

FUNERAL CEREMONY FOR WARM SPRINGS CHIEF AMOS SIMTUSTUS
Thursday, November 18, 1982

1. Amos passed away Tuesday evening, apparently from a heart attack suffered during a District meeting. Today would have been his 61st birthday.
2. The fact that he was involved in hearing and listening to the concerns of Indian people on the last day of his life is typical of the dedication and public spirit of Chief Amos Simtustus.

Amos was part of the traditional blood lineage of the Warm Springs Chiefs. His father was a chief before him (we are told).

He was an extremely gentle, peaceful, very religious Chief. He was dedicated to the well-being of the Indian people, and gave selflessly to the Indian community for many years. Amos was involved constantly in community groups and community concerns. He was very active in district meetings, and greatly respected for his knowledge and his good decisions.

His religious significance among the Indian people was reflected by his own devotion to Indian religious ceremonies. He would usually be called on at local, regional, and even national meetings of Indian groups to give the invocation.

3. The funeral itself:

will be a typical Indian ceremonial affair. The body was dressed in ceremonial robes this afternoon, and will lie in the Long House through tomorrow.

Mourners and visitors will be at the scene throughout this time, and people will be speaking to the crowd at various times throughout today, tonight, and tomorrow. Speakers and mourning will be interspersed with songs and ceremonies. There does not appear to be a 'set time' when any one special ceremony sets the theme. It is simply a long period of traditional ceremonial rites.

4. The Governor's role:

Obviously, the Warm Springs people are very pleased that the Governor has taken the time to come to the funeral, and arrangements will surely be made for the Governor to say a few words. The Governor's appearance will be a part of the days-long ceremonial funeral, and will be very much appreciated by the Warm Springs Tribe.

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