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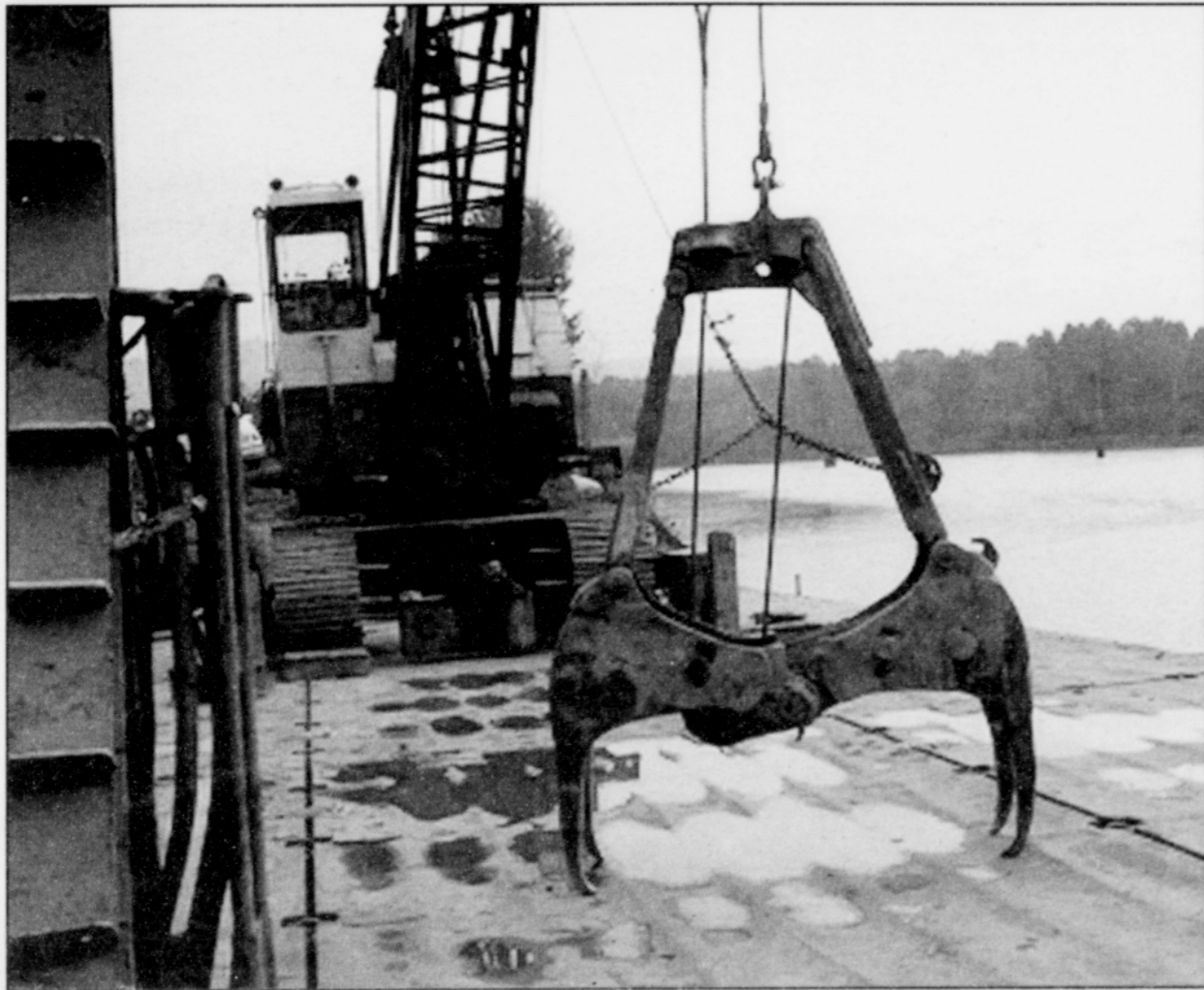
# SILETZ



# NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Vol. 35, No. 2 February 2007



A 60-foot boom crane with a "grappling hook" attached sits on barge in Longview, Wash., - equipment for STBC's new business, River Reclamation Group, Inc.

## STBC Creates New Underwater Logging Business

by Dennis Lancaster

The Siletz Tribal Council recently approved the creation of a new business by the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation (STBC). **River Reclamation Group, Inc. (RRG)** was created to locate and retrieve timber lost in river waters over the past decades, a practice sometimes referred to as "underwater logging."

STBC has been working with Ross Bennett for several months, firming up a strategy to develop the business and begin operations. RRG will use state-of-the-art sonar technology and recently purchased retrieval equipment to recover logs lost in past timber transportation and milling operations.

The initial focus of RRG will be on the Columbia River between Portland and Astoria.

Although a fairly new concept in the western United States, underwater

logging has been growing throughout the East and Great Lakes regions.

Timber operations of the past sometimes included transporting cut logs through waterways in "rafts" or using large bodies of water next to mills as storage for logs before being cut into finished lumber. A few of the floating logs would sink to the bottom and their retrieval may not have been cost-effective.

These sunken logs - called "sinkers," "snags," and "deadheads" - are gaining attention as hazards in waterways. Also, because the water has preserved the quality of the sunken logs, a small percentage of them have become a highly valued commodity in the lumber market.

In some cases, old growth timber can be retrieved from the water in the

**See River on page 6.**



Dan Smith, former mayor of Siletz; Sally Jennings, president of Siletz Valley Friends of the Library; and Diedre Conkling, district librarian, Lincoln County Library District cut the gold ribbon to officially open the Siletz Public Library on Jan. 6. See additional photos on page 7 and a letter on page 2.

Century-old documents and books are donated to tribe and library. See article on page 12.



The Siletz Tribal Community Center is covered with several inches of snow in mid-January as a winter storm created snowy and icy conditions for several days throughout Lincoln County.

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