

Information for Governor Atiyeh

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:

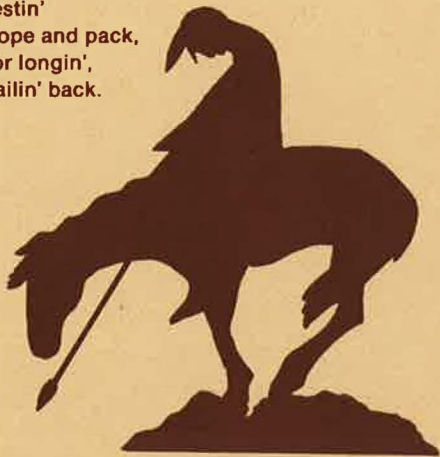
Obviously, the Warm Springs people are very pleased that the Governor has taken the time to come to the funeral, and arrangements will surely be made for the Governor to say a few words. The Governor's appearance will be a part of the days-long ceremonial funeral, and will be very much appreciated by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

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There's a trail a leading somewhere
And I'm riding it today—
It may be near the endin'
Or it may be far away.

And I'm hoping when it's finished
At the endin' there will be
Loved ones who have solved its
windin'
Waitin' there to welcome me.

With my ol' cayuse a restin'
Free of saddle, rope and pack,
May there be no wish or longin',
For to come a trailin' back.



End of Trail

In Memory of

Chief Amos John Simtustus, Sr.

Born

November 18, 1921 Warm Springs, Oregon

Passed Away

November 16, 1982 Simnasho, Oregon

Dressing Ceremonies at Simnasho Longhouse
Thursday, November 18, 1982 2:00 p. m.

Tribal Overnight Ceremonies following
Officiating, Matilda Mitchell

Burial

Friday, November 19, 1982 Daybreak
Simnasho Cemetery

Pallbearers

Bruce Jim Johnnie Simtustus
Stanley Simtustus Darwin Simtustus
Amos Simtustus, Jr. Tony Suppab

Honorary Bearers

Clarence Burke Burt Simtustus
Nelson Moses Tim Wapato
Ed Cornwell Gov. Vick Atiyeb
Ken Smith

members of the following:

Warm Springs Tribal Council
Yakima Tribal Council
Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission
National Congress of American Indians
National Tribal Chairmen's Association
Affiliated Tribe of the Northwest Indians
National American Indian Cattlemens Association
Society of Range Management
Celilo-Wy'am Board
Agriculture & Irrigation Committee

The GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD CHIEF is. I am His and with Him I want not. He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied. Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road. His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time. He will draw me into a valley. It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not, for it is in between those mountains that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through life will be satisfied.

Sometimes He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean upon. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods. He puts his hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over. What I tell is true. I lie not. These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after; and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Teepee and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.

— George Hunt, Kiowa

MADRAS EVERGREEN CHAPEL

Frank and Lorna Fitzgerald

Madras, Oregon

Obituary

7-drum ceremony honors Simtustus

Chief Amos Simtustus, leader of the Warm Springs Indian tribe since 1971, was to be buried at sunrise Friday in Simnasho Cemetery on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

Mr. Simtustus died Tuesday night following a heart attack two days before his 61st birthday.

A seven-drum religious ceremony, termed an Indian dressing ceremony, was held Thursday afternoon at the Simnasho Longhouse, presided over by Matilda Mitchell. The Friday sunrise burial was to follow overnight Indian services.

Mr. Simtustus was from a line of chiefs. An antecedent signed the Treaty of 1855 and descendants of the family served as chief several times. Amos Simtustus' father, Johnny Simtustus, also was a chief.



AMOS SIMTUSTUS

The son became chief of the Warm Springs Tribe, one of the three tribes making up the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, following the death of Nathan Heath in 1970. Mr. Simtustus was active in conservation, range and livestock committee activities for the reservation.

He was a member of the board of directors of the National Cattlemen's Association and was a vice chairman of the Cultural and Heritage Committee of the Confederated Tribes. He also was on the Celilo-Wyam board.

As chief, he served on the Warm Springs Tribal Council for 11 years. He was vice president of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest for several years and was active on the National Congress of American Indians.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, and seven children: daughters Evaline Patt and Jacqueline and Marcia Simtustus; sons Stanley, Johnny, Darwin and Amos Simtustus Jr.; a half-brother, Burtson Simtustus, and three grandchildren.