

## The "Village" Near Bingo

from Guy DiTorrice

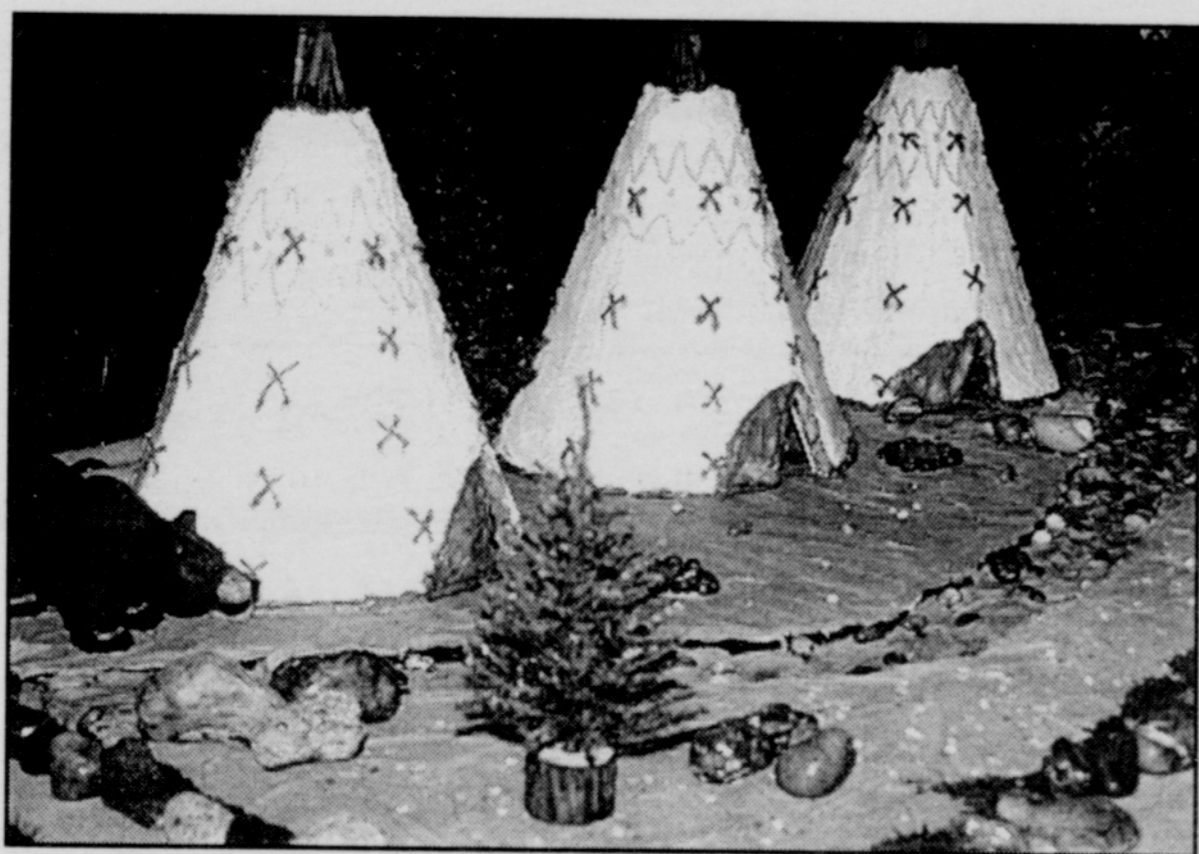
A group of Chinook Winds Casino & Convention Center staff, the Holiday Decorations Committee, pursued an idea this year to build an Oregon Native American gingerbread village.

Constructed in cooperation with a local baker, genuine gingerbread was combined with colored icing and candies to build our first version of a Native American gingerbread village. Designs were provided by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians cultural affairs staff and used to decorate the tee-pee structures.

Casino staff did all the decorating with flora and fauna from the casino gift shop. Polished rocks are from local beaches.

The committee includes Carollee Zuercher, Kelli Duhamel, Glendora Osborn, April Murphy, Nicky Peterson, Sindi Hayes, Teresa Simmons, Sharlene Fisher, Rachel Law, and myself.

The group also was responsible for the new bears that appeared on the waterfalls – complete with 'Santa Helper' hats.



The Native American gingerbread village

## Casino Staff Helps Angels Anonymous

Angels Anonymous is a charitable organization of Lincoln City that provides immediate and basic needs to those who do not qualify for other assistance. For the past two years a fund-raiser has been held at Chinook Winds Casino that includes the Fantasy of Trees.

The basic concept has a business, organization, or individual purchase a tree for \$50. The purchaser selects a theme, purchases the ornaments, and decorates the tree that is then auctioned off, with the proceeds going to Angels Anonymous. For three days, the trees are on display for public viewing and a silent auction.

This year, 21 organizations purchased trees, but some didn't have the staff or time to decorate them. Brenda Fisher, Marketing director for the casino, organized a competition among the employees to help out. Individuals signed up and became part of a team to compete for the best-decorated tree.

Six teams decorated trees the day before the trees were put on display. Everyone did such a terrific job that the judges had a difficult



L to r: Larry Dauwen, Jessica Parr, Kent Strickler, Angel Crozier, and Steve Chrisman with the winning tree.

time making their decision. The winners were: First Place: Chinook Winds Tree – The Sales Team; Second Place: Tim Troutman Tree – Guest Services; Third Place: Angels Anonymous Tree – The Games Team; Honorable Mention: Liberty Inn Tree – The Cage and HR; Shilo Inn Tree – Admin; Coast Copy Tree – Bingo-Keno; and Ace Hardware Tree – Surveillance.

Those involved included Angel Crozier, Jessica Parr, Larry Dauwen, Steve Chrisman, Teresa Simmons, Kent Strickler, Charlotte

Brame, Andrea Butler, Paula Knoles, Kathy Fisher, Barbara Benskin, Jamie Creech, Joy Blankenship, Renee Hayes, Terry Hopkins, Robin Wilson, Renee Metcalf, Mysti Kahler, Twyla Busch, Teresa Welch, Terry Dunwoodie, Lynn Hawes, Janet Baca, Cherish Rosenberg, Marsha Moon-McLeary, Barbara Keller, Carson Clark, Dub Bellinger, Fawn Bigelow, Diane Moore, Cathy Holman, Ann Donat, Tracie Cherney, and Sindi Hayes

## Casino Cop Saves Dog!

by Rick Beasley of the Depoe Bay Beacon  
(reprinted with permission)

Casino security supervisor George Blacketer is being hailed as the hero who saved "Theo," the Rin Tin Tin of Beacon Ch. 4 ads and the beloved pet of Sears store owners Monika and Fritz Hucke!

Theo, who appears in the Sears commercials on Millennium Cable Ch. 4, was tragically hit by a motorist and left for dead near the Sears store on Logan Road about 2 a.m. on Nov. 16.

A compassionate passerby loaded Theo, 7, into her car and took him to the only place in town that was open, Chinook Winds Casino. George, the night security supervisor, was on duty when the woman squealed to a stop at the casino entrance and opened her door. Inside, the grievously injured dog was barely breathing.

A volunteer with the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District, George recognized symptoms of a collapsed lung and made the call to a 24-hour emergency vet clinic in Newport that saved Theo's life. Without knowing who the owners were, he offered to pay all of the expenses.

(See Casino on page 32)