

Indian Center

Funding Assured

By JIM DULLENTY

After nearly seven years of delays, construction of the Pacific Northwest Indian Center will be completed, financed by a \$600,000 federal grant and a \$363,000 loan from financial institutions here.

Mrs. Daniel J. Evans, wife of the governor, presented notification of the grant, to the Rev. Wilfred P. Schoenberg, presi-

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dent of center, in colorful ceremonies at the Press Club today.

The money came from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Father Schoenberg announced the bank participation loan was provided by all Spokane banks and savings and loan associations with Seattle-First National Bank acting as lead bank.

Mrs. Evans, who was representing the Nixon Administration which approved the \$600,000 grant, said "The time has come to create the conditions for a new era, in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions."

"Completion of this Indian museum, tribal and cultural center, has long been a dream of the Indian people. This money is being spent not to help Americanize the Indian, but for the Indian to help Americanize all of us."

Introducing Mrs. Evans was Alex Sherwood, chairman of the

Spokane Tribal Council, who said that the members of his tribe will feel at home in Spokane since this is their ancestral homeland. He praised Father Schoenberg's patience in getting the center built.

Also on hand for the ceremony, that included several Indian youth dressed in traditional costumes, were Mrs. Lucy Covington, representing the Colville Tribe, and Robert Jim, Yakima tribal leader. C. Mark Smith, Seattle, western regional director, represented the Economic Development Administration.

Father Schoenberg also appealed for contributions so that the center can operate "not burdened by a great debt."

Target Date Set

A portion of the Indian Center, which will be a national center for the preservation of Indian cultures and will be in full operation for Expo '74, has been constructed on the 1½-acre site on the banks of the Spokane River near Gonzaga University.

Joseph F. McKinnon, director for development of the center, said today some \$287,000 already has been spent.

McKinnon said the center already has more than \$2 million in assets, including the \$1.5 million art and artifact collection accumulated by Father Schoenberg.

Growth Expected

By the time the center opens sometime next year, McKinnon said he expects assets to total about \$5 million. The collection

—which Father Schoenberg has spent more than 30 years gathering—will be available to scholars and historians.

The Pacific Northwest Indian Center was incorporated Dec. 30, 1965. Construction was begun in 1968 but was halted that year when funds ran out. The land was acquired and the furnishings and equipment have been purchased. The building itself is about 22 per cent complete.

Work to Resume

McKinnon said that, since 1968, the unfinished concrete and steel structure has not been worked on but damage to existing work has been slight. If "the weather holds," McKinnon said, construction can begin in early December.

Then, it will take 45 days to enclose the building and six months to complete construction. If the weather is bad, construction probably would not start until next March. Center officials note it is important to be ready for Expo '74, adding:

"Expo '74 expects about 4.5 million visitors. Assuming that only 1.5 million of these toured the museum, the total estimated income for the first 18 months is \$1.64 million."

Along with construction of the center, PNIC and Expo officials determined that both organizations would be greatly aided by a "living" Indian village adjacent to the museum for Expo '74 visitors. McKinnon said he expects that more than 100 Indians will be employed in the Indian village program alone.