



Photos by Brent Merrill

Restoration Performance - Siletz Tribal youth performed at the Tribe's 31st Restoration celebration - here Amy Torres (left) and Vashti Martinez show off their skills in front of the microphone.

Blanket of Honor - Tribal member Ted Werth (center) was honored by Tribal Council members Bud Lane III and Delores Pigsley with a Tribal Pendleton blanket. Werth spoke to the crowd gathered for the celebration about his younger years growing up in the Tribe during termination and then Restoration. Werth was one of the first Tribal members to attend college with support from the Tribe.

Tribal Members Honored at 31st Annual Restoration Pow-Wow

by Brent Merrill

Tribal members gathered in Lincoln City at Chinook Winds Casino Resort for the 31st Annual Restoration Pow-Wow and gave thanks for everything good that has happened to the Tribe since the nation's termination policy era ended in 1977.

The theme for this year's event seemed to be a celebration of the Tribal community and the heroes within the community.

"It was a wonderful event in honor of what our ancestors had to endure and the accomplishments and challenges of 2009 and the years that lie beyond," said Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley of the Restoration Celebration.

The event began with a welcome from Chairman Pigsley and a performance by the Tribal Head Start children, who spoke the Tribal language and sang a song.

"I received many nice comments from visitors and guests," said Pigsley. "Our children were a hit."

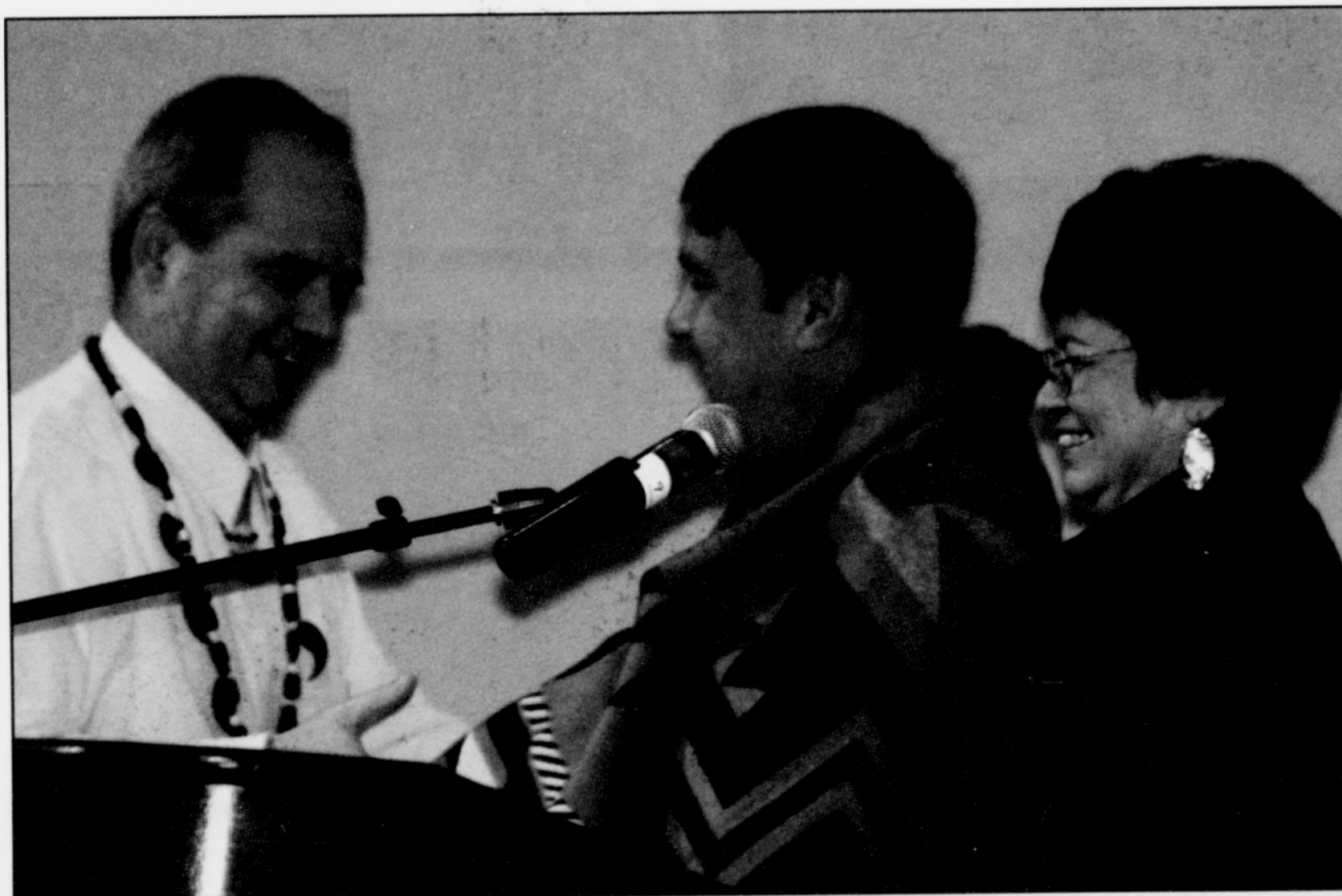
Visitors from Tribes throughout the Northwest checked in at the welcome desk and then joined loved ones at tables filled with their families and friends. Later, everyone received gift bags with casino goodies, umbrellas with the Tribal logo on them and a Restoration calendar.

