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# Tribal Observer

OCTOBER 1984

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE

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## TO BEN QUIGNO - A EULOGY

If you understand and accept the teachings of Jesus, and if you make every effort to practice them in every aspect of your daily life; If you seek to destroy in yourself everything which you know should not be there, such things as: selfishness, pride, vanity, self-righteousness, jealousy, self-pity, resentment, condemnation, fear, and so on, not feeding or nourishing those forces by giving in to them, but starving them to death by refusing their expression.

Above all, if you can sacrifice the belief that there is any power or endurance in evil, apart from the power that we ourselves give it, by believing in it.

If you extend the right thought loyally to every person, especially to the people you dislike, then you are worthy to be called: "The salt of the Earth".

If you freely live this life, then it does not in the least matter what your present circumstances may be, or what difficulties you may have to struggle against, you will triumph over them all, and you will make your demonstration.

And in a very positive and real sense you will be a healing influence on all who are around you. You will be a blessing to the whole human race. A light of the world.

Ben demonstrated that light, through the most traditional expressions of caring, sharing, courtesy, and humor.

Back in the 1930's a group of elders came together around here to commit themselves to the effort of trying to re-create a lost tribe; to re-organize a people who previously had been divided and scattered into pockets around Delwin, Leaton, Rosebush, North Branch, Weidman, to the cities, and remote places beyond.

Those elders were successful in doing so, at least on paper, and in the eyes of the federal government.

But what followed was the work of those who sought to realize that commitment by struggling to re-establish the tribe as a self-governing people, and as a cohesive society.

This was Ben's mission. And it is based on the philosophy that says: "If you give a man a fish, he can eat for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, he can eat for a lifetime."

This was Ben's mission. His job title was Resource Developer, which means that it was his role to bring together those people who could enable the tribe to once again learn how to fish.



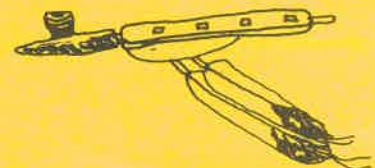
Only twelve years ago the tribal center was right near here. It was one of the so-called "half-houses", with no running water, electricity, insulation, an outhouse, and standing water in the basement. It was a condition that generally reflected the need here. But now look around this community, look at all the ways in which this tribe has grown and matured, not only as a physical community, but also as a government and a society. Many people were a part of that vision, but Ben was the implementor, his never-tiring faith and persistence opened the door to a range of possibilities that are virtually limitless.

I've been here long enough to see that there are some people who seek to divide the tribe amongst itself, because the fruits of their actions convey that intent. And then there are some people who seek to unite the tribe, people whose influence and commitment have a healing effect on the tribe. Ben was a healer in this sense, and his influence and light will reach far beyond his lifetime.

I would like to express chimegwetch on behalf of the tribe to Ben's family for being supportive in his lifelong efforts, and the time that took away from the family.

There is a poem that is an expression of love, whether that expression is conveyed to another human being, or to God. These are the words:

dormant states  
awaken  
ancient dances  
revive  
songs of joy  
calling  
my spirit dances  
in your eyes



### SAVE THE INDIAN CHILDREN

Save the Indian children,  
somebody---someone, Please,  
from all the hurtful ignorance,  
called White-man's disease.

Save the Indian children,  
from the public schools,  
with their uncaring teachers,  
and their unchanging rules.

Save the Indian children,  
for their grandfather and grandmother,  
for their tribes, communities,  
cousins, sisters and brothers.

Save the Indian children,  
for they give us hope and life,  
to live in this world,  
filled with violence and strife.

