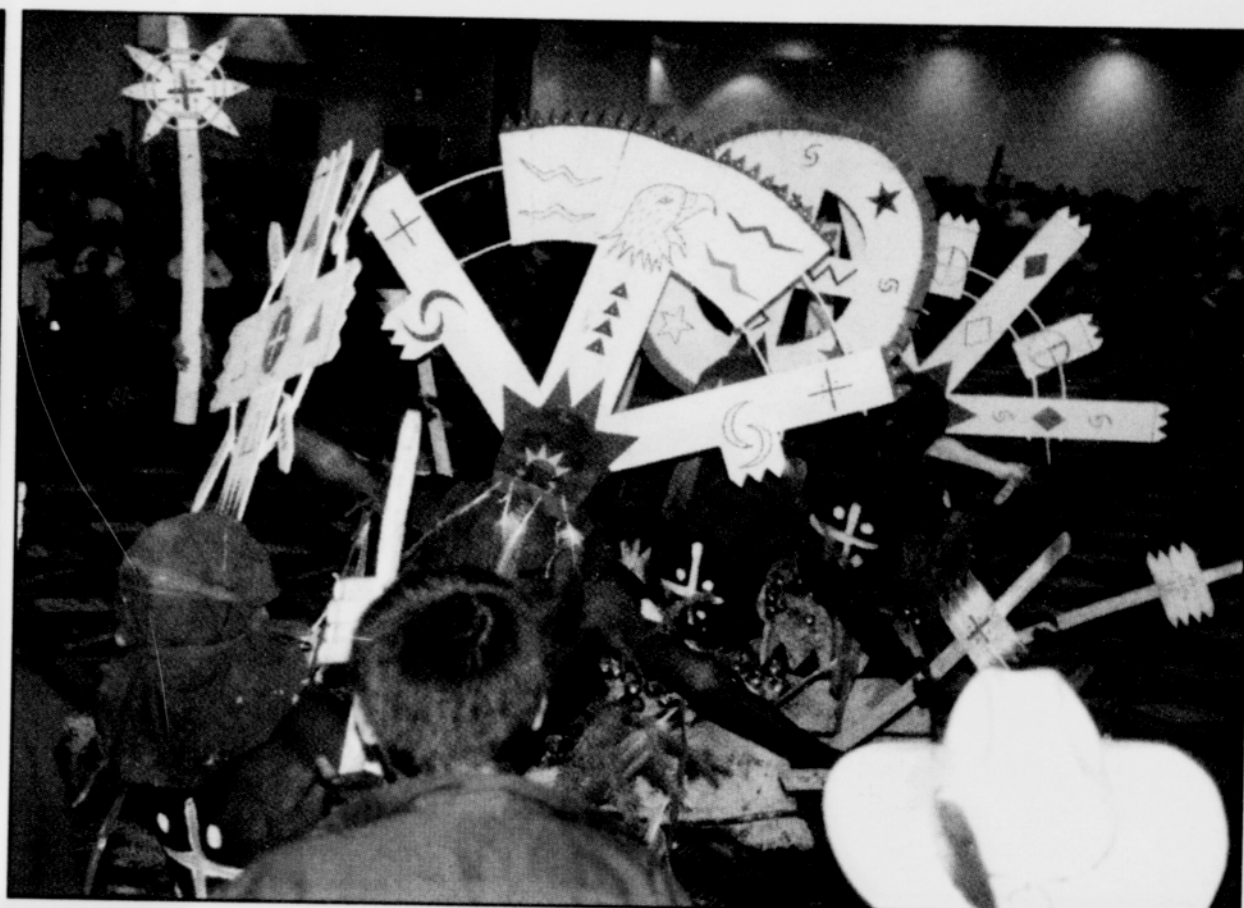




RARE – The Apache Crown Dancers of Chemawa Indian School treat the audience gathered at the Tribe's Restoration Pow-Wow to a rare performance.



RESPECT – The spirituality of the Crown Dancers' performance was never more evident than when one of the young performers stood dancing in place and looking into the eyes of Johonaaii's lead singer, Chet Clark.

Inset photos on page 2 and 3 by Diane Rodriguez



Photos by Brent Merrill

Volkman explained that Siletz Tribal Council members wrapped up their presentation knowing they still had to face the fish and game folks.

