



Benson Gibson, Master of Ceremonies at Stewart Indian Museum Arts and Crafts Fair and Pow-Wow held during the month of June on the former Stewart Indian Boarding School campus in Carson City, Nevada. Gibson is a former Tribal Chairman of the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe of Owyhee, Nevada.

Stewart Indian Museum and Trading Post, 5366 Snyder Ave.,
Carson City, Nevada 89701


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Benson Gibson
Owyhee, Nev.

Benson Gibson, 59, of Owyhee, Nev., passed away Saturday, June 11, 1994, at a Owyhee hospital of natural causes.

Traditional services will begin on Tuesday, June 14, at the Gibson's residence. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, at the Human Development Center in Owyhee, Nev. Arrangements are under the direction of Summers Funeral Homes, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home.

Benson Gibson was born July 18, 1935, in Owyhee, Nev., to the late Joe Bill Gibson and Clara Thomas Gibson Little. He was reared in Owyhee, Star Valley, and Deeth, Nev. After his father's death in 1952, he lived with his foster parents, Harvey and Margaret Dahl of Star Valley. He attended school in Owyhee, and Wells, Nev., and graduated from high school from Chimawa Indian School, on May 28, 1954.

Benson then entered the United States Air Force, where he received basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and continued training as a Sighting System Mechanic at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo. Upon completion of his training, he was assigned to the 72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron, and was stationed with the 21st Fighter Bomber wing at Chambley Air Base in France as a tail-gunner on a B-29 Bomber. During his tour of duty, he flew many missions to Tripoli, Africa, Indonesia, Morocco, Italy, Korea, Germany, and Japan. While sta-

In the early 1970s, he worked for the Dept. of Employment for the State of Idaho, and the Idaho Inter-Tribal Policy Board. He was appointed by Governor Andrus of Idaho to the Indian Advisory Council and by Governor Mike O'Callahan to the Columbia Basin Interstate Compact Commission. He was former Vice-Chairman of the National Congress of American Indians. He was also on the Board of Directors for Citizens Alert, and an active member on several committees with the Duck Valley Tribe.

In the USAF, Benson was on the boxing team, and also started and coached for many years, the Duck Valley Boxing Club, which produced many excellent fighters. He enjoyed helping kids in all sports, and was a rodeo announcer and Master of Ceremonies at many Pow-Wows. Benson was a sought after lecturer at various universities and was an expert in Indian Law and Indian Water Rights. Most of all, he lived by the traditional ways of his ancestors, and was currently fighting to preserve the sacred land of the Owyhee Desert.

Benson was the former Tribal Archivist and Historian and published his own book, titled "Survivors of the Bannock War". He was very concerned about protecting the traditional ways of his people, and fought to save Rock Creek in Nevada, and Eagle Rock in Boise, both burial grounds of his people. He enjoyed attending Sundances, and was also a member of the Native American Church. He was a fighter for Treaty Rights, and believed we could win our rights and land back with the Boise Valley and Bruneau Treaties. He was proud to teach

married Antoinette Melanie Gaspers. He was honorably discharged as Airman 2nd Class on Oct. 14, 1957. Upon his discharge, he moved back to Owyhee, with his wife and son James, who was born in France. He entered the Air Force Reserve on Jan. 25, 1958, and was honorably discharged on May 27, 1962. He then was in the Army National Guard of Idaho, and was honorably discharged on Oct. 18, 1966. In the fall of 1958, he attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. After his schooling, he returned to Owyhee, and started ranching, and was employed by Public Health Service, as Sanitarian, Interpreter, and Ambulance Driver.

Benson was elected to the Tribal Council in 1966, and later was elected Tribal Chairman. He was proud to be the youngest person to be chairman. He served on the Tribal Council off and on for almost 30 years. During this time, he was very instrumental in leveling land, and was an active member in securing the Wildhorse Dam, also building Mountain View Reservoir, and securing the new Community Hospital in Owyhee.

Survivors include his wife Antoinette of Owyhee; two sons, James of Fort Hall, and Ted of Owyhee; his daughter, Stephanie of Owyhee; his sisters, D. Barnett of Carson City, J. Whitehouse of Warren, Mich; Lapriel Douglas of Bell Wash.; numerous grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He preceded in death by a daughter, Louise; father, Joe B. Gibson; mother, Clara T. Little; sisters via Ann Barr; brothers, Ray and Joe Gibson; granddaughters, Nora T. Dorsey, and grandsons, Medicine Men Billy and Willie Dorsey.