T. Roberts

### To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of those who are concerned with the North Branch Indian Church. I know there are some of you's who remember our Fore Fathers who went to North Branch and some of you's as children went there. Some of us just think "well its a old building it won't last." But it means more to us that love that "Old Building". Our Grandfather Simon Peters only wish was to keep North Branch Church going. On cold days he would walk from his house all the way to that church, to start the stove so the people would have a warm place to come to when that bell would ring and the meeting started. He often told us "when I die, some day you kids will run this building and keep the church warm for the people. That was his only wish. We ask for your help in any way, please help us keep Simon Peters wish to come true. It would mean alot. Thank you.



## JOHNSON O'MALLEY

Due to continual absenteeisms, Mt. Pleasant Schools have resorted to filing complaints in Tribal Court against parents of chronic absentees, for violation of Criminal Code Section 1.2024. This ordinance states that parents/guardians with children of school age (5-16) are responsible for having their wards attend school on a regular basis.

There has been a revision in our policy of awarding Purchase Orders. The Johnson O'Malley/Title IV-A Parent Committee, after much deliberation, has determined (at 10/9/84 meeting), that the program would pay 50% of costs of athletic equipment. These items include, but are not limited to, gym shoes, gym suits (tops & trunks) sweat suits, etc. It was felt that this measure would make it possible to serve more students (JOM eligible).

However, we will continue to pay book fees and shop fees, plus other costs that are school related. We will also cover costs of the Kindergarten milk program, which is \$12.00 per Kindergarten student, for each semester; down from \$18.00 of 1983-84 school year.

Tutoring classes, involving Alpha Phi Omega, a service oriented fraternity at CMU, will start on October 22, at 4:00 p.m., in the Tribal Center. These sessions will be held each school day (5 per week), and will have on hand, initially, at least three tutors.

If student attendance requires, more tutors are available. It is hoped that all students will avail themselves of the tutoring service.

## GIRL SCOUTS

The prevention program is thinking of starting a girl scout troop at the Tribal Center.

Anyone interested in volunteering to serve as a leader or helper please sign the sign-up sheet on the board at the Center.

We need as many parents and young adults as we can get. This is for a worthwhile cause. Thank you.

## COMMUNITY COURT

The Saginaw Chippewa Community Court is seeking a tribal member who would be willing to serve as Associate Judge on the Community Court. The position is voluntary at this time, due to budget cutbacks. The person should be willing to hear cases approximately once a week for one or two hours each week. To be qualified to serve as a Judge, a person must be:

1. 25 years of age or older.
2. Not convicted of a misdemeanor type of offense, excluding minor traffic offense, within the past year.
3. Never have been convicted of a felony offense.
4. Of good moral character and integrity.
5. A graduate from high school or received an equivalent diploma from a recognized and accepted source, such as a G.E.D.
6. Capable of preparing papers and reports incident to the office of Judge.
7. Familiar with or become familiar with, and be able to read and interpret the Tribal Code as well as having an understanding of Federal and State law and court procedures.

Interested persons should leave their name with Richmond Riggs. He will submit these names to the Council at their next meeting so that they may select the person to serve.





## QUIGNO'S SPIRIT REMAINS

To the Editor:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to express my sorrow at the passing of Ben Quigno. There are "takers" and there are "givers." Ben was always a giver. His loss is felt not only by the Saginaw Chippewa tribal community, but by our entire community. It is a loss to the "human" community which he served so selflessly.

Ben was a gentle man, and a "quiet warrior" for his people. His final battle was working to see Congress pass HR 5960 in the House and S. 2823 in the Senate.

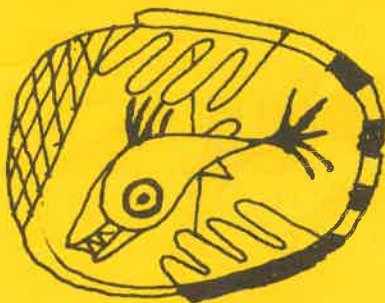
Passage of these bills is vital to the future of the tribe. They would ensure tribal self-control and self-sufficiency in years to come.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs opposes this legislation, as it will remove BIA control of the tribal economy, and of tribal life. In other words, it would help build a strong tribal community, which would threaten the very reason for the BIA to exist. The BIA is supposed to help the tribes, but the BIA often seems to work only to help the BIA.

