

Photo by Diane Rodriguez



Bud Lane, Stuart Whitehead and Dan Lundy

Right: Tribal Council member Lillie Butler



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

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Tribal Youth

Left: Damion Williams and Kiesha Metcalf

Right: Cristian Ramirez, Bo Johnson, Makiah Woodruff and Sidney Rilatos



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

"Because I Still Can"

Tribe Continues to Commemorate Ancestors on 14th Annual Run to the Rogue

by Natasha Kavanaugh

It's two hundred forty-four miles, the distance Siletz Tribal ancestors traveled when they were forcibly removed from their homeland in the Rogue River country and marched north to Siletz.

On Sept. 10-12, 2009, Siletz Tribal people and friends participated in the annual relay run/walk- Run to the Rogue- to the Rogue River in Southwest Oregon.

Tribal Elder Duane Endres joined his daughter, Rachelle Endres and the youth team for his first time.

Along the way they gathered around the campfire, where he shared spiritual teachings with them. He compared different Tribes and the triumphs they went through, giving the youth an opportunity to understand that although our Tribe has been through a lot, we are not alone.

Duane said he really enjoyed himself and is proud of how well the youth responded to every situation. You can look forward to seeing him again because he says, "I'll be back next year!"

Atreux "Tre" Jackson, 7, has participated in the event for three years now.

During the first two years, his family helped carry the eagle staff with him. This year, Tre was able to carry the eagle staff himself for the first time.

Just past Bullards State Park, north of Bandon, Tre and a large group of walkers went over the draw-bridge entering Bandon.

"It was fun, I was kinda scared a little bit. I didn't want to hold the staff, but I still did it!" said Tre.

Whether walking or running for many miles, Frank Aspria did it in sandals with no complaints.

"I forgot my shoes," he said, smiling.

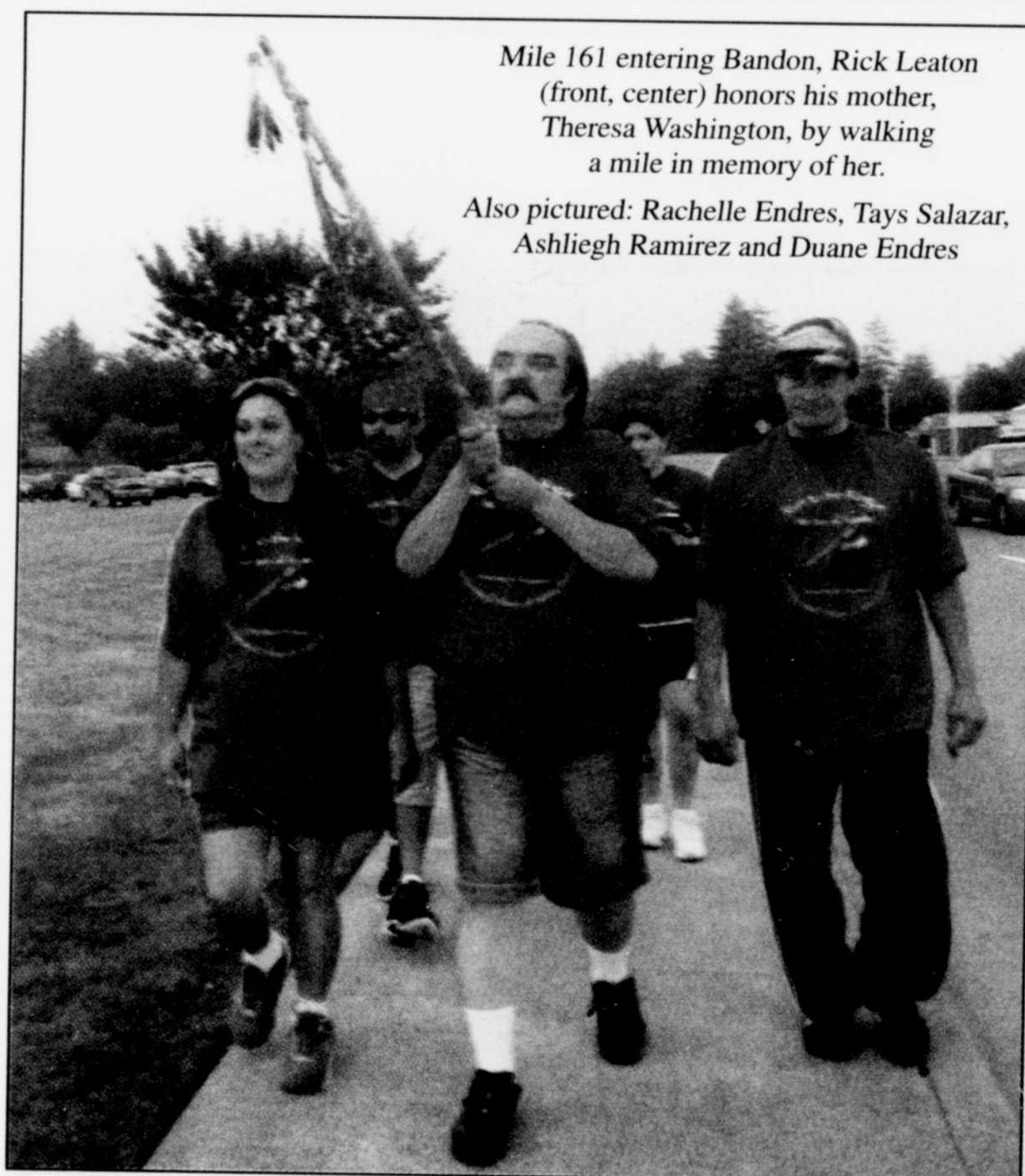
After completing the last mile, participants formed a circle and members stepped into the center of it with the eagle staff and shared their own experiences while on the Run to the Rogue.

"My family asked why I was still doing this," Ed Ben shared. "You're 82 years old," they said.

Without hesitation, Ed answered, "Because I still can."

Mile 161 entering Bandon, Rick Leaton (front, center) honors his mother, Theresa Washington, by walking a mile in memory of her.

Also pictured: Rachelle Endres, Tays Salazar, Ashliegh Ramirez and Duane Endres



Courtesy photo by Valerie Hibdon