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.
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 Idaho Advisory Council and by Governor Mike O'Callaghan to the Columbia Basin Interstate Compact Commission. He was also a member of the Board of Directors for the Idaho National Guard and an active member on several committees with the Duck Valley Tribe.

In the USAF, Benson was on the boxing team, an active member of the Idaho Boxing Club, which produced many excellent fighters. He enjoyed helping kids in all sports, and was a stand-up announcer and Master of Ceremonies at many Pow-Wows. Benson was a world-renowned 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 the 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 fighting 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 friends about the Owyhee. Survivors include his wife, Antoinette Melanie; his son, James of Fort Hall, Idaho; his daughter, Teresa of Owyhee; and his sisters, Betty Barnet of Carson City, Nevada, and Janet LePage of Warren, Michigan

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

Traditional services will begin on Monday, June 13, 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 Home, 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 Dahir 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 Champa-gney Air Base in France as a tail-gunner on a B-25 Bomber. During his tour of duty, he flew many missions to Tripoli, Italy, Korea, Germany, and Japan. While sta-