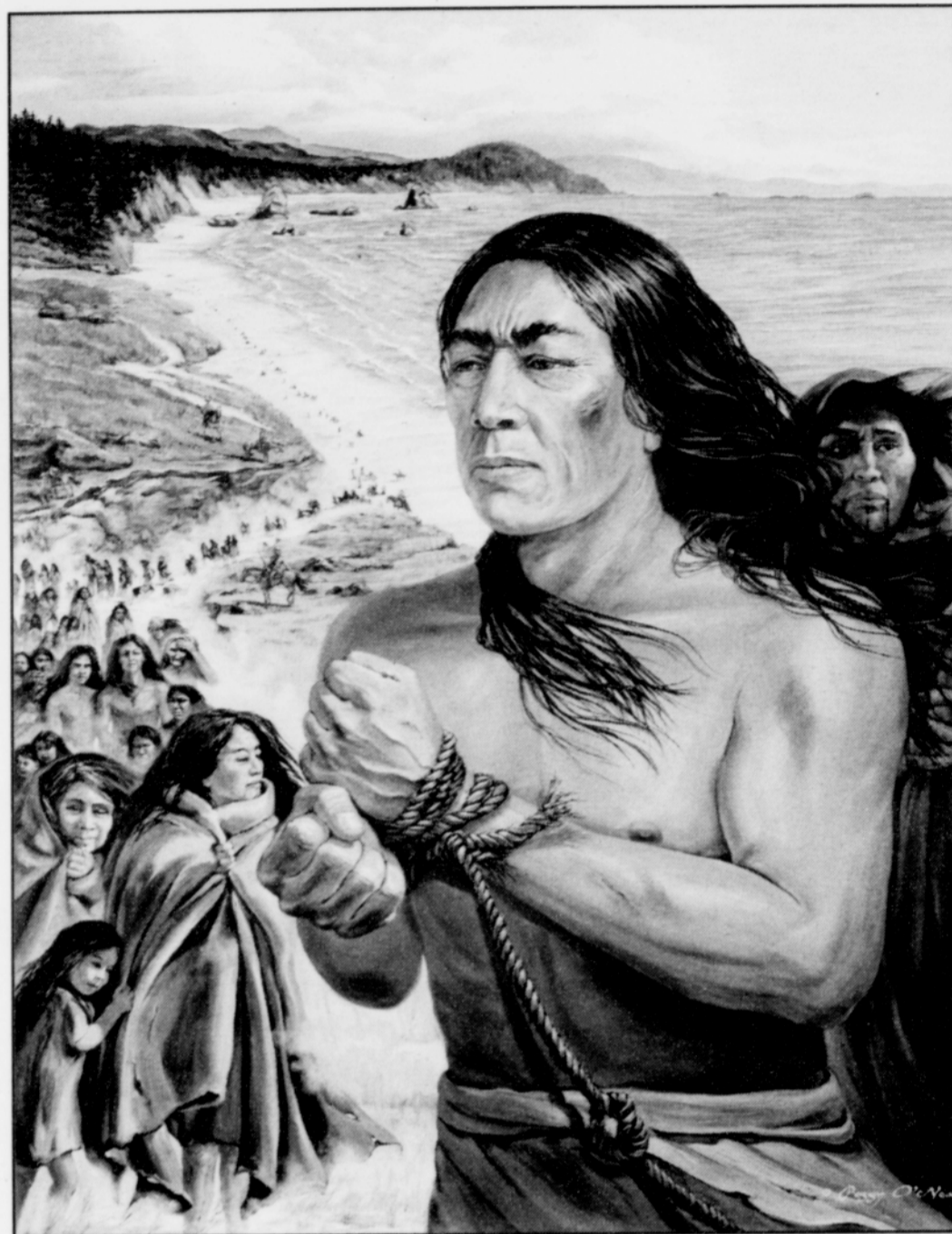




Siletz families and 477-SSP members who enjoyed an outing to the Lelooska Foundation, include (top row) Seajay, William, Auzhane, Amberly, Tamatha, Ronda, Chief Tsungani, and Nicole (by door); (middle row) Sunshine, Freedom, Antonette, Talani, Stacey, Kenai, Ashlee, and Edelio; (bottom row) Sharmon and Mariah; and Tina (walking forward).

