

Lummi Indians Develop Lucrative Industry from the Sea

The Lummi Indians have learned to make money from the sea. Now with Federal aid, they are going to teach other Indian tribes how to farm their reservation waters.

In a nine-month course to start soon at the Lummi School of Aquaculture, about 80 Indians from more than 20

tribes — from Florida to Alaska — will be trained in all phases of water farming.

The project, developed by the Lummi Indian Business Council, covers the basic sciences such as chemistry, physics, and biology as they are related to aquaculture.

Classroom instruction is com-

bined with extensive laboratory and field work at the training facilities on the Lummi Reservation in northwest Washington State.

Trainees will learn how to culture a wide variety of marine species — salmon, trout, freshwater shrimp, and others — that can be grown on the natural

waterway resources of their respective reservations.

When they have completed the course, graduates will return to their reservations to promote aquaculture in their own tribes.

The Labor Department's investment of \$180,000 in the intertribal training program an-

nounced today is earmarked for training costs. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Education will provide assistance in developing the training course.

In addition to the Labor Department funds, the program will receive about \$128,000 from the Economic Development Administration of the Commerce Department for administrative and other program expenses.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs trainee stipends, travel and tuition costs.

Aided by Federal and private funds, the Lummi turned to aquaculture in 1969 as a means of escaping the poverty which blanketed their sparse 20-square-mile reservation.

This year they are planting over a million salmon and trout in their seapond and expect to market \$800,000 worth of fish. They will take in another \$200,000 from the sale of oysters.

By 1975, they expect to be growing from 4 to 5 million fish, and 40 to 50 million oysters. Anticipated income in 1975 is put at \$3 million.

What began in 1969 as a training project for 16 tribesmen in the complex intricacies of commercial sea farming has become a major enterprise for the Lummi tribe of 2,000.

More than 80 Lummi men and women have now been trained as experts in aquaculture. These have instructed several hundred more to qualify them for employment in the enterprise.

The Lummis do their own processing and marketing, and send oysters as far as Paris by air-freight.

The intertribal training program takes into consideration the deep respect Indians have for nature. It is in keeping with environmental protection standards and offers solid promise for advancing economic development by and for Indians.

Top Salesman

Dale Yoder has just returned from an eight-day insurance convention in Madrid, Spain, where he was honored as a top salesman throughout the past 18 months for Occidental Life of California.

Yoder, associated with the company's Arthur Hayr Agency in Fairbanks, qualified for convention by exceeding high sales standards set by Occidental, a Transamerica company.

He joined nearly 1,000 qualifiers and company executives April 6-13 at Madrid's Melia Castilla Hotel, where Presentations were made on new policyholder benefits, international expansion and sales and service techniques.

Madrid was chosen as convention site to symbolize Occidental Life's growing stature as an international insurer. The Los Angeles-based company has sales offices in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

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