

## Traditional Wedding Ceremony Conducted At Chota Band Grounds:

Two members of the Chota Band, headquartered in Maryville, Tennessee, renewed wedding vows after completing 4 years of matrimony. The beautiful event took place inside the ceremonial Council House located in the center of the grounds under the care of band chief Jim Howling Wolf Allison. Howling Wolf was the officiating person leading out in the ceremony.



Jim Watching Hawk with his bride Robin along with Jim Howling Wolf of Chota.

Approximately 30 people were on the grounds to witness this event which was carefully carried out in a traditional Native way. Many non members of the band who were friends of the couple were present and were heard to comment after the event how impressed they were of the beauty and meaning of the event.

Helping Howling Wolf were 4 women who gave blessings representing the 4 sacred directions. The bride and groom exchanged traditional gifts to each other, corn from the bride and meat from the groom. Each was wrapped in light blue blankets and later in the ceremony they were wrapped together in a large white blanket. Also their wrists were bound together to symbolize their eternal union with each other. During the ceremony a sacred fire burned in the center of the Council

House having been started by band fire keeper Big Bear Branham.



Jim Watching Hawk and Robin standing in Council House at Chota.

Much credit must be given to one of the Chota Band members. Valerie Tree Hugger made the regalia for the couple and was central in planning many of the details of the event including the food provided at the feast that followed the ceremony.

This type of ceremony highlights the fact that a band need not wait until the time of one of the major traditional Native ceremonies in order to do a ceremony in a traditional way. In the course of events many circumstances might arise when it is desirable and beneficial for a band or community to come together to do ceremony to demonstrate the traditional way to bring matters before the people in the old way, to strengthen spiritual ties, and to serve as a teaching mechanism and example for other bands throughout the tribe at large.

Many hopes and prayers are extended toward Watching Hawk and Robin. ###

## Myrtle Wood Band Of Oregon Makes Afghans For Armed Service Persons

Although the Myrtle Wood Band, based out of Coos Bay, Oregon, is small and poor, they are still active. According to acting Chief Alice Eagle Spirit Vanous, the band is struggling with financial and health issues, but is still "alive and kicking".

One of the senior members of the band recently suffered a mishap in her automobile in which the vehicle was a total loss. This happened to Grandma Patricia Slate as a malfunction caused the car to back into a mobile home causing extensive damage.

On the brighter side, the band members recently made two food baskets and presented them to two needy families. Also a project now underway is the making of two afghans (lap blanket and a crib blanket) with the design of the American flag. These will soon be presented to a service person with a young child, and to a retired veteran.

Chief Alice Eagle Spirit loves to cook using Native recipes. Here is another one of her recipes below:

### ***Buckskin Bread:***

2 cups flour    1 tsp. baking powder  
1 cup water    1 tablespoon butter  
1 tsp. salt

Melt butter in 1 cup water. Add dry ingredients.

Put it all into 9 inch pie pan

Bake at 400 degrees until done!

