

Report on the meeting in Heber City

By Earl Denver

June 28, 2003. The morning was hot and muggy for a late June Day. I was the first person on the scene. All the regular suspects had been rounded up and assembled in neat rows within a L shaped room, the room was small, about 30ft by 15ft, the other side looked the same, nothing but wall to wall suspects. As I entered the room I suddenly realized that I was late.

If this sound like the start of a murder mystery story, it's not. I thought I would start the report with some humor. I know what your thinking! So Earl thinks that's funny? Well.

Part of the story is true, I was late getting to the meeting and I was the first to arrive, in fact, I was two days early. Let me start from the beginning.

Kathy and I arrived from California, Thursday evening in Heber. We had flown into Salt Lake, arriving around 6:00 p.m. only to find out that the airline had lost our luggage, what a bummer! No change of clothes, medicine, makeup, you know, stuff like that. Got up Friday morning, had breakfast. At around 10, we drove to the Pow Wow grounds to meet Sonny, my brother, to help setup the booth. We hung around until about 11 p.m. that night. Oh I almost forgot. We didn't get all our luggage until 2 that afternoon. What a relief, a change of clothes and my crazy pills, You all (this is Arkie talk) didn't know that I'm nut's did you, one to many blows to the head I guess. Just kidding folks, (Cut it out, kid and get on with the report.) Oh, ok.

Saturday, people start to arrive for the meeting which was scheduled to start at 11 that morning. At about 10 o'clock, my Dad (Alvin Denver,) Kathy and I drove to the Pow Wow to pickup Sonny and the flag and other items and drop off Kathy so She could watch the booth, I would like to also include that Stan Winn's Wife Kathy helped my Wife with the booth, Stan's my Sister Flora's youngest Son, also Flora's Grandson Berto, along with stan and Kathy's Son Bobby stayed with them at the booth while Dawn his Mother and Stan attended the meeting.

After leaving the Pow Wow grounds, heading back to the Holiday Inn, we figured we had time to stop at the Hub and get some breakfast. Well little did we know that we would be late and also forgot to bring the newsletters with us, I made a quick trip back and got'em.

The Meeting was started with Benny Earl offering a prayer to the Creator, smudging the room with sweet sage and singing a prayer song. Thank you Benny for traveling from Riverton Wyo. and for your prayers. The pledge of allegiance was said and the meeting started.

There wasn't a large turn out for the meeting, but those who did attend filled the room. I was some what disappointed that there wasn't a larger turn out of our younger people. Those who were there tho, was attentive and walked away with more knowledge about our struggle.

Our Attorney, Dennis Chappabitty brought everyone up to date on where we stand and mapped out what was required in order to respond to the Governments motion to dismiss. We have until Sept. 15th to respond. One of the thing that Dennis said was for those individuals who was terminated to write down how they have been effected and what they lost because of the results of being Terminated! There was some discussion on the subject and then we took a break.

After the break Oranna held the drawing for the prizes, which there were quite a few. Many thanks to those who donated items to the cause, Thank you...

When we got started again, Cal Hackford talked on the subject of the report that he is going to submit to Dennis on how termination has effected Him and His Family. Cal and Oranna are the two lead plaintiff's on Felter -VS- Norton along with Alvin Denver and Jens Christensen. Many questions were asked, hopefully those question where answered. Others in the group made statements and asked how one out of 5 Sisters and Brothers were enrolled and the other's weren't.

Over all the meeting turned out very well. Everyone in attendance , I feel, came away from the meeting with more understanding and a positive outlook.

After the meeting about a dozen or more individuals walked from the Holiday Inn to the city park in the center of Town. The U.S. flag with a picture of a Native American on it and the flag which represent's the original 490 Mixed Blood Uinta's was carried in front of the marchers. This march was a walk for justice and truth. From there those who stayed drove to the Pow Wow grounds to check out the Mixed Bloods booth and to visit. A good time was had by all.

The Pow Wow booth was a success in every way. Many many thanks to those who donated all the very good handcrafted items, they were all of good quality and I was surprised by the amount that was sold. We didn't make a killing, but what the booth made will help some with our case. The most popular spot at the booth was in back. Everyone just seemed to drift there for some reason, I don't know if it was because there was a coffee pot there or just because it was so hot and it was shaded behind the booth.

There was a rumor put out by someone before the Pow Wow started that our Walk was going to be a protest and that we were going to cause trouble on the Pow Wow grounds and that the F.B.I. and B.I.A. was called in to prevent us from doing anything like that. So there was a lot of eyes on our booth the whole three day of the Pow Wow. Causing trouble was not why we were there and we proved it. "Nothing Happened". Some of those who attend the meeting participated in the Pow Wow by dancing. One was Katherine Richman, Larry Richman's wife. Katherine made our Flag and the shawl that was given away at the meeting, Thank You Katherine. I was dragged on to the dance arena, kicking and screaming by Katherine as her partner for the Round dance. After I quit crying, it was a lot of fun. What a crazy lady, getting someone like me with two left feet to dance with Her.

All in all everything we set out to do came out well, the meeting, the pow wow booth, both were a success and we got the word out too. We must have handed out 150 Newsletters over the three days we were there. Also I would like to Thank Larry Weist of the Deseret New's for the article he wrote. Larry stayed for the entire meeting.

One last note on the meeting. Our Attorney Dennis Chappabitty said we need to have another meeting in early September at least ten days before he has to submit our response on the 15th. As of setting the time and place, that has not been set yet, if and when that is decided a notice will be posted on this Web Site, so check the web site for this notice. You can also contact Oranna or one of the other individuals listed on the case. In fact I encourage everyone to keep in contact with each other, your input is impotent.

Thanks for letting me rant and rave on. My prayers are with everyone of you. Earl...