Ben Quigno is gone, but his spirit is with us still, I feel it as I write. Therefore, I urge anyone interested in a strong tribal community to please write Congressman Donald Albosta, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, or call his Midland office, 800-292-4255, and urge his vital support for HR 5960.

We have lost a great advocate of tribal rights and independence in Ben Quigno. But the fight continues. The dream lives on.

Mark S. Pelletier  
Mt. Pleasant



## THE QUIGNO FAMILY

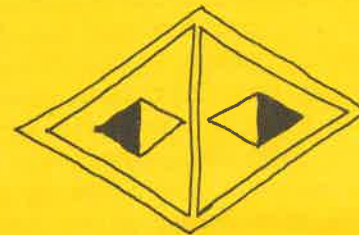
Dear Quigno Family:

I have just learned of the death of your father, Benedict A. Quigno.

Please allow me to join your many friends in extending my deepest condolences upon your loss. I hope you will take comfort in remembering how much he accomplished in the time he was given and how many of us stand by to assist you now.

My wife, Paula asks that I send her regards. We both wish you our best at this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
James J. Blanchard  
Governor



## QUIGNO REMEMBERED FOR TRIBAL ENDEAVORS

His nickname, according to one of his friends, was "Bingo Ben," but the name expressed only a hint of the contributions made by Benedict Albert Quigno to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

From helping develop housing to lobbying for passage of legislation which would return funds directly to the tribe, Mr. Quigno, planner and developer for the tribe, was involved closely in almost every aspect of tribal operations.

That involvement came to an abrupt ending Saturday when Mr. Quigno, 66, died at Central Michigan Community Hospital after a short illness. The cause of death was heart failure, said Tribal Sub-Chief Ruth Moses.

Ms. Moses said that shortly before his death Saturday, Mr. Quigno and his friend and associate Mark Dougher had been working once again on the proposal that has taken up much of their time this past six months, an effort to ease passage in the U.S. House and Senate of a bill which would distribute funds paid



## SENATE BILL DESERVES SUPPORT

to the Indians directly to the tribe for tribal operations, rather than distribute the funds on a per capita basis to all who can claim tribal descent.

"He was really trying hard to get this legislation through before the (House and Senate) recess this week," Ms. Moses said.

The legislation effort was only the most recent of a string of programs benefiting the tribe, according to Chief Arnold Sowmick.

"In 1963 he was one who wrote the program for our first housing project," Chief Sowmick said. "When we started to think about going into bingo, he was one of the four people who went down to visit (the) Seminoles in Florida, to study their bingo."

On his return Mr. Quigno presented a plan to bring bingo to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, a program that has flourished, and now supports maintenance of the Tribal Center and provides employment to 37 people, Chief Sowmick said.

"He was partially responsible for almost everything that exists on the reservation today," Tribal Council member Joann Jackson said. "He was a busy, busy man working to better the lives of all the people here."

"He was always willing to help, to lend a car or lend some money," Ms. Moses said.

Mr. Quigno will be deeply missed, Chief Sowmick said. "His vision, his companionship, I'm going to miss it, we're all going to miss him very much."

In addition to his work for the tribe, Mr. Quigno was a member of the Commission on Indian Affairs and of the Chippewa United Methodist Church.

He was retired from Dow Corning, where he worked for 16 years.

To the Editor:

This autumn we might find ourselves snug in our homes reflecting on what a pleasure it is to be an American.

But I find it hard to be proud of a government that refuses to pay off treaties over 150 years old. Right here in our "special" community the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has been fighting and dying for basic rights the rest of us already enjoy. For 40 years they have tried the white man's way, government to government, and have consistently had the door slammed in their faces. How many dozens of Ben Quignos have been snubbed out by a fat, greedy government, unwilling to establish true understanding with the Indians.