A depiction of Chief John as the people of the tribes of the Rogue River were forcibly marched north to be placed on the Siletz Reservation (original painting of Ahnkuttie Tillicums (Ancestors) by Peggy O'Neal)



477-SSP's First Family Outing

by Sharmon Cook-Wright

On April 20, Salem Area Office clients and the Portland Area Office clients of the 477-Self-Sufficiency Program Grant Assistance for Families had our first family outing.

This family event took place at the Lelooska Foundation in Ariel, Wash., just outside of Woodland, Wash.

The families enjoyed stories, songs, and dances by firelight in the Kwa'Kwakawakw ceremonial house. The children really enjoyed the Northwest Coastal masks that were used in this presentation.

If you are interested in the Living History of the Lelooska Foundation or would like to spend a wonderful evening with your family, please check out its Web site at www.lelooska.org. Enjoy as we did!

Are you on the list?

See
Missing Moccasins
on page 23.

Make sure
your address
is correct.

fields of Dayton. Some tribal people were moved to Grand Ronde and some were led to the Salmon River.

After surviving the winter weather and the measles in the area at the mouth of the Siletz River, the people gathered camas and ate fish and deer.

Hunting and gathering meant journeys through a homeland of rugged shorelines, open rangeland in mountain valleys, and rivers that rutted through deep canyons. Timber and game sustained life and trading along the Pacific Rim with other tribal people brought about cultural exchange and family diversity before the arrival of white settlers and the establishment of policies to secure Indian lands for non-Indians.

Seven treaties written in "good faith" were to be upheld "always," and tribal land covering the entire Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River valleys – 15 million acres – was ceded with the promise of a permanent reservation.

When the Coast Reservation was established, several tribes were gathered and expected to live side by side within an area just 1/20th of their original combined territory.

By 1875, the land base was reduced to 225,000 total acres without compensation for the 900,000 acres taken.

The General Allotment Act of 1892 reduced tribal member land holdings to 551 lots of 80 acres each. The remaining land was declared surplus land and made available to settlers.

The government "negotiated" a price of 74 cents an acre for 192,000 acres to be paid to the tribe. The negotiations consisted of threats to take the lands without compensation if the 74 cents was not accepted.

Restoration, con't from page 1

By 1912, more than half of the Indian allotments were not owned by tribal members because of forced fee policies. This happened under the supervision of the area's only Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) official.

Termination in 1954 put an end to all tribal recognition and land holdings. By 1956, all tribal assets had been liquidated by the BIA.

The remaining people of the tribe – led by tribal member Joe Lane – banded together in the 1970s and joined a nationwide movement among Indian people to achieve restoration to federally recognized status. Tribal leaders knew it was the only way to get the treaty rights upheld that had been promised to the elders.

They followed the civil rights movements of the time and became educated on social justice issues. The people gathered and held their first meeting in a generation. They talked about Restoration.

"The rebirth of our culture is bringing forth research and learning of language, dance, and history," said Tribal Council member Lillie Butler in 1997. "Our future generations will learn about our past generations' walk to the Siletz Reservation, termination, and the Restoration of the Siletz Tribe. Twenty years has surely shown the results of hard work, unification, and pride of being a Siletz Indian."

Following in the footsteps of the Menominee people who were the first Tribe in the nation to receive their Restoration status in 1972, Siletz became the second tribe in the country to make their dream come true.

The documents were signed on Nov. 18, 1977. In 1980, the government re-

turned 3,660 acres of scattered timberlands, including the old agency headquarters and cemetery on Government Hill, to the tribe as a reservation land base.

Modern-day leaders of the tribe respect the work of their ancestors.

"Our early tribal leaders had virtually nothing at the time they struggled to be restored in terms of tribal assets," said Pigsley of the tribal leaders who laid the groundwork for all that followed. "They possessed something of far greater value – vision, courage, and a sense of tribal unity and purpose. The resources we as a tribe have attained since Restoration are nothing if we fail to use them with the same sense of purpose that drove our early tribal leaders."

The late Craig Whitehead, a cultural and spiritual leader of his tribe, was known to believe in his people and often thanked those who led the way to the modern day.

"Through the vision of a handful of people came the reality of what we are today," said Whitehead at the tribe's 20th Anniversary of Restoration. "Our tribe has come a long way since Restoration. As we continue to bring back the traditions of our ancestors, we become a once-again strong and proud people. As the youth of today grow, let us not forget to remind them of the struggles our people have gone through to get where they are today. As the future generations come, let us pass on the history of who and where we as a people come from. We must continue to be a strong and united people so that the generations to come will have a better way of life. May we go together strong as friends and relatives."

In other words, we are all family.