"At that point, Ted Kennedy walked into the room," remembered Volkman. "He was in his early 40s, he had great presence and when he walked into the room everyone felt this magnetic attraction. When Sen. Kennedy started to talk, it was obvious he wasn't using our draft testimony. He had dug into the proposal himself and what he saw was a matter of national honor."

This is what Kennedy said that day in the Senate room – "This council has shown initiative, its leadership ability and its clear commitment by presenting to the Senate a clear and compelling case for restoration. I associate myself with their presentation and fully support enactment of S.2801. It would be especially fitting for Congress to enact this bill in our bicentennial year, so that we might show by deeds as well as words that we are a nation of honor, that we can admit our mistakes of the past, and that we are prepared to act fairly and justly towards Indian Tribes in the future."

Volkman said Kennedy's words were moving. But he also said Kennedy didn't say anything the Tribal Council didn't already know about themselves as people.

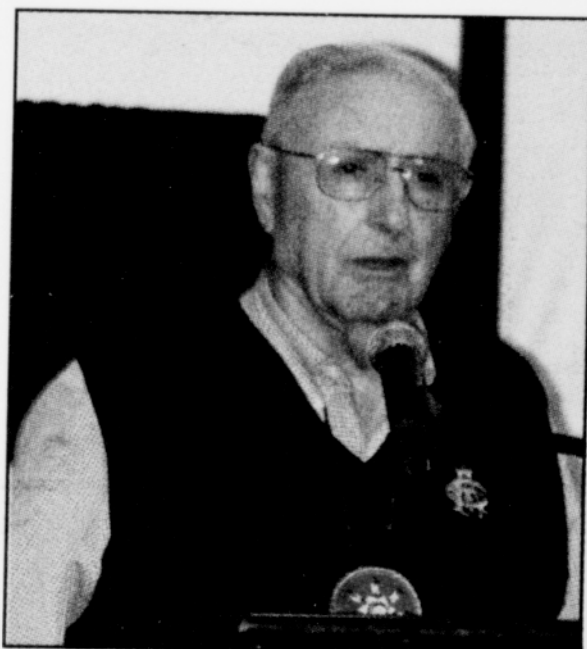
"The Tribe knew how hard it was to get Congress to pass a law," said Volkman. "Some people back then said it was all but impossible. You were this little group of people from Oregon with few resources and even less political clout. You had the state's biggest newspapers opposing you, the Department of Fish and Wildlife was throwing around wild claims about fishing rights, you couldn't expect to overcome all of that."

"But everyone involved in Restoration knew that the Tribe wasn't trying to get something from Congress. You were giving Congress the opportunity to do the right thing. The Tribe knew that."

Volkman then thanked the Tribe for including him in the celebration by sharing what he had learned from being involved with the Tribe at such an important time in its history.

"One of the big lessons I learned from the Tribe, and it's what I think about when I come here for anniversary celebrations and see the dancers and hear about the

scholarships and health services and other things that you are doing, you do things your own way," he said. "You bring out the best in yourselves and you bring out the best in other people."



Gov. Vic Atiyeh

Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund Advisory Board member Mike Holden then took the microphone to share information about the Tribe's charitable giving for 2009 before former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh spoke in high praise about the Tribe and its efforts.

"From my perspective, you add wonderful flavor and beautiful color to the fabric of the state of Oregon," he said. "I must tell you very sincerely that one of

the greatest things that happened in my life is your friendship."

A buffet lunch was served and then folks played bingo. Siletz Tribal Elder Sister Francella Griggs gave the afternoon's closing invocation and the pow-wow started a little after 6 p.m.

The highlight of this pow-wow may have been the rousing performance by the Apache Crown Dancers from Chemawa Indian School.

Five young men painted completely black led by one young man painted in white dance hypnotically throughout the arena. They are supported by a large contingent of singers – the male singers group together in front of the stage and chant and sing as the young ladies stand off to the side and sing with their hands upheld.

The group ran and danced about the arena and at one point a young dancer stood for several minutes in front of Johonaaii lead singer and drummer Chet Clark, a Tribal Elder, seemingly transfixed on him. Clark stood proudly at attention with his cane and looked into the young dancer's eyes.

Moments like that make you realize that an event like this cannot be described in terms that do it justice – you must come to it to really feel the power of ancient lives being joined with new blood and a new direction that goes seven generations into the future.