Mr. Albosta now holds up this mighty legislation. Congress has always come up with the excuses to flaunt its power over true Americans. Talk about injustice.

The recent show of community support drummed up for the tribal cause by Mark Dougher and the late Mr. Quigno should be a rallying point to the rest of us to bring pressure to bear upon our representatives for swift passage of Senate Bill No. 2823, and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe can go forward with plans for health insurance, elderly assistance, education, recreation and tribal administration.

It is a shame Ben Quigno didn't live long enough to see his vision come true.

Bruce Bauman

Remus

REPRINT: Morning Sun, October 16, 1984

REPRINT: Morning Sun, October 1, 1984





## NATIVE AMERICA SPEAKS!

The early morning light of Brother Sun is a rose color. The outline of a abandoned windmill and the shape of an outbuilding are only silhouettes standing guard.

A lone killdeer is singing his song to welcome a new day. The ground fog envelops the pincherry trunks and the sumac, with its gnarled and twisted branches, portray a work of art and symmetry that only Mother Nature can provide.

Even though two ribbons of concrete are reminders of a modern roadway, at this time of the morning, it is still, and only the beauty of the Earth Mother stands out. The long stems of grass have little droplets of heavy dew, appearing coated with silver, in the early light of Brother Sun.

Overhead, Grandfather Moon is in his last stage of light. Off in the East is one of his watchdogs; he also will be watching Brother Sun start his daily journey across the sky. It is the beginning of a new day, a start for some, and the last day for others.

As the sky takes on a lighter color, more birds are waking up. The whistling wings of the mourning dove cut the air, the Blue Jay spots me and sends out a signal with his ever piercing call, "HERE, HERE." I get so perturbed with him, at times; yet, when I am sitting quietly, he lets me know when something comes near.

Friend Chick-a-dee is flitting about, singing his cheerful song. Scampering up and down a tree is Brother Nuthatch, his beautiful coat of gray, topped by his black head, take on a mellow hue in the early morning light.

The cool mornings and signs of frost are all indicators of what is soon to be.

The Earth Mother is preparing herself for those days to come. The leaves of the trees are slowly drying up for lack of nourishment from the roots. The leaves serve many purposes; they provide cover for the Earth Mother, a haven for small animals, and the material for warm nests. The natural process of

living and dying goes on beautifully in the life cycle of leaves.

In the spring, they provide food for insects, a hiding place for the deposit of eggs. They offer shade from Brother Sun and room for squirrels to build summer nests. The fall brings the rainbow of colors, and the natural process of decay starts, feeding earth mother with her plants, shrubs, and trees.

Many of the plants, leaves and shrubs are used for medicinal purposes. Some spices are a good example. Could you imagine stuffing without sage, or other favorite dishes without seasoning?

We as humans take too much for granted, and don't notice the everyday growth of the plants. They are such an important part of our life, look at that naked tree, barren of leaves, and think how those leaves and other plant life have changed the lives of so many of us.

Brother Sun is now above the horizon of the Earth Mother. Man is coming to life. Cars now whiz on the expressway, trails of a jet linger in the sky, the siren wail shivers the quiet. Mother Earth keeps providing us with all these wonders, in spite of the endless abuse thrust upon her, by her children.

"Walk in Peace"  
Simon Otto

## IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

Congratulations all you parents who have helped us at Nimkee Clinic raise our immunization status to 82%, we are still working toward our goal of 100%.

### Recommended Schedule

DPT & OPV #1	2 months
DPT & OPV #2	4 months
DPT & OPV #3	6 months
MMR	15 months
DPT & OPV #4	18 months
DPT & OPV #5	4 to 5 years

If your child is behind on shots we can catch them up, just bring your child's records to Nimkee Clinic. No appointment is needed for immunizations.



