

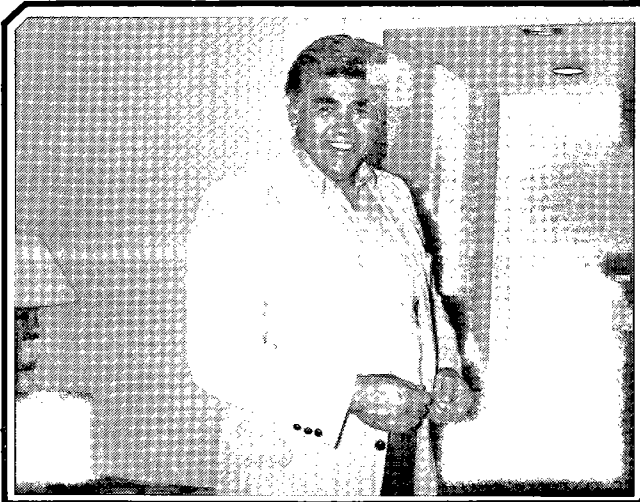


NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

ELDER VOICES

VOLUME 2, NO. 2

NOVEMBER 1985



FORMER NICOA DIRECTOR MOVES TO OKLAHOMA

Alfred G. Elgin, Jr., Executive Director of NICOA for more than five years, has resigned his position and has taken residence in Oklahoma. Mr. Elgin led the organization since 1980 through difficult times of continual cut-backs in funding and other major obstacles. Under Mr. Elgin's able leadership NICOA conducted three National Indian Conferences on Aging, and assisted with the development of several State Indian Councils on Aging.

Having served with various Indian programs for more than 30 years, Mr. Elgin has returned to the ministry, his first love. Already Mr. Elgin has developed an active life-style of involvement with church-related efforts, and has been a key figure in the planning and implementation of an alcoholism intervention program in southern Oklahoma.

Mr. Elgin's wife Carolyn is the Director of Johnson-O'Malley programs with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Education in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Mrs. Elgin is also a member of the Chickasaw Indian Nation.

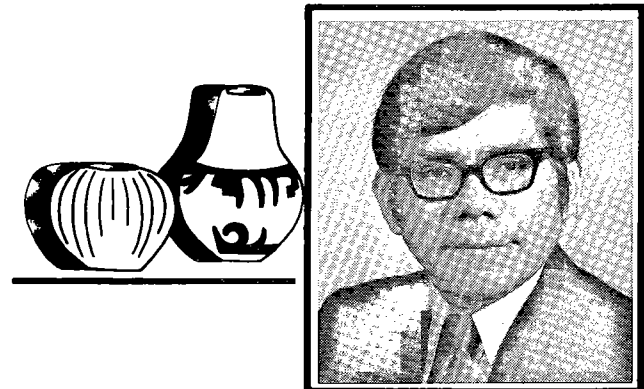
Both Al and Carolyn will be missed by NICOA, as they have shared so much of their lives with us. God bless you both, and may you find success wherever your path leads.

Their new address:
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred G. Elgin, Jr.
P.O. Box 1713
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

NICOA MOVES OFFICES

NICOA has recently moved to new quarters in the old federal courthouse at 421 Gold, S.W., Suite 313, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. The mailing address will remain the same at P.O. Box 2088, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103.

The move came after the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which had provided office space, withdrew its support last July.



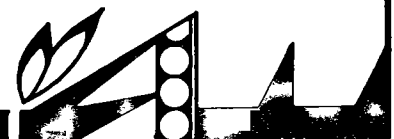
MOFFETT — NORTH TO ALASKA!

Rev. Walter Moffett, NICOA treasurer, and wife Bernice, have moved from Idaho to Anchorage, Alaska, so that he can serve in a full-time ministry among Indian people. They will be working with the Methodist Church in Anchorage to begin an Ecumenical Center for Native Alaskans.

CELEBRATION MARKS HERITAGE WEEK

The American Indian Heritage Foundation celebrates the American Indian Heritage Week, November 17-23. A national Indian awareness campaign will be conducted throughout the week, as well as a national walk in beauty seminar from November 20-23.

There will be a benefit gala at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on November 24, and Princess Pale Moon's Children's Concert will be at Kennedy Center Concert Hall November 25 to conclude the week's activities.





NICOA SELECTS NEW DIRECTOR

At its June meeting the NICOA Board of Directors selected Curtis D. Cook to serve as Executive Director. Cook has over 20 years of experience and has served with NICOA as a Program Specialist. He is also the author of several NICOA documents and publications, which reflect his personal commitment to Indian elders.

Cook says he has a great appreciation for the value of the elders in the society. He has served the Indian people in many capacities: linguist, Bible translator, literacy teacher, health administrator, program writer, and personnel director.



NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

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SHERMAN LILLARD, *CHAIRMAN*
CURTIS D. COOK — *Executive Director*

To be added to the mailing list, please contact NICOA at the office listed above.

This project is supported by a grant, NO. 90-AJ-1025/01, from the Administration on Aging, OHDS-DHHS

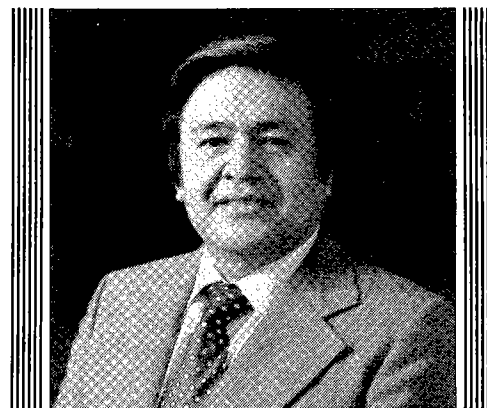


COOK RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Curtis Cook, the new NICOA Executive Director, has been awarded the Iron Eyes Cody Peace Medal "for outstanding service to Indian people." Some time ago Iron Eyes Cody, popular Indian celebrity and promoter of various national campaigns, decided to create a prestigious award to be given to those who have distinguished themselves as proponents of the cause of Indian people in America.

For 15 years, Cook and his family lived on the Zuni reservation in northwestern New Mexico, while he was developing an alphabet for their previously unwritten language and analyzing the grammar. He translated several books of the Bible as well as produced other Zuni reading materials.

In 1980, Cook moved to Albuquerque, where he continued to be active in various Indian efforts, including a summer of teaching at the Summer Institute of Linguistics for Native Americans, and two and a half years as a program writer and consultant for NICOA.



EFFMAN MOVES TO VIRGINIA

George Effman, NICOA board member, has been selected to serve as Executive Director for the American Indian Heritage Foundation headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia. The foundation is involved in a nationwide effort to promote awareness of the American Indian heritage and to improve their quality of life.

His duties will involve coordinating fund-raising events, promotional activities, and special projects.



NICOA SECRETARY IS CANDIDATE FOR MISS INDIAN USA

NICOA headquarters Secretary, Ora Jean Miller, is an entrant in the Miss Indian U.S.A. competition which is to be held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., November 20th through 24th. The Pageant is to be held in conjunction with an American Indian Benefit Gala at the Center. A number of celebrities, both Indian and non-Indian have been invited to participate in the festivities.

Miss Miller, a Navajo Indian, will be traveling to Washington to compete in several categories including traditional dress, formal dress, poise and talent. "Jeannie" joined NICOA's office staff in January of 1984. The cheery voice that answers the phone when you call is Jeannie's. Jeannie has always been that way; when she was still a baby, her Grandmother named her "Girl who is always laughing." Jeannie is an attractive young lady and a capable worker, and NICOA is very privileged to sponsor her candidacy in the pageant.

We wish Jeannie the very best as she represents the organization and her own Indian heritage. Her proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Miller of Albuquerque.



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT MEDICARE-MEDICAID

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about the provisions of Medicare and Medicaid insurance coverage. Here are some important facts you should know about them:

Medicare:

- 1) Medicare coverage is for almost everyone 65 years of age or older.
- 2) Medicare is an insurance program which **does not** pay all costs of medical care, only a portion.
- 3) Medicare provides partial payments of health care costs for any disabled person under 65 who has been on Social Security disability payments for at least two years.
- 4) Medicare pays for long term nursing home care only if you are transferred from a hospital to a skilled care facility — and even then, it pays only for certain types of medical treatment for the first 20 days, after that, you pay the first \$50 a day for the next 80 days. After this 100 days, you have no Medicare coverage.

Medicaid:

- 1) Medicaid coverage is only for certain groups of low-income and needy people, including: the disabled, elderly (65 or older), the blind, members of families with dependent children, and some other children.
- 2) Medicaid will pay all of your nursing home care costs, but **only** after you have depleted all of your own personal resources, including any property you might own such as a house, or land.
- 3) If you give away your assets to your children, or anyone else within two years prior to entering a nursing home, you may not be eligible to receive Medicaid payments.
- 4) Medicaid is a Federal-State partnership, and the regulations and provisions vary from State to State.

If you are confused as to your eligibility for Medicare or Medicaid benefits, we suggest you contact your local Social Security or tribal Social Services offices. Above all, **do not assume** you are covered, or that IHS will automatically cover any costs for long term care not paid by Medicare/Medicaid. You must take the initiative to get the information necessary to protect yourself.

