoshone who graduated from the Stewart Indian School in 1969. While attending Stewart he was in the Letterman's Club 3 years, cross country 2 years, track three years, marathon 3 years, and intramural basketball 2 years. He was also an artist who helped design the 1969 Desert Braves yearbook.

David was a Welder for 22 years. Fishing and hunting were a big part of his life. He left behind two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.

"David never met a stranger, everyone was his friend."



David Sanchez Sr.



Artwork by David Sanchez Sr. published in the 1969 Stewart Yearbook

## Stewart Advisory Committee

The Nevada Indian Commission with the assistance of Stewart Advisory Committee members are working on grants for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. The Commission on Cultural Affairs Grant is due October 1<sup>st</sup> and if approved the grant will be used for building renovation. We will keep everyone posted on the outcome of this grant.

Finally, the Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee donated half of the proceeds from this year's powwow to the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. We would like to thank the committee for its generous donation!

Also, the Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission, Sherry Rupert, has received a scholarship to attend the 2007 National Preservation Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota in October. At this conference Sherry will not only be learning more about historic preservation methods, but will also be meeting people from all over the United States who share a common vision of protecting historic sites.

**Please Note: There was an original signed loan agreement between Mr. Collett and the former Stewart Indian School Museum. Only with this original loan agreement were his yearbooks able to be returned.**

At our June meeting, former Stewart Indian School employee, Howard Collett, was in attendance. Howard was a PE teacher at Stewart in the 1950's and later returned to the school as a Guidance Counselor. In 2006, Howard approached the Nevada Indian Commission to help him locate his Stewart yearbooks. Through a joint effort of the Nevada State Museum the Nevada Indian Commission, Howard's yearbooks were located and returned.



Rachel Malloy from the Nevada State Museum and Howard Collett

### Stewart Advisory Committee Members

Richard Arnold, Chair, Stewart Advisory Committee  
 Buck Sampson, Vice-Chair, Stewart Advisory Committee

Maggie Brown, Nevada State Museum  
 Marion Christensen, Stewart Indian School Alumni  
 Donna Cossette, Churchill County Museum and Archives  
 Thelma Delorme, Stewart Indian School Alumni  
 Marge Dressler, Stewart Indian School Alumni  
 Chris Gibbons, Nevada Indian Commission  
 Daryl Haines, Former Stewart Indian School Employee  
 Donald Hardesty, Board of Museums and History  
 Gene Hattori, Nevada State Museum  
 Rachel Malloy, Nevada State Museum  
 Terri McBride, State Historic Preservation Office  
 JoAnne Peden, Oral Historian  
 Terri Preston, State Buildings and Grounds  
 Judy Price, State Lands  
 Sherry L. Rupert, Nevada Indian Commission  
 Tony Smokey, Washoe Tribe of NV and CA  
 Pam Wilcox, State Lands

The Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee would like to thank **Marge Dressler** for her many years of hard work and dedication to the Stewart Father's Day Powwow. Marge Dressler is a Stewart Indian School alumnus and over the years not only organized Stewart Alumni activities at the powwow, but was very instrumental in the planning of the powwow. The Stewart Powwow Committee is going to miss Marge, but wishes her success in her future endeavors!

## Stewart Buildings Receive New Roofs

If you have taken a walk around the Stewart Campus lately you may have noticed that some of the buildings are receiving new roofs. In a recent conversation with Larry Hale, Supervisor, Stewart Buildings and Grounds, Larry said, "Currently the State of Nevada is retrofitting and re-roofing 14 Stewart Buildings. Retrofitting involves anchoring the roof rafters to the stonework, which adds strength to the structures. The roofs will be completed in two phases. This is being done to preserve the historical value of the buildings. Hopefully, this will lead to remodeling the inside of some of the buildings so that they can be used in the near future." Thanks goes out to Larry and the rest of Buildings and Grounds for spearheading this project!