## OJIBWE YOUTH PROGRAM

Once again the Ojibwe Youth Program and Native American Outreach Project have once again combined forces to offer the following upcoming activities through December 1984.

Oct. 26 - Swim at Finch Pool  
Nov. 2 - Swim at Finch Pool  
Nov. 10 - Museum of Natural History in Lansing  
Nov. 14 - Skating Party  
Nov. 16 - Swim at Finch Pool  
Nov. 30 - Swim at Finch Pool  
Dec. 14 - Swim at Finch Pool  
Dec. 15 - Video Parlour, Meridian Mallet East Lansing

Contact Darryl Jackson at 773-9123 or David Staddon at 773-9622 for information on signing up.



## NIMKEE HEALTH CLINIC

A new health position within the Nimkee Health Clinic has recently been implemented.

The concept of the Clinic/Community Health Educator is to provide and promote wellness and promote health risk prevention programs to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Communities.

As the health educator, health education programs will be provided as identified through the health board from community input. Please feel free to contact the health board and the Clinic for any health related concerns.

Each month through the newsletter and other media, information will be made available addressing specific health programs and calendar of events.

## BINGO EXPANSION PROJECT

In recent months the Tribe has been considering whether or not to expand the Bingo, and if so, whether or not to move to another larger facility. There is a general consensus that it would be to the Tribe's advantage to expand Bingo.

But how such an expansion would be financed has not been decided. Nor has it been decided where the Bingo would move, if at all. As a Tribal Council member, I am concerned about the community's opinion on this issue, and would like to ask for your input on this before the tribal council makes a decision. So I would appreciate it if you would take the time to answer the following questions and return or mail the survey to my office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Audrey Falcon  
Tribal Council Treasurer

- 
1. Do you think the tribal bingo should be expanded?    ☐ yes    ☐ no
  2. If so, do you favor expanding the tribal center and keep bingo where it is?    ☐ yes    ☐ no
  3. If not, do you favor renovating the Woodproducts building to use for bingo?    ☐ yes    ☐ no
  4. If not, do you favor constructing a new facility for bingo?    ☐ yes    ☐ no
  5. If not, could you list any other ideas as to where the bingo could be relocated in the area? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have any questions concerning this project, please include them with your survey response, and I will bring your questions, as well as the results of this survey to the Tribal Council.



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
7070 E. Broadway  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

#### HEALTH-A-RAMA

##### November - Calendar

- 7 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Course  
(CPR) 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 9 - Film, Public Law 638 "Indian Self  
Determination" Senior Citizen Room  
3:00 p.m. Free Refreshments
- 13 -Women, Infant, Children WIC Day.
- 16 -Film, Using Your Medication Wisely  
Senior Citizen Room, 3:00 p.m. Free  
Refreshments.
- 21 -Management of Diabetes Day,  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 23 -Film, Managing Diabetes, Senior  
Citizen Room, 3:00, Free Refreshment
- 30 -Film, Coping with Life on the Run,  
Senior Citizen Room, 3:00, Free  
Refreshments

#### TRIBAL OBSERVER STAFF

Editor: Mark Dougher  
Secretaries: Lujean Pelcher  
Rose Wassegijig  
Graphics: Norman Neyome

#### BEADS

I will be coming to the Center on  
the following dates. Every 3rd Thursday  
of each month.

November 15, 1984	December 20, 1984
January 17, 1985	February 21, 1985
March 21, 1985	April 18, 1985
May 16, 1985	June 20, 1985

If during the winter, we have a snow  
storm so that I cannot get to Mt.  
Pleasant, I would come to the center the  
following Thursday.

I am at the center from 11:00 a.m.  
to 4:00 p.m. each visit or persons can  
contact my shop. The address is:

Sue DeYoung  
Kountry Kraft  
59 Courtland  
Rockford, MI 49341

(616) 866-4081 Mon. - Fri. 12:00 - 9:00  
Sat. 10:00 - 5:00