Nick Sixkiller greeted guests and announced the day's events on into the evening when the pow-wow started.

Throughout the day the walls were filled with big screens showing images of Tribal members past and present. The images were a collection of historic Tribal photographs put together by Vice Chairman Bud Lane, who is a member of the Restoration Committee.

During the celebration, Tribal Elders Ed Ben and Donna Kessinger and Tribal member Angela Ramirez were honored for being heroes in their community (See story on page 1 of *Siletz News*). Tribal member Ted Werth was honored by the Tribal Council and then shared his recollections of what it was like being a Tribal member during termination and then Restoration.

"Tribal member Ted Werth was young during the termination and Restoration years; he addressed the audience and gave a warm report, remembering those years as he grew up and then went to college," said Pigsley.



"It was uplifting to hear of Ted's experiences and the success he has made of his life."

After lunch and an afternoon break, the evening events got started with a performance by Chemawa Indian School's Apache Crown Dancers.

"Everyone enjoyed the dancers," said Pigsley.

Tribal Elders, Tribal Council members, Tribal veterans and Tribal members all gathered around 6 p.m. for

the pow-wow grand entry. The beauty of modern glory and an ancient culture were on display as the membership followed its leaders into the dance arena.

The Tribe has so much to celebrate and has come so far that the success story has an effect on people all across the state of Oregon.

The legacy of the Tribe is cemented in the history of the nation. People looking in on the Tribe see the community as proof that dreams can become reality.

"The Restoration of the Siletz people as a federally recognized Tribal nation in 1977 represents a historic triumph of the human spirit," said Rebecca Dobkins, professor of Anthropology at Willamette University in Salem. She is the curator of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art and has a unique perspective among Oregon academic professionals familiar with Tribal cultures.

"This triumph has proven to be enduring because in the decades since restoration, the Siletz people have strengthened themselves and the communities around them through cultural and economic development," said Dobkins of the Tribe's impact currently and historically on the surrounding communities. "Oregon and the nation can look to Siletz for inspiration and hope."

"The Restoration Pow-Wow was great," said Pigsley. "I would like to thank all the staff at the Tribe and the casino for their assistance in making

the day a success. And thank you to the Restoration Committee, Bud Lane, Tina Retasket and Ed Ben for all the work on the calendar, photos, gifts and coordinating all the activities."

Dobkins offered her unique perspective of the impact of Tribal Restoration when she summed up her feelings in this way: "The Tribe's shining example makes so many dreams seem possible."