Marge Dressler

*"I was the first female student body president at a government school. I was born at Stewart in 1937. I am Western Shoshone/Blackfeet. Aho!"*

*— Bara Buffalo-Hide graduated from the Stewart Indian School in 1955*



One of the Stewart Buildings Receiving a New Roof

## WA-PAI-SHONE TRADING POSTS: AN INTRODUCTION

*By Terri McBride, NV State Historic Preservation Office*

The Wa-Pai-Shone trading posts operated by Stewart Indian School were established in 1936 as Wa-Pai-Shone Craftsmen, Inc., an “Indian cooperative” in accordance with Nevada state law. The original post was located at Stewart and it served as the headquarters for the cooperative. According to a letter written by Stewart Principal, Ernest Mueller, in 1941 Wa-Pai-Shone was formed by “a senior class of students five years ago.”

For the first two years of operation, Wa-Pai-Shone was overseen by Stewart School art teacher Miss Jane Jones. Due to the trading posts’ success, Miss Jones abandoned her teaching duties and began managing the cooperative full time. Besides running the posts day-to-day, Miss Jones also visited the homes of craftswomen who made up the cooperative’s membership, she trained Stewart students in shop-keeping and basic marketing and banking skills, as well as expanding the business.

In 1941 there were four Wa-Pai-Shone trading posts: on the Stewart campus, in Crystal Bay on Lake Tahoe’s north shore (in operation summer months), Death Valley (in operation winter months) and Bishop, CA on Highway 395. It had 155 cooperative members and a net worth of \$6,000. Approximately another \$9,000 was paid to crafts makers during Wa-Pai-Shone’s first five years of operation.



*Lucille Wadsworth at the Wa-Pai-Shone Trading Post, Stewart*

Only Great Basin Native Americans could sell their art at Wa-Pai-Shone. The organization was extremely progressive for those days, in that all proceeds from the sale of items went directly back to the artisans. One memo written ca. 1940 states, “The buckskin and beaded items sold at Wa-Pai-Shone posts were made by Paiute craftswomen, while most basketry was made by Washoe and Shoshone craftswomen.” Also for purchase were woodcarvings “from Nevada’s mountain mahogany” made by boys at Stewart enrolled in a special stone and wood-carving program named Tebe Nobe.

In a 1940 program report written by Miss Jones that details the annual sales and activities of Wa-Pai-Shone Craftsmen, Inc., she notes:

“This is the result in money, but more important than all is that which cannot be measured in dollars and cents that which cannot be recorded in any written report; it is the Craftswomens’ [sic] feeling of Independence, of knowing that she alone can produce something really beautiful and useful, and that someone wants that which she has created from willows and reeds gathered by the roadside.”

*NOTE: Documents relating to the Wa-Pai-Shone Craftsmen, Inc. cooperative were found at National Archives and Records Administration Pacific Region Center in San Bruno, CA, in the “BIA: Stewart” collection, in the “Records of the Education Division 1924-1947” box. The author is interested in any photos of the Wa-Pai-Shone trading posts when they were in operation.*

**Look for more articles about the Wa-Pai-Shone Trading Posts in future issues of the *Stewart Visions* newsletter.**



State of Nevada

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**Submit Articles for the Stewart Visions - Winter Edition**

Please submit articles via e-mail to  
[cgibbons@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:cgibbons@govmail.state.nv.us) or via mail by  
January 11, 2007

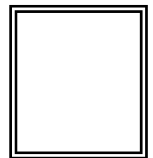
*Please make sure articles submitted are Stewart Indian School related.*

**Visit us on the Web!**

**[www.indiancommission.state.nv.us](http://www.indiancommission.state.nv.us)**

We would like to correct an error in the spelling of names in the Spring 2007 Issue of Stewart Visions. Correction: Della Lossing and Frances Pacheco-Hooper were featured in a photograph from the Stewart Landscape Project interviews.

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