Elk & other big game make reservation their wintering home

Alcatraz Island occupation remembered

'Alcatraz Kid' recalls childhood

Shoshone-Bannock tribal member, Dr. LaNada War Jack, amongst occupiers invited to Alcatraz Island for the first Indian of All Tribes Day on February 13. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)

Deynon Means speaks in the Dining Hall at Alcatraz. (Roselynn Wahtomy photo)

Dr. War Jack gave a presentation on "An Indigenous Perspective" at the event with assistance by her daughter Jessica James-Grant.

Deynon Means received an honor song for the late Richard Oakes and other occupiers who’ve passed on since the time.

He described himself as a rambunctious child. He remembers being held over the docks by his legs when he was naughty, but he didn’t feel scared.

"I just remember, this thing is cool," he said. He used to come by his memories flipping them.

When the boats used to come by he remembers flipping them.

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First Indians of All Tribes Day

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY

Sho-Ban News

SAN FRANCISCO – Craig Glassner, with the National Park Service worked at Alcatraz Island Park for 22 years and now works in another part of the park.

When he first came to the island, he thought it was a shame they didn’t really talk about the occupation because he was personally involved in an occupation at Kent State in 1977.

He began to look for people who were involved with it and those that had pictures of the event. He spent six or seven years getting that going on the island.

He’s worked to connect with occupied

and federal prison. It was also a place where Hopi prisoners were imprisoned. Paiutea were also imprisoned there on murder charges.

Among the guests, were Shoshone-Bannock tribal members Dr. LaNada War Jack and Deynon Means who were presenters along with Jessica James-Grant and Claudene Bower.

War Jack was the Chairman of the student group from UC Berkeley. She worked alongside Richard Oakes, Chairman of the student group from San Francisco State. They brought their groups together to take over the island on November 19, 1969. They left, but came back with more Native American students, who came from ICLA and other

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY

Sho-Ban News

SAN FRANCISCO – Deynon Means has many memories on Alcatraz Island.

He grew up in the Bannock area and the All Tribes group for 19 months when he was just a youngster.

He was given the name "Alcatraz Kid" after War’s popular song at the time, “Ciro Kid.”

Before his presentation began, he sang an honor song for the late Richard Oakes and other occupiers who’ve passed on since the time.

No one wanted to let him know that an agency of the U.S. Government wanted to tell their story and be honest about it.

This is the first real gathering of veterans of Indians of All Tribes.

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and earn their trust to let them know that an agency of the U.S. Government wanted to tell their story and be honest about it.

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On left, an elk herd crosses Sands Road. On right, Big Game Wildlife Technicians leave hay and deer pellets for the herd. (Alexandria Alvarez photos)
She explained the importance of various ethnic studies, noting that Native students were often overlooked and not given the same opportunities as non-Native students.

She pointed out that the Bureau of Indian Education, which was half Bannock and half Cherokee, was closed in 1963 and its property was taken over by the federal government. Alcatraz Penitentiary, which was abandoned federal land, was occupied by a group of Native people in 1969. The occupiers were trying to expose the political issues, lack of opportunity, and discrimination that Native people faced.

She emphasized that the occupation lasted 19 months and was the only way that we could fight for our rights in the Indian Country. She explained that we have to change the way that we see Indians and that we need to be educated about the history and culture of Native people.

She continued by saying that the occupation was a time of healing and that it was a way to bring together the different tribes. She explained that the occupation was a way to honor our ancestors and nature and that it was a way to learn about us and the natural laws of the land.

She also explained that the occupation was a way to show the world that Native people could be powerful. She said that the occupation was a way to show that we are a people who are strong and that we are capable of taking action to protect our rights.

She ended her explanation by saying that we need to continue to fight for our rights in the Indian Country and that we need to be educated about the history and culture of Native people. She emphasized that the occupation was a time of healing and that it was a way to bring together the different tribes.